

WHY IS THEIR NAME ON IT?

In the past 50 years, 14 men and women that made major contributions to Mount Wachusett Community College's growth and success were honored by naming parts of the college after them. For many, these names may be just associated with these areas of the college, but the contributions of these individuals should be honored and remembered as the college moves into its next 50 years.



ARTHUR F. HALEY ACADEMIC CENTER

Arthur F. Haley, Founding President 1963-1986

The main building of the Gardner campus was named in honor of the college's founding president Arthur F. Haley. Dr. Haley served the college for 23 years. He was appointed as Director of the new community college that was to be set up in Central Massachusetts. With that charter, Haley had the daunting task to select a temporary location for the college, hire faculty and staff, design a curriculum, and begin classes in September 1964.

Haley selected the former Gardner High School in Gardner for the temporary campus and later expanded the College's operation to two other buildings in the city. As the college opened, Haley began the process to select a location to build a permanent campus. After many proposals and much deliberation, ground was broken at the site of the former Heywood Farms location on Green Street in Gardner. In September 1974, the permanent campus was opened, and upon his retirement, the main building was named for President Arthur F. Haley.



FRANK K. HIRONS MULTIMEDIA COMPLEX

Frank K. Hirons, Assistant to the President for Public Relations

Prior to his retirement in 1991, Frank K. Hirons served as Assistant to the President for Public Relations at Mount Wachusett Community College for nearly twenty years. However, his service and commitment to the college extends back to the time when the idea of a community college in North Central Massachusetts was conceived. Frank Hirons was a member of the Site Selection Committee and was instrumental in the purchase of the property where the college was ultimately built. He also was appointed as the Chairman of the first Advisory Board where he served for five years assisting President Arthur Haley in developing policy, selecting temporary sites for the college and securing an appropriation to build a permanent

college. Frank Hirons also was a member of the committee to select a name for the college.

Mr. Hirons graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Visual Arts and Motion Pictures and earned a Master of Arts degree in College Administration from the University of Massachusetts. His military career spanned 36 years in the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard, from which he retired as a Colonel. He was also a member of many committees and commissions in the City of Gardner.

Frank K. Hirons deserves the title, "Mr. Mount Wachusett Community College."



GARRISON CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

James and Peggy Garrison

James O. Garrison served as a member and Chair of the MWCC Board of Trustees. Through generous contributions to the MWCC Foundation, Jim and his wife Peggy were major forces in making the construction of the college's Garrison Center for Early Childhood Education possible.

"We made our first major gift to MWCC to the building fund in 2005. It is my strong belief that all children should have access to a quality preschool education.

"When serving on a school board in New Jersey in 1968, the head of a local Head Start program convinced me of the importance of early childhood development programs for all children. He said, 'You create high school drop-outs in preschool when there is no access to early childhood development programs because the kids who don't have the environmental opportunities to expand their world get into class with kids who had those opportunities...and start losing self-respect', " Garrison explained.

"I'm proud to have played a role in bringing the building to life, but that was not enough. In order to broaden the programs and expand access, we needed to increase the number of teachers. That is why we endowed the Garrison Fund for Early Childhood Education Fund." The fund provides \$100,000 annually for student scholarship funding, childcare stipends for students in the Early Childhood Education Program, and supports the capacity-building efforts of the Early Childhood Education program.



GELBWASSER CHEMISTRY LAB

Herman Gelbwasser, Professor of Chemistry, 1965-2000

In memory and recognition of Professor Herman Gelbwasser, for his dedication to Mount Wachusett Community College students and their success. Professor Gelbwasser taught chemistry and mathematics for 45 years at MWCC, earning the admiration and respect of students, friends, and colleagues.



JAMES D. MURPHY CONFERENCE ROOM

James D. Murphy, Chairman Emeritus MWCC Board of Trustees

In 1981, Jim was appointed to the first MWCC Board of Trustees. He was named the first chairman and served in that capacity for 11 1/2 years. He was a member of the Massachusetts Community College Association, serving as its VP and was its President for two years.

Jim was a community activist and public servant, volunteering for numerous local organizations. He served as treasurer of the Gardner Redevelopment Authority and is on the Gardner Council on Aging. He was chairman of the Gardner Salvation Army Service Unit for 15 years, a member of the Salvation Army Eastern Territorial Advisory Board, Monty Tech Advisory Boards, and Chairman of Bankers' Education

Forum. He was an elected member of the National Cartoonist Society and illustrated a local history book entitled Profiles of the Past.

Jim was the Advertising Director and staff artist at The Gardner News for twenty-five years and the Marketing and CRA Officer at New England AllBank. He was the recipient of numerous local and state awards including being named A Grand Gardnerite, the Gardner Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year and Community Service Awards and Thomas H. Binnall Outstanding Citizenship award.



JAY DAVIS DRAKE BOARD ROOM

In recognition of Mr. Drake's extraordinary leadership on the Mount Wachusett Community College Board of Trustees from 1992 to 2009 and as its chairman from 1997 to 2009. During his tenure, Mr. Drake left an indelible mark on MWCC as a dedicated advocate of the college and its students and advanced the College's spirit of service within the community.



LEO & THERESA LACHANCE LIBRARY

With the dedication of the Leo & Theresa LaChance Library, Mount Wachusett Community College recognizes the exemplary work Leo and Theresa LaChance have done in our communities. Leo's stewardship of the college's first-ever capital campaign culminated in raising nearly \$4 million, part of which funded the renovation of this library. This is just one example of Leo's tireless fund-raising in the Greater Gardner area. The couple's philanthropy supported Heywood Hospital's "Caring for the Future" capital campaign, the hospital's maternity center campaign, and many local drives for the Heart Fund, Gardner United Way, and Holy Rosary Parish.

The parents of four children, including two with mental disabilities, Leo and Theresa have also made donations to the University of Massachusetts Medical School to endow the Leo P. and Theresa M. LaChance Chair in Mental Retardation and Behavioral Health and ARC Community Services for their building and capital needs and also personally build homes for mentally challenged adult clients, including their two children.

In addition to providing monetary support for special projects at The Fernald School in Templeton over the years, Theresa volunteered countless hours there. She was renowned for her work to build the raffle fund-raiser at The Fernald School's Annual Fair. She grew the number of businesses donating raffle items to 170 and sold one thousand tickets herself each year. Theresa also was a volunteer for Heywood Hospital's annual golf tournament for many years. She is remembered as "the mother to all the boys" at The Fernald School and "the glue that has held the family together."

Meanwhile, Leo made his mark on the area as a developer, building many businesses, shopping plazas and residential neighborhoods in North Central Massachusetts and beyond.

[Visit the library website!](#)



RAYMOND M. LAFONTAINE FINE ARTS CENTER

Raymond Michael LaFontaine

Raymond LaFontaine was born and raised in Gardner, Massachusetts. He was a graduate of Gardner High School and the University of Massachusetts where he received a bachelor's degree in political science. He also pursued post-graduate work in public administration at Suffolk University. Mr. LaFontaine served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1966-1982. In this capacity, he sponsored legislation to protect consumers and address the crises in the area of medical malpractice. His efforts assisted in the construction of a new courthouse, a new skating rink, a new high school, and a 114-unit housing project for the elderly in Gardner. In addition, his tremendous commitment resulted in an appropriation

of over \$25,000,000 for the construction of the present home of Mount Wachusett Community College.

Representative LaFontaine served as Chairman of the distinguished House Committee on Insurance from 1971-1982 and in 1982 left the legislature to become President of the Commonwealth Auto Reinsurers where he served until he retired in 1999.

Mr. LaFontaine served on the Gardner School Committee and as Vice Chairperson of the Mount Wachusett Community College Board of Trustees. His achievements have been recognized by the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Senior Citizens and, the Boston Board of Fire Underwriters and many other organizations.



ROBERT D. WETMORE CENTER

Robert D. Wetmore Center for Innovation in Design, Technology and Resource Development

The Robert D. Wetmore Center for Innovation in Design, Technology and Resource Development was named for Massachusetts Senator Robert D. Wetmore who served the Commonwealth for over thirty years as both a representative and senator. During his long and distinguished career, Senator Wetmore authored an amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution, which was adopted in 1972, known as the "Environmental Bill of Right." As House chair and founder of the Growth Policy Commission, Wetmore promoted state and local planning to balance growth and development. As chair of the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee and

the Special Commission on the Future of Mature Industries, Wetmore promoted economic development as well as measures to establish special programs for dislocated workers. Senator Wetmore was appointed Chair of the Forest & Wood Products Advisory Board by Massachusetts Senate President Thomas Birmingham.



STEPHEN M. BREWER CONFERENCE ROOM

In recognition of the Senator's tireless efforts to promote and advocate for the health and safety of the children of the Commonwealth, through his unwavering support for the Molly Bish Institute for Child Health and Safety, the establishment of Amber Alert, the official designation of Missing Children's Day, and by offering his consistent and enduring support for stronger sex offender laws in Massachusetts.

WIND TURBINES — JOHN OLVER AND EDWARD TERCEIRO, JR.



Basic Facts About Our Turbines:

- Rated capacity of each turbine = 1.65 MW
- Annual Electrical Production = 4,977,422 KWh
- Percentage of the College's power requirement that will be met by turbines = 97%
- Height to center of hub = 269'
- Sweep diameter of blades = 269'
- Height when blade is at top dead center = 396'
- Weight of rotor & nacelle = 207,000 lbs. (103.5 tons)
- Weight of tower 285,000 lbs. (142.5 tons)
- Total weight of tower & turbine, exclusive of pad = 492,000 lbs. (246 tons)

Wind Turbine Dedication Ceremony, April 27, 2011.



Congressman John W. Olver

Congressman John W. Olver has represented the First Congressional District of Massachusetts since 1991, following more than two decades in the Massachusetts Legislature.

Co-founder of the House Climate Change Caucus, Congressman Olver currently serves as the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development; on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee; and on the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

His top policy priorities include keeping affordable and energy-efficient housing available, protecting the environment, increasing worker rights and benefits, expanding access to affordable health care, improving education and job training, providing new transportation options and maintaining our transportation infrastructure.

Many environmental preservation projects in Massachusetts are a result of his work in Congress. His support for MWCC's energy initiatives has been integral in the college's renewable energy success, most recently in securing a \$3.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for the wind project.

A former chemistry professor at UMass, Amherst, Congressman Olver earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from M.I.T.

Edward R. Terceiro, Jr.



Ed Terceiro recently retired as the Executive Vice President at Mount Wachusett Community College, where he served as the College's Chief Operations Officer and Resident Engineer.

Under his leadership, the College engaged in a strategy that focused its efforts on sustainability, energy conservation, renewable energy, co-generation, and CO₂ reduction. His work has been recognized by numerous organizations and agencies including: the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, International Facilities Management Association, Worcester Business Journal, National Wildlife Federation, and Clean

Air/Cool Planet.

He served on the American Council on Renewable Energy's (ACORE) Higher Education Steering Committee and Biomass Coordinating Council and was a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

Ed's expertise and success in implementing renewable energy projects has led to his being sought out as a speaker at numerous conferences and workshops throughout the country and abroad.