SPRING 2021

ELMS

MAGAZINE

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The feelings of joy and gratitude were palpable as nearly 300 members of the Class of 2021 attended the 90th Commencement, held on the Elms College campus for the first time in over a decade.

Class of 2021 President Christian Pavlakis leads his classmates through the Elms front gate on May 15.



"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without the words, and never stops at all." — Emily Dickinson

Dear friends,

Hope is indeed in the air as I write this note of introduction to the Spring issue of *Elms Magazine*, hope and optimism. Just a few short weeks ago — after a long, isolating year — we were able to join together in celebration of the accomplishments of the Class of 2021. It was also a time to revel in our tremendous achievement as a community — the successful completion of a yearlong on-campus academic experience amidst a pandemic!

That steadfast Elms spirit allowed us to work together to ensure an *ElmsSafe* experience for all, and I am acutely aware that not many academic institutions around us can say they made it through 2020-21 without a major COVID-19 outbreak on campus. I am tremendously grateful to every member of the Elms community who worked to ensure that this academic year was a successful one and that our students had the best experience possible.

In her book *Uncommon Trust in God*, President Emerita Sr. Kathleen Keating wrote that scarcity and hardship brought forth talent and unexpected creativity from the members of the Congregation. This was certainly true of Elms College as well during this past year. As we look ahead and plan for a fall semester that is as close to normal as possible, we are feeling very optimistic about the future of Elms College.

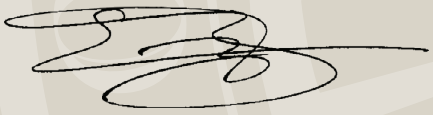
You can see that resiliency, hope, and optimism reflected in the pages of this magazine: At **Commencement**, on the faces of graduates and in the inspiring words of author Edwidge Danticat's address; in the generous donations of time, talent, and financial support **Cynthia Lyons** has devoted to Elms College over the past 15 years; in the decade-long journey of alumna **Jaines Andrades** to her dream career; and in the college's **partnership with Big Y** to vaccinate the vulnerable in our community.

A few weeks ago, members of the Class of '71 were on campus, preparing for their reunion. And just last weekend, I ran into close to a dozen Elms alumni at a volunteer event to benefit Haiti in the parking lot of St. Cecilia's Church in Wilbraham, Massachusetts. It is wonderful to see alumni in person, on campus or around the region. Alumni and friends remind us of the legacy. Alumni's and friends' support makes it possible to advance the mission today and for generations to come. Thank you for all that you do.

I hope that the spirit of hope and optimism contained in this issue of the *Elms Magazine* spreads to your lives and those of your loved ones.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Best,



Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA
President

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The editors invite your comments and questions at **413-265-2588** or **marketing@elms.edu**.



The Office of Diversity and Engagement's #ElmsAboveDiscrimination campaign, a month long series of events promoting kindness, love, support, acceptance, and unity, kicked off the week of April 8 with a tie-dye event on the quad.

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Elms College's 90th Commencement exercises, held on campus for the first time in a decade, were a cause for celebration of the achievements of the Class of 2021 and the ability to gather in person safely.



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A partnership between the School of Nursing and Big Y Supermarkets resulted in the vaccination of thousands of coronavirus-vulnerable western Massachusetts residents.



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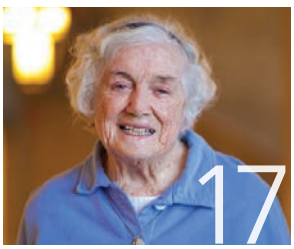
Years before starting her nursing career, Madison Quinn '23 has made a difference in the lives of thousands of critically ill children and their families.



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The Elms Community pays tribute to distinguished alumna, professor, humanitarian, theologian, scholar, and social activist Sister Eleanor Dooley '50, SSJ.

90th COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION

Commencement 2021 Cause for Celebration

Elms College's 90th Commencement exercises took place on Saturday, May 15 — a perfect spring day. Even more delightful than the weather was the sight of more than 270 graduate and undergraduate members of the Class of 2021 being able to gather in person for a masked and socially distanced celebration.

For the first time in more than a decade, graduates marched through the front gates to the strains of *Pomp and Circumstance*, flanked on both sides by clapping faculty. Graduates continued onto Springfield Street and around the library, filing onto the Keating Quadrangle and into two large white tents containing socially distanced seating.

Parents and other loved ones were able to view the event via livestream, either from home or from Elms College's B and C parking lots, which were both equipped with giant monitors. Audio was provided via FM transmitter to their car radios.

The ceremony saw outgoing Chair of the Board of Trustees and noted philanthropist Cynthia Lyons and Hampden County Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi, MBA '13, receiving honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, Commencement Speaker Edwidge Danticat, MFA, delivered her address via video.

The Haitian-American novelist, playwright, and film producer noted the graduating class's special place in history, having spent their entire senior year in the "new reality" of the COVID-19 pandemic. She used the Haitian concept of *combite* (com-beet), where members of a community come together to accomplish something that benefits the entire community or a single person in need, to illustrate the most successful way to survive the pandemic.

"The pandemic has shown, and you have modeled this at Elms, that we respond best to communal challenges when we respond as each other's harvest or as a *combite*," she said. "Both post-pandemic and post-graduation, I hope you will never forget that your life is most survivable, and I dare say happiest, when it functions like a *combite*. And wherever you go, bring all of yourself. Bring your heart, bring your soul, bring both your passion and compassion, along with your courage. You are all individuals but together you are the combite that is Elms."

Commencement 2021 was the culmination of a successful week of masked and socially distanced on-campus celebrations, including the Baccalaureate Nurse Pinning, Graduate Hooding Ceremony, Baccalaureate Mass and Undergraduate Hooding, and a special recognition for the Class of 2020.

You can view the Commencement ceremony on the Elms College YouTube channel, ***youtube.com/elmscollegevideo***















"Wherever you go, bring all of yourself.
Bring your heart, bring your soul,
bring both your passion and compassion,
along with your courage. You are all individuals
but together you are the *combite* that is Elms."

— Edwidge Danticat, MFA










1ST GEN GRAD









The Lasting Legacy of Cynthia Lyons



William Lyons III (l-r), outgoing chair of the Elms College Trustees Cynthia Lyons, Elms President Harry Dumay, Ph.D., MBA, and incoming Board of Trustees Chair Paul Stelzer.

"To think of one's community before one's self is the noblest of intentions, but to act on those intentions is to be a leader in selfless advocacy of those in need." Those words were used in 2011 to illustrate why Cynthia Lyons and her husband, William, were being awarded the College of Our Lady of the Elms' Presidential Medallion. Over the past 10 years, that steadfast leadership and its impact has only strengthened and deepened.

It would be hard to overstate the transformative and lasting legacy of Cynthia Lyons' 15 years of service on the Elms College Board of Trustees. Her guidance and beneficence is reflected in every part of Elms College, from its leadership and student body to its facilities.

When she first joined the board, the college's student enrollment was less than 800, and the Center for Natural and Health Sciences was five years away from its groundbreaking. Today, enrollment has more than doubled, and the Lyons Center for Natural and Health Sciences is an active hub of learning, from its computer science technology classrooms to its lifelike nursing simulation labs.

Cindy was critical in establishing Elms College's strong governance, having personally recruited Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA, for its presidency in 2016. Her inclusive and selfless leadership has been inspirational for other members of the board.

In addition to her tremendous gifts of her time, passion, talent and energy, Cindy and her family have been generous financial supporters of Elms College. The Center for Natural and Health Sciences was named in honor of the Lyons family in 2016 for both Cindy and Bill's leadership as co-chairs of the project's capital campaign committee and the family's financial generosity.

Cindy's passion for education for all, but especially for children and youth, stems from her early career as a Montessori School teacher. She demonstrated that passion in 2019 by becoming a foundational donor to the college's Center for Equity in Urban Education, which seeks to improve educational outcomes for all children, especially young people of color, in the Springfield area. To honor that passion, and the Lyons family's total commitment of $1 million to the Center for Equity in Urban Education, the Center will be renamed as the Cynthia A. Lyons Center for Equity in Urban Education.

Just as valuable as her steadfast leadership has been her unwavering belief in the Elms College mission. Before her time as a trustee ends on July 1, the college acknowledged her tremendous gifts of time, care, passion, talent and energy by awarding her an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the 90th Commencement ceremony.

Successfully navigating the rough post-pandemic waters facing institutions of higher education in western Massachusetts, particularly small liberal arts colleges, is no small feat, but with Cindy's strong leadership and guidance, Elms College has the winds of grace in its sails. ■

Partnership Gives Community a Shot in the Arm



Paige Bourdon '22, accelerated second degree nursing student, administers a vaccine at the Big Y vaccination site in East Longmeadow.

A conversation earlier this year between Elms College President Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA, and Claire D'Amour-Daley, vice president of corporate communications at Big Y, resulted in the vaccination of thousands of coronavirus-vulnerable western Massachusetts residents while also giving hundreds of Elms nursing students valuable real-world patient-care experience.

D'Amour-Daley told President Dumay about the supermarket chain's plans to create a vaccination site, and suggested that Elms nursing students might want to be involved. He connected the college's nursing faculty with Big Y management and pharmacists to coordinate a partnership.

The vaccination clinics involve more than 200 sophomore, junior, and senior Elms College nursing students. The students represent the undergraduate nursing program as well as the RN to BSN, Master of Science in Nursing, and Accelerated Second Degree in Nursing programs. The student nurses work under the supervision of Elms College School of Nursing faculty.

Since the partnership launched in February, thousands of area residents have received first and second vaccine doses at clinics set up in unoccupied retail spaces adjacent to Big Y stores in East Longmeadow and Greenfield, MA. In addition to administering vaccines, the students have monitored the

patients in the recovery area and helped them schedule appointments for their second shots.

For Shelby Brouillette '22 of Springfield, MA, being at the clinic represents the full spectrum of holistic nursing.

"This experience allows us to get a really structured view of what we will do in the future as nurses," she said. "It's amazing."

"I think the community has really enjoyed having a local college here; they have been really receptive to our students," said Assistant Clinical Professor of Nursing Carly Berneche '11, DNP '17, APRN, FNP-C. "We see them out in the community and if they see a student with scrubs on, they are just so appreciative to them."





Kelsea Cristoforo '21 of Hadley administers a vaccine.

Berneche added that having the nursing students participate in the clinics is an educational experience that they will carry with them for the rest of their careers and is a strong representation of the Elms College mission of caring for the "dear neighbor."

"It is so awesome the students are here," said vaccine recipient Lillian Fedora. "They are very good. You do not even know you are getting your shot."

"This partnership is crucial for the success of this whole program," said Jennifer Salvon, the Massachusetts pharmacy operations manager for Big Y. "The Elms students have been very flexible, very knowledgeable and very hard working. We have got nothing but compliments on the techniques of the nurses and the way that the whole clinic is run. It has been a great relationship."

The nursing department planned to continue the partnership throughout the semester, and Berneche said it is possible Big Y will hire some of the students to work in the clinics during the summer, and that the partnership could continue in the fall if the clinics are still being held. ■



Olivia Koretz '22 checks the syringe before administering a dose.

Top left: Big Y Pharmacy Manager Jennifer Salvon and Pharmacist Caitlyn Efendioglu prepare a vaccine syringe.

"This partnership is crucial for the success of this whole program,"
said Jennifer Salvon, the Massachusetts pharmacy operations manager for Big Y.



Driven to Make a Difference

There aren't many college students who can say they have impacted the lives of thousands of critically ill children and their families before they even start their nursing careers, but Madison Quinn '23 can.

Pittsfield, MA, native Madison founded Strong Little Souls Inc., a nonprofit charity, at age 13 with a singular goal: To brighten the lives of severely ill children and their families.

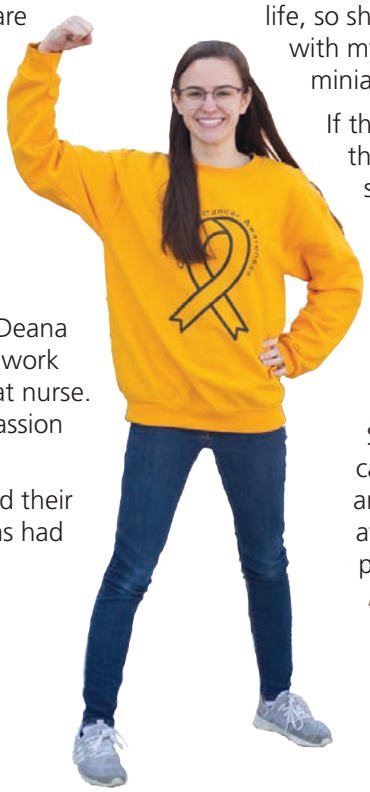
"It started with a simple direct message to families offering to send some toys," Madison said. "I began sending small packages with money I had made from my part-time job at the time, and it just grew from there."

Since then, Strong Little Souls has sent more than 1,500 care packages all around the world, granted more than 50 wishes to children battling life-threatening illnesses, and donated tens of thousands of dollars to families in need.

These activities are made possible by funds raised through her website, stronglittlesouls.org, Instagram, and Facebook pages, and through grants, donations from foundations, and other sources. Last year, the New England Patriots named her a "Difference Maker of the Week," an award that recognizes deserving volunteers who go above and beyond to give back to their community. It included a $5,000 donation to Strong Little Souls.

Thanks to the ubiquity of social media, Madison's efforts aren't limited to Massachusetts or even New England. She has helped families all around the world.

"We know many families in the Philippines and Africa who don't have access to the same medical care as here," Madison said. "So we help provide financial assistance to cover treatment costs."



Madison is planning a career as a pediatric oncology nurse. Having visited Boston Children's Hospital and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center many times as a patient advocate, she hopes to work in the oncology ward at one of these institutions.

School of Nursing Assistant Clinical Professor Deana Nunes, MSN, RN, CWCN, says that Madison's work with SLS embodies what it means to be a great nurse. "She is a testament to what hard work and passion combined can accomplish," she said.

Pre-COVID, Madison loved visiting children and their families in person. Since the pandemic, she has had only one, very special in-person connection:

Madison was able to arrange a private skating session for a toddler and her parents at the rink where she works so the little girl could ice skate for the first time before she passed away.

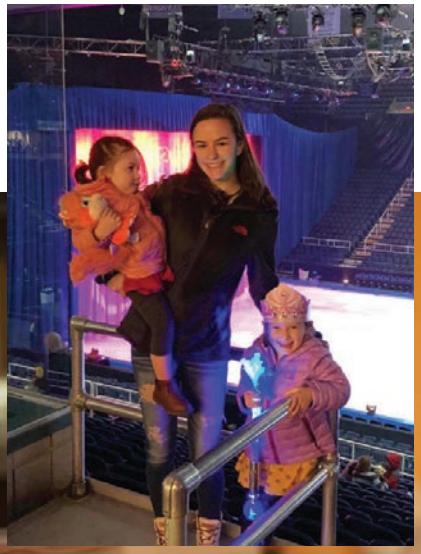
"She'd been in the hospital pretty much the majority of her life, so she'd never seen snow," Madison said. "By scraping with my skates, I created little snowballs and we made a miniature snowman."

If they wish, Madison stays connected to families after their child has passed away. She provides emotional support for surviving siblings, sponsors scholarships in the late child's name, and also gives financial assistance for funeral or end-of-life costs.

"Meeting families is something that's changed me beyond belief," Madison said. "I'm so grateful for all the families and kids that I've met along the way."

Staying positive in the face of tragedy and heartbreak can be challenging, but she wouldn't change anything. She plans to continue Strong Little Souls after graduation, and even help it grow by possibly partnering with her future healthcare employer.

"I measure my success in the number of families I help, the lives I'm able to change," she says. As for the future, "I just want to have a greater impact and help families in more ways than I can now." ■



Madison at an ice rink with a family served by her nonprofit, Strong Little Souls.

A representative sampling of items she puts in care packages for critically ill children and their families.



Our Path Forward

After nearly a year of comprehensive collaboration through listening sessions and surveys with faculty, staff, and students, information gathering by subcommittees, and other fact-finding methods, Elms College has developed five critical strategic areas to lead its efforts to build a future in line with its Mission, Vision, and Values. This plan received approval from the Elms College Board of Trustees in October; *Bridges to the Elms Plus Experience* is the college's strategic plan through 2023.

"The ultimate intangible return of this strategic plan will be to ensure that the essence of an Elms education, which has marked the lives of generations of students in a uniquely transformative way, is available for generations more to come," said President Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA.

The core of the plan is the Five Es: To Excel in Academics, Expand Experiential Learning, Elevate Ethical Leadership, Engage Our Learning Community, and Enhance Sustainability.

Excel in Academics

Top priorities are to ensure an articulation of the distinctive elements of an Elms education — a blend of liberal arts, ethics, and entrepreneurship — to implement a comprehensive plan for the innovative delivery of *ElmsFlex* programs with a commitment to accessibility for all students, to strengthen existing academic programs, and to explore new academic program opportunities including but not limited to Urban Education, Medical Ethics and Humanities, Biotechnology, etc.

Expand Experiential Learning

The overarching goal of this priority is to embed experiential learning throughout the Elms experience from day one through graduation by making it accessible to all students. Ways to implement this have been to establish the position of director of Experiential Learning, oversee the Keating Schneider and Elms Internship Advantage Experience funds, and increase the number and types of experiential learning opportunities.



Elevate Ethical Leadership

Key to achieving this priority is the development of a comprehensive plan to infuse ethics and ethical leadership development into all academic and co-curricular programs, as well as the liberal arts core. Instituting ethical leadership as a hallmark feature of the Elms Plus Experience will distinguish the college regionally and nationally, while the establishment of the St. Augustine Center for Ethics, Religion, and Culture in October 2020 serves as a visible manifestation of the college's commitment to its Catholic identity and contemporary academic and public engagement.

Engage Our Learning Community

Increasing underrepresented student enrollment and faculty and staff hiring and retention will help Elms build a diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus. Students will be empowered to effect positive change in the college, their communities, and the world through leadership roles. Students will be engaged through spirituality and service to the "dear neighbor" to carry on the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph and by improving living and learning environments in the residence halls, classrooms, and on-campus recreational spaces.

Enhance Sustainability

This priority reflects a clear-eyed understanding of the current threats and opportunities for Elms, when many comparable Northeast colleges vie for students from a dwindling number of high school graduates. To enhance the college's sustainability, we will increase our undergraduate enrollment geographically through fully online programs that attract non-traditional students, such as those from underrepresented populations, as well as increase our graduate student enrollment. Modernizing our athletic facilities will help attract more student athletes. A multi-year comprehensive capital campaign to boost donor funding will also support the college's strategic initiatives.

Learn more about the Elms path forward at *elms.edu/strategic-plan*



A Career Ten Years in the Making

Jaines Andrades, BSN '14, DNP '20, is a trauma surgery nurse practitioner at Baystate Medical Center. Ten years ago she was cleaning operating rooms at the hospital, not practicing medicine in them. (Photo courtesy of Baystate Health)

"By the time you leave here, I'm going to walk to you."

These determined words — spoken by her very first patient in a clinical setting — have stuck in Jaines Andrades' mind over the past 10 years. The patient was a middle-aged man who had broken every extremity in his body. Jaines recalls thinking at the time that him regaining mobility in 12 weeks — the duration of her rotation — would be nothing short of monumental.

"Twelve weeks go by," Jaines said. "I looked over and my patient was walking toward me. I'll never forget it.

"He was a trauma patient, and now I'm a trauma NP," Jaines added. "It all came full circle."

Jaines knows something about having that level of determination. While the Springfield native has worked at Baystate Medical Center for a decade, a significant number of them were spent not as a medical professional, but rather as a member of the custodial staff.

While earning her bachelor's degree in nursing from Elms (class of 2014) and then her RN license, Jaines worked as a member of the Baystate cleaning staff. She started by cleaning an urgent care unit, then transferred to the operating room. Being in a medical environment allowed her to observe patient care and develop a deep interest in healthcare.

"I learned humility," she says, noting that hospitals critically depend on clean, sanitized rooms to function. "Now that I'm a provider, I keep that in mind and treat everyone with respect, since I've been on both sides."

Balancing the daily grind of a 9-5 job with collegiate studies is challenging, to say the least. But Jaines was driven by the fact that she was fulfilling a lifelong dream.

"I had all the energy in the world," she said. "For me, my original goal was to graduate college, period. Even if I just got my associates, I would have been over the moon."

"Other girls dream of getting married," she added. "College was my dream. When I graduated with my BSN, I had reached my lifetime goal."

Jaines didn't stop there, however. She continued at Elms, ultimately reaching the highest level of education available to clinical advanced practice nurses — the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree. She is now a nurse practitioner (NP) in the Trauma and Surgery unit, treating gunshot victims and others in dire need of immediate medical attention.

Her journey received nationwide media attention last fall when Jaines proudly noted her career progression by posting a picture



A photo Jaines posted on social media showing her progression at Baystate from environmental services to nurse practitioner went viral and attracted national media attention.

on Facebook of her three BMC badges: as custodian, as RN, and as an NP. That resulted in her gaining the attention of such nationwide media outlets as *Good Morning America*, *CNN*, *People*, and *World News Tonight with David Muir*. She even got a shoutout from Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker in his January 2021 State of the Commonwealth address when he thanked the state's first responders to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hundreds of thousands of people have now heard her story.

"I'm so appreciative and in awe that my story can inspire people," she said. "That in itself made the journey worth it."

Jaines notes that it would be particularly sweet if she inspires other women of color, particularly her fellow Puerto Ricans. Last year she read a study on the educational disparities Puerto Rican women face that truly put her own journey into perspective.

"It said that if 100 [Puerto Rican] girls start kindergarten, less than one will eventually have a doctorate," she said. "What I'm grateful for now is that I'm that less than one." ■



Jaines was hired last year as a nurse practitioner at Baystate Medical Center, working in trauma surgery. (Photo courtesy of Baystate Health)

Sports Drought Brings Discipline

When the COVID-19 pandemic upended the world in March 2020, it also canceled competitive sports for 200 athletes at Elms and for thousands at colleges across the country. Seniors lost the chance to make their final championship runs and players and coaches were forced to adapt to a world where the very DNA of sports — close contact with other players, sharing equipment, working up a sweat — was considered potentially hazardous.

Despite these obstacles, Elms student athletes found ways to stay in shape physically and mentally, all in preparation for the return of collegiate sports.

"Our mantra from the day that we set foot on this campus last fall was not to just survive this COVID environment but to thrive within it," said Mike Theulen, DPE, director of athletics. "Deprived of competitions, our teams practiced safely, continued to team build, and did an outstanding job in the classroom."

After overcoming the initial shock wave of a canceled season, the field hockey team got creative. They banded together on Zoom. They talked sports, but also life in quarantine. They discussed mental health and the emotional burnout caused by the pandemic.

For the women's lacrosse team, social media was key to keeping the team's spirits up. The team did virtual yoga and Zumba together, played games, and even held a senior night for players who couldn't finish their final season.

Pedro Duarte '23, who plays centerback and defensive midfielder for the men's soccer team, says that at-home workouts were essential for building a "sense of accountability," especially when the majority of his teammates were used to playing for indoor recreation leagues in the off-season.

"Doing everything completely solo brought on a new level of discipline for me," he said.

When teams began holding practices again, players were required to follow a strict *ElmsSafe* plan. In addition to wearing masks at all times, players were tested for COVID every week to progress through a series of safety checkpoints.

"Being able to practice somewhat and build team chemistry felt great for us," Pedro said. "It helped us escape everything going on outside of the field." ■



Elms College Joins GNAC

Elms College Athletics will have a new conference home in the fall of 2021. After being a member of the New England Collegiate Conference since 2007, the Blazers will make the switch to the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) in NCAA Division III sports.

"It was the right time to make the move," said Athletics Director Michael Theulen, DPE. "We are looking forward to having all of our varsity sport programs in the same league, and to competing with other institutions so closely aligned with Elms's Mission, Core Values, and dedication to putting equal importance on both academic integrity and athletic opportunity."

The Blazers swimming and diving programs have been GNAC associate members since 2006, last competing at the 2020 GNAC Championships just prior to the pandemic shutdown. Now the rest of the 17 Blazers' varsity sport programs will compete under the GNAC umbrella.









Dismantling Systemic Racism

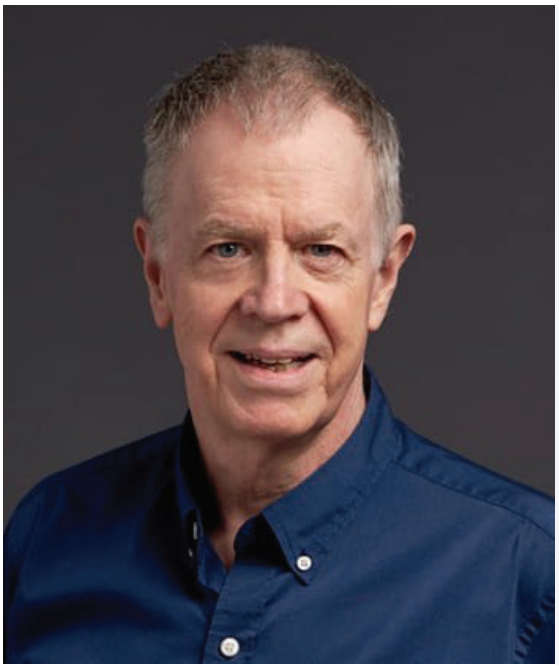
An impressive lineup of scholars, activists, and social justice experts from around the country formed this year's panel of Black Experience Summit (BES) speakers for "Underscoring Resilience: A Call to Action." Unlike previous summits, the event this year followed a free-form structure, one which emphasized energetic discussion and two-way dialogue between audience members and panelists on a trio of crises facing the U.S. today: systemic racism, COVID-19, and the economic downturn. With the recent spate of high-profile murders of Black citizens galvanizing the Black Lives Matter movement across the nation, panelists and participants alike discussed the need to dismantle systemic racism.

Keynote speaker Gretchen Givens Generett, Ph.D., set the tone by deconstructing the idea of meritocracy, or "pull yourself up by your bootstraps" narratives, for Black communities. Dr. Generett explained how storytelling figures centrally in this effort; she challenged Black educators to lean into complex conversations about racial identity and experience when mentoring Black youth. When this happens, Generett contends, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities can begin to rewrite their stories (and histories) to instill hope.

The other panelists, including Kellie Dixon, Ed.D.; Brent Lewis, Ph.D.; Chazz Robinson, M.Ed.; Sr. Melinda Adrienne Pellerin, SSJ; Keshawn Dodds, M.Ed.; and Antoinette Bonnie Candia-Bailey, Ph.D., elaborated on the keynote speech, shedding light on inequitable practices that perpetuate the illusion of American meritocracy. These speakers articulated several methods to create collaborative, community-based values that empower Black youth.

Another prominent theme in the call-to-action panel was the need for institutions of higher education to take the lead in creating equitable change for their student populations. Rather than asking students to be the "fixers," argued Brent Lewis, Ph.D., administrators and faculty must become catalysts for change. At Elms College, several new initiatives will help carry this mission forward, including the launch of the Center for Equity and Urban Education (CEUE), the St. Augustine Center for Ethics, Religion, and Culture (CERC), and the creation of a Chief Diversity Officer cabinet position. Through these new centers and administrative positions, Elms College is embracing the complexity of BIPOC identities and championing the tough conversations that surround structural racism and inherent bias.

Speakers at the fourth annual Black Experience Summit included (from top) Gretchen Givens Generett, Ph.D., Duquesne University (keynote); Brent Lewis, Ph.D., James Madison University; Kellie Dixon, Ed.D., North Carolina A&T State University; and Chazz Robinson, M.Ed., University of Buffalo.





Rev. James F. Keenan, S.J., S.T.D.

Embracing Ethics

The St. Augustine Center for Ethics, Religion, and Culture welcomed Rev. James F. Keenan, S.J., S.T.D., as keynote speaker for the Inaugural Lecture in Ethics on March 24. An expert in theological ethics, Rev. Keenan has taught in his field for more than 35 years. He is currently the vice provost for global engagement, Canisius Professor of Theology, and director of the Jesuit Institute at Boston College.

Held via Zoom, Rev. Keenan's talk was a passionate plea for institutions of higher learning to be more deliberately ethical in their teaching and organizational operations. Colleges and universities have historically fallen short in holding *themselves* accountable for ethical conduct, Rev. Keenan noted. Instead, institutions of higher learning fall victim to thinking that if they can teach ethics in their classes, then they do not need to intentionally train their faculty and staff to develop ethical consciousness. This fact is laid bare by the litany of ethics courses traditionally offered at the collegiate level (medical, business, legal), but the noticeable lack of *university ethics* as a subject of study.

When ethics are acknowledged to be constitutive of human flourishing, Rev. Keenan argued, colleges and universities will begin to understand how their communities can be strengthened to be more collaborative and transparent.

The key to unlocking a more ethical way of being, Rev. Keenan observed, is to become more *vulnerable*. Vulnerability has long been misunderstood as a concept, he suggests, noting that the term tends to be associated with trauma and the experience of being wounded. This understanding gets it backwards, Rev. Keenan argues, instead suggesting that vulnerability is the capacity to respond to the call of others. Using classic biblical parables as evidence for this idea, Rev. Keenan went on to explain how the COVID-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement have prompted U.S. society to "see and respond to reality as it is."

He argued that the constant media coverage of the pandemic has revealed — on a scale heretofore unseen — massive inequities in all areas of modern American (and global) life. The disproportionate effects of the pandemic have revealed that Western society is not as advanced as public opinion may have thought. Nowhere are these inequities clearer than in the tragic, racist events that ignited the Black Lives Matter movement over the past year. The killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and countless other members of the Black and BIPOC communities have drawn public attention to an undeniable fact: American culture is still plagued by its own "original sin," the practice of slavery that established itself at the heart of colonial life and richochets throughout the structures of modern life to this day.

Rev. Keenan articulated a series of steps that colleges and universities can follow to alleviate their shortcomings and embrace ethical conduct. As institutions of higher learning, the core way for this project to succeed is to help those who are confused and perplexed engage in reflection and eventually adopt ethical behavior in their own lives, he said. ■

A Touchstone of (Brilliance and) Grace



Last winter, the Elms College community — and the world — lost a true renaissance woman. A woman of deep passion, not only for her faith, but for humanity. Distinguished alumna, professor, humanitarian, theologian, scholar, and social activist Sister Eleanor Dooley '50, SSJ, passed away on January 21, 2021. She was 92.

Sister Eleanor's kindness, compassion, intellect, faith, and her leadership and actions on behalf of the marginalized, the underserved and other communities was tireless and inspirational. Sr. Eleanor and her sister, former Elms College President Sr. Mary Dooley '44, were pillars of the Elms community for decades. Sr. Eleanor was a professor of French, Latin, and religious studies at Elms and Harvard Divinity School, and performed humanitarian work in India, Africa, China, Haiti, and throughout the world, devoting her life to human service in the joyous celebration of the glory of God.

Elms College Chaplain Fr. Mark Stelzer shared a personal memory of Sr. Eleanor at her Liturgy of Christian Burial in January.

"When Eleanor retired from Elms, I helped her move boxes from her Elms office to her new apartment at the Mont," Fr. Mark said. "At that time, I was able to retrieve from the trash two handwritten manuscripts of talks Eleanor had given. When I asked Eleanor for permission to keep the manuscripts, she replied with characteristic humility, 'They probably aren't worth much.'

"Among the manuscripts is a talk entitled "Touchstones of Grace" which Eleanor gave a few years after retiring from the Elms," Fr. Mark continued. "In that talk, Eleanor refers to her parents, siblings, and the Sisters of St. Joseph she met first at St. Stephen's School in Worcester and later at the College of Our Lady of the Elms as the first touchstone of grace in her life. She thanks them for instilling in her what one of her favorite writers, Benedictine Jean Leclerc, calls 'a love of learning and the desire for God.'"

She touched the lives of generations of Elms students. Cindee Small Hosmer '70 wrote to share her memories of Sr. Eleanor, who was a lifelong friend to her and her family.

"What an extraordinary life full of worldly travels and experiences she had (working with Mother Theresa is one of my best) and loved to share!" Cindee said. "No matter where you took her, someone always knew her and stopped by to chat.

"My family and I have many cherished memories with her," Cindee continued. "The most memorable was when my husband and daughter took her to Fenway Park for the first time to celebrate her 85th birthday. She said she never knew a place like this existed! After the third inning, they had birthday wishes displayed on the center field scoreboard for everyone to see. How surprised and overjoyed she was. Without skipping a beat she said, 'Now everyone will know I am here!' It always brings a smile to our faces when we think of her."

Don Brainerd '03 took a world religions course taught by Sr. Eleanor as a non-traditional student.

"Sr. Eleanor had many stories of her travels around the world," Don said. "By the end of the course I found myself blessed by a person who was enveloped by the presence of God. She taught with an unbiased view of all religions and of all people no matter what their beliefs. She was able to do this because she viewed the world through God's Love."

Sr. Eleanor served as a touchstone of grace for many members of the Elms Community. Her passion for sharing her faith, her love for Elms College, and her deep commitment to her community of women religious will be deeply missed. ■



Anthony Fonseca, Ph.D., MLIS, director of the Alumnae Library and college archivist, recently finished the book *Listen to Hip Hop: Exploring a Musical Genre*, which he co-authored with Dr. Melissa Goldsmith of Westfield State University. The book, published by Greenwood Press, is due to be released in 2021. It is a companion to Fonseca's 2019 book *Listen to Rap: Exploring a Musical Genre*. At the New England Library Association's Annual Conference, Fonseca presented "Publishing Across the Disciplines: Innovative Approaches for Librarians." He was also re-elected to the executive committee of the Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust (EAST) and became co-chair of the Best Practices Working Group for The Partnership for Shared Book Collections, a national organization.



Beryl Hoffman, Ph.D., co-chair of the Natural Science, Mathematics and Technology Department and associate professor of computer science presented her National Science Foundation (NSF) Girls Immersed in Robotics Learning Simulations (GIRLS) project at the NSF STEM For All Video Showcase in May. The event featured presentations by federally funded projects that are all committed to improving STEM and computer science education. Hoffman's NSF GIRLS project has the goal to broaden participation among middle school Latina girls in computer science and robotics. For the project, the girls from grades 6-12 build a virtual robotics game called GaleForce, during which they learn to code virtual robots and drones while immersed in a narrative of hurricane disaster relief in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The GaleForce Unity game beta and curriculum is being tested in workshops with students from Girls Inc. and the Boys and Girls Club and will be freely available next year.



Charlene Holmes, MPS, joined the college in January as director of diversity and engagement, a new position for the college. Holmes has a decade of experience in student engagement, student support, and programmatic development to ensure college access and success for underrepresented groups. She spent most of her career working with non-profit organizations serving low-income, first-generation, student-athletes achieve post-secondary success, such as the East Harlem Tutorial Program, The Harlem Children's Zone, and Door-A Center for Alternatives.



Jennifer Leon came to the college in January as director of Residence Life. Leon has six years of experience in higher education, serving in a variety of roles within student affairs, residential life, student activities, orientation, and parent programs. Most recently, she was assistant director of student life at SUNY Adirondack in Queensbury, NY, and was responsible for student-engagement opportunities, orientation, and leadership programming. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from SUNY Oneonta and a master's degree in student affairs in higher education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Elms College President **Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA**, has been appointed as a member of the Commonwealth's Special Commission to Study the Future of Work by State Senator Eric P. Lesser (First Hampden and Hampshire) and Rep. Josh S. Cutler (Sixth Plymouth). Dr. Dumay was also unanimously elected to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of Health Equity International, formerly St. Boniface Haiti Foundation. Dr. Dumay appeared on WWLP's program *Mass Appeal* in April to discuss the college's plans for a safe in-person Commencement and Fall 2021 semester. In March, he was named one of Massachusetts' 50 Most Influential People of Color in Higher Education by the cross-cultural professional organization Get Konnected! and WGBH public broadcasting in Boston. In February, Dr. Dumay served as master of ceremonies at Greenfield Community College's Black History Month online conference. In January, he was recognized by the American Association of Colleges and Universities for leading Elms College's efforts to reduce inequities and increase inclusion campuswide. Also in January, Dr. Dumay took part in the Diocese of Springfield's Chalice of Salvation televised mass, which was offered in loving memory of living and deceased faculty and staff of Elms College.

Scholarships



Campus Enrichment



Academics



Health, Fitness & Athletics



Student Life

Elms College Annual Fund
Fueling the Future!

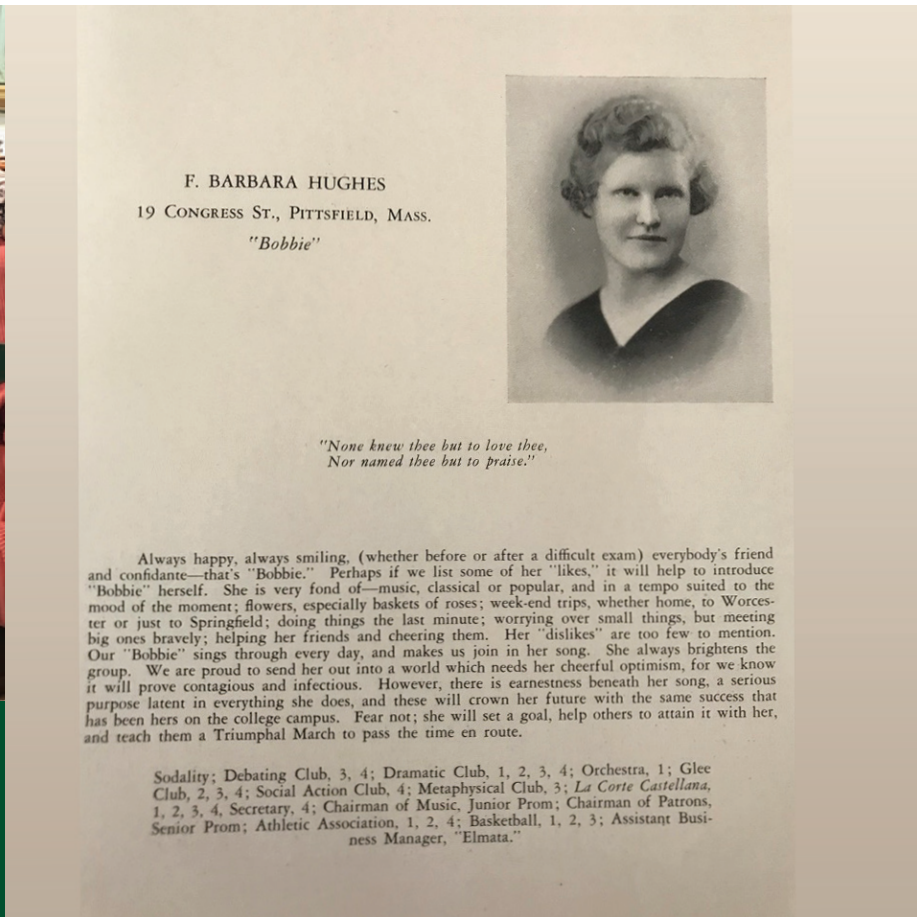
Giving to the Elms College Annual Fund is a great way to make an immediate impact, and support the college's most pressing needs. As this year's Annual Fund Drive comes to a close, we ask that you please consider making a commitment to the Annual Fund today.

Your support is valued and appreciated, and makes a difference to our entire community.

Gifts can be made online by *visiting* **www.elms.edu/give**, *texting* "**Elms**" to **41444**, or by *contacting* **413-265-2213**.



Barbara Hughes Broderick, the last surviving member of the Elms College Class of 1935, turned 108 years old on April 22. Kathy Arment '09, MS, LSW, director of social services at Lee Healthcare, was on hand to help her celebrate. Barbara has lived at Lee Healthcare since she turned 100. The town of Lee designated her birthday as "Barbara Broderick Day."



F. BARBARA HUGHES
19 CONGRESS ST., PITTSFIELD, MASS.
"Bobbie"

"None knew thee but to love thee,
Nor named thee but to praise."

Always happy, always smiling, (whether before or after a difficult exam) everybody's friend and confidante—that's "Bobbie." Perhaps if we list some of her "likes," it will help to introduce "Bobbie" herself. She is very fond of—music, classical or popular, and in a tempo suited to the mood of the moment; flowers, especially baskets of roses; week-end trips, whether home, to Worcester or just to Springfield; doing things the last minute; worrying over small things, but meeting big ones bravely; helping her friends and cheering them. Her "dislikes" are too few to mention. Our "Bobbie" sings through every day, and makes us join in her song. She always brightens the group. We are proud to send her out into a world which needs her cheerful optimism, for we know it will prove contagious and infectious. However, there is earnestness beneath her song, a serious purpose latent in everything she does, and these will crown her future with the same success that has been hers on the college campus. Fear not; she will set a goal, help others to attain it with her, and teach them a Triumphal March to pass the time en route.

Sodality; Debating Club, 3, 4; Dramatic Club, 1, 2, 3, 4; Orchestra, 1; Glee Club, 2, 3, 4; Social Action Club, 4; Metaphysical Club, 3; *La Corte Castellana*, 1, 2, 3, 4, Secretary, 4; Chairman of Music, Junior Prom; Chairman of Patrons, Senior Prom; Athletic Association, 1, 2, 4; Basketball, 1, 2, 3; Assistant Business Manager, "Elmata."

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni
Marie Lawler Aquadro ’49
Eleanor Dooley ’50, SSJ
Doris Giblin ’50
Grace Ayers Terfera ’50
Lucille DesRochers Dufault ’51
Rosemary Daniels Hall ’51
Patricia O’Keefe Kennedy ’51
Elizabeth Clark Perry ’51
Mary Danis Garvey ’52
Patricia Scanlon ’52
Margaret Flynn Wilkinson ’52
Virginia Hunt Lewis ’54
Patricia Thomas O’Connor ’54, SSJ
Marilyn Erikson ’55
Barbara Shevlin Kiely ’ 55
Mary McDonnell Petropulos ’55
Sheila Crean Rheault ’56
Jean Meloche Sheary ’56
Constance Corr Grippo ’57
Janice Molloy ’57
Barbara Lunardini Murphy ’58
Theresa Murtha ’58, SSJ
Patricia Scibelli Camerota ’59
Elizabeth McDermott Walsh ’59
Patricia Forgarty Nylin ’60
Maureen Sullivan ’60
Joan Vincent ’61, C.S.C.
Elizabeth Kirby Griffin ’62
Virginia Koonz ’63
Kathleen Faerber Cross ’65
Geraldine Twining ’65
Charles Andrewes ’66
Marcia Cain ’66
Ann Frost ’66
Julie A. Dupuis ’67
Marilyn Santopietro Gerace ’67
Edward Furey ’68
Carol Gigliotti Foulds ’70
Mary Neffinger McGuire ’70
Patricia Kelly Monfet ’71
Ann Jordan ’73
Cynthia Shumski Yergeau ’74
Anne Marie Shea Tower ’79
Rosemary Williams Josefek ’82
Praxedis Pilon ’84
Joan Warakomski Land ’86
James Granata ’91
Lynn Self ’95
Leanne Irion Morrissey ’98
Thomas Adams ’99
Margaret Fitzpatrick ’01
George Keator ’01
Samuel Garcia ’18

Non-Graduated Alumi
Leo Bergeron
Ruby Ellen Bosinske
Elaine Fleurette D’Amours
Bernadette Mary McGrath, SNDdeN
Barbara M. Powers
George R. Savaria

Husband of
Sheila Nesbit Keator ’59
Eleanor Sweeney Nield ’66
Sharon Lawrence ’70
Bernice Chmiel Hoyt ’73
Clare Andrewes ’84
Alda Vedovelli Plante ’00

Daughter of
Nancy Madden Lukasiewicz ’59
Marlene Rossmeisl Czepiel ’08

Mother of
Jeanne Monaghan Smith ’74
Alison Gleason ’75
Cynthia Forsythe ’78
Patricia Kennedy ’82
Lisa Terfera Campbell ’95
Kelly Pike Carpenter ’01
William Howe ’ 01
Michele D’Amour (Friend of the College)
Mary Jean Thornton (Friend of College)
Jennifer Rivers (Faculty)

Father of
Maria Rodriguez-Maleck ’77
Pauline Auclair Wright ’78
Mary Keator ’91 ’07
Rachel Bradford ’05
Dr. Joyce Hampton (staff)

Sister of
Joan Koonz Gazzaniga ’54
Mary Hunt Keen ’58
Mary Lunardini Prajzner ’64
Kristen Brouker-Botelho ’02
Christine Sullivan Kazyaka ’17

Brother of
Kathleen Barry Voigt ’58
Margaret Bradford ’80

Grandmother of
Danielle Tise ’15

Grandfather of
Jacqueline Quetti ’16

Cousin of
Linda Kaczmarczyk ’71

Mother-in-law of
Marla Dodam Renius ’92
Kristin Ferriter Hagan ’96
Patrick Carpenter ’02

Father-in-law of
Andrea Neill (staff)

Brother-in-law of
Joanne Hewins ’03
Patricia Chmiel ’72

Sister-in-law of
Lorraine Drudi Neffinger ’99

Friends of the College
S. Prestley Blake
Earl Bradford Jr.
Marilyn Houghton Cass
Henry Chase, Jr.
Atty. William Flanagan
William Hewes USMC (Ret.)
Douglas Kimball (Former Adjunct)
Edward Peck
Margaret Scagliarini
Jean Topor

This list includes updates reported by family members, newspapers, and other sources from September 26, 2020, through April 18, 2021.

LIVING LEGACY

Join the Living Legacy Society

If you would like more information about joining the Living Legacy Society, contact Bernadette Nowakowski '89, '08, vice president of institutional advancement, at **413-265-221**4 or **nowakowskib@elms.edu**.

Mary Rossiter '67 has a few peculiar memories she holds close to her heart when she thinks about her time at Elms College. Catching frogs from a stream near campus. Bringing home fruit flies for a genetics experiment over the Easter holiday. And, last but not least, building a kymograph—an instrument to measure changes in pressure or motion—with her friends in the lab.

"It was stimulating because we all had different perspectives," says Mary, who majored in biology and studied under Sr. Margaret James. "When you have to do things on a rudimentary level, you teach one another."

Mary got her start in medical science as a teenager. After her mother passed away when Mary was 19, she put her college dreams on hold temporarily. Her family's physician put in a good word for her at the local hospital in Somers Point, NJ, however, and Mary began working as a medical technician.

"They didn't really have a student program," recalled Mary. "I was their only trainee."

This experience was monumental, she said, as it spurred her interest in laboratory work. She initially learned how to draw blood, but quickly moved on to more advanced techniques like doing blood counts, making slides, and identifying cells.

After gaining early experience in the workforce, Mary earned her associate's degree at a community college in North Carolina. She knew that she needed a four-year degree to work as a laboratory professional and decided to transfer to Elms, where she could bring her studies full circle. At Elms, her passion for science blossomed. While she rarely left the lab except on the weekends, she enjoyed exploring western Massachusetts with other on-campus residents.

"I had a car, which made me very popular," she joked. "I made some very close friends at Elms."

After graduating in 1967, Mary moved back home and began working at Shore Memorial Hospital. As the facility's laboratory supervisor, she oversaw the implementation of its first patient-focused computer system. She remained at Shore for 37 years, during which she earned her master's degree in biology from Long Island University and taught classes at Atlantic Community College.

When Mary retired in 1998, she turned her focus to church life. She became a eucharistic minister and a lecturer, and even did home visits around her hometown of Northfield, NJ. She started a prayer shawl group with her parish and organizes donations to area nursing homes.

Mary's impulse to help others extends beyond her parish. She made the decision to include Elms College in her estate plans because she wants to support future generations of STEM scholars.



"I don't think you could make a better investment."

— Mary Rossiter '67

ELMS COLLEGE

291 Springfield Street
Chicopee, Massachusetts 01013-2839

SAVE THE DATE!

We are excited to be able to welcome alumni back to campus for Reunion. This year we have a lot to make up for and will be hosting two very special Reunions this fall. We can't wait to have double the fun!

Saturday, September 25, 2021

Most classes that end in 0, 1, 5, and 6 will be returning to campus for a special "double the fun" Reunion experience. Outdoor events, several athletic teams will compete, class gatherings, and celebrating all things Elms!

Saturday, October 2, 2021

The classes of 1970 and 1971 will both host their special Golden Blazer Reunions on this day. Each class will have its own Golden Blazer ceremony, luncheon, class meeting, and more. We want both classes to enjoy their special honor together, while also allowing each class its own personal experience.

We know that many alumni are ready to be back on campus and we can't wait to welcome you back. Over the next few months, we will be finalizing plans, sharing updates, and celebrating alumni successes. Watch the mail for your invitation and registration information, coming soon!