SPRING 2023

ELMS

MAGAZINE

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25 years after Elms' coed vote



"A ship in a harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." — John A. Shedd

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1928-2023

Dear Friends.

What a wonderful spring semester it has been on the Elms College campus! An increased focus on student engagement provided many joyful opportunities for community building and fun activities- from food trucks and dodgeball on the Sr. Kathleen Keating Quadrangle, to commuter coffees, to a day-long celebration of experiential learning throughout campus.

Our initiatives received wide attention and support, including extensive coverage of Elms College's Haiti Nursing Continuing Education program on National Public Radio and a press conference with US Representative Richard E. Neal in Alumnae Library to announce $1 million in community funding support for our Social Work and Urban Education programs, obtained through the Congressman's Office.

The academic year was capped off by a glorious commencement ceremony in the MassMutual Center. The Class of 2023 was celebrated and cheered by several thousand family members and friends for successfully completing their many months and years of study and toil.

At commencement ceremonies, as graduates depart from their Elms home and head off on new journeys and new adventures, accompanied by the customary pomp and circumstance, it is natural for our College community to be reminded of our purpose and to look to the future with joyful optimism.

But even as we look to the future, it is also important to remember the past. This year is a very significant one for Elms College, marking some important anniversary milestones. The most significant of these anniversaries is the 95th anniversary of the college being founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Everything we are and everything we do springs from the courage and foresight of Mother John Berchmans and her community of Sisters to lay the foundation for this gem of an institution in Chicopee, Massachusetts.

It is also the 50th anniversary of Alumnae Library, our intellectual center and, after Berchmans Hall, the most recognizable landmark on campus. The third milestone, as the cover article notes, is the 25th anniversary of the Board of Trustees voting to admit male undergraduate students. Existing 70 years to that point as an all-women college, such a drastic change to the mission was not taken lightly. The vote at that time, as all consequential decisions are, was not without controversy. But time has proven that it was courageous and essential.

The rest of this issue of the Elms Magazine includes the many other reasons for us to look to the future with optimism: the largest one-time gift in the College's history by Michele and Donald D'Amour, our faculty sharing their expertise about a future with artificial intelligence, our alumna's journey to the Massachusetts State Legislature, our students' academic achievements and volunteering efforts, and many of the activities and events that created the tapestry of our academic life in recent months.

Thinking back about the many different faces of students whom I met each day over the course of the past year, some shy and uncertain, some glowing with optimism and enthusiasm, I feel privileged for the work that our community of faculty and staff do day in and day out to help them discover and pursue their own purpose. I also feel grateful for your support and your prayers, as you accompany us in that effort.

Best Wishes for safe, happy, and healthy summer,

Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA

President

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We are a Catholic liberal arts college founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, Massachusetts.

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



Elms students take a breather during a coed dodgeball tournament in April on lawn of the Sr. Kathleen Keating Quadrangle.

FEATURES



D'Amours donate record amount to Elms

Western Mass. philanthropists Donald and Michele D'Amour donated $1.5 million to Elms College to benefit the Haiti Nursing Continuing Education Program and to create a center for teaching excellence. It is the largest single gift in Elms history.



Memories of when Elms became coed

Twenty-five years after Elms College became a coeducational college, people who were there at the time reflect on what the change meant for Elms.



Faculty mull impact of ChatGPT

Advances in readily available artificial intelligence programs like ChatGPT have Elms faculty questioning traditional approaches to teaching.



Elms alumna elected to Massachusetts State Legislature

Shirley Arriaga, '15, is in her first year as state representative for Chicopee after her November 2022 victory. She credits her time at Elms with laying the foundation for her political career.



Campus Ministry volunteers make 3 mission trips

Volunteers traveled to Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and El Paso, Texas, to perform volunteer work as part of the Campus Ministry Compassionate Heart Mission Trips.



Donald and Michele D'Amour

Donald and Michele D'Amour donate $1.5 million, largest single gift in Elms College history

Philanthropists Donald and Michele D'Amour have donated $1.5 million to Elms College – the largest single gift in the 95-year history of the college.

Their gift, which was announced in February, will have two specific goals: to support a collaboration between Elms and the Episcopal University of Haiti to train nursing educators, and to bolster the Liberal Arts core and faculty development at the Chicopee campus.

Donald D'Amour is the retired longtime CEO and chairman of Big Y Foods. He and Michele are among the most prominent philanthropists in Western Massachusetts and have a long history of giving throughout the region, and in support of Catholic education.

Michele D'Amour, in a recent interview, said she and her husband have always chosen to donate where they feel it will benefit people and have a tangible and lasting impact. The Elms gift, she said, accomplishes both.

"It was kind of a home run," she said. "We felt as if it was an answer to our prayers as to what God wanted us to do next. It married our two passions in giving to education and to those in need."

Elms College President Dr. Harry Dumay expressed his gratitude to the D'Amours for their support and generosity.

"We are immensely grateful for Michele and Donald's magnificent gift that will benefit our domestic and global

students," said Dr. Dumay. "Guided by the mission and vision of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the D'Amours are dedicated to the college's success by providing our faculty with the tools necessary to prepare every student to be a lifelong learner."

Of the $1.5 million gift, $1 million will endow the Haiti nursing education program, which shall now be known as the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Haiti Nursing Continuing Education Program in honor of Haiti's patron saint.

The program, founded in 2019 between the two colleges, is a unique partnership focused on improving the health of the Haitian people. It employs a "train the trainer" approach where Elms faculty instruct nursing faculty in Haiti on the latest skills and techniques. Those faculty then teach the same lessons to nursing students in Haiti.

The remaining $500,000 will go toward a program called the D'Amour Center for Faculty Teaching Excellence to aid in revising the college's core curriculum in the Catholic liberal arts tradition. The center will promote faculty development and initiatives that will integrate the revised curriculum into teaching.

Michele said she and Donald had some connection with Elms over the years, but she said that over the last decade neither was overly involved with the college.

Donald's father and stepmother, Paul and Helen D'Amour each served at one time on the Elms' Board of Trustees. Paul D'Amour also founded a scholarship in his mother's name, and Helen D'Amour, who died in 2015, left money in her will to replace the aging college chapel. Michele said that being the executor of the estate led her to become acquainted with then-president Mary Reap. She said their relationship with Elms changed after 2019 when she got to know Reap's successor, Dr. Dumay.

"God puts people in your path," she said.

At the time, Michele was on the board of trustees with Pope Francis Preparatory School in Springfield and Dr. Dumay had just been appointed. It was this friendship, and what she called Dr. Dumay's "dogged determination to school me about everything about Elms" that opened the door for their financial support.

She said she had not heard of the Haiti program until the summer of 2020, or about a year after it launched. At home during the COVID-19 lockdown, she first read about it and became intrigued by it and its mission. After researching it further, she reached out to Dr. Dumay with questions. At one point, he arranged for her to meet with those in the School of Nursing directly involved with the program.

She said she came home from one meeting as a total believer and convinced Donald that they should contribute toward it. "He and I have had a heart for Haiti for some time and have supported various other initiatives there over the years," she said.

"What was amazing to me when I sat down with the nursing crew is that the program is in its infancy and it's already demonstrating its successes, and the ability to be flexible and find solutions where it hits a bump in the road," she said. "It's remarkable the inroads the program has already made in providing health care for the Haitian people."

Also important, she said, was offering support to Elms through the newly formed D'Amour Center for Faculty Teaching Excellence. The couple has a history of supporting education, especially Catholic education. But the couple thoroughly researches where their support can be "a catalyst to opening a door and/or ensuring an institution's ability to fulfill its mission in the Catholic educational tradition."

Funding the D'Amour Center for Faculty Teaching Excellence is intended to help the college strengthen its core curriculum and bolster the faculty, she said.

> ***"It was kind of a home run. We felt as if it was an answer to our prayers as to what God wanted us to do next. It married our two passions in giving to education and to those in need."***
>
> ***— Michele D'Amour***

When the D'Amours research which institutions to support, they look at those that are working to strengthen the understanding between faith and reason. When they learned that Elms was in the process of reviewing its core curriculum with a focus on the Catholic liberal arts tradition, Michele said it seemed like the right time to act.

"We wanted to provide an opportunity for faculty enrichment," she said. "In regard to a successful Catholic college, we always felt that faculty is the key. They are the ones in the trenches."

Michele said she and her husband each took to heart the message of Pope John Paul II's Encyclical on Faith and Reason when it was published in 1998. At the time they had children in college, and they began to focus on supporting Catholic colleges and universities.

"We loved what (Pope John Paul) had to say and found it resonated with us," she said. "One of the quotes I always go back to is that it is an honor and a responsibility of a Catholic university to consecrate itself to the cause of truth."

She said their hope for the center is that it will help Elms faculty to be able to provide an even richer nurturing of the minds and souls of the students they serve.



◀Postal Service reports $1 billion profit/A3

Today's forecast
Mostly sunny
High 70, Low 45

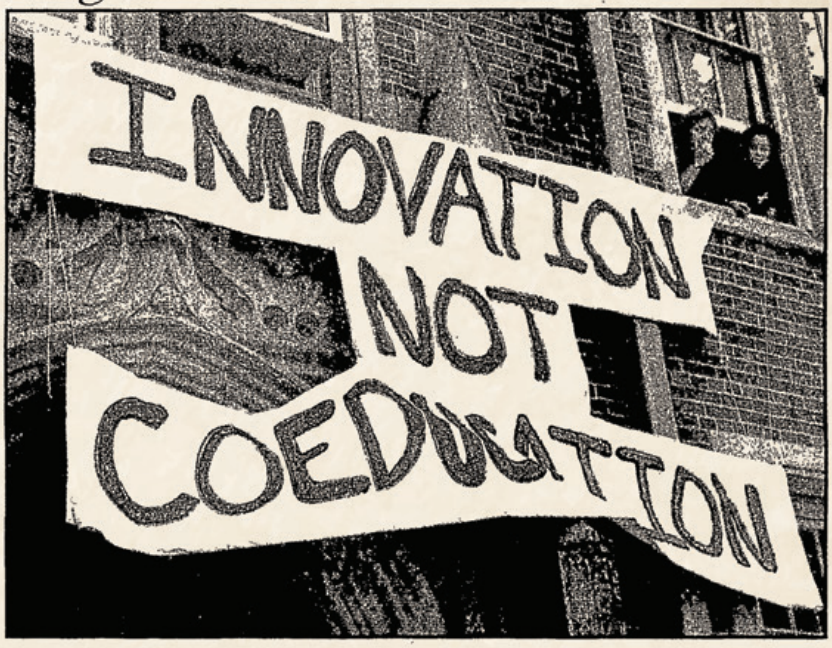
W. SPRINGFIELD
Union News.
AGAWAM

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Branching out to men

Despite this sign and other protests at Elms College yesterday, the Board of Trustees voted to admit men in hopes of boosting declining enrollment.

Staff photo by JUAN PEDRAZA



Protest doesn't stop Elms going coed

Faced with declining enrollment, the board voted 23-5 to change its century-old policy of admitting women only.

By JOHN APPLETON
Staff writer

CHICOPEE — Elms College changed its nearly century-old identity as a women's school yesterday and disappointed many students and alumnae by deciding to admit men in hopes of boosting enrollment.

Despite a protest rally attended by more than 200, Elms trustees voted 23-5 to allow men in all programs starting next fall.

"A new day has begun at Our Lady of the Elms," said Sister Kathleen Keating, the college's president. "It is our goal that not only will we attract men but more women, since the pool of women who are willing to go to a school for women only is declining."

Student Government Association President Tammy Landon, who led the protest rally, announced the news to her supporters this way: "We lost our fight. We now need to keep our heads high and try to progress with this."

Earlier in the afternoon, Landon had proclaimed to the rally, "A women's college is a necessity in today's society. We are not here out of disrespect to the administration but out of respect for the institution."

Keating acknowledged how emotional the coeducation issue has been at the Elms, and said she found it very painful herself.

"I have been attached to this college since I was 10 years old when my older sister came here," Keating said. She was also involved as a member of the faculty, a trustee and a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph, which

Please see **Elms,** *Page* **A8**

'This little college and this big hullabaloo'

Looking back on the 25th anniversary of Elms going coed

CHICOPEE - All change is difficult, and so it was 25 years ago at Elms College.

After existing for 70 years as a women's college, the Board of Trustees voted in October 1997 to become a coeducational school beginning Fall of 1998. The change, made necessary because of prolonged declining enrollments and recruitment projections that did not look any better, was not easy.

The months of discussion leading up to the Trustees' 23-5 vote were filled with a series of student protests on a campus never known as a hotbed of student unrest.

"It was this little campus and this big hullabaloo," said Sister Kathleen Keating, Elms president at the time.

There were multiple demonstrations on the quad and bedsheet banners reading "Innovation, not coeducation," and "Sisters Unite!" being hung from the upper floor windows of O'Leary Residence Hall. There were front-page articles in the Springfield newspaper, and TV crews reporting from the front lawn. There were angry letters to the editor and angrier phone calls to the campus switchboard. Students threatened to transfer and faculty threatened to resign.

The commotion pretty much died down by the time the first crop of 36 male students arrived on campus for the start of the Fall 1998 semester. Twenty-five years later, those turbulent days are remembered only by some longtime faculty and staff, and by the alumni who experienced it.

Now 94, retired, and living in Holyoke, Sister Kathleen acknowledges there were a lot of hard feelings, and some people said a lot of things that were not very nice. What opponents overlooked at the time was there was no realistic way for Elms College to remain in business as a women's college.

"I couldn't say it publicly (at the time) but we might have had two years left," she said recently. "We didn't have enough students, frankly."

A steady decline in enrollment, both at Elms and at women's colleges nationwide since the 1970s had left Elms in rather desperate straits. By fall 1997, undergraduate enrollment had dipped to just 507 full-time students.

"The demands of a modern college cannot be sustained by 500 students," she said.

Elms President Dr. Harry Dumay said, "Time has shown that the leadership demonstrated by Sister Kathleen and by the Board of Trustees at that time was difficult, courageous and, in retrospect, absolutely correct."

"The college exists today as a testament to their wisdom and foresight," he said.





Sister Kathleen Keating, Elms president from 1994-2004

"Change can be difficult, change can be hard, but there are times it is absolutely necessary. The decision 25 years ago to go coed is an example of this," he said.

Elms had enrolled male students since the 1950s, but most were either graduate students or part-time undergraduates finishing up a degree started somewhere else. The campus did not have any men living in the residence halls.

Recruiting new students for a women's college had always been a challenge, in part because roughly one-half of the pool of college-bound high school students, or the men, were automatically ineligible. And beginning in the 1970s, higher education in the United States experienced a generational shift: more and more college-bound high school girls began turning their noses up at the idea of going to a women-only school.

Sister Kathleen said that in the months leading up to the coed vote, the college commissioned a survey of college-bound seniors from throughout New England. It showed that just 2% showed any interest in attending an all-women school, and only 1% planned to apply.

Across the country, traditional women's colleges began seeing sharp declines in applications and enrollments. The impact was lasting, as the number of women's colleges began declining. Some closed outright, while others, like Elms, went coed.

While there were once hundreds of women's colleges nationwide, the National Center of Educational Statistics says there are just 35 today. Three of them – Smith and Mount Holyoke colleges and Bay Path University – are but a short drive from the Elms campus in Chicopee.

For Elms to ignore that data and remain a single-sex institution, Sister Kathleen said, it would be akin to an office supply store trying to remain in business by selling only fountain pens.

Going coed would not only bring in men, she said, but it would make the college more attractive to women who wanted to go to a college with men.

And that is precisely what happened.

Within 10 years, Elms College's undergraduate enrollment increased by 56% to 794 total students. By 2018, it had doubled to 1,003. From that first batch of 36 men, the number has risen to around 255, and today steadily hovers around 25% of the undergraduate population.

And the college's endowment, which was around $2.3 million when Sister Kathleen became president in 1994 has risen to $20 million today.

She said by any measure, the decision to go coed was the right call then and remains so today.

"I never doubted it. I felt it was for the benefit of the college," she said. "I never lost an ounce of sleep over it."

Financial considerations aside, Sr. Kathleen said there was also a philosophical argument for admitting men. All primary and secondary schools in the Springfield Diocese had been coed for decades without any issues.

Also, she said, Elms College offered a strong foundation in liberal arts, ethics, and community service that benefited generations of women. Was it fair to not allow men the opportunity to benefit as well?

"It is very much a mission question," she said.

She remembers sitting in her office one day months after that first semester and overhearing two male students in the hallway having a very thoughtful discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the poetry of T.S. Eliot.

"It was wonderful," she said.

Patrick Carpenter, '02, was one of the first 36 men to attend Elms. Looking back, Carpenter, now 44, married with two children and the senior director of development for New England Public Media, counts himself as one of the men who benefited from an Elms education.

He said recently there is no question that Elms changed his life, and that enrolling in that first class was the smartest thing he ever did.

"My entire Elms experience was the most important experience I ever had in my life. Everything that's come since then I credit to my time at Elms," he said.

"My entire Elms experience was the most important experience I ever had in my life. Everything that's come since then I credit to my time at Elms" — Patrick Carpenter





Patrick Carpenter, '02

As a student, he became "deeply involved" in campus life, athletics, and student activities. He became a residential assistant in his sophomore year and was selected to give the student address at his commencement in 2002.

After graduate school, he returned to Elms as the director of residence life, served as director of annual giving, and is still an adjunct professor of sociology.

He admits when he first arrived on campus, it felt weird. He and the other men were aware of the earlier protests and knew that there were probably some people on campus who did not want them to be there. Aware that they were part of a great experiment and continually under the microscope, the men in that first class made a point to always be on their best behavior, he said.

One of the great experiences he gained from Elms was what it was like as a white man to be part of a small minority. He said this change in perspective has stayed with him ever since.

He said it has made him more patient, a better listener, and more conscious of seeking out the opinions of everyone at the table during staff meetings.

"It defined how I see the world today in many ways," he said. "It put me in a position where I think I learned to listen more and talk less."

Twenty-five years on, Carmen Mercado, '98, looks back on the change and realizes it was probably the right thing to do. Still, she laments the loss of the school that she knew and loved.

A member of the last all-female undergraduate class, Mercado was among those taking part in the campus protests. At the time, everyone felt the vote was inevitable, she said, "but we didn't want to go silently. We wanted to let them know that it didn't seem right."

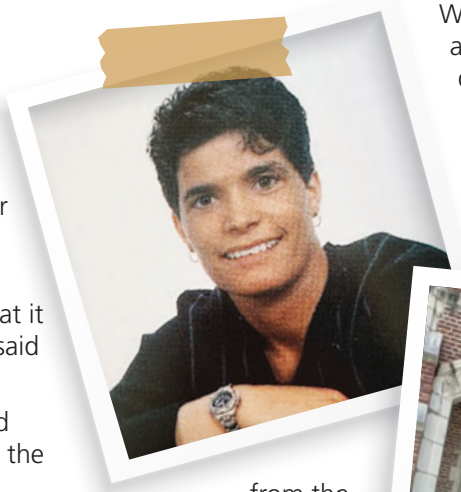
The April 24, 1997 edition of the Springfield Union-News printed a photo of Mercado hanging a banner from a third-floor window of O'Leary Residence Hall. The message read "Sisterhood. Keep the tradition alive."

The same article quotes Mercado saying "We want Elms to stay the way it is."

Although everyone knew the move to coed was going to happen, Mercado said when the vote was announced, "it was like a punch in the gut."

"I look back at it now, 25 years later, and it was probably a business decision," she said.

On this day, walking in the same quad where she protested years ago, young men can be seen walking to and from class with young women, and the whole scene seems both ordinary and unremarkable.





Carmen Mercado, '98

When she thinks of her time as a student, she remembers a quiet campus and a spirit of sisterhood where the young women looked out for and supported each other. Each incoming first-year student was assigned a big sister from the junior class. And each year, the sophomores would put on a music and comedy show for the seniors.

"There were a lot of traditions like that," she said.

She said she misses the college she knew and was drawn to memories of her friends and classmates, but is happy the campus at least resembles how she remembers it.

"It's nice to see that I was wrong. It didn't fail," she said.

"I'm happy where it is now. I'm glad they made the decision."

This is Elms College's 95th anniversary. If you have memories of the college or campus life from your time here as a student, faculty or staff member, we would like to hear them. Scan the QR code with the camera on your smart phone or go to https://www.elms.edu/memories

Commencement 2023: Elms celebrates 92nd graduating class

The College of Our Lady of the Elms celebrated its 92nd commencement on Saturday, May 20 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass.

The college awarded a total of some 460 undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates.

Honorary degrees were presented to Catholic historian and retired Holy Cross professor David O'Brien, Philanthropist Karen Keating Ansara, founder of the Network of Engaged International Donors, and La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.



La June Montgomery Tabron

Tabron, the first woman and first African-American to lead the foundation, delivered the commencement address. W.K. Kellogg is one of the largest private philanthropic organizations in the United States.

Under her leadership, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation seeks to ensure the optimal development of young children from birth to age 8, heal the profound racial inequities in communities, and cultivate community leaders and community-led solutions that support educated kids, healthy kids, and economically secure families.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation has distributed $1.17 billion to organizations to address the needs of communities around the world, particularly in parts of the United States, and also in Mexico and Haiti.

O'Brien is one of the first historians to focus on American Catholicism and authored seven books on topics ranging from Catholics and the social reforms initiated by the New Deal, the balance between personal faith with public life for American Catholics, and the role of Catholic higher education in American culture.

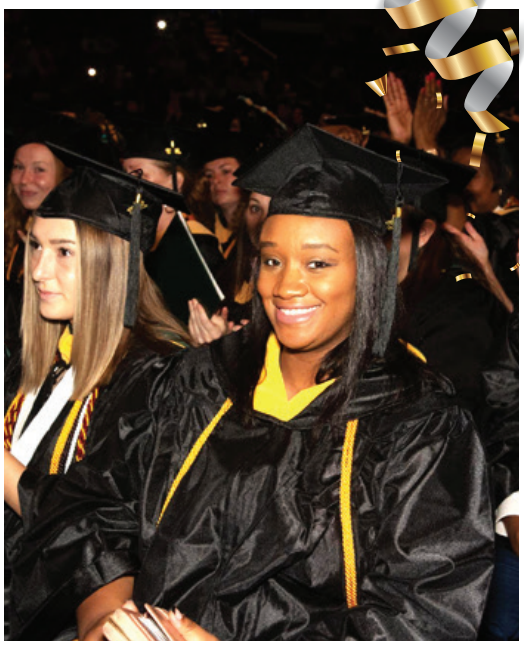
Ansara founded the Network of Engaged International Donors, a nationwide network of over 180 philanthropists, foundations, and impact investors that explore global issues affecting people in need and fund solutions. In response to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, she founded the Haiti Fund at the Boston Foundation that evolved into the Haiti Development Institute, which supports Haitian-led organizations to build solid foundations and connect with funders.

Elms President Dr. Harry Dumay and Board of Trustees chairman Paul Stelzer also delivered remarks.

For more information and photographs from the ceremony, please go to

Facebook.com/ElmsCollege/photos_albums





Elms faculty eye AI; Modern marvel or plagiarism machine?



Beryl Hoffman in the computer lab.

Dr. Beryl Hoffman has been a professor of computer science at Elms College for nearly 20 years and has a Ph.D. in computational linguistics. She said she always thought human language, with its many nuances, complexities, and ambiguities both written and spoken, would always be too difficult for computers to fully master.

But then along came ChatGPT.

The artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot, launched in November by OpenAI, can gather information from around the internet, assemble it in paragraph form, and pass it off as if it was written by a human being. And that has faculty around the world somewhat alarmed.

"It really caught me by surprise," Hoffman said. "We just didn't think computers would be able to generate language this way."

With just a few prompts, ChatGPT uses algorithms and predictive text to scour the internet for information, and then assemble a narrative on any subject. It can then write it in whatever language, style or level of education requested. Ask, for example, for a 700-word essay comparing "The Red Badge of Courage" and "All Quiet on the Western Front," and it will produce a grammatically correct, college-level book report in just a few minutes.

For faculty, this is less a modern marvel than it is a near-perfect plagiarism machine. Recent articles in The New York Times, The Atlantic, and the Chronicle of Higher Education have college professors questioning if they will be able to distinguish legitimately penned papers from computer-generated frauds. Some have questioned if they are witnessing the end of the traditional college essay assignment.

Elms History professor Dr. Damien Murray thinks maybe we are.

Murray sat through a presentation on ChatGPT by Hoffman in the fall and came away feeling the tech is nothing short of revolutionary. And to be clear, he does not mean that in a good way.

"I've got to rewrite every essay assignment. I've got to come up with all new assignments," he said.

And lest anyone accuse Murray or any other academics of overreacting, consider this: when researchers at the University of Minnesota used ChatGPT to take exams for four graduate-level law courses, the software received a passing grade, averaging a C+. A similar trial with exams for an upper-level business class at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business generated a B.

Whether it is used for good or for bad, few can question that ChatGPT represents the dawn of a new, AI-generated day. Other internet companies are rushing their versions. Microsoft in February rolled out a ChatGPT equivalent in the Bing search engine. Google is putting the finishing touches on Bard, its own language AI program, and expects to launch it shortly.

"It is definitely going to grow. This is just the beginning," Hoffman said. "This kind of AI is definitely going to crop up in all kinds of software."

Just weeks after she said this, OpenAI announced an updated, more powerful version of ChatGBT called GBT-4 that is said to have more sophisticated reasoning skills than earlier models.

Hoffman and Murray each said the rise of chatbots is going to force faculty to adjust how they teach and how they assign. Gone are simple essay assignments and learning by memorization, to be replaced with work that emphasizes critical thinking.

Murray said he has shelved traditional research papers in two of his history courses and replaced them with multi-tiered assignments involving team research, multiple drafts, one-on-one sessions with him, and oral presentations to the class. He said this should provide enough opportunity for him to gauge if the students alone are doing the work.

"It's not something the students can just shoot into a chatbot and get back very easily," he said.

This approach requires him to do more work; there is more time spent grading and giving feedback. But, he said, if it means students – and not the computer – are doing the work, it is worth it.

He said he still has concerns about how to employ this approach in his online asynchronous classes, which still rely on traditional research-paper assignments. With little face-to-face interaction with students, he said he has not yet figured out how to make those classes AI-proof.

"I have to think that long term that's going to be a challenge," he said.

Hoffman agreed that faculty have to adapt to the kinds of assignments they use in classes to minimize the use of AI. "You can no longer just ask for a recitation of facts," she said. "It has to be a lot more creative," she said.

While change can be difficult, she believes some of the AI hysteria is a little overboard. "It's not as bad as we think," she said.

The potential for chatbot cheating is a concern for her computer programming and coding courses because, she said, ChatGPT has shown it can write code better than many of her students can. Her initial concerns about students using it to cheat didn't materialize, she said.

"Most of my students are there because they want to learn how to code by themselves," Hoffman said. Students have used it for problem-solving but still come to her for an explanation, she said.

She even incorporated ChatGPT into the first assignment this semester by having teams in class use it to develop software that addresses a specific need. One team developed a recipe generator that would recommend a meal based on the ingredients on hand. Another developed a job-interview practice program where you type in an occupation and it would generate 10 questions likely to be asked during a job interview.



Prof. Damien Murray lectures his history class.

"These are the kinds of things they are going to be asked to do once they graduate because every company wants to hop on the AI bandwagon and start using it," she said.

"They are going to need to learn, and we need to teach them how to use it because they are definitely going to use it in their jobs."

What is ChatGPT?

ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence content generator that can quickly draft prose in different styles based on a few prompts. These example outputs were generated in just a few minutes.

Write a traditional newspaper lede about Elms College computer science professor, Beryl Hoffman, who is not concerned students will use ChatGPT to cheat on writing assignments.

Elms College computer science professor Beryl Hoffman is not concerned that students will use the AI-powered ChatGPT chatbot to cheat on their writing assignments. Hoffman believes that students are more likely to use the technology as an aid to help them write better, rather than to plagiarize.

Now write it in the style of the Declaration of Independence.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that Beryl Hoffman, Elms College computer science professor, does not believe that students will use ChatGPT to cheat on writing assignments; that she is determined to challenge students to engage in thoughtful academic discourse and to produce original work; that she will use her expertise to ensure the students understand the material and are able to apply it in an ethical manner; and that she is confident that the students will rise to the challenge.

Use the voice of Samuel L. Jackson's character from "Snakes on a Plane."

"Beryl Hoffman ain't got time to worry about students using ChatGPT to cheat on writing assignments. She knows there ain't no stoppin' every time someone tryin' to cheat and she ain't about to get all hissy fit over it. She's just gonna keep it movin' and let the chips fall where they may."

Write it as a Shakespearian sonnet

Though students may try and use ChatGPT to cheat,
Beryl Hoffman's not concerned, for she's quite fleet;
She knows with such tools, the task won't be complete,
For knowledge they'll gain will be quite incomplete.

Their work won't pass muster, as it is not true,
For ChatGPT will never gain all that she knew;
The students will learn, but will not be so shrewd,
For their work will lack the depth of what she views.

The class will have to be more than just a chore,
For Hoffman's knowledge is vast and evermore;
Her lessons will challenge, for her wisdom is sure,
And her students will have knowledge to endure.

The students she'll teach will never be so bold
To use ChatGPT, as she's not to be controlled.
Hoffman's wit and wisdom will never be sold,
For her class will be more than a story told.



Massachusetts State Rep. Shirley Arriaga, '15, D-Chicopee. / photo submitted by Shirley Arriaga

From Berchmans Hall to Beacon Hill

'It started here' - Shirley Arriaga, '15, elected to Mass. State Legislature

When Shirley Arriaga enrolled in Elms College in the fall of 2013, she had it all charted out.

First, she would earn her bachelor's degree in legal studies, then go to law school, spend 20 years as a military lawyer, and finally switch to a civilian career in government or politics.

But life, as they say, comes at you fast.

"One of the things you learn is that you can plan but life surprises you," she said. "Your timeline and life's timeline are not always in sync, but things work out."

Arriaga, '15, is the first to admit things turned out a little differently from what she planned.

"It's just been a roller coaster ride," she said.

In November, she was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, claiming a seat being vacated by longtime Chicopee representative Joseph Wagner. A political newcomer who had previously lost her only other campaign, a bid for Chicopee City Council, Arriaga would score an upset victory in the Democratic primary in September.

She easily took the final election two months later. Her two-year term on Beacon Hill in Boston began in January.

Seated in the Mary Dooley College Center cafeteria recently with her 9-year-old daughter, Winter, Arriaga remarked that this was her first time on campus since she graduated.

"Who knew?" she said. "Just nine years ago, I was sitting here, correcting my papers to make sure I had an A."

When she looks back at her time at Elms, everything was somewhat of a blur.

In addition to taking classes full-time, she was a loadmaster with the 439th Airlift Wing at Westover Air Reserve Base. That meant balancing classes at Elms with her Air Reserve duties, which sometimes meant flying out of Chicopee on missions lasting between two and 10 days.



Massachusetts State House, Beacon Hill, Boston, MA



State Rep. Shirley Arriaga, D-Chicopee, speaks on March 21 with Elms College social work students in Professor Scott Hartblay's class. Her visit was part of Legislative Education Advocacy Day by the National Association of Social Workers.

During this time, she also became a first-time mother with Winter.

Looking back, she said, she remembers juggling school, the military and motherhood and thinking there were not enough hours in the day.

"I can remember not sleeping," she said, adding that she probably averaged two hours a night. "Sleep wasn't on the agenda," she said.

It was at Elms that she realized she could make things happen if she worked hard enough to make them happen. It was at Elms where she found professors who pushed her to succeed, to make the most of her time and talent.

"I've been very fortunate to have had a solid foundation from here," she said.

She recalls one time receiving a B on a paper, but before she could feel relief or satisfaction, she saw a handwritten note from the professor. "This is unacceptable from you," it read.

As the first member of her family to go to college, Arriaga said it was Elms that set her off on her life's journey, and she is the better for it.

"It started here. Elms really did open my eyes to government and law and made it all seem attainable," she said.

It was through Elms that she landed an internship with the office of U.S. Rep. Richard E. Neal. That led to a full-time job for 3 1/2 years after graduation as a congressional aide in Neal's office.

Her Elms education prepared her for law school. She completed her first year, but her legislative career means law school is on hold for now. She said she intends to finish and someday work as legal counsel for people in immigration disputes.

"I was actually very, very fortunate to find Elms College. I received some scholarships here, the community was great and the professors are very passionate and knowledgeable."

She said the great value of Elms was faculty who really care about their students and are willing to go the extra mile for them. "I'm very fortunate to have great mentors who took the time to learn my story, find out what I wanted to do and how they could help me," Arriaga said. "That is something I got from (Elms) and I wouldn't trade it for the world."

She said she landed the internship with Neal only after her faculty advisor, Caroline Murray, associate professor of Paralegal and Legal Studies in the Department of Criminal Justice, talked her into applying for it. Murray even put in a phone call to Neal's office on her behalf.

Arriaga said that at the time she was looking for an internship, and a lot of her classmates were applying with Hampden Housing or Family courts. She was about to do the same but it was Murray who insisted she should aim higher.

"You want to go into politics. Why don't you intern with one of the representatives or senators?" Arriaga recalls Murray saying. "And I'm like 'Is that a thing?'"

Murray said she realized the first time she met Arriaga she knew she was an exceptional student.

"She had three things that you don't see often: she is very, very determined, she has grit and she is fearless," Murray said. "I just knew she was going to be successful no matter what she did."

She said there have been many great students who have gone through the Criminal Justice program and now work as lawyers, state police officers and other careers. "We've got some wonderful success stories," she said.

But Arriaga, she said, is the first she knows of to be elected to a state office.

Murray and Arriaga each said they remained close over the years. Arriaga said she considers Murray a mentor and that they talk regularly. Murray said she had no doubts about Arriaga winning her campaign. She even volunteered to hold an Arriaga sign for her in downtown Chicopee.

"We're Elms people," Murray said, "and we support each other."

BREAK A PLATE

The Office of Student Engagement and Leadership sponsored a Break-a-Plate event in the week leading up to final exams in the fall semester. Students were invited to write whatever was causing them stress on a ceramic plate, and then smash it to bits by throwing it on the sidewalk.



Nursing student Angelina Rodriguez fires her plate onto the sidewalk.

Elaina Vilar, '23, a psychology major, shows off the sources of her stress.



BLAZER BLITZ RECORD

The annual Blazer Blitz campaign, the college's annual day of giving raised $98,645 from a total of 464 individual donations from students, faculty and staff, and alumni. It was a record-breaking year in the history of the annual campaign. Heartfelt thanks to all who made Blazer Blitz a striking success!



STUDENT ART SHOW

Several student art projects were showcased in a December exhibition in the Borgia Gallery. The exhibition's opening was well attended.



Kamari Jeffers, a history major from Springfield, shows off examples of his pinch pottery.



First-year students Katelyn Meunier of Southampton, Kate Ogilla of Kenya, and Natalina Tadesse of Ethiopia look at art exhibits.



Happenings

ELMS NIGHT AT THE THUNDERBIRDS

Dozens of Elms students and employees traveled to the MassMutual Center in Springfield for Elms College night with the Springfield Thunderbirds hockey team.

Postbaccalaureate student Marlene Kebeya and junior Life Sciences / pre-med major Joshua Fernandez Garcia performed the national anthem. performed the national anthem. (Photos courtesy of the Springfield Thunderbirds)

Sister Carol Allen dropped the ceremonial first puck to start the game.





SCHOOL OF NURSING'S 'DIAPER DANDIES'

The School of Nursing's Nursing Skills Lab staged its annual Diaper Drive over the 40 days of Lent to collect donations of diapers and baby wipes to benefit Square One, a Springfield-based nonprofit, and its Diaper Bank.

The Elms community contributed 1,861 packages of diapers, 1,203 packages of baby wipes. and $40, according to Clare Stratton, student organizer. The number of diapers collected this year exceeded 2022's total by more than 500 packages.

Nursing students pose with some of the diapers and baby wipes collected as part of the annual campus Diaper Drive. / Terry Kinsley photo



MASS CASUALTY EVENT TRAINING

Nursing students participated in a simulated mass-casualty event in March. The disaster drill, using the School of Nursing mannequins, allows students to experience an all-hand-on-deck emergency event.

Students need to work as teams, assess the level of injuries and determine treatment options and which patients get priority. All of this must be done quickly. The exercise prepares the students for the types of emergencies they will encounter at some point in their nursing careers.





Around Campus

5 Students Chosen for STEM Scholarships



Penny Ankamah



Samuel Kevin Kinuthia



Ray Manzi



Johnnae Vernon



Victor Williamson

Five transfer students majoring in the sciences were selected this spring as recipients of The Elms College Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Scholarships.

Selected were Penny Ankamah of Pittsfield, ‘24, Samuel Kevin Kinuthia, of Nairobi, Kenya, ‘23, Ray Manzi of Longmeadow, ‘24, Johnnae Vernon of Springfield, ‘24, and Victor Williamson of Springfield, ‘24.

Ankamah, Kinuthia, Manzi, and Vernon are online students majoring in Computer Information Technology and Security. Williamson is an on-campus student majoring in Biology.

The Elms College Elms Stem program, supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, provides scholarships and programming to students who major in STEM fields and attend Elms College. The scholarships are for up to $10,000 per year.

The $1.5 million grant to the college from the National Science Foundation will provide need-based scholarships to high-achieving first-year students and transfer students who want to pursue careers in science, technology, and mathematics. It is open to majors in Biology, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Computer Information Technology and Security, Chemistry, or Mathematics.

The NSF grant was awarded in August 2022 and will fund scholarships for six years.

The scholarships are intended to assist students seeking to launch careers in STEM jobs, which are projected to account for 40% of new job growth in Massachusetts over the next five years. Applications for Fall 2023 scholarships are being reviewed.
For more information on the STEM Scholarships,
visit: https://www.elms.edu/academics/nsmt/elmsstem/



Campus Ministry Volunteers Make 3 Mission Trips

By Nicole Fregeau, Assistant Director of Campus Ministry





Teams of students and chaperones traveled to Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and El Paso, Texas, over the winter recess and spring break to perform volunteer work as part of the Campus Ministry Compassionate Heart Mission Trips.

In all, 17 students and 5 staff members took part in the three trips. Mission trips serve to create awareness of social justice issues in a real-world setting. They also encourage students to make community service a part of their lives after graduation.

A group of five students and two chaperones spent time over the winter recess in Puerto Rico, working with the St. Bernard Project on a home that had been heavily damaged during Hurricane Maria. Alongside SBP volunteers, the crew spackled and painted the interior and exterior of the home. They also got a chance to experience a traditional Three Kings Day in Puerto Rico and visited Old San Juan. A special thank you to Olga Torres-López, CEUE Academic Coordinator, for opening her home in Puerto Rico to her fellow volunteers.

Over Spring Break, two groups traveled to Jamaica and to El Paso.

In Jamaica, seven students and two chaperones participated in clinical work and general volunteer work in the surrounding area of the town of Mandeville. The group visited Mustard Seed Children's Home and Mary Help of Christians Home for the Elderly, participated in clinical work at the Holy Spirit Clinic and St. Croix Clinic, and partially repainted St. Martin De Porres Catholic Church. Volunteers also got to sit down for dinner with the Bishop of Mandeville, John Persaud, and spent their last day in Jamaica visiting YS Falls. A special thank you to St. John Bosco Vocational Training Center for providing housing to our volunteers, to the Catholic Diocese of Mandeville for providing transportation, and to Sr. Maureen Kervick, SSJ, and Sr. Miriam Krusling, RSM, for the help they provided while planning this trip.

The experience was summed up by one student who wrote in the anonymous post-trip survey "I have thought about my mission trip experience every single day since returning home. In addition to learning about another culture, I learned so much about what it truly means to love others – even those you do not know… There was such a sense of respect and fellowship among both neighbors and strangers. I came back inspired."

The El Paso group took part in an immersion experience at the U.S.-Mexico border through the Encuentro Project. Members of the group met with and heard stories from migrants, sat down with immigration lawyers and border patrol agents, and served meals in migrant shelters. They also went on a walking tour of El Paso and hiked up Mount Cristo Rey in New Mexico. A special thank you to the Columban Mission Center for providing housing to our volunteers.

Top Left: Megan Heath '24, Reyna Bautista '23, Alexandria Carmon '23, Madison McGinnis '23, Margaret Mathon '23, Autumn DeBlois '23, and Lena Legault-Ross '23 stand with one of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at the Holy Spirit Clinic in Jamaica.

Bottom Left: Marlene Kabeya, Alexandria Carmon '23, Kyla Lopez '25, Emily Cheevers '24 (bottom), Elizabeth Gourde '23, Nicole Fregeau, and Olga Torres-López take a break from work to pose for a group photo with St. Bernard Project employees in Puerto Rico.

From left, Claire Wright, Cameron Pearson, Casey Gagnon '23, Elizabeth Gourde '23, Isamar Perez '26, Michelle Redenz '23, and Malina Woodbury '26 pose for a photo in El Paso.

Sr. Mary McGlone Delivers Annual Dooley Lecture

Sister Mary McGlone of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet came to Elms on March 14 to deliver the annual Sister Mary Dooley lecture in the Library theater before a large crowd. Many of those in the audience were retired sisters with the Sisters of St. Joseph, including former Elms College President Sister Kathleen Keating.

Her talk was titled "Charism on the Move."

The annual lecture marked the kickoff of Elm College's 95th-anniversary celebration.

She spoke of the declining numbers of active sisters with Sisters of St. Joseph and how continuing the mission in the future will depend on lay people to do the heavy lifting.

It is no secret that the number of women joining the Sisters of St. Joseph and other religious orders has been in steep decline for the past 50 years. Most of those in the order now are in their 60s or older.

In an interview after the lecture, Sister Mary said that amid the decline, the role of the Sisters of St. Joseph continues to evolve, and the message of the charism, or the individual gifts and abilities people have to build up others in service of God, will endure.

"We talk about that charism but it's not ours. It's not like we've got it and we have to spread it. It belongs to the world. And we're just one group that has come together around it. So we know that it will continue with or without us," she said.

For Elms College, in particular, it will be the responsibility of the entire college – faculty, staff and students – to be the bearers of the message of the charism.

There remains a need for Catholic colleges and universities, like Elms College, but not at the expense of the large mission of faith and service, she said.

She said it is important "to figure out why this college exists and to keep that 'why' going."

It should not be "survival at any cost," she said. "It's 'can we continue to do what we're here to do?' And if not, then sell the property."

She said a small college is perfectly suited to appeal to students who would feel uncomfortable at a large school with classes of 500 or more. "It's here we've got the individual attention that helps each person figure out what their potential is, and go for their dreams."

In her lecture, she spoke of NASA's recent Double Asteroid Redirection Test, or DART rocket used to successfully nudge an asteroid deep in space, thereby forever altering its trajectory. Everyone you encounter, no matter how briefly, is changed, she said. It is essential for people to think of themselves as sort of DARTs and nudge the people they encounter on a trajectory of good.

In the context of a world that is increasingly divided, she said, "We can be those little DARTs that help it move toward greater peace, greater unity, greater appreciation of diversity."

Now in her 70s and having celebrated her 50th year as a Sister of St. Joseph, Sister Mary said she remains incredibly hopeful. She said that some years ago she was moving things out of her parents' home in Denver, and she found an old Catholic newspaper article about her joining the Sisters of St. Joseph.

"The interviewer said 'Why are you doing this?' and I said for the freedom," Sister Mary said. "And when I read it, I said 'Dang, that's what I would say today!"



Elms College President Dr. Harry Dumay speaks with Sr. Mary McGlone following her talk as part of the annual Sr. Mary Dooley Lecture in March. In the background is Michael McGravey, Director of the Institute for Theology and Pastoral Studies.



Sr. Mary McGlone speaks with Director of the Institute for Theology and Pastoral Studies Michael McGravey, Vice President of Student Affairs Andrew Coston, and Sr. Carol Allen in the Borgia Gallery before the Sr. Mary Dooley lecture.



History professors Laura McNeil and Damien Murray speak with Sr. Mary McGlone in the Borgia Gallery before her lecture.

Elms hosts 6th annual Black Experience Summit

Elms College hosted its 6th annual Black Experiences Summit in February, and it was very well received. The focus was on the role of religion in fighting racism.

Opening keynote speaker Shannen Dee Williams, associate professor of History at the University of Dayton, delivered a powerful narrative of the discrimination and misrepresentation suffered by Black catholic sisters within the U.S. Catholic Church.

ELMS COLLEGE

6TH ANNUAL

BLACK EXPERIENCE SUMMIT

In the closing keynote address, Olga Marina Segura, a freelance writer and former opinion and culture editor at National Catholic Reporter, spoke of how movements like Black Lives Matter are considered too radical by the status quo but are really consistent with the traditional social justice teachings of the church.

The summit was co-sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph and made possible through grant funding from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.



Dr. Harry Dumay greets participants in the 2023 Black Experience Summit. From left are writer Olga Marina Segura, Sr. Elizabeth T. (Betsy) Sullivan, president of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, Dumay, and author and historian Shannen Dee Williams.



Author Shannen Dee Williams speaks at the Black Experience Summit.



Author Olga Marina Segura speaks at the Black Experience Summit









‘200 Women,’ comes to Elms

Elms College hosted the traveling exhibit “200 Women,” a collection of portraits and stories of inspirational women from around the world. For the opening reception, Diane Foley, mother of slain American journalist James Foley, spoke of her work with the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation, and with Hostage US, which works to support the families of Americans taken hostage or wrongfully detained in other countries. Portraits from the exhibit were displayed in the Borgia Gallery, Alumnae Library, and the Rotunda of Berchmans Hall for much of the semester.

Above, Diane Foley addresses the audience in the Library Theater. Foley speaks to Joyce Hampton, Associate Vice President of Strategic Initiatives & Dean, the School of Arts, Sciences and Professional Programs.

7 new members of Elms Board of Trustees

Seven business, civic, education, and religious leaders from Western Massachusetts named members of the Elms College Board of Trustees for 2022-23.



Kathleen Bernardo is a partner at Bulkley Richardson and leads the Real Estate practice group. Her practice focuses on commercial real-estate matters such as conveyancing, financing, leasing, title matters, and all aspects of complex property transfers, including purchase agreements, easements, liquor-license transfers, special permits, regulatory compliance, zoning and variance issues, 1031 exchange transfers, boundary disputes, public and private conservation restrictions including agricultural preservation restrictions, petitions to partition, and other land-court matters. Her probate practice includes the preparation of wills and trusts, estate and trust administration, equity petitions, guardianships, and conservatorships.



Larry Eagan is the president and CEO of Collins Electric and has been with the company since 1984. Collins Electric is a private company with offices in Chicopee and Pittsfield, sales of more than $15 million, and more than 80 employees. Collins Electric is an Elms College vendor and a sponsor of the Executive Leadership Breakfast. Eagan is on the board of directors of Associated Subcontractors of Massachusetts, serves as the chapter president of Legatus of Western Massachusetts, and is a member of the National Electrical Contractors Assoc.



Lindsey Gamble is the director of Nursing at Mercy Medical Center, a broad role that carries with it many responsibilities, including staffing, budgeting, training, and ongoing education of the nursing staff. Gamble started her nursing career as a labor and delivery nurse. She played a key role in the opening of Mercy's Innovation Unit, designed to ensure that families of COVID-19 patients stay connected with the patient and the care team during their hospital stay.



Catherine Ormond, SSJ serves as pastoral visitor at St. Jerome's Parish in Holyoke and most recently was pastoral minister at St. Patrick's Church in South Hadley for nearly 20 years. Prior to that, she held counseling positions at Holyoke Catholic High School and Charles River Hospital in Chicopee Falls, and was coordinator of services at Brightside Mental Health Clinic.



Frank Robinson is the vice president of Public Health for Baystate Health. In this role, he is responsible for integrating clinical and community care to better serve vulnerable people and populations across the spectrum of diversity and create healthier communities. Robinson also represents Baystate Health in the area of community relations by building a shared agenda and common goals for community improvement with neighborhood, community, and business representatives, as well as other key stakeholders. He has led the establishment of the Baystate Springfield Educational Partnership and the founding of the Baystate Academy Charter Public School.



Cheryl Stanley, Ed.D. is Vice President of Education Programming and Advocacy for the Urban League of Springfield, and is also Professor Emeritus and former Dean of Education at Westfield State University. She received her BA from Spelman College, a master's from George Washington University and a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Dr. Stanley joined the education faculty at Westfield State University in 1993 and served 10 years as Dean of Education before retiring in 2020. At Westfield State, she oversaw several initiatives and achievements, including the expansion the "Reach to Teach" program, a collaboration between Westfield State and Springfield Public Schools.



Betsy Sullivan, SSJ serves as president of the Congregation for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield. She has extensive leadership experience, including vice president of the congregation, preceded by three decades as a licensed administrator of Mont Marie Health Care Center, a licensed nursing home in Holyoke.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS





Sports management textbook published

Dr. David Kimball, Associate Professor of Business Management at Elms, has co-authored a new textbook titled "Applied Sports Management Skills 4th Edition. His co-author on the book is Robert Lussier, professor emeritus of Sports Management at Springfield College.

The book published by Human Kinetics takes a practical approach to teaching students how to become strong leaders and managers in the world of sport.



Elms professor pens 3 journal articles

Dr. Jacqueline "Jackie" Jamsheed, Assistant Professor of Accounting in the Business Department at Elms College co-authored three articles that were published in different peer-reviewed academic journals this academic year.

Articles were published in the January edition of the International Journal of Auditing, the February edition of the Journal of Education for Business, and the March edition of the IMA Educational Case Journal.



Associate Dean presents at Sigma Theta Tau event

Deana Nunes, associate dean of Undergraduate Programs and an assistant clinical instructor with the School of Nursing, completed her Doctorate of Education program as a Nurse Educator at Southern Connecticut State University in December.

She also presented her doctoral dissertation at the chapter meeting of Sigma Theta Tau Beta Zeta national nursing honor society in April in Holyoke.



Dr. Dumay to serve on inaugural Boston College advisory panel on racial justice

President Harry Dumay was invited to serve as an inaugural member of the National Advisory Board for Boston College's Forum on Racial Justice. Other Board members include: Roy L. Austin Jr., vice president of Civil Rights and deputy general counsel at Meta; Danielle M. Brown, Esq. Associate Director of the ad hoc Committee Against Racism at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop, Lise Leist, diversity consultant and Boston College Trustee; Brien O'Brien Chairman and CEO of Port Capital LLC and Boston College Trustee.

Dr. Dumay was invited to present on Leadership and Institutional Fit at the Senior Leadership Academy of the American Academic Leadership Institute in Washington D.C. on June 15.

Also Dr. Dumay will serve, along with President Robert Johnson of WNEU, President Marisa Kelley of Suffolk University, and President Steven DiSalvo of Endicott College, as a faculty member for the Exploring the Presidency Seminar at Endicott College in June.



Annual Cape Cod Luncheon

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

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

12 noon - 2:30 p.m.

The Popponesset Inn • Mashpee, Massachusetts



Annual Sweet Summer Social

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

At Elms College campus in Chicopee

Drinks • Food • Fun

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni
Helen Sullivan Fitzgerald '43
Margaret Sausville Munns '44
M. Martha Quinlan Barry '45
Sr. Patricia Sweeney '45 SSJ
Sr. Alice Kenney '49 SSJ
Mrs. Eleanor Langton Murphy '49
Elizabeth O'Brien Harmon '51
Ruth Conlin Karpeles '51
Joan Vaughan Seander '51
Joan Cleary '52
Kathryn Larrow Auclair '53
Jeanne Goulet Bartley '53
Ellen Verchot Vanszl '54
Jacqueline Hebert Mahar '55
Sr. Mary Gallagher '56 SSJ
Therese Dowd Houlares '56
Mary Hoar Moore '56
Winifred Rosenbeck McCormick '57
Nancy O'Donnell Re '57
Sr. Frances Barry '58 SSJ
Sr. Catherine Hayes '58 SSJ
Sr. Edith McAlice '58 SSJ
Frances LaFerriere Bigda '59
Mary O'Brien Brennan '59
Sr. Patricia Johnson '59 SSJ
Mary Boyle McBride '59
Patricia Flaherty Nelligan '59
Sr. Marie Tougas, '59 SSJ
Regina Archey Decker '60
Theresa Moruzzi Herman '60
Patricia Pelland Jamrog '60
Anne Walker Hare '61
Mary Herring Belluardo '62
Rosalie Ford '62
Mary Doyle Navish '62
Dr. Mary Ellen Reilly '62
Geraldine Crimmins Slowick '62
Jane McMahon '63
Anne Henneberry Miers '63
Nancy Mazza Gaudette '64
Maureen Burns Lorenzatti '64
Frances Dooley Lyle '64
Patricia Shea O'Leary '64
Marilyn Menge Stearns '64
Maureen Cahill Borski '65
Ruth Willemain '66
Mary Kelly Finley '67
Rene Harnois '67
Sr. Ann Lynch '67 SSJ
Dr. Kathleen Riordan '67 Ed.D.
Mary Rossiter '67
Sr. Arlene Kalin '68 SSJ
Susan Harty Kolodjay '68
Sr. Angela Deady '69 SSJ
Noel Sheeran Drower '69
Teresa Devereaux Boyle '70
Deborah Meikle Cahoon '70
Sr. Frances Gloster '70 SSJ
Sheryle Boisvert Kinney '70
Ellen O'Connor Borowski '71
Sr. Anna Marie Kane '71 SSJ
Patricia Beglane Pearson '71
Ellen Cooney '73
Judith Campbell Mlinek '73
Christine Ferioli Archambault '74
Charlene Doherty Doherty Jayamanne '74
Kathleen Gilhooly '74
Donna Piacentini '75
Joyce Napikoski Badger '77
Sr. Margaret Connolly '77
Cynthia Hepburn Parentela '78
Lynne Piacentini '79
Elaine Picone Garvey '80
Theodora Zajchowski Galica '83
Maureen O'Hare '84
Dianne Bousquet '86
Kathleen McCormick DiGiovanni '90
Joan Sieron Curran '91
Sherry Cote Greaney '92
Jennifer Czarnecki Consedine '97
Linda Sibley '01
Patricia Gorman Kuralowicz '02
Sean Furey '04
Laura Mutschler Cox '05
Sandra Hills '07
Rosemarie Quinlan Romito '14
Kathryn Bazan Stevens '17

Husband of
Ruth Conlin Karpeles '51
Joan Fitzgerald Lundy '62
Eileen Mazza Mendrek '64
Margaret Dwyer Clark '65
Michaele Durant Durant '69
Estelle Tapor Czarnecki '72
Janine Wierzbicki Skorupski '73
Alanna Delaporta Malinowski '80
Barbara Mulcahy (Staff)
Cynthia Skrodzki (Staff)

Daughter of
Margaret Harris Stasiowski '54
Estelle Tapor Czarnecki '72
Robert Mahar (Former Trustee)

Father of
Carol Karpeles Prazan '74
Jennifer Czarnecki Consedine '97
Molly Clark Peters '04
Atty. Eileen O'Leary Sullivan (Trustee)
Constance Willett Ph.D. (Friend of the College)
Maria Sullivan (Staff)

Father-in-law of
Anne Foley DeFilippo '71
Deirdre Taylor Ghostlaw '86
Christine Cournoyer Devin '98
Sean Milbier (Staff)

Mother of
Barbara Stefanowich Miskiewicz '64
Charlene Zagrodnik '71
Carol Karpeles Prazan '74
Carla Everson '75
Patricia McCracken Morowsky '77
Maria F. Rodriguez-Maleck '77
Leslie Seander Hamilton '80
Mary Kathryn Brennan Nicoll '86
Linda Blanchard Fountain '88
Jenene Corbeil Gramolini '89
Vikki Stearns Bosse '92
Nancy Davis '16 (Staff)
Hannah Bongiovanni '20
Kyle O'Brien '20
Megan Eischen (Staff)
Tara Loos (Staff)
Joshua Pearson (Staff)
Maria Sullivan (Staff)

Mother-in-Law of
Suzanne Boulay Balicki '76 (Former Staff)
Francine Pannone Corbeil '88
Walter Bizon '99
Patricia Hannan Wysocki '03

Brother of
Kathleen Nolan Gonski '64
Jeannine Doorley Vignali '64
Wilhelmina Pianowski Ostrowski '69
Donna Capozzoli Beary '72
Maryanne Rooney Rooney-Hegan '76
Mary Janeczek (Faculty)
Kathleen Curry (Staff)

Brother-in-Law of
Eileen Wostena Chrzan '64
Maureen Dwyer Howard '69
Kathleen Curran '75

Sister of
Therese Quinlan Nesbit '52
Lorita Calderella Decorie '57
Sr. Constance Quinlan '58 SSJ
Susan Lavoie '65
Ann Gilhooly '72

Sister-in-Law of
Caryl MacDonald Reilly '67
Joli Crespino Basch '07

Granddaughter of
Mary Gene Schmidt '71

Grandmother of
Nicole Anderson Desroshes '17
Emma Carlson '22

Aunt of
Anne Marie O'Brien '85

Niece of
Teresa Harris '56
Margaret Curran Dowd '58

Cousin of
Mary Jane Halligan '68

Staff
Anne Marie Clark

Friend of the College
Marjorie Balicki (Former Staff)
Barbara Cove
Lorraine Forfa (Former Faculty)
Barbara Grabowski
Geraldine Jarvis (Former Staff)
Msgr. David Joyce Jr.
Ellen McEwen (Former Staff)
Rev. Timothy Murphy (Former Staff)
Dennis O'Conner (Former Faculty)
Edward J. O'Leary
Stephen Schwartz (Former Staff)
Josephine Sokol
Maureen Sparrow
Irene Stadnicki
David Tierney Jr.
Robert Walsh
Gertrude Zagrodnik

This list includes updates reported by family members, newspapers and other sources from April 21, 2022, through March 31, 2023.

Join the Living Legacy Society

The Living Legacy Society was established in 1994 to honor alumni and friends of Elms College who have established a charitable gift annuity or trust; included the college in their bequest; or named Elms College as a beneficiary of an insurance policy.

For more information, contact Bernadette Nowakowski, '89, '08, vice president of Institutional Advancement at **413 265-2214** or **nowakowskib@elms.edu**.



"Maureen, through her generosity and her career as a teacher spent in service to others, represented the very best that Elms has to offer."*— *Dr. Harry E. Dumay

For six decades, Maureen Sullivan, '60, was a proud and dedicated alumna of Elms College. She was loyal, devoted, and generous to the college. With her passing in February 2021 at age 82, her generosity to her alma mater will continue.

A longtime and consistent supporter of the college, Maureen joined the Elms' Living Legacy Society in 2000 by including Elms in her estate plans. With her estate executing the terms of Maureen's will after her passing, the college was notified of her final gift, a bequest of $289,000.

"Maureen will forever be remembered at Elms College for her devotion and generosity. She was a very special person and a very special alumna," said Elms College President Dr. Harry Dumay.

"Her generosity over the years to the college – through financial support, leadership and participation, and her unequaled spirit – has been an inspiration. She has been an inspiration and helped the college over the years in so many ways. Her final gift to the college will allow her legacy and her spirit to continue at Elms," he said.

"Those who had the opportunity to meet Maureen recall her as a delightful, charming woman who was proud of her family and devoted to her Catholic faith, and who treasured her many connections to Elms. She and her late brother James gave so much of themselves to the college in various roles over the years," he said. "Her loss is felt by so many."

"Maureen, through her generosity and her career as a teacher spent in service to others, represented the very best that Elms has to offer," Dumay said.

Maureen earned her bachelor's degree in English from Elms and later earned a master's degree from Lesley University in Cambridge. From Elms, she followed her passion and started her career as an elementary school teacher, first in Springfield and later in Lexington, where she earned the Teacher of the Year award.

She served for years on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Her brother, the late James Sullivan, at one time, was a member of the Elms College Board of Trustees.

In 1992, she established the Kevin, Julia, and Ray Sullivan Endowed Scholarship at Elms to honor her nephew and her parents. The scholarship each year helps offset the cost of tuition for a deserving student in need.

She retired in 1989, and until her death spent her time at her homes in Massachusetts and Florida. She maintained a close connection with the college, and frequently attended alumni events, including class reunions and the college's Cape Cod luncheons.

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