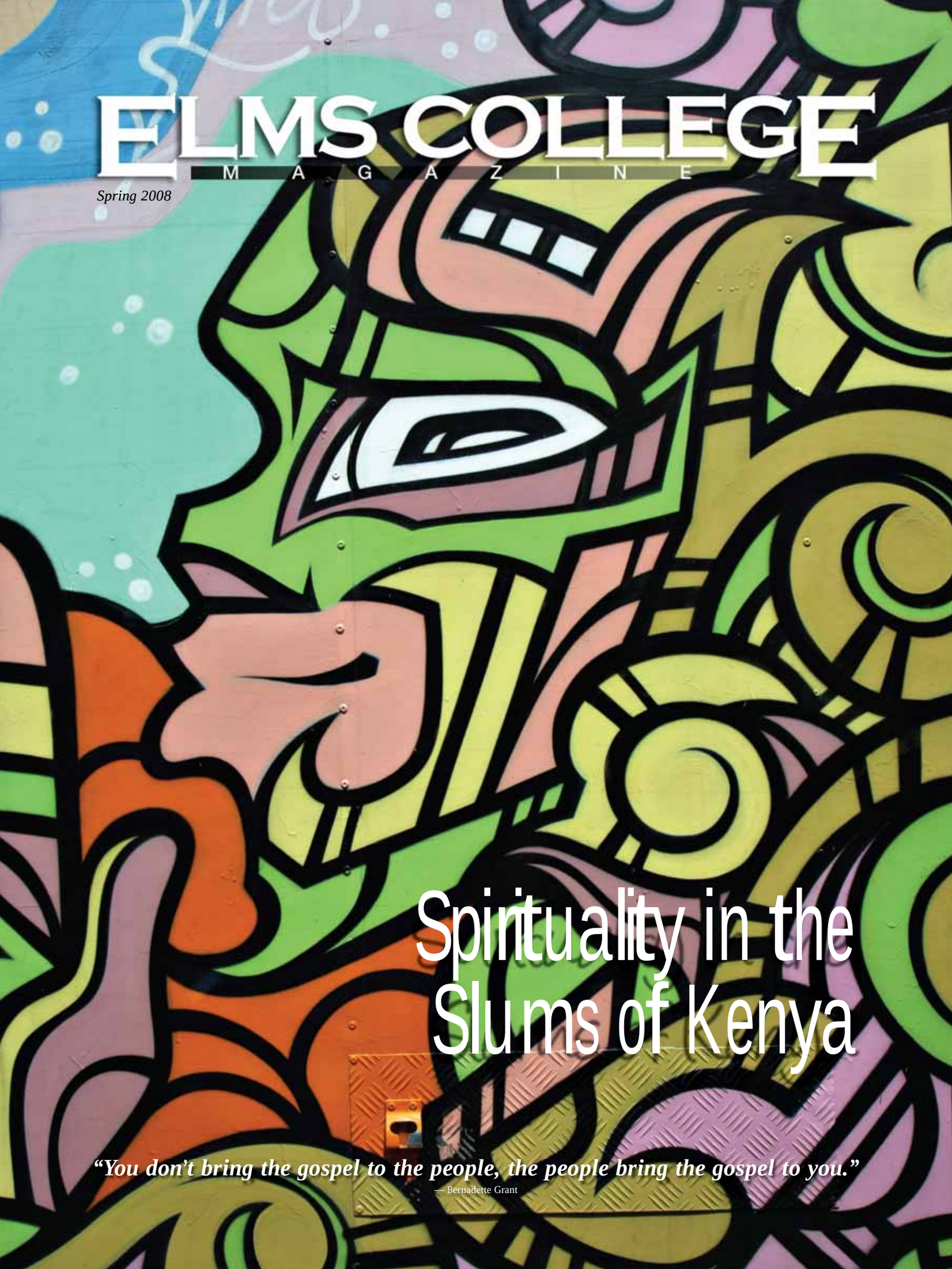


ELMS COLLEGE
MAGAZINE

Spring 2008

Spirituality in the Slums of Kenya

"You don't bring the gospel to the people, the people bring the gospel to you."

— Bernadette Grant

Change – and service to others – are constant.

I came to work at Elms College seven years ago because I wanted a change. I wanted to be part of something again, having worked independently for the previous 12 years in order to be with my children as they grew. And I believed in Elms. I believed in the mission and the foundation upon which the Sisters of Saint Joseph built this college, now 80 years ago.

I came for a change, and since I've been here, I've certainly seen my share! Even the name of this publication has changed… again. We're now the Elms College Magazine.

Ben Franklin once said, "When you're finished changing, you're finished." Indeed, at Elms College it seems we're just getting started. We continue to reinvent ourselves, to adapt to an ever-changing higher education landscape. We've added programs such as the masters in nursing, the certificate of advanced graduate studies concentration in autism and the RN-to-BS partnership program with Berkshire Health Systems (which you'll read about in this issue).

We've improved our physical plant. We've strengthened our financial aid. We've made these changes in response to the changes in demographics and workforce demands, and most importantly, the needs of our students. Through it all, we have held fast to the mission and vision laid out by Reverend Mother John Berchmans in 1928.

Yes, we've seen a lot of change. Changes in enrollment. Changes in academic programs. Changes in leadership. With it comes a new tide of optimism, vitality, and vision. And, I believe, as we respond and adapt to change, the college is poised to accomplish even greater things than at any time in its past.

In this issue you'll learn about some of the changes that have occurred as we continue to adapt to educate reflective, principled, and creative learners. You'll hear from Bernadette Grant '66, who has taken her education and literally changed the world. Her achievements have more to do with service than advancing personal aims… they are about being called and sent to do God's work in the world rather than gaining personal glory.

After seven years, it still feels good to be part of a community whose ultimate purpose is to produce scholarship and people devoted to making the world a better place. As we continue to change, those values that first brought me to Elms College remain constant.

As always, we welcome your feedback.

John Guimond

Director of Institutional Marketing

ELMS COLLEGE MAGAZINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Russell S. Powell

Letters to the Editor



After several years of lost contact with the Elms, I was happy to receive your terrific magazine and to read of the wonderful opportunities for students as well as the state-of-the-art social service activities with which many of the undergraduates, faculty and alumni are involved. The school is an inspiration. Thank you to my classmate, Rosemary Broderick O'Connor, for putting me back in touch. Having been away from the Springfield area where I grew up, first, just in the Boston area but, then, in Cali, Colombia, and, now, in central New Hampshire, I have not been able to attend many of the events the Elms sponsors. You are definitely an area beacon. (My husband thinks it's great that you are beginning an Irish Studies program!) Congratulations. You make me proud to be an alumni.

Judy Stagnaro McCarthy '60

* * *

Thank you so much for the class notes in Elms *Voces* magazine. It is wonderful to see how other alums are doing.

Very truly yours,

Heather M. Tacconi '01

I received a wonderful copy of *Voces*. Articles about the works of many St. Joseph Sisters were only referred to by their birth names. Would it be possible to include their vocation names, as these are the only ones that I would remember? I am sure that other alumni would find it helpful. Sr. Mary Lou McKinstrie must have been someone that touched many students. Could you include these important details?

Thank you.

Arlene Ranno Nolan '64

Editor's Note:

Arlene – thank you for a wonderful suggestion. We will try to do this in the future. In the meantime, Sr. Mary Lou McKinstrie's religious name was Sr. Christina Joseph.

* * *

I was extremely impressed with the latest edition of *Voces*. How proud we should be of our school!

Marion Riley '50

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Joseph H. Cary, M.A., M.B.A., M.S., has been named interim director of the Career and Experiential Learning Center. Prior to joining the Elms, Joe worked as a school-to-career instructor and coordinator at Granby Memorial High School in Connecticut, and a guidance counselor. He holds a master's in counseling psychology from Santa Clara University, an M.B.A. from Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute, and a master's in counseling from the University of Hartford.

Thomas Cerasulo, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, has published an article in the October issue of *Studies in American Culture* called "The Magician with Words: Fitzgerald and the 1920s Film Market."

Nick DeBarge, a military police officer in the U.S. Army, has joined Elms College as a campus safety officer working Sunday through Thursday from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. A graduate of West Springfield High School, Nick is actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America, and has been a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

Eleanor Dooley SSJ, Ph.D., faculty emerita, was a speaker at the "2008 Catholic Women's Conference: Living God's Grace," on March 2. Sr. Eleanor's topic was "Touchstones of Grace." The conference was sponsored by the Diocese of Springfield.

Dawn Ellinwood, Ed.D., vice president of student affairs/dean of students, was part of a panel discussion at a Center for Human Development conference entitled "Through Her Eyes: the Experience of Girls and the Juvenile Justice System." She was asked to speak by the Hampshire County Big Brother-Big Sister organization, where she has been involved for the past 12 years.



Thomas Cerasulo | Katherine Currier | Sr. Eleanor Dooley | Dawn Ellinwood | Alicia Germain | Roberta Gordenstein | Sr. Patty Hottin

Katherine Currier, Esq., division chair, paralegal and legal studies program, has been appointed to the Aspen Publishers paralegal editorial board. The function of the board is to help Aspen Publishers remain connected to its market, providing new author and reviewer leads; giving information regarding current trends in the paralegal community and curriculum, alerting Aspen to new programs, and reviewing new proposals and projects. The board has representatives from community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, post-B.A. degree programs, career colleges, and online programs. Katherine also was on the faculty at a conference called "Legal Writing Skills for the Paralegal" on January 23 in Boston, through MCLE (Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education).

Alicia Germain has been named the alumni and annual fund coordinator in the Department of Institutional Advancement. Alicia worked in the banking industry for 10 years, and is a graduate of Westfield State College.

Roberta Gordenstein, Ph.D., professor of foreign languages, has just published her translations of five poems by the noted Chilean poet Marjorie Agosin, which focus on the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet and the thousands who disappeared during his 17-year reign of terror. The works appear as part of a special edition of *Virginia Quarterly Review* devoted to South American arts and letters (Vol. 83:4, Fall 2007). In addition, Roberta has published reviews in *Multicultural Review* of several recent works including *The Schocken Book of Modern Sephardic Literature* and *The Disappearance*, by Ilan Stavans of Amherst College; *Poems for Josephine* and *Mother, Speak to Us of War*, by Marjorie Agosin; *The Bride from Odessa*, by Argentine filmmaker Edgardo Cozarinsky; *The Trail We Leave*, by Ruben Palma, a Chilean exile living and writing in Danish; *Carmen's Rust*, by Ana Maria del Rio; *The Way to Paradise*, by the world-famous Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa; *Folktales of the Jews*, by Dan Ben-Amos; *The Rainforest*, by Argentine author Alicia Steinberg; *The Day I Wasn't There* and *Reveries of the Wild Woman*, by Algerian French writer and critic Helene Cixous; and *Sanctuaries of the Heart*, by Chicana writer Margarita Cota-Cardenas.

Sr. Patty Hottin, associate dean of students, has been named a trustee for Cathedral High School in Springfield. She graduated from Cathedral in 1967.

Rebecca A. Lescarbeau, (Elms College classes of '95 and '04), associate director of admission, has been named president-elect of the Western Massachusetts Counselors Association (WMCA) for 2008-2009. She will serve as president for 2009-2010, and past-president for 2010-2011. WMCA is the western Massachusetts affiliate of

the Massachusetts School Counselors Association (MASCA), whose membership includes high school and middle school guidance and adjustment counselors as well as college admission professionals. There are 250 members of WMCA from western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut.

Camille Markey has joined Elms College as the campus minister, and will be working with Sister Maureen Kervick in Campus Ministry on a part-time basis. As an essential member of the student services team, Camille is responsible for planning and implementing a variety of activities related to prayer, education, and outreach. She will also be engaging students to participate in ministry projects and service programs, organizing social justice programs, and researching and identifying grant funds. Camille has a B.A. and an M.E. from the University of Notre Dame, and an M.A. in theology from Boston College. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in education at Boston College.

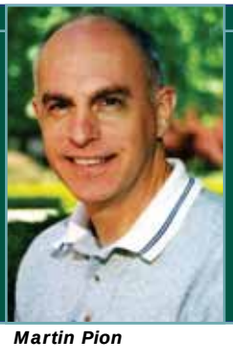
Thomas F. Moriarty, Ph.D., professor emeritus from Elms College, served as the 2008 Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Marshal. The parade committee awards this, its highest local honor, to a person of Irish descent who has distinguished himself as a loyal person to the community, the parade committee, their career, family, and Irish ancestry. Tom taught at Elms College from 1969 to 2002, and then was named professor emeritus. He served as chair of the Social Science Division here from 1969-1973, and chair of the History Department five times between 1969 and 1996 for a total of 14 years. He was presiding officer at faculty meetings from 1988-1990, and served as president of the Elms College chapter of the Association of University Professors from 1969-1975.

Tom has written and lectured widely on Irish emigration to the United States, the early local Irish communities, and Irish identity. He was one of three people (along with Elms then-president Kathleen Keating, SSJ, and Sean F. Cahillane) who formed the Irish Cultural Center at Elms College in 1998, and served as its first director until 2001. He is currently on the Center's board, and has been teaching non-credit Irish language courses there since 2000.


Rebecca A. Lescarbeau


Camille Markey


Thomas F. Moriarty


Martin Pion


Russell Powell


Elizabeth Rich


Kathleen B. Scoble

Martin Pion, Ph.D., professor of religious studies, received the St. Joseph Medal honoring his dedication to Cathedral High School in Springfield in March.

Russell Powell has joined the college as a marketing communications specialist. Russell will be writing for the college website and publications, interviewing for feature stories and profiles, and writing news items, promotions, and assisting with marketing programs and events. Additionally, he will be integrally involved with the implementation of the new web content management system (CMS), facilitating the campus users group, and working with campus departments to review and update their web content. Russell has most recently been president of a public relations firm providing marketing, strategic planning, writing, media relations, and advertising for various clients, including several colleges. He was previously marketing and public relations director for Greenfield Community College and director of public information at Hampshire College. He has a B.A. in journalism from the University of Massachusetts and is currently pursuing a master's degree at Trinity College.

Elizabeth Rich has joined the Institutional Advancement Office as the director of advancement services. Liz will be responsible for donor prospect research, data management, alumni surveys, the supervision and management of gift processing and reporting, and will facilitate the implementation of the Raiser's Edge database in support of the college's philanthropic program. Liz comes to us from Smith College where she was the assistant director of advancement and donor services. She previously worked as a foundation assistant at Amherst College, as a fundraiser for The Share Group and the New York National Organization for Women, and served as a volunteer for the Center for Anti-Violence Education in New York. She has a B.A. in communications from the University of Massachusetts.

Kathleen B. Scoble, Ed.D., R.N., chair of the Division of Nursing, was appointed to the Cooley Dickinson Hospital board of trustees.

ELMS COLLEGE SUPPORTS AUTISM EDUCATION THROUGH SPONSORSHIP OF "FLUTIE BOWL"

Elms College was one of the 11 sponsors of the fifth annual "Flutie Bowl to Strike Out Autism" to benefit the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism held on January 7 at Lucky Strike Bowling Lanes in Boston. The event gave people the opportunity to bowl with celebrities and athletes in exchange for making a contribution to the foundation, and raised more than $100,000.

Elms College supports autism education and research programs through its program in autism spectrum disorders, which is in partnership with the River Street Autism Program in Hartford.

Representing Elms College at the event were college president James H. Mullen Jr.; Tom Murphy, trustee; Brian E. Doherty, vice president of finance and administration; Kathryn James, chair of the division of communication sciences and disorders, which offers the autism concentration; alumna Jean Brigham; John Guimond, director of institutional marketing; Tom Kennedy, a friend of the college; John Elder Robison, author of *Look Me In The Eye* about his experiences with Asperger's Syndrome, and Robison's wife and publicist.

"Cosponsoring the Flutie Bowl was the first step in forming a strategic partnership with the Flutie Foundation," said Brian Doherty.

Participating celebrities included Patriots players Laurence Maroney, Brandon Meriweather, and Stephen Gostkowski, comedian Lenny Clarke, former Celtics players Jo Jo White and ML Carr, and Revolution players Jeff Larentowicz, Doug Warren, and Brad Knighton.

The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism was established in 2000 by NFL quarterback Doug Flutie and his wife, Laurie, in honor of their son, Doug, Jr. who was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. Their mission is to aid financially disadvantaged families who need assistance in caring for their children with autism; to fund education and research into the causes and consequences of childhood autism; and to serve as a clearinghouse and communications center for new programs and services developed for individuals with autism.

Since 1998, the Fluties have helped raise more than $9 million for autism through corporate and individual donations, fundraisers, endorsement promotions featuring Doug and Doug Jr., and sales of Flutie Flakes and other related items. *(For more information, please visit www.dougflutiejrfoundation.org.)*

SUMMER PROGRAM OFFERED TO HELP CHILDREN WITH READING DIFFICULTIES

For the 18th year, the Education Division is offering a summer reading program designed to serve children grades two through eight who are having reading difficulties. The classes are taught by members of the college faculty and experienced teachers who are finishing certification requirements as reading specialists within the master of arts in teaching program.

The five-week program runs daily from June 30 to August 1, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Each child's needs are assessed, and a program of individualized learning activities is planned.

For students in the third grade and above, the program also includes reading and writing tasks that mirror those typically found on the MCAS.

Tuition is $300. Application forms and additional information can be obtained by calling the Education Division at 413-265-2250.

"HOPE AND ACCEPTANCE" PROGRAM PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO AUTISM

More than 150 people attended a panel presentation on autism on December 2 called "Hope and Acceptance: Inspiration for Families of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders." Panelists included John Robison, who has Asperger's and authored the best-selling memoir *Look Me in the Eye*; Dr. Kathleen Dyer, nationally-recognized expert in autism; Michael Forbes Wilcox, who has Asperger's and wrote *The Practical Aspects of Living with Asperger Syndrome*, and parents Grace Simpson, Susan Ahrens, Sharon Scioscio, and Kim Stagliano.

The discussion ranged from Robison and Wilcox's first-hand experience living with Asperger's, to perspectives from parents of children with autism, to professional insights upon the increasing numbers of diagnosed cases of autism in the United States.

Berkshire Health Systems and Elms College Collaborate on New Nursing Education Initiative

Elms College has joined with Berkshire Health Systems (BHS) in Pittsfield, Massachusetts to provide a training ground for registered nurses employed by BHS affiliates to advance their education. Under the new initiative, Elms College is bringing its baccalaureate nursing program to Pittsfield, utilizing classroom facilities at the Berkshire Medical Center Hillcrest Campus.

The new program this spring is accommodating 15 registered nurses from Berkshire Medical Center, Fairview Hospital, and Berkshire Healthcare Systems' long-term care facilities. The RNs take classes in Pittsfield, working toward their bachelor of science degrees in nursing. All costs for the program, including tuition, fees, and textbooks, are provided by Berkshire Health Systems. A second cohort of 15 students will be admitted in the fall.

Weekly classes began in Pittsfield in January, led by Suzanne L. Barenski, coordinator of Elms College's R.N.-to-B.S. program and assistant professor of nursing. Suzanne received her initial training at the former St. Luke's School of Nursing in Pittsfield. She has bachelor of science and master of science degrees from Russell Sage College and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Massachusetts. Other Elms faculty will join her at Berkshire Medical Center during the course of the program.

Applicants for the program must successfully meet Elms College's entrance requirements, and make a 24-hour per week commitment. Students must remain in the employ of Berkshire Health Systems during the Elms College enrollment, and are expected to take courses every semester throughout the school period. Following the successful completion of the program, all participants will remain employed at a Berkshire Health Systems facility for at least two years after graduation.

Kathleen Scoble, Ed.D., R.N., and director of nursing at Elms, says President James H. Mullen Jr. laid the groundwork for the program by developing a relationship with David Phelps, president of Berkshire Health Systems. "President Mullen had a deep interest in forming a partnership in Pittsfield," she said. "There was a vacuum out there, and he wanted to contribute to advancing education of nurses." The college moved "expediently and efficiently" in developing the program, she adds.

The R.N.-to-B.S. in nursing program at Elms College offers nurses a liberal arts education while enhancing prior knowledge and experience in nursing. It is designed to accommodate working registered nurses who want to complete a bachelor of science degree. "Our R.N.-to-B.S. program is a wonderful model" for the new partnership, says Kathleen. "It is true to the college's mission, supports our mission in the Berkshires, and opens up the possibility of similar programs at other institutions."

The template of the Elms-Berkshire program reflects her vision for Elms "to bring high quality education to students in a variety of settings, using a variety of educational techniques."

Student Ray Webb spent 22 years in the Navy prior to becoming a nurse. Married with two teenage children, he looked at other programs to continue his education, but they were either too far away or required too demanding a schedule. He considers the Elms program's timeframe realistic for a working R.N. The program, he adds, shows Berkshire's loyalty to its staff, and "that has resulted in loyalty from employees, and created a symbiotic relationship between Berkshire Health and its nurses."

Students like Ray are taking the opportunity presented by the R.N.-to-B.S. program seriously, as a rare opportunity to continue their education in a unique setting. "It allows me to be a role model for my children, showing them that you can be working, supporting your family, and still be learning, and enjoying the whole process," he said.

"We are excited to join in this partnership with Berkshire Health Systems," says President Mullen. "It is one of the best success stories of the year. Our partnership represents the best of the Elms College mission: academic excellence, as reflected by our nationally regarded nursing program, and a commitment to reaching out to serve the needs of our region. We look forward to providing advanced education for their nursing staff. "

"This new and innovative program is a continuation of the commitment we have made to our employees and our community," says David E. Phelps, president of Berkshire Health Systems. "Facing a national nursing shortage, BHS has been developing programs to train new registered nurses and provide advanced training for our nursing staff. Having a partner like Elms College, with such a respected nursing education program, and bringing the program physically to Pittsfield, is an enormous step in our efforts to retain our workforce and provide our community with the best nursing care."

A private, not-for-profit organization, BHS serves the region through a network of affiliates that include Berkshire Medical Center, the BMC Hillcrest Campus, Fairview Hospital, Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association, and long-term care associate Berkshire Healthcare Systems.



Elms College Trustee Molly Corbett Broad Named to National Education Post

Elms College trustee Molly Corbett Broad has been named president of the American Council on Education (ACE), the nation's principal higher education association.

Broad will become the 12th president of ACE, and the first woman to lead the organization since its founding in 1918. ACE represents more than 1,600 college and university presidents and more than 200 related associations nationwide. It seeks to provide leadership and a unifying voice on key higher education issues and influence public policy through advocacy, research, and program initiatives.

Broad was former president of the 16-campus University of North Carolina (UNC), the oldest public university in America with a budget of $6 billion.

Due to the responsibilities of her new position, Broad will step down as a trustee of Elms. "We have been very fortunate to have had Molly's input and expertise on our board," said Russell Omer, chair of the board.



Business Programs Receive Seven-Year Accreditations

The programs in our Business Department have recently received accreditation by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE). The programs include:

· accounting and information systems
· health care management
· international studies and business
· management
· management with a concentration in sport management
· marketing

This accreditation is valid until 2014, contingent on our continuing to meet the IACBE requirements, including strategic planning, outcomes assessment, and annual reporting.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT ADVISORY BOARD CREATED TO ENSURE RELEVANCY OF BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Business and accounting professionals from throughout the Pioneer Valley have joined a new Business Department advisory board at Elms College. The goal of the board is to ensure that business programs at Elms College remain relevant to the continually changing business environment.

The seven members of the advisory board are:

· Richard Bourgeois, senior vice president of corporate financial operations, MassMutual
· Bill Coreara, financial planning and analysis training program coordinator, United Technologies Corporation
· Russ Denver, CEO, Affiliated Chamber of Commerce of Greater Springfield
· Sean Mahar, director of professional and organizational development, Baystate Heath
· Robb Morton, principal, Morton, Boiselle & Associates, CPA
· Kevin Regan, vice president of finance, Big Y
· Tom Terry, partner, Lester Halpern & Company

"These engaged business professionals are individuals who have excelled in business and industry and service to the community, and they will function as advocates of excellence in business education here at Elms," said Kerry Calnan, assistant professor of accounting and finance.







The World Was Their Classroom

Talk about a business trip: 15 business students and an equal number of faculty, staff, and interested others traveled to London and Paris for 10 days during the January break to enrich the students' appreciation of the global environment and introduce them to English and French history, laws, and culture.

The trip began in London and continued to Oxford, then went on to Paris (via the Eurostar high-speed train) where they visited Fontainebleu.

Students received three credits for taking the trip and completing other academic requirements, and were previously required to take a legal studies course called "International Study." The purpose of that three-credit course was to prepare the students to be educated visitors during the trip to London and Paris. It included information on British and French history, government, and legal systems, as well as some of the great works of art the students would see in London's National Gallery and Paris's Louvre.

The trip was organized by Katherine Currier, chair of the Division of Business and Law, and run by EF College Study Tours. Because the trip was so successful, it will be repeated next January.



The group from Elms College poses in front of the Palace of Justice in Paris, which houses the criminal trial courts as well as the French appellate courts.

Students Attend Entrepreneurship Conference With Founder of Monster.com

Fifteen Elms College students listened to Jeff Taylor, the founder and past CEO of Monster.com, tell them about successful entrepreneurship at the Grinspoon, Garvey, and Young Entrepreneurship Conference on November 2, 2007. The conference, called "Making it Happen!," took place at the MassMutual Convention Center in downtown Springfield.

Taylor, who left Monster.com and became founder and CEO of a social networking site for baby boomers called Ions.com, was a keynote speaker, as was Susan Kornacki of EI Skills Group, an emotional intelligence (EI) consulting business.

The students listened to panel discussions on entrepreneurship, and then were challenged to create hypothetical businesses. Prizes were awarded for creativity and business viability.

"The events of the day ignited the creativity of our students, spearheading active brainstorming sessions and networking," said Dr. Christine Fay, Elms business professor. "Students really enjoyed meeting young entrepreneurs who shared valuable experiences in launching their own successful ventures."

The conference was attended by 500 students from area colleges, including Smith, UMass, Mount Holyoke, Hampshire, WNEC, Bay Path, Springfield College, Holyoke Community, Greenfield Community, and Springfield Technical Community Colleges.

Jeff Taylor



Susan Kornacki



Legendary Hampden County Sheriff Honored by Elms College

MICHAEL J. ASHE JR. AWARDED THE 2007 PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The 2007 annual Elms College Presidential Medallion was conferred to long-time Sheriff of Hampden County, Michael J. Ashe Jr., at a reception at the Colony Club in Springfield on November 27, 2007.

The Presidential Medallion is awarded based upon service to community and the world, and service in the spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Winners of the Presidential Medallion are deemed to have achieved mightily in their chosen professions, to have led with integrity and respect for human dignity, and to be worthy mentors for students to emulate.

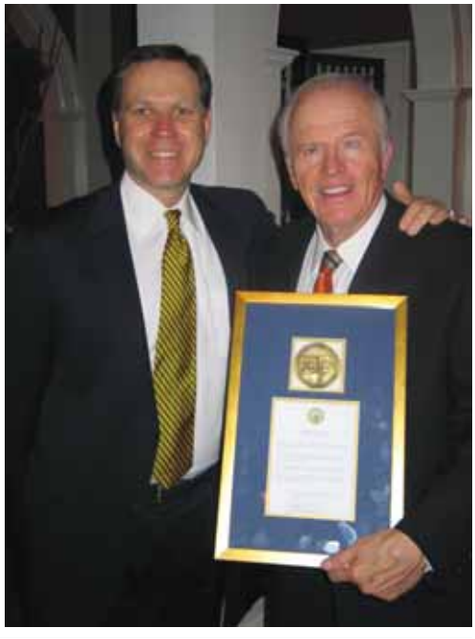
President James H. Mullen presented the award to Sheriff Ashe, and called him "a model for all who live in the public arena–unassuming, humble, generous in spirit, unfailingly kind, and at peace with who he is and what he believes."

Ashe was elected Sheriff of Hampden County in 1974. He has been re-elected five times since, without opposition, and is past president of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association. Prior to serving as sheriff, he served as the first assistant director of Downey Side Home for Youth, and he and his wife Barbara were Downey Side's first house parents.

He has received, among other awards, the Howard B. Gill Lifetime Achievement Award from the Correctional Association of Massachusetts; the Annual President's Award of the Massachusetts Sheriffs Association; and the Beverly Ross Fliegel Public Service Memorial Award.

"For over three decades Sheriff Ashe has been an inspiration," said President Mullen. "He reminds us that public service is a privilege; that one person can make a difference and every person should try; and that the greatest service is often done for those who are most vulnerable, most despised, or most forgotten."

President Mullen gives the Elms Presidential Medallion to Sheriff Michael Ashe Jr.



TOWN AND GOWN: A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ELMS AND CHICOPEE

Several Elms College employees joined the celebration at the Inaugural Ball of Chicopee Mayor Michael D. Bissonnette on January 11 at the Castle of Knights. Pictured here with Mayor Bissonnette are (left to right): Trudy Laramee, administrative assistant to the President's Office and the Marketing Department; Fran Bliss, assistant to the registrar; and Donna Harvey, administrative assistant in the Graduate Studies and Continuing Education Department.



Municipal leaders from Chicopee visited Elms to promote partnerships between the city and the college.



Municipal leaders from Chicopee attended a meeting at Elms College on November 15, 2007 designed to promote the partnership between the town and the college. Elms College president James Mullen shared a number of initiatives the college is undertaking, and heard from them how they believe Elms College can best serve the community and region.

"Elms College is committed to deepening its partnership with the larger community and becoming an integral part of the city of Chicopee and the region," said President Mullen. "This meeting will be an opportunity for the Elms College to deepen this partnership."

In addition to Mayor Michael D. Bissonnette, the following public officials from Chicopee attended:

- Carol Campbell, president of Chicopee Industrial Contractors, Chamber of Commerce board of directors
- Vern Campbell, Chicopee Visiting Nurse Association, Chamber of Commerce board of directors
- Dana Cutter, Chicopee School Committee board member
- Paul Depelteau, Williams Distributing Corporation, Chamber of Commerce board of directors
- Gina Golash, Sunshine Village, Chamber of Commerce board of directors
- Kenneth Golash, Veterans Services, City of Chicopee
- Tom Haberlin, director of economic development, City of Chicopee
- Hon. Mary Hurley, Chicopee District Court Judge
- Stanley Kozikowski, principal, Chicopee Comprehensive High School
- Marie Laflamme, Centennial Insurance Agency, Inc., Chamber of Commerce board of directors
- Frank Lapointe, special projects manager, Office of Mayor
- Maria Lopez, Chicopee Savings Bank, Chamber of Commerce board of directors
- Laura McCarthy, assessor, City of Chicopee
- John Michon, Carlson.GMAC Real Estate, Chamber of Commerce board of directors
- David P. Owen, CSI, Mount Vernon Group, Inc.
- Susan Phillips, solicitor, City of Chicopee
- Richard Rege, superintendent of Chicopee public schools
- Kenneth Ritchott, chief of staff, Office of the Mayor
- Gail Sherman, president of Chicopee Chamber of Commerce
- Jeffrey G. Shinners, president of Pioneer Packaging, Inc., Chamber of Commerce board of directors
- James K. Tillotson, alderman-at-large
- Robert Joseph Zygarowski, vice president, board of aldermen

For more information, contact Dana Malone at 265-2218 or maloned@elms.edu

General Consulate of Ireland Addresses Classes About Global Market

David Barry



David Barry, General Consulate of Ireland, spoke at Elms on November 20, 2007 on the impact of the European Union over the last 50 years and its effect on the global market.

This lecture was part of a series sponsored by the Department of Paralegal and Legal Studies, designed to offer students opportunities to expand their vision to include a global perspective.

Barry, who is from County Tipperary in the Republic of Ireland, has been in the Diplomatic Corps since 1978. He was appointed as Consul General in Boston in 2005 with responsibility for the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. His previous overseas diplomatic assignments have been in the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, Lesotho, Austria, and Ethiopia.

Elms Institutes New Security Service For Emergency Notifications System Capable of Contacting All Students and Employees in Minutes

As part of a comprehensive security plan, Elms College has added the Connect-ED service, which enables campus leaders to immediately send emergency voice and email messages to all students and staff.

Built exclusively for post-secondary institutions, the Connect-ED service allows campus leaders and security professionals to send time-sensitive notifications to thousands of people in minutes. Connect-ED simultaneously sends messages to up to six phone numbers per person (home, work, and cell), and written messages to e-mail accounts. The system also sends messages to TTY/TDD receiving devices used by the hearing impaired.

"Today, colleges are forced to prepare for situations we never could have anticipated happening, and Elms College recognizes the important role that immediate communication plays in keeping all of us safe," said Dawn Ellinwood, Ed.D., vice president of student affairs/dean of students. "Connect-ED has a successful track record and multi-modal capabilities which allow us to keep students and staff informed about any emergency, whether they are in their dorms, sitting in front of their computers, or on their way to class."

On February 15, the Connect-ED system was tested on campus, and proved to be functioning properly.

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS GATHER TO CELEBRATE AFTER THEIR FIRST SEMESTER

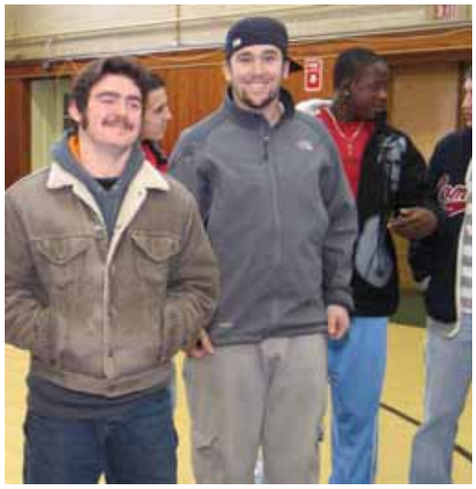
For many students, there can be a difficult transition when they begin college. That's why all first year students at Elms College take seminars in the fall as an introduction to the college community and college-level learning.

With 185 members, last fall's incoming class was so large that they were divided into 10 sections for the first year seminars, which had the common theme of "Breaking Down Barriers: Telling Our Stories." Each instructor took a different approach to discover what this means in various contexts, ranging from the "Glass Ceiling in Business" to "Understanding the Power of One."

At the end of the fall semester, the first year students finished up their introductory seminar, and came together on December 5, 2007 to celebrate with a "summative experience," showcasing the diverse work they had done in their classes.

Each class participated in a closing ceremony to mark their successful steps begun here at Elms College, and then enjoyed a pizza party together.

First year students celebrate the successful completion of their first semester.



INTERNATIONAL CLUB JOINS EFFORT TO HELP "INVISIBLE CHILDREN" OF UGANDA

The International Club recently joined as a member of Invisible Children's "School for Schools" program, designed to rally students around the world to raise money to rebuild schools in war-torn Uganda. (http://www.invisiblechildren.com/theMission/schools_for_schools)

Elms College is supporting Atanga Secondary School in Uganda, where there has been construction of two and four-unit classroom blocks that have increased student capacity by more than 100 percent; drilling of a borehole to provide clean water; and the purchase of furniture, lab equipment, and textbooks.

The Elms group's first fund-raising project was a Thanksgiving pie sale, which raised $300. The group split that between Invisible Children; MercyCorps, to support the work they are doing in Darfur; and Elms College Campus Ministry to support the group going to West Virginia over Christmas break.

Students and schools who sign up with Invisible Children are connected via an interactive online community where they can track how much money they've raised, how it's helping, and what others across the globe are doing to make an impact. In its first semester, more than 580 schools signed up and raised over $1.2 million for schools in the conflict region.

Invisible Children was started three years ago, as a result of a documentary made by three young Americans who traveled to Africa and discovered a tragedy that disgusted and inspired them. Their film, "The Invisible Children: Rough Cut," exposes the effects of the 20-year-long war on the children of Northern Uganda who are being abducted from their homes, and forced to fight as child soldiers.

Based out of San Diego, Invisible Children is changing the face of non-profit work by personally connecting two unlikely worlds – the youth of America with war-affected children around the globe.







Elms College Partners with Holyoke Health Center in Pilot Program on Cultural Competency

Thirty employees of the Holyoke Health Center are taking a 10-session Elms College course called "Pathways to Cultural Competence," a pilot program designed to increase staff awareness of social identity and culture, and to enable them to identify how this impacts the care they provide to patients from different cultures. All participants are taking the course for college credit, which they may use to either begin or continue study for a degree.

The course is being taught at the Holyoke Health Center site by Elms social work professor Mary Brainerd and Kent Alexander, director of the Office of Intercultural Programs.

"This exciting pilot program will provide participating healthcare professionals with a thorough introduction to developing cultural competency, demonstrating their connectedness to their entire work-related population, and helping them to give back to the community," Kent said.

Holyoke Health Center is an accredited community health center that has been providing medical and dental care in Holyoke since 1970. Their 220 employees include full-time medical and dental providers; nurses; bilingual medical and dental assistants; case managers; outreach workers; financial counselors, and more. They treat more than 20,000 people each year at the Holyoke site and a new state-of-the-art facility in Chicopee.

"The commitment to cultural competency throughout our entire staff at both our health centers is an important component of our mission," said Jay Breines, executive director of the Holyoke Health Center. "The Elms College partnership is a major opportunity to help us continue to meet the challenges of providing enhanced access to a full range of health care services for all of our patients, while at the same time conveniently providing opportunities to our staff to advance their education and careers through a meaningful pathway."

The onsite course is supported by a Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation grant awarded to the Holyoke Health Center. Breines said the grant was based on the foundation's understanding of "the importance of cultural competency in improving the health care status of the Commonwealth's residents."

"This collaboration with the Holyoke Health Center is exactly the type of partnership that Elms College seeks to fulfill its mission of reaching out to our neighbors," said James H. Mullen Jr., Ph.D., president of the college. "By offering this class at the Holyoke Health Center site, we not only provide the staff with important training that will benefit their patients, but we provide the staff with a bridge to a college degree."

"President Mullen and I are in full agreement that this is just the beginning of a longer collaboration to bring educational opportunities into the Holyoke Health Center and to open up options for our staff to take full advantage of the great resources of the Elms College community," Breines said.



A HOLIDAY GIFT TO THE GRAY HOUSE

On December 13, 2007, President James Mullen and Diane Hartmann, secretary in the Registrar's Office and chair of the college's Christmas party planning committee, presented more than $1,000 in gift cards to Dena Calvanese, executive director of the Gray House. The gift cards, good at retail or grocery stores, were donated by Elms employees who attended the college Christmas party the previous night, and staff at the Gray House distributed them to their clients for Christmas. The Gray House is run by the Sisters of St. Joseph, and served more than 13,000 people last year with food, clothing, literacy programs, and other services for residents of the poor North End community in Springfield in which it is located.

Education Students Lead Literacy Activities With Inner City Children — **National Grants Allow Purchase of Multicultural Children's Books**

Forty third-graders from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence in Springfield spent the morning of November 29, 2007 at Elms College as guests of the students in education professor Anne Harrison's "Introduction to Education" classes. The Elms students delighted the children with books and activities consistent with the social justice and community service missions of the two schools.

The visit was the culmination of a collaboration between the college and the charter school as a result of two grants to purchase multicultural children's literature books for the libraries of both institutions. A $2,000 "Teaching Tolerance" Grant from the Southern Poverty Law Center focused on children's literature to promote social justice, and a second grant of $2,000 from Target addressed the early literacy of inner city children.

With the grant funds, Anne and colleagues from the charter school selected more than 200 titles, featuring urban settings, racially diverse characters, and themes of honesty, perseverance, cooperation, respect, and responsibility. The vast majority of the books purchased are written and illustrated by persons of color, and celebrate diverse neighborhood, work, and family situations.

"It is important that the school curriculum is both a window and a mirror for children," Anne said. "Children need to see themselves reflected in the curriculum, and they also benefit from exposure to other cultures and ways of life."

The Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School of Excellence currently enrolls 240 children from inner city Springfield. Ninety-five percent of the children are African American or Hispanic American, and 83 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch according to government guidelines for family income. In addition to standards-based curricula in language arts, math, science, and social studies, the school has developed an innovative, interdisciplinary curriculum to help students understand and personify responsible and engaged citizenship, and to share in Dr. King's ideal of beloved community.

"As important as this collection of books is to the charter school children, I think it is even more important for my students, since they now have a terrific new resource as they prepare for teaching in a culturally-rich and diverse community," said Anne. "It is my heartfelt prayer that they become teachers who embrace the power of schools to change lives, to unify society, and to create the beloved community Dr. King envisioned. These books are just a start."





THEATRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE CHRISTENS NEW BLACK BOX THEATER

The Elms College Theatre for Social Justice christened the new Black Box Theater in the Mary Dooley College Center on December 5, 6, and 7, 2007 with presentations called *Wild Tyme*, a series of classic short plays from the Theatre of the Absurd. The featured play was *The Lesson*, written in l951 by French dramatist Eugene Ionesco.

The performances were in the new Black Box Theater, formerly Doyle Theater, which has been unused for years. Led by Dr. James (Jim) Gallant, director of the Theatre for Social Justice, students and staff spent weeks renovating the space for use as a studio theater and new home for the theater troupe.

"Finally, after years of being sort of roving minstrels, our company and our theatre students have a home," said Jim. "It's ours, and we love it, especially since my students helped create and transform this theatre out of a leaky, dank, depressing storage room."

Jim said the new Black Box Theater is one more step in the process of revitalizing the theatre program here at Elms, which he undertook in 2001.

"The Black Box Theater is a key part of the new theatre program at Elms," said Jim. "We have a new theatre minor, and now theatre classes can be held in this space. And, most importantly, it allows Elms College Theatre for Social Justice to perform in a venue appropriate to the sorts of plays we do – it is intimate, acoustically and visually satisfying, and lends the intimate setting we have always wanted in the past."

Dr. Gallant welcomed the audience to the new Black Box Theater.



***A scene from* The Lesson**



45 Years



40 Years



25 Years



20 Years



15 Years



5 Years



Service Awards Presented at College Christmas Party

25 EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR A TOTAL OF 320 YEARS OF SERVICE

Twenty-five employees were honored for a total of 320 years of service at the Elms College Christmas party on December 12, 2007 at the Delaney House.

Fran Bliss, assistant to registrar, was recognized for 45 years of service.

Patricia Bombardier, director of the Alumnae Library, was recognized for 40 years of service.

Receiving congratulations from President Mullen (center) for 25 years of service were Scott Hartblay, social work professor, and Dennis Drake, chemistry professor.

Twenty year awards went to: War (Ellen) Warriner, administrative computing; Janet Stetson, education professor; Cristina Canales, Humanities Division chair; and Mary Janeczek, Education Division chair (not pictured.)

Fifteen year awards went to Jill Gagne, health center nurse, and Christine Fay, business professor.

Five year awards went to (left to right): Corey Soutra, payroll; Dianna Pisano, document center; Barbara Mulcahy, administrative assistant in institutional advancement; Justin Mokerzecki, sports information director; Laura McNeil, history professor; Louise McCleary, director of athletics; Sr. Maureen Kervick, director of campus ministry; David "Goose" Gosselin, computer information technology professor; Marybeth Delisi, Business and Law Division; and Richard Bronner, facilities. Not pictured: Troy Davis, director of financial aid; Steve Elek, facilities; Katie Grabiec, field hockey/lacrosse coach; Laura Habacker, basketball coach; and Nancy Sullivan, secretary in social sciences.

Student Trip to West Virginia Demonstrates Elms' Commitment to Service

Massachusetts "wicked" met southern "y'all" when 12 students from Elms College traveled to West Virginia December 15-20, 2007 to serve the rural poor.

The students brought spirit to their work that was borne out of the college's commitment to social justice, service, and being present to all people. The group also gained unique insights on the encompassing effects of poverty in Appalachia by listening to local speakers from the Food Pantry, UGWA, West Virginia Art Initiatives, an area music teacher, and an area social work professor.

The group was extremely busy all week, and helped with the following projects:

- Cleaned and painted sections of an old school, which is now the Baileysville Community Center. The work will enable a new non-profit organization, West Virginia Art Initiatives, to move into the center.
- Ran a Christmas program for fourth graders at Pineville Elementary School.
- Helped with a Christmas program in McDowell County.
- Cleaned, painted, and visited with a family at a home repair site.
- Volunteered at two Maben Head Start Centers and Early Head Start Center.
- Did home visits with a nurse from the Elk Lick Council on Aging.
- Helped unload trucks for and organize the St. Vincent de Paul warehouse.
- Helped the Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association (UGWA) with its monthly water monitoring.
- Set up the Itmann Food and Clothing Pantry for its December distribution. Before the students left for West Virginia, they ran a coat drive, and distributed the coats they had collected.

Lauren Mahler '08 helps stock a food pantry in West Virginia.



Step Forward, Step Ahead, and Quest: proven paths to success



Few endeavors of any kind, in any field, can claim 100 percent success. But the 15-year-old Step Forward and Step Ahead programs at Elm College have a perfect record: every one of its graduates has gone on to higher education.

The Step Forward and Step Ahead program provides adolescent girls who show academic promise with year-round training in academics, cultural appreciation, fine arts, leadership, and service. The program's primary goal is to prepare students for higher education, and its unrivaled success rate attests to its effectiveness.

Step Forward is for middle-school girls, grades five through nine. Step Ahead was started in 1996 for high school girls, grades 10 through 13. Ideally, students transition from Step Forward to Step Ahead seamlessly, and remain in the combined program for up to eight years, from the summer following fifth grade through the summer after high school graduation.

The corresponding programs for boys, Quest (middle school) and Quest II (high school), began in 2002 and 2006, respectively.

About 180 children are participating in the Step Forward, Step Ahead, and Quest programs this year. Most are from Chicopee, Springfield, and Holyoke. The program is culturally diverse; about one-third of its participants are African-American, and another 21 percent Hispanic.

Students must show academic promise and perform at or above grade level in all major academic subjects to be considered for Step Forward or Quest, but they cannot apply for admission. They must be recommended to the program by a teacher, administrator, or other adult with knowledge of their academic record and potential.

A TASTE OF THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Last July, 72 Step Forward scholars began their summer with a fine arts/academic commuter program on the Elms College campus. Each morning the girls focused on a fine art class of their choosing, and each afternoon they took two academic courses. They were given the option to study dance, art from around the world, digital photography, videography, or vocal and world music drumming. The fine arts program culminated in a festival and certificate ceremony where family, friends, and staff came together to support the work of the scholars. The event is a yearly tradition.

Following the day program, the scholars entering seventh, eighth, and ninth grade were invited to participate in a four-night resident program. They took classes in math, language arts, leadership, social studies, computer skills, health and nutrition, and science. They also worked with Go-FIT, a physical fitness organization, to provide a "walk-to-run" exercise program for the eighth-grade class. In the evenings, special activities were planned by the resident program staff, including a trip to see Hampshire Shakespeare Company's production of *A Comedy of Errors*. On campus, the girls were able to use the Maguire Center's swimming pool and gymnasium, and the community room in their dormitory.

On the last day of the residency, an annual awards banquet doubled as a tool to educate the scholars in social graces, etiquette, and attire.

Fifty-three boys went through a similar program as Quest scholars in August. For most of them, the experience of college life is unique, and transformative.

Step Ahead and Quest II scholars (47 in all) were on the Elms campus throughout the summer. They took college-level courses and were employed as interns in Elms

Step Forward motto:

"I am a Step Forward scholar.
I am intelligent, talented, beautiful, and unique."

Come celebrate Step Forward's 15th anniversary May 29

The Step Forward program will celebrate its 15th anniversary Thursday, May 29, at 6 p.m. in the Mary Dooley College Center on the Elms College campus. The program will include a drumming performance by Step Forward and Quest scholars, as well as a song written for the program by the musician Heshima, one of the program's instructors. Step Forward graduates are being invited, and there will be a keynote speaker (whose identity was unconfirmed as of this writing).

The event will include a buffet dinner, with a beer and wine cash bar. Tickets are $35, and can be reserved by calling the Office of Special Programs, 413-265-2315. Additional donations are being sought to fund the programs and allow current Step Forward, Step Ahead, and Quest scholars to attend the celebration.

College administrative offices. The internship experience is an essential component of Step Ahead and Quest II, and has been part of the program since its inception. Internships provide students valuable work experience and an incentive to stay in the program, while allowing them to have a realistic view of what it means to hold a professional position.

The internship program is also a way to help the greater Elms community. During the summer months, when work-study students are not on campus, Step Ahead and Quest II students fill these slots in various offices, completing work that might not otherwise be done.

First-year Step Ahead and Quest II scholars spent two weeks on campus for their academic residency. Their program consisted of an intense molecular biology course with lab time, and a one-credit health and fitness course, focusing on nutrition and exercise. A noncredit math refresher course and a creative writing course were also offered each day, along with a four-day art exploration course.

Scholars entering 11th grade took a three-credit college course, "Introduction to Art." Their class met twice a week for three hours over a six-week period. Students entering 12th grade and high school graduates were offered a three-credit computer graphics course.

CONTINUITY IS KEY

Step Forward was started in 1993 by former Elms College associate academic dean Carla Oleska, who was working in the division of continuing education at the time. Carla, now executive director of the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, remembers that the idea for the program came at a "dreamer's lunch," a gathering organized by Sr. Mary Honnen, then-president of Sister's of St. Joseph Congregation in Springfield.

"The women invited to the lunch were simply asked to come with a dream," says Carla. "I thought there was a strong need for a program that would facilitate girls succeeding in high school and going on to college." The program also represented a strategy to get young people away from harmful activities like gangs, drugs and alcohol, or teen pregnancy.

The goal was to augment what area middle and high schools offered rather than replicate them, so Step Forward began as a summer program, making educational opportunities for academically promising students available year-round. The summer program is supplemented with Saturday Success, which brings Step Forward, Step Ahead, and Quest scholars to the Elms campus six to eight times each semester for classes, activities, and field trips.

"We felt it was important to bring in students while they are young, to get them onto a college campus and say, 'you belong here,'" says Carla. "But the key is consistency, getting the students back year after year."

In the early years Carla did a little of everything, making lunches the night before classes, driving a van, doing publicity, hiring teachers. Today the program has two full-time staff—co-directors of special programs Eileen Kirk and Dee Ward—and 45 seasonal employees, including teachers, drivers, and residence directors. Elms College faculty teach the college-level courses, while certified school teachers and fine arts professionals teach the middle and high school courses.

Eileen Kirk has worked with Step Forward part-time since 1995, full-time for seven years. Eileen, an Elms graduate with the class of 1980, was a middle and junior high school teacher for 17 years in Philadelphia, Boston, Springfield, and Chicopee prior to returning to her alma mater as an employee. Dee Ward has been at Elms since 2003. A graduate of the State University of New York at Cortland, she worked for several nonprofit

Eileen Kirk, co-director of special programs.



Dee Ward, co-director of special programs.





Program founder Carla Oleska

organizations prior to Elms, including the YMCA and Girl Scouts of Pioneer Valley.

Eileen and Dee are passionate about their work. "This program makes a difference in the lives of these students, and in the community," says Dee. "It provides these young people with a path to see education as a means of reaching their future goals. It's opening their eyes to the many opportunities for them to choose what they like."

"Step Forward/Step Ahead and Quest work. Our seven-year program represents an element of stability in the lives of children," says Eileen. "Past graduates are grateful for what they've learned, and say things like 'I would have never gone to college without this program,' and 'It gave me the confidence I needed.'"

EDUCATION WITH A DIFFERENCE

Robin Fowlkes couldn't agree more. Her daughter, Kinshasa, 19, is a graduate of Step Forward and Step Ahead, and is now a sophomore at George Washington University. Robin's son Quinton, 16, is a sophomore in high school who has been in the Quest program.

Robin has high praise for Eileen and Dee ("You can't find two more dedicated people,"

said. "It helped prepare her for college and gave her the confidence to succeed from the moment she stepped on campus."

Whether Step Forward, Step Ahead, and Quest simply attract high achievers or helps create them may be as hard to answer as the proverbial chicken-or-the-egg question. But the program's students are often recognized for their work both inside and outside of the class-room.

Quest scholar Samuel Jackson, for example, won a $2,500 scholarship in 2007 in the first U.S. Senator Edward W. Brooke II oratorical scholarship contest sponsored by the greater Springfield chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, for his essay on challenges facing black men. "When you go down State Street (in Springfield) and see crack addicts, drug addicts, and prostitutes," the 14-year-old Samuel wrote in his essay, "you say, what have we as black people come to? Then when you think about the 1960s and see that black men rose up after so much struggle, I think we can rise up again.

"This crisis is an opportunity for us to reach our true potential through education, making wise choices and not living to the negative stereotypes perpetuated about black men."

Samuel was the youngest participant in

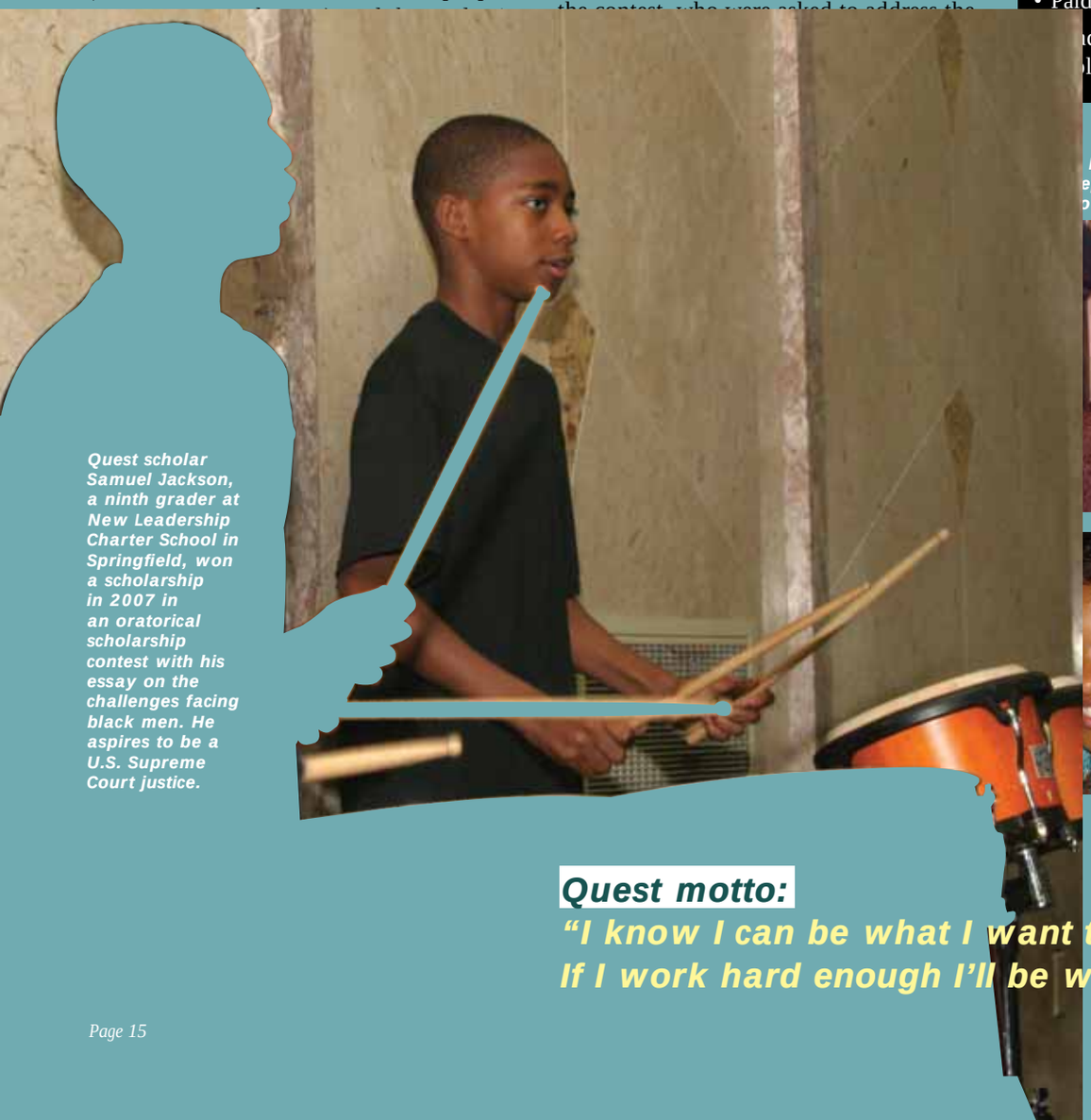
THE BASICS

Step Forward (middle-school girls) and Quest (middle-school boys)

- From fifth to ninth grade
- A fine arts program (drama, drumming, art, magic, photography/videography, dance)
- One-week academic residency (courses in math, science, social studies, law, entrepreneurship, leadership)
- Saturday Success program (meets 6-8 times a semester on the Elms campus for classes, activities and field trips)
- Academic, social, cultural, and career exploration

Step Ahead (high school girls) and Quest II (high school boys)

- From 10th to 13th grade (summer following high school graduation)
- College coursework—can earn up to 13 credits
- Two-week academic residency
- Saturday Success program (includes MCAS and SAT preparation)
- Educational and recreational field trips
- Paid internship
- demic, social, cultural, and career loration



Quest scholar Samuel Jackson, a ninth grader at New Leadership Charter School in Springfield, won a scholarship in 2007 in an oratorical scholarship contest with his essay on the challenges facing black men. He aspires to be a U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Fowlkes, who teaches a leadership course ep Forward and Quest, is also the mother o children who participated in the program.





Step Ahead graduate Vonetta M. Smith was named winner of the "Ripple Effect" Award from the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts in 2005. The award recognized her for her commitment to helping girls and women advance from challenging circumstances.

Quest motto:

"I know I can be what I want to be. If I work hard enough I'll be where I want to be."

Off to college: a perfect record

"We have seen six full cycles of girls complete the Step Forward, Step Ahead program," says Eileen Kirk, co-director of special programs at Elms College. "Thirty young women have graduated from college and are working in their chosen fields, and approximately 50 young women are currently in college or graduate school."

In fact, 100 percent of the girls who have graduated from Step Ahead have gone on to higher education. Step Forward, Step Ahead graduates are currently enrolled or have attended the following college and universities:

- American International College
- Bethune-Cookman University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Dean College
- Elms College
- Fitchburg State College
- George Washington University
- Greenfield Community College
- Hampton University
- Hawaii Pacific University
- Hofstra University
- Holyoke Community College
- Howard University
- Johnson and Wales College
- Kent State University
- University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth
- Mount Holyoke College
- Saint Anselm's College
- Smith College
- Spelman College
- Springfield College
- Springfield Technical Community College
- Western New England College
- Westfield State College
- Williams College

Anthony Hiller of Springfield, a tenth grader at Cathedral High School, is in his fifth year as a Quest scholar.



grade, she participated in the program's two week summer academic and cultural enrichment residency at Elms. It was her first time away from home for so long. For the residential program, "we moved everything in, even sheets and towels, and we were assigned roommates. So you got the real college feel."

Talking to her roommate and classmates, "I found out I was not the only one who didn't want to be there!" she said. "We were all kinds of roommates. You'd be talking in your room at night and people would show up at your door and join in, bringing their mattresses. Sometimes a bunch of us brought our mattresses to the lounge and stayed up talking there." She quickly became involved in both the academic and social life the residency offered, though, taking classes for five hours a day, going on field trips and activities like swimming. She studied humanities, physical education, English and a course that examined personal goals and career planning. "I got to know great people and by the end, I didn't want to leave," she said. By the time she graduated from high school, she had earned 15 credits, and enrolled at Hampton University in Virginia. She majored in mass media/print journalism, graduating in 2004. Vonetta says she got the tools to succeed at Hampton through Step Ahead.

Now a staff assistant in the admissions office at Springfield Technical Community College, she has diverse duties, ranging from campus tours and open houses to promotions and outreach. Her favorite part of the job is advising international students, helping them with things like obtaining student visas. She hopes to eventually return to college to graduate school to pursue her interest in journalism and public relations.

Elms College sophomore Colette Green, a nursing major, was recommended to Step Forward by her fifth-grade teacher at Homer St. School in Springfield. Persuading her to go to school during the summer was not easy at first, even though her parents "loved that I was in the program. It kept me out of the house, and out of trouble. My mom said it would benefit me later. As a kid, I couldn't see that."

Yet she remained in the program for seven years (in the summer following high school graduation she had an internship at the Baystate Medical Center in Springfield). She fondly remembers her first-year art class. "I painted and made sculptures," she says, and when her work was displayed at the annual art festival, "it felt really good to get such a response."

Colette Green, a sophomore nursing major at Elms, was in the Step Forward, Step Ahead program for seven years, and says it gave her the confidence to attend college here.



Attending classes in summer also made her feel "fresh" when she returned to her regular school year in September.

Step Forward was her first experience of a college campus. "It was cool," she says. "We traveled a lot, went to Boston, saw plays, went bowling. I earned college credits for art, gym, and English, and that was a big help when I enrolled here."

Before Step Forward, Colette says she didn't possess the confidence for, nor think she could ever afford, college. "I didn't have a lot of social skills, and Step Forward and Step Ahead gave me confidence," she says. "It helped me concentrate, and to get on the honor roll all the way through high school."

It was because of Step Forward and Step Ahead that Colette applied to Elms when it was time to choose a college. "I figured Elms would be a good place to come to college," she says. "It was familiar, so I had an easy transition. I knew the campus."

Anthony Hiller of Springfield, a tenth grader at Cathedral High School, is in his fifth year as a Quest scholar, and he is looking forward to his paid internship on the Elms campus this summer. He thought the program "was a great idea" from the outset, particularly as it has allowed him to strengthen his main academic interests, math and science (he wants to study engineering in college). Saturday Success has been especially helpful, Anthony says, especially the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) preparation course.

Anthony was recommended for admission by his principal at Holy Name School, but despite his excitement he felt a little intimidated at first, as the only boy from Springfield at the time. His anxiety vanished

quickly. “The program is a great way to meet new people,” he says. But, he adds, “if you are not serious about it and not willing to attend everything, then it’s not for you.” He stays busy outside of the classroom, as a Boy Scout and a member of Cathedral’s outdoor track team.

In just a few short years, Anthony has gone from believing college was out of his reach, academically and financially, to now expecting to go on to higher education. He has a head start as a result of the college credits he is earning as a Quest scholar. When he entered the program he felt he was not strong in mathematics, which is now among his favorite subjects. “Quest helped me focus,” he says, “and strengthen my math skills.”

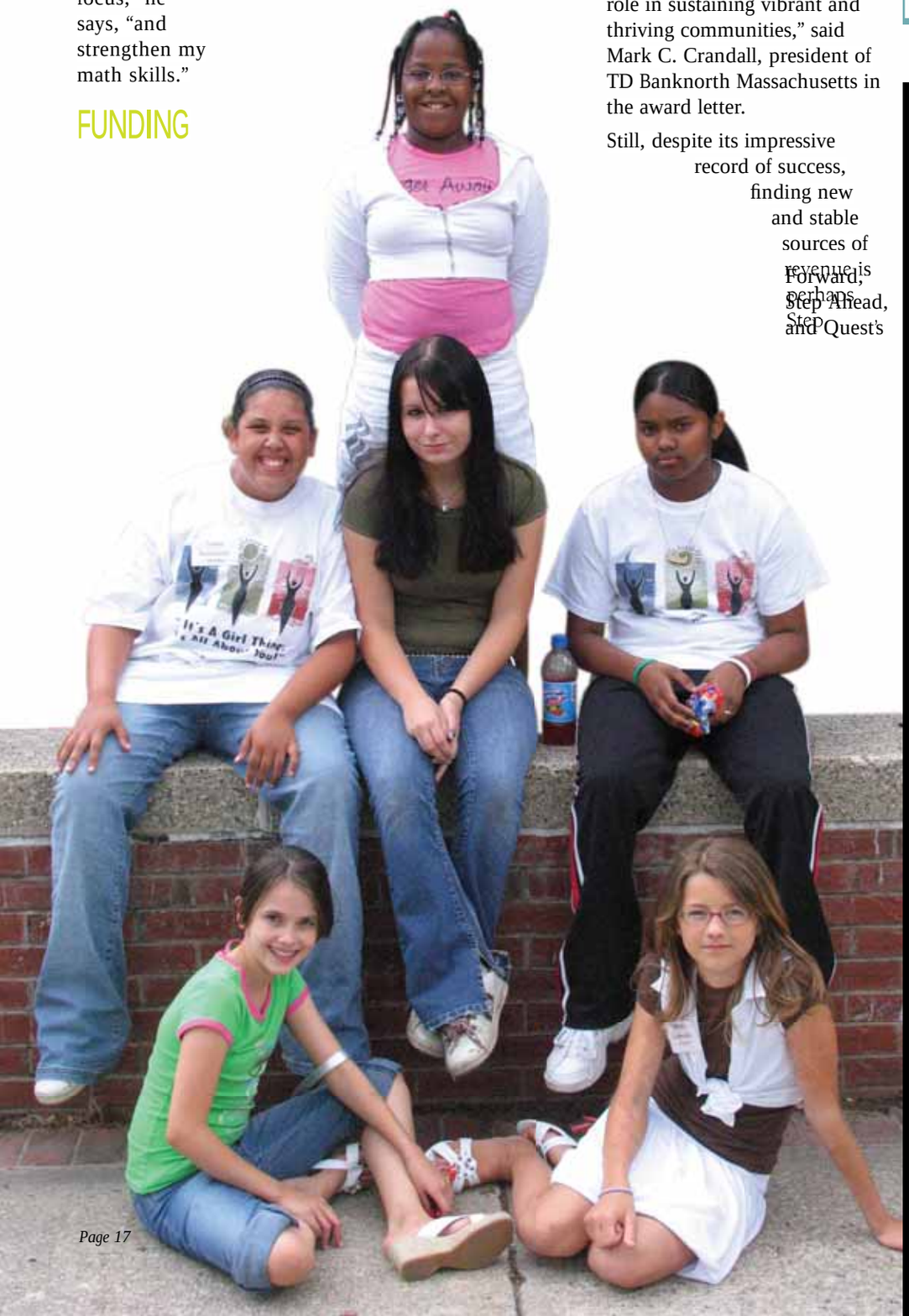
FUNDING

A CHALLENGE

Step Forward, Step Ahead and Quest rely on grant funding, and over the years the programs have received support from such diverse sources as the Balfour Foundation, Nellie Mae Educational Foundation, Chicopee Community Development, Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, Davis Foundation, Mass Mutual, Amelia Peabody Foundation, Sisters of St. Joseph, Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts, the Xeric Foundation and TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation for academic programming.

“We believe that organizations such as yours play a significant role in sustaining vibrant and thriving communities,” said Mark C. Crandall, president of TD Banknorth Massachusetts in the award letter.

Still, despite its impressive record of success, finding new and stable sources of revenue is perhaps Step Forward, Step Ahead, and Quest’s





A focus on health, academics and career

Step Forward, Step Ahead, and Quest address the needs of young girls and boys through consistent involvement of caring adults and positive role models. “We are committed to educating our youth in a safe and nurturing environment that will challenge them to work to their best potential throughout middle and high school, walk into any college environment with knowledge and confidence, and be successful in whatever career path they may choose,” says Eileen Kirk, co-director of special programs at Elms College.

The program’s main components are:

- Health and personal development, including nutrition and physical education, a forum for issues that concern pre-teens and teens, discussion about healthy and safe relationships, a variety of cultural experiences, and character education (such as etiquette, respect, courtesy, and leadership);
- Academic and intellectual development, in a setting that encourages students’ belief in their abilities, with a creative curriculum focusing on areas in need of improvement, small classes with plenty of individual attention, exposure to state-of-the-art technology, and awareness of educational opportunities (especially college); and
- Career and professional development, with opportunities to explore career options, meet professional women and men and learn about their careers, and develop job-seeking skills (such as resume writing and interviewing).

Alumna Finds Deep Spirituality in the Slums of Nairobi, Kenya

By Robert Perkins

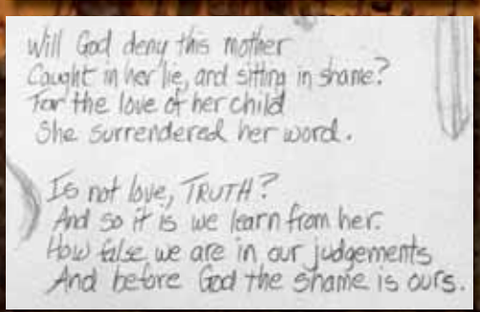
Bernadette Grant, Class of 1966



More than a decade after leaving her post as a Maryknoll lay missioner in a giant slum in Nairobi, Kenya, to return to the United States, Bernadette Grant, Elms College Class of 1966, still struggles for words to explain why she hated to leave.

Finding words inadequate for the totality of her Kenyan experience has always been a problem.





When she first returned in 1997 after three years working in the Kenyan slum, people would say to her, "You must be so glad to be back."

They could not understand when she told them she would never have left if it were not for family health problems to which she needed to attend.

Even now she finds the experience impossible to encompass simply. So, she begins with one powerful insight she gleaned from her time there.

"Truth," she says, "is the privilege of the rich."

She illustrates with a story.

Grant worked in a Maryknoll school compound in a 120,000-person slum. The mission's resources were limited. They could serve only 90 families at a time from that slum.

There were no programs available elsewhere, so a woman from another Nairobi slum would bring her child each day and drop him off. When Grant learned of it, she had to tell the woman she could no longer bring her child.

The woman bowed her head – deeply ashamed.

"She was not lying," Grant concludes about the woman's deception. "She was doing what she had to do," for her child.

For the poor people of Kenya, of which there are a great many, such choices are not simple.

"If a person lives in the slums and sex will pay the rent and feed the children, what is the right choice?" she asks. "With a rare exception, we don't live with that choice in the United States."

But it is not the desperate poverty that Grant finds hard to explain. That is simple.

What so affected her and she finds hard to convey to Americans is the deep spirituality she found among the people living in that slum – a spirituality she often finds lacking in America.

She cites one simple example.

She remembers a small boy being given a piece of bread. Instead of eating it, he summoned his friends. They sat in a circle and passed the bread around so that each could have a bite.

"That," she says, "is the way life is there."

"You don't bring the gospel to the people," she says. "The people bring the gospel to you."

That spirituality, rooted deeply in tradition, can come into conflict with our materialistic age.

Many Kenyan businesses are owned by Asians or Indians with business practices that are very Western.

She recalls a young Kenyan man faced with the death of a close relative. Tradition required him to go to the man's village for a two-week bereavement period. When he returned, he had been fired from his job.

Yet, the young man could not have chosen otherwise.

Part of the difficulty she found in explaining her Kenyan experience to people in this country is the negative image of Africa held by Americans.

"We think we are going to turn Africa around," she says. "We think we are the solution to the problems of the world. We are part of the problem."

The school compound Grant worked in was comprised of buildings made of sheets of metal with holes cut out for doors and windows. There was no glass and no lights.

The services Maryknoll could provide were very basic – food, transporting people to medical facilities, and identifying people needing services and trying to obtain them.

In this role, she found a clear illustration of America and Europe's narrow view and selective interest in the problems of Africa.

When dealing with people with AIDS, services were available.

"We have become interested in AIDS because it is contagious. We have latched onto it," she said.

She found that when dealing with someone dying of AIDS, she could find services to take care of the children.

But AIDS, as terrible as it is, is not anywhere near the only critical health problem in Africa.

Grant found herself dealing with people dying from dysentery, tuberculosis, cancer, and a myriad of other diseases.

For their children, there were virtually no services.

Yet through all of this, she was constantly reminded of the deep spiritually and sense of tradition of the Kenyan people.

She understands that without having seen it, people in America cannot comprehend the vast difference in cultures between Kenya and the United States.

And her perception of that difference would surprise many conventional people.

"People here think they are on the right track," she says.

Yet they are often so unhappy, so depressed and so isolated.

"We couldn't survive there," she says. "You get to see how less adequate you are."

* * *

Bernadette Grant's commitment to social justice goes back to her childhood – the daughter of parents born in Lebanon.

When she would read about the Iron Curtain, she remembers thinking, "I've got to go there and get those children out."

And that commitment played a pivotal role in her marriage.

After graduating from Elms in 1966, the then-Bernadette Joseph went to Boston College for her graduate degree in social work at the urging of Sr. John Martha from Elms.

"I didn't think I needed it, but she was really pretty persistent," Grant recalls.

There was a young man in many of her classes at BC who surprised her greatly on graduation in 1968 by asking her to marry him.

She thought about it and said yes – if he was committed to the life she wanted – one of pursuing social justice.

He agreed.

Bernadette Joseph married Richard Grant and the two went to Delano, California, where they became volunteers with the late Cesar Chavez, who was busy organizing farm workers into what would become the United Farm Workers of America. They were dispatched to Vancouver, British Columbia, to organize a boycott against non-union grapes.

When the couple returned to Massachusetts, she worked in the state prison system providing mental health services to inmates and then moved to the state Department of Mental Health, where in 1975 she became a consultant working on the court-ordered consent decree that freed people with developmental disabilities from the primitive state school system where they had been warehoused – often for decades.

Although classified as mentally retarded, many residents were not.

Instead, they were "prisoners of their bodies," she says, facing physical disabilities such as cerebral palsy.

Her job was to locate service agencies so they could live in the least restrictive possible setting within the community.

In 1987, she won a Pride in Performance Award from the state for her work.

That same year she became involved in the state's next progressive step – deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill.

She took on the job of case manager services director for 14 towns east of Boston as the process got underway. The task was similar to what she had done under the consent decree – getting people out of the state hospitals, developing individual service plans, and finding the services needed to support them in the community.

It was also her role to make sure that mentally ill people already living in the community were in programs that placed them in the least restrictive settings.

It was six years later, in February 1993 that she and her husband signed on with Maryknoll. They spent three months training in New York and then went to Tanzania to learn Swahili. They went to Nairobi in January 1994.

They served until they were summoned home three years later by family health issues.

Back in Massachusetts, she went to work for the International Institute of Boston, a private resettlement agency for refugees. Many of the people she dealt with were fleeing the war in Bosnia.

And then for seven years, she worked for Community Health Link in Worcester, running a program for families with a child who has severe mental illness.

In August of last year, she went to work for the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, which seeks to find services for people with brain injuries and other developmental disabilities who don't fit into other available programs.

* * *

In Kenya, the days were 12 hours long and the nights 12 hours long.

There was little to do at night, so she began making sketches of the people she had met. Later, when she and her husband, Richard, returned to America, they put together a book with her sketches and his words.

They give the book to friends as a way of explaining the impact Kenya had on them.

That impact was no less powerful for coming in small ways.

Bernadette Grant remembers a woman who wanted to be included in a Maryknoll program, but Grant had to tell her no.

"She was so gracious," Grant recalls. "She said 'thank you and God bless you.' "

And then she thinks of all the well-meaning people who told her she must be so happy to be back in the United States.

She knows she still would have a difficult time explaining to them why her time there was so compelling.

But, if given the opportunity to return, she has no doubt what her decision would be.

"If I could go back," she says, "I would to this day."

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow alumni:

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Elms College Alumni Magazine. I am excited about our new venture, which is meant to keep you more fully informed of what is happening in the wide world of Elms alumni. We have a new name and a new look for our alumni publication featuring stories about the worthwhile and important things that alumni are doing.

I encourage you to take the time to read the entire magazine, which we think is both interesting and exciting, and we would welcome your comments on our effort. You can also help this new venture by sending in class notes as well as letters to the editor voicing your opinions on issues affecting Elms.



The alumni at Elms are one of the most important arms of our institution – joining with students, faculty and administration in creating a functioning institution of higher learning. Each of you – as an individual alumnus or alumna – can contribute to the college in a variety of ways.

You can, of course, contribute financially to the best of your ability. You can also refer a student each and every year. You can become involved in mentoring day. You can attend the annual reunion weekend. And you can attend other college events such as plays and guest lectures.

As Alumni Association president, I am proud of the impact for the better that Elms alumni are making on the world. You can read about some of those efforts in this issue.

Finally, I would be remiss in closing this letter without mentioning the critical support the Editorial Advisory Board has provided in the creation of this new magazine. My very special thanks to them.

With my best wishes to you for your continued success and the success of our college,

Judith Riordan

Alumni Association President

2007-2008 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Three Elms Alumnae Recognized by the Springfield Public Schools as "Friends of Chinese"

Three Elms College alumnae were recognized as "Friends of Chinese" at a celebration on February 6 of the 20th anniversary of Chinese language instruction in the Springfield Public Schools.

Dr. Kathleen M. Riordan '67, Dr. Anne M. Southworth '69, and Rita Oleksak '81 and '94 were honored for their contributions to this program.

Dr. Riordan, who retired in 2002, was honored as the former director of foreign languages who began the Chinese language program in Springfield in 1987 with one teacher and 34 students. There are now nine teachers and more than 1,000 students involved.

Dr. Southworth, who is also a trustee of the college, is the assistant superintendent and chief academic officer in Springfield, and was honored for her administrative support of the program since its inception.

Ms. Oleksak was recognized as a former director of foreign languages in Springfield. She is currently the director of foreign languages and ESL in Glastonbury, Connecticut.

The anniversary celebration also included exhibits of the history of the 20-year program, presentations from high school and middle school students and professional artists, and a recognition for the city's nine Chinese teachers.

Nominations Sought for Alumni Association Board of Directors

Elms College is on the move! The school has record-breaking student enrollment, new facility upgrades, and expanding academic programming, but all of this growth means nothing without our alumni.

The Alumni Association board of directors is looking for new members who want to add to the momentum, as well as offer fresh ideas and a new energy. Board members help support the college's mission and goals, act as a voice for alumni and students in the strategic planning process, and help the college continue its growth.

Alumni Association board members serve three-year terms, attend four board meetings each year, participate in subcommittees, and work to further the mission and vision of the Elms. If you are willing to make this commitment or know someone who is, please nominate yourself or a fellow alumna/us by contacting Peggy Clark '65, director of alumni relations, at 413-265-2227 or clarkm@elms.edu.

When the Elms community bands together, nothing can stop us!

Left to right: Rita Oleksak '81 and '94, Dr. Anne M. Southworth '69, and Dr. Kathleen M. Riordan '67, who were recognized as "Friends of Chinese" in the Springfield schools.



FROM TEACHER TO LAWYER TO JUDGE:

Elms Alumna Blazed Trails for Women and Brought Compassion to All Her Roles

By Robert Perkins

Judge Ann M. Martin Gibbons, Elms College Class of 1948, watched from a window in Palmer District Court as a 15-year-old girl pushed an empty baby carriage across the street. The carriage had held a baby when the girl arrived at the judge's courtroom. But minutes earlier, Judge Gibbons had had to grant custody of the girl's child to the state Department of Social Services.

Years later, the judge, now-retired, still remembers the mother's anguish.

"I love my child," the girl had said.

"I know you do," she recalls telling her, "but you can't take care of him."

The facts were clear.

The 15-year-old was little more than a child herself – a victim of a broken home and a ward of the state. She had no parenting skills. She refused to name the father of the child. There was evidence of neglect.

Social Services felt that the child was at serious risk. Judge Gibbons had to agree.

Though she knows it was the right decision, two decades later she can still see the very young mother pushing an empty baby carriage across the street and remember how sad she felt at the sight.

In one very important way, Judge Gibbons was seeing the case from a different vantage point than virtually any other judge in the state.

She was the mother of four children.

And women judges were rare.

* * *

When Ann Martin was growing up in the Irish-American "Hungry Hill" section of Springfield during the war years, women did not become lawyers.

They did, however, become teachers.

Her sister, Mary (Martin) Walsh, who graduated from the Elms a year after Ann Martin, would rise through the system to become an assistant superintendent in the Springfield School Department.

Her brother, John Martin, also took a traditional path. Ordained a priest in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield, he would move to Worcester when the diocese split in two. He would become a Monsignor before his death in 1998.

So after graduating from Springfield's Cathedral High School in 1944, while World War II was still raging, Ann Martin became a "day hop" at Elms College, commuting by bus, while holding down a part-time job at the college and another in the office at Mercy Hospital.

Elms, she says now, "made it possible for me to go to college."

After graduating with a degree in chemistry in 1948, she went to Clark University in Worcester for her master's degree. If female lawyers were rare in those days, so were female chemists. Of the 30 or so graduate students in chemistry, she was the only woman.

After two years teaching at Regis College in Weston, she returned to Springfield in 1952 to teach chemistry at Chestnut Junior High School in the city's rough-and-tumble North End.

She quickly had doubts about her career choice.

"Do you remember 'The Blackboard Jungle?'" she asks now, referring to a classic 1955 movie starring Glenn Ford as a new teacher in an inner city school who struggles to handle unruly and disruptive students.

"I had every one of those kids in my classes," Judge Gibbons says.

At a graduation party for a friend receiving his doctorate from Clark, she learned he planned to add a law degree to his chemistry degree. The idea was that it would help him with patents on chemical discoveries.

It seemed like a good idea, so she decided to go to law school nights at Western New England College.

WNEC was new – in a manner of speaking. Northeastern College in Boston had had a branch in Springfield since 1919. After Northeastern (now a University) closed its western branch, WNEC became autonomous in 1951.

One year later, Ann Martin began taking two night classes a week at WNEC School of Law. The classes were held on the second floor of the YMCA building in Springfield. Teaching during the day and attending classes part-time – at night, it took her until 1958 to get her law degree.

By that time, she had transferred to the former Technical High School in Springfield and gotten more comfortable with teaching. Twice she was chosen most popular teacher and the loudest and most raucous applause and cheers came from her former junior high students. Having served her time at Chestnut Junior High, they considered her one of them.

But by then it was too late for a career in education. She had fallen in love – with the law.

"I'm a logical person rather than an intellectual," she says and she loved the "logic of the law" – the balancing act – weighing the rights of one party against the rights of the other – figuring out which is best.

"The law makes sense to me," she says.

* * *

When Holyoke Mayor William S. Taupier appointed her assistant city solicitor in 1972, a reporter asked her if she wanted to be referred to as "Attorney" or "Mrs."

It wasn't an inappropriate question for the time and the place.

It was a city where female attorneys were very rare and the "Mrs." designation was still considered very important.

Judge Gibbons acknowledges that with wry humor. When friends used to kid her about how long it had taken her to get her law degree, she would reply that it took her even longer to get a wedding ring.

That came in 1959 when, a year out of law school, she married Holyoke attorney Leonard Gibbons. By then, she had passed her 30th birthday – late for a girl from Hungry Hill to be getting married.

She had continued teaching until 1960 and then joined her husband in his law practice. It was a generalist practice and she handled every kind of law except criminal. Leonard Gibbons was also an assistant district attorney and she felt it would be a conflict.

Twelve years later she was appointed assistant city solicitor.

At that time, the city solicitor's

Ann M. Martin, Class of 1948, went on to become only the second woman judge from western Massachusetts.





post was a political plum that usually went to a close ally of the mayor. The assistant city solicitor did most of the work.

By statute, the assistant's job was part-time. The pay reflected that, but the work load didn't.

After two years, Attorney Gibbons told the mayor she would have to quit unless she got more money. The job was made full-time. The city solicitor's post remained part-time.

* * *

Attorneys have a favorite rhetorical device they like to use with a hostile witness. They begin a question with: "Do you mean to tell his honor …"

Judge Gibbons would hear it a lot and she would remind the lawyer that it was "her honor." If he still fumbled, she told him just to refer to her as "judge."

The lawyers' faux pas was understandable. When Governor Michael Dukakis had appointed her a District Court Judge on Nov. 23, 1977, she was only the second woman ever appointed to the judiciary from the western part of the state. The first was Judge Eileen Griffin.

Being a judge turned out to be a lonely job – she couldn't really hang with lawyers any more – they might appear before her in a case. And there weren't many judges to hang around with - she was often the only judge presiding in Eastern Hampshire District Court.

And the job was hard.

Judge Gibbons knows that much of the public, the media and a lot of talk show hosts felt that judges were too lenient – that they were, as the catch-phrase went, "soft on crime."

"If you do the crime, you should do the time" was a popular point-of-view. Outraged non-judges clamored for mandatory sentencing.

It was never quite that simple. She feels a judge must have latitude in sentencing based on the facts of the case.

"Whom are they punishing?" she asks about the no-leniency people.

Then, she answers her own question.

"They're punishing the kids too."

"If you send the breadwinner of a family to jail, it may plunge the rest of the family into a financial situation from which they will never recover," she says.

"Maybe a suspended sentence is best in that case – hoping the defendant will learn from it."

But she had a line that couldn't be crossed.

"When it comes to public safety, you can't afford to compromise," was her rule.

* * *

Looking back on the case of the 15-year-old mother, Judge Gibbons thinks about the question that often troubled her during her career.

"What's to become of the children?" she would ask.

She knows that foster homes are no panacea. There are some good ones, but there are others that are not.

"In their own homes, children know who they are," the Judge felt. Taken out of that setting, they lose that identity.

"In cases of active abuse, there is no choice," she says. But even abuse is not always that easy to define.

What if a mother yells and screams at her kids, but makes sure they are fed, clothed, go to school and do their homework? Is that abuse?

It was a question that was never easy to answer.

* * *

One of the pitfalls of being on the bench for a long time is the danger of getting jaded.

"Many of the stories are so similar," she says.

So many of the women charged with a crime who appeared in her court were uneducated, untrained, in poor personal relationships and had drug, alcohol, or mental health problems.

With their self-esteem non-existent, the women would often depend on a male they perceived to be a strong person.

Even when the case involved a charge of abuse against a father, stepfather or boyfriend, the woman, trying to keep the family together and concerned for her own safety, would take the adult male's side – even if she had been the abuse victim.

The penal system made dealing with women charged with a crime even more difficult.

There was a county jail for men in Hampshire County – in Northampton. There was none for women.

During her 19 years on the bench, whenever Judge Gibbons had to sentence a woman to incarceration, no matter how minor or non-violent the crime, the time would have to be served at the women's state prison in Framingham – 54 miles from Palmer (and even farther from many other towns in the court's jurisdiction) – a long way from their children.

So even while they were awaiting sentencing, the women had to be sent to Framingham.

Sentencing a woman to jail time was hard – in many cases it meant depriving children of their mother.

"A pregnant woman in jail is a very difficult thing," she says.

Though it's been a dozen years since she had to send a woman to prison, she still hasn't forgotten them. She is on the board of Weston Rehab Center, a program for women released from jail or drug programs. It provides them with jobs and training and a structured environment. The women in turn must remain free of drugs or alcohol.

* * *

After retiring from the bench in 1996, she returned to the practice of law with her husband, Leonard, until his death in 2003. She has continued to practice law part-time and is making plans to join the law firm of Donahue, Hyland & Donohue.

Among her four children are an attorney, Mary T. Gibbons-Stevens of Kittery, Maine; a Coast Guard Captain, Edward J. Gibbons of Elizabeth City, N.J.; and a doctor, John M. Gibbons of Pittsburgh, Penn. The fourth is Leonard S. Gibbons of Springfield. She has 12 grandchildren.

* * *

Though it's been 60 years since she was the only woman in graduate chemistry at Clark, the pattern of Judge Gibbons' life continues to repeat itself. This year she was named Marshal of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade – only the second woman in the 57-year history of the parade.

* * *

Looking back now at her long career, she muses, "Perhaps I should have been in law school earlier."

But there was a reason for the delay, she reminds people.

In those days, "Women didn't become lawyers."

Alumna Inspired to Practice Values Learned at Elms While Touring South Africa on Fulbright Fellowship

Karen Hurd, Elms College Class of 1988.



Karen visited South Africa on a Fulbright Fellowship last summer.



During a one-month visit to South Africa on a Fulbright Fellowship last summer, Karen Hurd '88 got a graphic reminder of racist hatred when she visited Regina Mundi Church in Soweto.

Bullet holes in the stone walls of the church told of a time, before legal apartheid was abolished in that country, when a group of black South Africans who had sought refuge in the church were fired on by a group of racist whites who did not consider even the church as a sanctuary from violence and hatred.

"As a woman of color, I was touched. I have experienced racism in my own life, but to see it on such a grand scale …" was overwhelming, Karen said.

A second grade teacher at Bridge Street School in Northampton, Karen was in South Africa with a group of 14 educators, including professors from Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and the University of Massachusetts, and teachers from Northampton, Greenfield, Springfield, Amherst, and South Hadley. The program was organized by the Five Colleges.

Even though apartheid is no longer legal, and blacks control the South African government, the country is very poor and education for black children is meager. "They don't have facilities or books," Karen said. To address this situation when she returned to Northampton, she began fund-raising for Tina's Pre-School in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Karen and Sue Eastman, a social studies teacher at John F. Kennedy Junior High School in Northampton who also made the South Africa trip, began collecting coins with their classes in the two schools. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, they raised more than $1,000.

Karen has since begun a second fund-raising effort at St. Mary's Church in Northampton, where she teaches CCD classes, and with the Sisters of St. Joseph, where she is an associate.

Her experience in Africa has also led her to put together a curriculum for second graders. It combines social studies, utilizing her knowledge of South Africa; writing, through a pen pal program she created for her pupils with pupils in South Africa; and math, from the children's practical experience of collecting and counting coins.

Karen had been a paraprofessional in the Northampton school system before attending Elms. "I'm very grateful to the Elms," she says. "I got my (teaching) certification there. I wouldn't be where I am today without the Elms."

ALUMNA FINDS RUSSIAN HERITAGE HELPFUL IN LOCAL MORTGAGE BUSINESS

Katya Berezovskaya-Magee, Elms College Class of 1998.



When you get Katya Berezovskaya-Magee's voice mail at Countrywide Home Loans in West Springfield, the message is first in English and then repeated in Russian.

That is because Katya, Elms College class of 1998, who left Russia in the 1990s to pursue an education in the United States, has found that a piece of the former Soviet empire has followed her and become an important element of her post-Elms career.

Katya, who was born in Pyatigorsk, a city of 130,000 in the foothills of the Caucasus Mountains in southwestern Russia, has found that as a mortgage loan officer, and now sales manager, that "a very good portion of my business" has come from immigrants to western Massachusetts from the Ukraine, which, like Russia, is a former Soviet republic.

The Ukraine was known as the "bread basket" of the former Soviet Union because of its vast agriculture. Many of her clients are from small villages and are not used to living in apartments, so "home ownership is huge with them," she says.

Katya first came to the United States at age 15 to be an exchange student at Mohawk Trail Regional High School in Shelburne Falls. She received a full scholarship to Elms College, and graduated with a major in marketing and a minor in math. "All Russians love math," she says.

In her senior year, she worked for a local loan broker, and she credits Sister Mary Shea at the Elms career center with helping her get a job as a loan officer at the former Springfield Institution for Savings.

She moved to Countrywide Home Loans in 2005, where she is now a sales manager, supervising nine loan officers in West Springfield and Northampton, and Enfield, Connecticut.

Her parents, who are career musicians, have recently joined her in the United States. Her father is a choral conductor and a top chess player. Her mother is a pianist.

The education she received at Elms "has been the push to my entire life," she says. She credits professor David Kimball of the Business and Law Division's Marketing Department with encouraging her to take a prep course for the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), and go on to grad school. She has been working on a master's in business administration at UMass-Amherst, and is scheduled to receive her MBA in July.

All alumni, spouses, and friends are welcome at all events. For further information on any of these events, call Peggy Clark in the Alumni Office at 413-265-2227.

First Friday Masses
In memory of deceased alumni, members of the Elms College community, and their family members.
Our Lady's Chapel, 12 noon:
April 4, May 2, no summer masses; resumes September 5

Monthly Luncheons for Alumni
Munich Haus, Chicopee Center
Wednesdays, 12 noon:
April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3

Alumni and College Events

Second Annual Alumnae Softball Game
April 26 (Saturday)
9 a.m.

New York City Bus Trip -"Do Your Own Thing Day"
April 26 (Saturday)
Bus leaves Elms College at 7:00 a.m. and departs NYC at 7:00 p.m.
Cost: $32

Donor-Scholar Brunch
April 27 (Sunday)

Reunion
May 2-4 (Friday-Sunday)
Wine and Cheese Social –Friday
Pizza and Beer Party –Friday
Brunch – Sunday
Bring memorabilia from your days at Elms College!

"Bits of Broadway"
May 9 (Friday)

Baccalaureate
May 17 (Saturday)

Commencement
May 18 (Sunday)

Educational Trip to China
Sponsored by the Humanities and Business Divisions
May 20-29 (Tuesday-Thursday)
Religious studies professor Martin Pion and business professor William Donovan will lead a nine-day trip to the People's Republic of China for students and interested others. The group will visit the three major cities of Beijing, Xi'an, and Shanghai. The cost to students is $2,700, and $2,950 for others. This includes all flights, ground travel, most entrance fees, hotels, and many meals. More information is available from Dr. Pion at 265-2581 or pionm@elms.edu; Professor Donovan at 265-2573 or donovanw@elms.edu; or Rose Talbot-Babey 265-2575 or babeyr@elms.edu.

Red Sox Game at Fenway Park with pre-game reception at Bertucci's, Kenmore Square
June 7 (Saturday)
Two tickets per alumna/us are available, and cost $55.00 each (includes game ticket and Bertucci's reception.) Please call Tickets-for-Charity at 1-866-645-7022 (starting April 30) to place your order.

After Work Social
June 12 (Thursday)
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Chili's, West Springfield
Complimentary appetizers and cash bar

Pioneer Valley Chapter Picnic and Pool Party
July 15 (Tuesday)
Home Of Patty Gorman Kuralowicz '02, Chicopee

Connecticut Chapter Event:
Luncheon, tour, and performance at Goodspeed Opera House
July 26 (Saturday)
"Half a Sixpence," musical comedy

Cape Cod Chapter Event
August 5 (Tuesday)

Afternoon At Tanglewood
August 10 (Sunday)
Bus transportation, brunch at Asters, and reserved shed seat for the concert.

Rhode Island Chapter Event
August 21 (Thursday)
Newport Playhouse

"Alumni Campus Abroad" Trip to Ireland
September 25-October 3 (Thursday-Friday)
Sponsored by the Alumni Associations of Elms College, along with Western New England College, Plymouth State University, Champlain College, and Lasell College.
Accommodations for seven nights in Ennis, the capital of County Clare. Includes informative educational programs presented by local experts, and excursions to the Craggaunowen Project, the Burran, the Cliffs of Moher, the Aran Island of Inishmore, and more.
Cost is $3,389 per person. Contact Peggy Clark for more information at 413-265-2227.

Homecoming/Family Weekend
October 24-26 (Friday-Sunday)

Irish Cultural Center Events

The Irish Cultural Center at Elms College was established in 1999 for the purpose of "keeping alive the Irish arts" by offering programs, all of them open to the public, many of them free. The Cultural Center, located in Berchmans Hall, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and by appointment. Irish language study opportunities, a genealogy support group, and a bimonthly newsletter are ongoing. For more information, call Sister Judith Kappenman, director, at 413 265-2537, email irishcenter@elms.edu, or visit their web site at www.irish-cairde.org.

Reading and Book Signing - R. Todd Felton
A Journey into Ireland's Literary Revival
April 13 (Sunday)
2:00 pm

Irish Music Seisiún
Third Sundays: April 20, May 25, June 22
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Mary Dooley College Center, dining room annex (note the change of venue)
Musicians of all skill levels and audience welcome

Bus Trip to Pittsfield for Genealogy Study
National Archives, Berkshire Athenaeum, and Pittsfield Public Library
June date to be announced

Social Justice and the Liberal Arts 2007-2008

One Human Family: Rights and Responsibilities
The following two events will cap our year-long social justice series, which has examined the key Catholic social teaching theme of rights and responsibilities as it relates to the war in Iraq.
For information about this series, visit: http://www.elms.edu/about/rightsandresponsibilities.htm.

"Boots on the Ground"
Elms College Theater for Social Justice
April 30 to May 2 (Wednesday to Friday) at 7:00 p.m.
May 3 (Saturday) at 3:00 p.m.
Black Box Theater, Mary Dooley College Center
Boots on the Ground is a powerful docu-drama that examines the Iraq War through the perspectives of 23 different characters in southern New England. Written by Laura Kepley and Deborah Salem Smith, the play is based on over 200 hours of interviews with 70 different Rhode Islanders. The power of *Boots on the Ground* is its focus on the human element of the war, emphasizing relationships over politics, emotion over ideology. The play is about the lives of Rhode Islanders and their connection to the war, giving voice to their experience, from service members and their family members to veterans and everyday citizens. The play will be followed by a discussion.

Mary Dooley Lecture: ROTC on College Campuses
Margaret Pfeil, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame
April 24 (Thursday)
7:00 p.m., Alumnae Library Theater
Dr. Margaret Pfeil is an accomplished theologian and devoted peace activist. With a focus on Catholic social thought and the development of moral doctrine, Dr. Pfeil felt compelled by the events of September 11 to deepen her personal commitment to the practice of nonviolence. This eventually led her to found the Peter Claver Catholic Worker House in South Bend in 2003, where she continues to be an active community member. Dr. Pfeil has team-taught a class with the director of the US Army ROTC program at the University of Notre Dame entitled "War, Law, and Ethics." Through this class, she hoped to open a space for dialogue about the role that ROTC programs play on college campuses. In her presentation, Dr. Pfeil will share her insights from this experience.

SAVE THE DATE
Homecoming/
Family Weekend
October 24-26, 2008



"The Young Bucks" Earn Their First Alumni Game Win in Fourth Contest

By Ed Silva, Men's Basketball Coach

The Fourth Annual Elms College Men's Alumni Basketball Game on February 2 was the scene of a milestone victory, as the "Young Bucks" squad (consisting of graduates from 2004-2007) narrowly defeated the "Old School" team (consisting of graduates from 2000-2003). The victory marked the very first for the youngsters, who used their youthful legs and overwhelming size to wear down the "Old School."

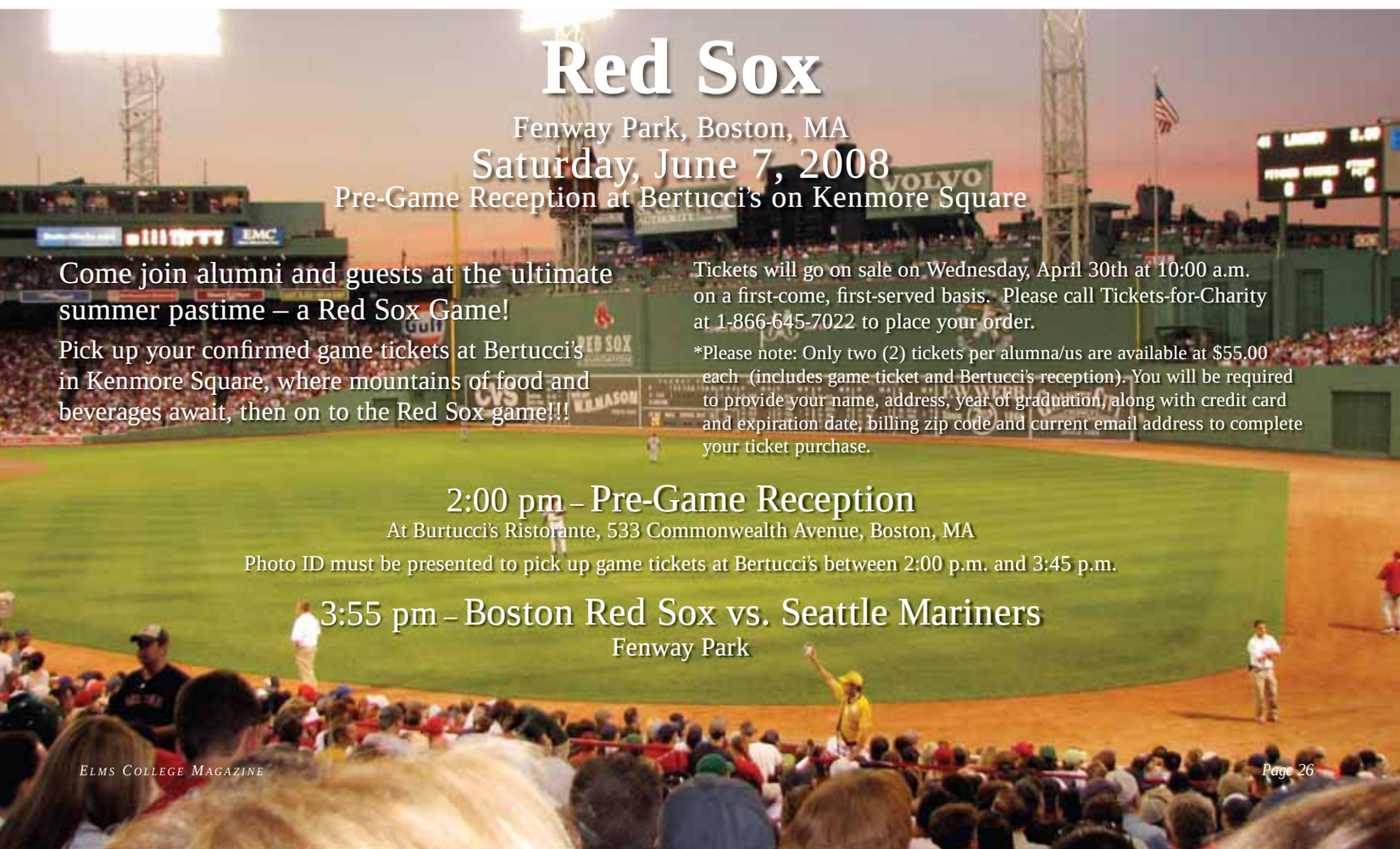
The members of the "Young Bucks" squad were Lonnie Branyon '06, DeShawn Hawkins '04, Ernest Hughes '04, Chellvonto Little '05, RJ Marchewka '05, Kyle Seyboth '05, and James Vassar '06. The "Old School" team was comprised of Matt Barboza '02, Damien Bradley '02, Arnold Chavarria '02, Heath Churchill '02, Scott Dean '00, Rich Doppman '03, Pete Dorobisz '02, Rick Lawrence '02, and Chris Lockwood '01.

The game was a seesaw battle in the first half as each team displayed a rugged defensive philosophy reminiscent of an Australian rules rugby game. Key performers for the "Young Bucks" in this half were Kyle Seyboth, Lonnie Branyon, and Ernest Hughes, who each displayed an ability to make a few "wide open" lay-ups (and miss a few), and a willingness to shoot from anywhere on the court. The "Old School" team was led by the guard trio of Damien Bradley, Matt Barboza, and Arnold Chavarria, who used a variety of acrobatic lay-ups and smooth mid-range jumpers to carry their squads.

The second half of the contest started off like a 30-and-over men's league, since both squads were clearly feeling the physical effects of the first half, and both teams elected to go to the long range shooting rather than work for lay-ups. Heath Churchill and Scott Dean provided some solid defense and scoring output for the "Old School" unit. The "Young Bucks" witnessed a scoring explosion of sorts from RJ Marchewka, known more for his rebounding and fierce elbows in his playing days, as he worked his way inside for some key lay-ups.

The final minutes of the game saw each team claw and talk presidential-primary-like smack as they traded baskets. In the end, the game was sealed on an Ernest Hughes first-ever game time dunk, which brought the Maguire Center crowd to raucous roar.

After the game, all the players met in the O'Leary Hall lounge to enjoy lunch and reminisce on days gone past. They later watched the current women's and men's basketball teams score solid victories over archrival Husson College of Bangor, Maine.





Reunion Weekend, May 2-4: Tradition and Innovation

Tradition and innovation will march side-by-side for Elms alumni at Reunion Weekend, May 2-4. Peggy Dwyer Clark, '65, Elms College director of alumni relations, says the goal this year is to provide events to attract more recent alumni to return to campus while retaining those activities that earlier graduates have enjoyed in the past.

With that in mind, a new event this year will be an "Elms Students Around the World" panel on Saturday, May 3, where alumni can learn about Elms students doing internships, community service, or credit courses in foreign countries.

"We want to let alumni see what the current educational environment is about," Peggy said.

Also new this year will be a pizza and beer party on Friday evening at 8:00 p.m.

Another new event will be a Saturday afternoon tea with Author Suzanne Strempek Shea, whose new book, *Sundays in America*, chronicles a year she spent attending Sunday services at non-Catholic churches across the United States to assess the state of Christian faith in America. Strempek Shea, who lives in western Massachusetts, is the author of five novels and two previous non-fiction books, including *Songs From a Lead-Lined Room*, which chronicled her battle with breast cancer.

Alumni will also be able to attend classes Friday morning and afternoon to get a glimpse into the nature of education at Elms in 2008. And they will be able to tour the two cultural centers affiliated with the college – the Irish Cultural Center and the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning – on Saturday afternoon.

One feature event of the weekend will be the induction of the Class of 1958 into the Golden Blazers, which was created last year to honor alumni who graduated 50 years or more in the past.

Massachusetts District Court Judge Ann M. Gibbons '48, chair of the Golden Blazers, says the group is trying to determine how they can best aid the college, and that one possibility being considered is fund-raising efforts. "We want to do more than meet once a year to honor the new class," she said. "If we can't give huge amounts individually, by banding together we may be able to do more."

One of the traditional aspects of Reunion Weekend is for classmates to mingle and catch up on what has transpired since they last met.

Barbara Guardione Guerra '58 of Niantic, Connecticut will be returning again this year, as she has on the honor years as long as she can remember. A retired Latin and English teacher, she sees reunion as about "remembering and regrouping," while at the same time, it is a "sober time because of the classmates we've lost." Barbara has lost both of her roommates from her time at Elms – a time she thinks of in terms of lyrics from the Simon and Garfunkel song, *Old Friends*: "It was a time of innocence, a time of confidences," she says.

Other events scheduled for Reunion Weekend include:

- A memorabilia display in the Alumnae Library.
- A 2008 class art exhibit in the Borgia Gallery.
- A "Reminiscent Visit" in Our Lady's Chapel.
- An ice cream social.
- Live entertainment by "The Corner Boys."
- A wine tasting.

There will also be activities for spouses and guests, which include golf at Chicopee Country Club; a visit to the James A. Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame; and a classic movie in the Alumnae Library Theater.

The Liturgy in Our Lady's Chapel will take place at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, and the parade of classes will follow at 5:45 p.m. in the Rotunda. The president's reception will be from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Mary Dooley College Center, followed by the reunion dinner at the same location.

The final event of the weekend will be the farewell brunch from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Sunday in the Dooley Center.

CLASS NOTES

Everyone at Elms College shares great pride in the accomplishments of our alumni. We'd like to tell you about the good works, honors, lives, and achievements of some of our notable graduates.

We'd love to hear about your life and accomplishments, from career news and engagements to awards and retirements. Please email your information and/or photos to emanuellia@elms.edu, or mail them to Marketing Editor, Elms College, 291 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

1940s



Dorothy Clifford Flanagan '40 travels north to Pemaquid Point, Maine each June and enjoys the benefits of living near the sea. In September, she resides in Florida for the winter. She volunteers at Fisherman's Museum at Pemaquid each year, which has been a great opportunity for her to meet and greet people from all 50 states and many foreign countries.



Margaret Riley O'Day '41 is recovering from a fall where she injured her hip at her daughter's home. She is doing well and hopes to return to her Norwood home very soon.



Elizabeth Quirk Campion '45 is enjoying spending time with her six children and their spouses, 15 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.



The Honorable Ann Martin Gibbons '48, a retired Massachusetts District Court judge, was selected as the 2008 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Grand Parade Marshal. This honor is given to a person of Irish descent who has distinguished him or herself as a person loyal to community, in career, family, and Irish ancestry.



Mary Diggins Woods '48 volunteers at St. Bernard's health clinic in Worcester, and is busy with wedding plans for her fourth daughter. In spring 2008, she plans to visit the Canadian Rockies with a fellow Elms alum.



Nadine Mangan Henderson '49 remains active at 80 years old, enjoying her four children and eight grandchildren. She is chair of St. Bernadette's School Board, chair of Horace Mann Educational Associates (HMEA), and a member of the Human Rights Board. Nadine also exercises three times a week at the YMCA.

1950s



Mary Connelly Kegelman '50 keeps busy teaching Spanish classes at the University of Delaware's Academy of Lifelong Learning. She also tutors math and science several hours a week, serves in her parish as a Eucharistic minister, and enjoys her family, which includes 21 grandchildren. Her husband Matt and family are doing well.



Elizabeth Shaw McGrory '50 lost her husband John last February. She has moved from Sequin, Washington to Wayzata, Montana after living in Sequin for 13 years.



Marion Black Riley '50 writes that she and her husband Frank Riley, M.D., are retired and living on Martha's Vineyard. Her husband still does work for the Massachusetts Medical Society, reviewing cases for Medicaid. They have eight children living from California to Africa and Italy, so she says that holidays and summers are busy there!



Teresa Corley Giardina '51 keeps active by serving at Mount Carmel Church in Pittsfield on the pastoral council, Habitat for Humanity committee, and as a lector at Masses. She stays busy with her 16 grandchildren.

Sr. William Agnes Gillet '52 is retired from teaching, and lives in the St. Joseph Residence at Mont Marie in Holyoke.



Therese Quinlan Nesbit '52 still enjoys volunteering once a week in Pittsfield at the school from which she retired.



Ann M. Dryden '57 received the St. Joseph Medal in March honoring her dedication to Cathedral High School in Springfield. She is the principal of the Mary A. Dryden Veteran's Memorial School in Springfield, and belongs to St. Paul Parish.

Margaret Curran Dowd '58 is enjoying life, especially since the arrival of her first grandchild, Fiona Teresa Liptak.

Evelyn Lachut Sullivan '58 is keeping busy in her retirement with quilting, gardening, and her 10 grandchildren.



Kathleen Barry May '58 married Frank Voigt on September 15 in Inverness, Illinois. Kathleen's brother, Fr. William Barry S.J., of Weston, Massachusetts, performed the ceremony, and her sister Mary Barry, RSM, of Worcester, Massachusetts, was Eucharistic Minister. This was a family affair with 54 in attendance, since Kathleen has six children and 12 grandchildren (with two more on the way!), and Frank has four daughters and 10 grandchildren. Their children and grandchildren participated as greeters, readers, petitioners, and gift bearers. Kathleen is a retired elementary school principal, and Frank is a retired corporate officer and vice president of human resources of Borden Co. The couple enjoys golf, cooking, traveling, and keeping up with the activities of their grandchildren.

Beatrice Morrison '59 is enjoying retirement, and keeping busier than ever. She has three grandsons, a granddaughter, and two grand nephews. She and her husband spend time in Colorado visiting their son's family, and right on the ocean in Hull Village, Massachusetts visiting their daughter's family and their grand nephews in the next town.



Natalie Mackie Straley '59 is having a wonderful retirement with family and friends – reading, traveling, and just plain having fun.

1960s



Marsha A. Macary '60 is enjoying her retirement, substitute teaching once in a while. She went to Lebanon two years ago to visit family and friends. She traveled twice last year with her Elms roommate Mary Hayes Morrissey: they sailed on the beautiful "Queen Mary" in February, and went to Italy last October with her church, where they toured the Vatican, Tuscany, Florence, and Naples.



Mary Wynn Harney '61 retired from MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, but still works a couple days a week. Mary lost her daughter Jeanne to cancer in June 2007.



Jean Chambers Himmelsbach '62 won first prize in the Rockyford, Colorado art show for her black and white photo "Nature's Mawitou." Over the years, she has won several prizes with her photos, both color and black and white.



Sharon Fressola Knickle '62 retired from her computer business, but remains active as the president. She has two children and two grandchildren.

Sr. Mary Magdalene Ward '62 enjoys being a receptionist for the cloistered Dominican Nuns. In the past, she spent three years in Kenya, Africa helping to found a teacher training college. Following that, she spent three years in Tanzania, Africa helping to found a secondary school for girls. In between those experiences, she was a teacher and principal in both private and public schools. In December, when she turned 80, she went to Haiti for two weeks to tutor young men in English as a second language.



Joan St. Clair Hayes '63 is a retired high school math teacher, and is currently working as a substitute teacher. She has just returned from a trip to Italy. She enjoys spending her leisure time with her four grandchildren.

Robert T. Hendry '64 is active in Knights of Columbus Council #4044, and uses his home in Vermont from April to October. He is still an eligible bachelor.



Barbara Powers Hoppin '64 received the St. Joseph Medal honoring her dedication to Cathedral High School in Springfield in March. Barbara is a member of the President's Council on Youth Alternatives, involved with inner city education and substance abuse programs, active as a survivor with cancer support groups, and is a docent at the Fifth Maine Museum. She has raised four children.



Noreen Boucher Allen '65 recently retired from Cobb County Schools in Marietta. She also taught in Houston, Texas for 10 years, West Virginia for 20 years, and Ludlow for six years. She is enjoying time with her husband Bob, and her three children and six grandchildren.



Barbara Morin Lynch '65 lost her husband, Austin, in June 2005. She is retired and living on Cape Cod, golfing and enjoying winters in Florida.



Julie Corcoran Van Deventer '65 reports that her son Timothy returned from Iraq with a Bronze Star in 2006, and became a Connecticut State Trooper. In September 2007, he married Stephanie Marsland of Rhode Island, who is a teacher in Hartford.



Paulette Meunier Duquette '66 has traveled to France, Italy, the Netherlands, and Great Britain in retirement. She plans to travel throughout the U.S. in the near future. She has four grandchildren who live locally.

Ruth Willemain '66 retired in 1999 after having taught for 45 years. She was nominated for an award recognizing unsung heroines by the West Springfield superintendent of schools. She is in the process of creating a 12-person hospice facility called Harmony House to help people who have no caregiver in their last days. She has a seven-member board of directors and is in the process of raising money and looking for a location.



Awilda Chabon-Colon '68 retired after 36 years as a guidance counselor with the Springfield school system. She is enjoying her first grandson Stuart, traveling, volunteering, interpreting/translating, and is a board member of STCU Credit Union.



Ellen Lahert Coopee '68 retired from the Springfield public schools in October after 24 years of teaching.



Mary Ellen McDermott Gray '68 retired from teaching in June. She is active tutoring middle-school students, and substitute teaches in the Monument Valley Middle School.



Quirinita Martinez '68 retired from the Mora Independent School in 2002 after 33 years, and continues to substitute teach there. She and her husband enjoy traveling to Phoenix, Arizona where her son Cyrus lives and works as an attorney.



Diane Zimmer McKain '68 taught elementary school for 25 years in Plainfield, Connecticut, and ended her career as a public school principal in the same community. In 2005, she retired to Northfield, Vermont, where she now resides on her family's farm. More recently, Diane began working at the Barre Community Justice Center, where she coordinates a re-entry support program for serious and violent offenders who are returning to the community after years in prison.

Virginia Drzyzga Robak '69 has entered her 15th year as an elected assessor for the city of Chicopee. "Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think that I would enter the political arena!" she said, and claims she "backed into" the job, having first been appointed to complete the term of a retiring assessor, and was elected thereafter. She calls politics her third career: first she taught fifth and sixth grade, and then pre-school after her children arrived, and then she moved into the banking field as a mortgage officer. She also remains active in the community, devoting much of her time to the Friends of the Chicopee Public Library (FCPL), which played an integral part in the fundraising efforts for the construction of the new library. She has also served as the chairman of the annual FCPL golf tournament for the past five years.



1970s



Roberta Kelly Cassidy '71 retired in June 2006 from Blessed Sacrament School after 25 years of teaching and also being principal. Roberta is now the director of religious education for the parish, and she loves her new job. She has been married for 35 years to Ed, with two sons and two grandchildren.



Teresa A. Dubuque '71 continues to work as a therapist in Albuquerque, New Mexico, focusing on grief, loss, and bereavement support. She and her husband recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.



Mena de Carvalho '75 traveled to China on a school trip with Springfield Central High School. She was impressed and touched by her experiences of walking on the Great Wall, and looks forward to seeing China's 2008 Summer Olympics.



Nelly de Carvalho '78 was principal at the Notre Dame-Immaculate Conception School, which was closed last June due to weakening economy and changing demographics. She is happy to report that the school uniforms are now serving the needs of young school children of Zimbabwe, Africa, and all textbooks were donated to area Catholic schools. She enjoys traveling.

1980s



Elizabeth Birge '83 works as a feature writer at the Star-Ledger in Newark, New Jersey and a morning assistant professor of journalism at William Patterson University in Wayne, New Jersey. She has two daughters: Allison, 11, and Katrina, 5. Her husband Chris Isidore works as a financial writer for CNN's business website.



Kimberly Graves Durfee '83, who graduated from the Elms nursing program, is currently enrolled in the new master's in nursing degree program, which began this spring.



Joy Lockhart Testori '83, who graduated from the Elms nursing program, is currently enrolled in the new master's in nursing degree program, which began this spring.



Lily de Carvalho '84 is living in Maryland and travels extensively as a nurse consultant for Genentech. She enjoys visits from her sisters Mena '75 and Nelly '78. She and Mena traveled to Portugal last July to visit family.

Kathleen Charette '87, who graduated from the Elms nursing program, is currently enrolled in the new master's in nursing degree program, which began this spring. Kathleen also earned an M.Ed. from Cambridge College in 2005.

Barbara Clay '88, who graduated from the Elms nursing program, is currently enrolled in the new master's in nursing degree program, which began this spring.



Cristina Waddell Goncalves '88, who graduated from the Elms nursing program, is currently enrolled in the new master's in nursing degree program, which began this spring.

Mary Ann Kaufman O'Shea '88 created a workshop on non-violent communication in November 2006, and is convinced that it is a positive hope for families, businesses, and nations to be able to live and work together. Much of her time and energy is spent in trying to live, promote, and encourage non-violent communication, and she hopes to get a grant to teach it in the Springfield schools.



Lisa Fitzsimmons Pepper '88, who graduated from the Elms nursing program, is currently enrolled in the new master's in nursing degree program, which began this spring.

1990s



Roberta Ruel Antoniuk '90 is the director of creative services at Sun Life Financial. She is married, has two children, Ethan and Cameron, and lives in Ashland.

Lori Ann Young '92, who graduated from the Elms RN to BS program, is currently enrolled in the new master's in nursing degree program, which began this spring.

Urszula Stetson '96, who graduated from the Elms RN to BS program, is currently enrolled in the new master's in nursing degree program, which began this spring.

2000s

Kathryn McKenzie '01 was awarded the 2007 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Harvard Club of Boston, which recognizes teachers who have the ability to inspire curiosity and excellence among their students. She has been teaching English at Chicopee High School for the past four years. She also serves as an advisor for the student council, and is in the process of completing her master's degree.



Heather M. Tacconi '01 recently graduated from Western New England College School of Law and is currently an associate at the Law Offices of Stephen C. Brown in Rochester, New Hampshire.



Mark Glover '04 was newly ordained as a transitional deacon at the Vatican in Rome. He is studying for the diocesan priesthood, and anticipates his ordination as a priest in June.

The following graduates from the class of 2007 RN to BS program are currently enrolled in the new master's in nursing degree program, which began this spring:

· Laura Douglass '07
· Eugenie Formel '07
· Carol Lewis '07
· Diane Surprenant '07
· Christopher Warrington '07

Engagements



Sheila M. Murphy '06 is engaged to Jenkin Gould, Elms athletic operations manager. Their wedding is planned for July 18 at Holy Cross Church in Holyoke, with a reception at the Carriage House in Forest Park. Sheila is an art teacher in the Montessori School in Longmeadow.



Lisa L. Wojcik '06 of Springfield is engaged to James E. Scliopou. An August wedding is planned at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Springfield. Lisa is an emergency department nurse.

Diana M. Rzeszutek '07 is engaged to James Civali of Meriden, Connecticut. Diana is an advertising executive at Comcast Spotlight, and is planning a December 2009 wedding in Connecticut.

Weddings



Ellen Moore Reardon '56 and Carl Price had a beautiful wedding ceremony last April 29. They were fortunate that the fires spared their California home.



Kathleen May Barry '58 was married September 15 to Frank Voigt in Inverness, Illinois.



Michelle Carroll '04 married Jonathon Dedon in September. She is a registered nurse at Holyoke Medical Center and lives in Chicopee.

Elizabeth O'Connor, an MAT student, married Michael S. Masse. Elizabeth is a teacher in the city of Chicopee.



Mary Menard '06 married Ryan Hamel in July. She is a reading teacher working and living in Holyoke.



Jessica M. Payne '06 married Brian M. Abert last April at St. John the Baptist Church in Ludlow. They are residing in Springfield.

Births

Jessica Payne Abert '06 and husband Brian welcomed a son, Connor James, on October 2 at Holyoke Hospital. Connor weighed seven pounds, eight ounces, and was 22 inches long.

Kyla Martin Korytoski '07 and husband Tim welcomed a baby boy, Efrem Jacob, on January 15.





Efrem weighed seven pounds, three ounces, and was 20 inches long. Kyla is a graphic designer in the Institutional Marketing Department at Elms College.

Seeking Nominations – Distinguished Alumna/us Award and Via Veritatis Medal

We are always seeking recommendations from our alumni for candidates for the Distinguished Alumna/us Award, which is awarded in May during commencement activities.

Please send the name of the candidate you are recommending, and an essay substantiating why this person is deserving of the award. The award winner should have distinguished herself/himself in one or more of the following areas:

- ☐ Professional or business life
- ☐ Contribution to the Church
- ☐ Intellectual pursuits
- ☐ Personal, home, family life
- ☐ Loyalty to Elms College

The recipient must be present for the awarding.

Date: _____

I recommend _____ Class of_____

Recommended by: _____ Class of_____

Address:_____

Telephone: _____Email: _____

Return nomination form to:

Peggy D. Clark
Alumni Office
Elms College
291 Springfield Street
Chicopee, MA 01013

Via Veritatis Medal

We are seeking recommendations of possible candidates for the Via Veritatis Medal, which is awarded in May during commencement activities.

The Elms College Via Veritatis Medal is awarded to a Catholic woman who exemplifies Catholic womanhood and culture at their best, and who has made significant contributions to society. The medal is awarded to a person who is not a member of the college community at the time of the awarding, or an alumni. The recipient must be present for the awarding.

Please send the name of the candidate you are recommending and an essay substantiating why this person is deserving of the award, to:

President, Elms College, 291 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA 01013

In Memoriam

Thanks to all who made gifts to Elms College in memory of their deceased loved ones.

Alumni:
Kathryn Nesbit-Normal School
Gertrude Downey Cotter '34
Margaret Murphy Sullivan '36
Marguerite Danahey FitzGerald '39
Rita M. Burke '40
Helen Prendergast Brundage '44
Marjorie Smith Burns '44
Claire Brunelle Schmidt '45
Hedwig Wolochowicz Kush '47
Sr. Mary B. Cernauskas '49
Rita Keough Kittredge '49
Marguerite Manning Egan '50
Alison Chunn Tom '52
Norma Erickson '53
Marie Hanlon Riley '55
Edna Boyle Beattie '60
Sr. Catherine Doherty '60
Angelica Darasz-Kelley '71
Jane Dempsey Kownacki Gilman '84
Gail Dismore Boisselle '87
Lorraine Elder Chapdelaine '90
Kozimiera Klaus-Allen '90

Husband of:
Delores Donlin Noonan '39 (dec)
Mary Mahoney Casey '48 (dec)
Rosemary Dwyer Guiltinan '52
Theresa Ondrick Stotz '52
Carol Acus Donovan '65

Triplet Sons of:
Katrina Perazella Ripka '02

Mother of:
Mary Lou Haley Straub '69
Patricia Craven Clancy '69 (dec)
Charlene Gamache St. Onge '69
Deborah Craven Menard '74
Barbara Egan-Cromwell '77
Anne M. Craven Pancione '78
Maura Egan Callaghan '81
Maria Craven Sypek '81
Rosemary Danaher '83
Lise LeTellier '02

Father of:
Barbara Crowe Willis '65
Martha Noonan Murtaugh '68
Regina Noonan Hitchery '71
Jane Coughlin Chevalier '82
Carol Mastalerz '88
Tina Cabral Socha '93
John Amaral '01
Mary Greaney '08
Miguel Arce-Faculty
Alicia Germain-Staff

Sister of:
Alice Prendergast Sullivan '45 (dec)
Helen Prendergast Brundage '51
Dorothy Predergast Goggins '51
Alison Chunn Tom '52 (dec)
Marilyn Erickson '55
Maureen Kennedy Swierzewski '55
Joan Kennedy Drennan '57 (dec)
John B. Kennedy '62
Alicia "Lisa" Reidy '78
Sr. John Martha Joyce-former faculty (dec)

Brother of:
Grace Ayers Terfera '50
Elizabeth Sheehan Rae '56
Sr. Judith Kappenman '58
Sally McCormick Fugere '61
Sr. Marita Joseph Cavanaugh-former faculty (dec)

Grandmother of:
Beth Jolicoeur Welton '99
Paul B. Cooney '03
Kara Dupre '03
Ryan J. Cooney '05
Justin Sypek '05
Mary Menard Hamel '06
Steven Prattico '07
Melissa Prattico '10

Grandfather of:
Ashley Caron '09

Former Faculty:
Evelyn Haley

GIVING BACK: ALUMNAE EXPLAIN WHY THEY SUPPORT THE ELMS

Marilyn Dillon Doherty '53



Kathleen Nicora Lebun '85, '97



Katya Berezovskaya-Magee '98



There are myriad reasons alumni cite for contributing to Elms College annual fund drive, but all of them come down to one thing – giving back.

Marilyn Dillon Doherty, class of 1953, says she is "a big fan of Catholic education." Both she and her husband Gerard attended Catholic schools before going to college. She attended Elms and he went to Harvard University.

"So much has been given to us by the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Xaverian Brothers (at Malden Catholic High School where her husband attended)," she says.

In addition to their annual gifts to Elms, they have established scholarships at Malden Catholic and at Mount St. Joseph Academy, an all-girl's school in Brighton.

Kathleen Nicora Lebun, class of 1985, who received her M.Ed. from Elms in 1997, says her reason for contributing each year is "to make sure Elms remains strong."

Now a kindergarten teacher at Blessed Sacrament School in Holyoke, she remembers Elms as "a home away from home," providing a "loving, nurturing, and spiritual environment."

"There were many Sisters (of St. Joseph) there then," she says. "They took care of you."

She remembers with fondness Sr. Mary Dooley who was the president of Elms when she attended.

"Her door was always open. She knew you by name, and she knew your family," Labun says.

In 2006-2007, she served as annual fund class agent for the class of 1985.

She found that making the cold calls actually turned out to be fun. She wound up talking to classmates she hadn't talked with in years.

After catching up on the news, she would remind them of "the awesome times" that they had had at Elms and say that a contribution to the annual fund would make sure that would be available for a new generation.

"Elms," she says, "is a hidden gem that was there for me, and I want to help make sure that it will always be there."

Katya Berezovskaya-Magee, class of 1998, who came to the United States from Pyatigorsk, Russia, says the education she received at Elms "has been the push to my entire life."

She says that without the education she received from Elms, she wouldn't be on the career path that has seen her become a sales manager for Countrywide Bank.

She has also served as class agent, soliciting contributions from her classmates.

"It's not that easy," she says. "We are still young and still building careers."

She tells her classmates that it is not the amount that they contribute, but the participation in the annual fund that counts.

Ellen Hynes, another annual contributor, was a non-traditional student who received her master of arts degree in applied theology from Elms in 2003. She worked at GE Plastics in Pittsfield for 33 years, and now works for the company that acquired GE – Sabic Innovative Plastics.

While getting her undergraduate degree from Russell Sage College in Troy, New York in 1998, she took a course called "Ethics in the Workplace" from "a very spiritual man."

It made her realize she wanted to get a degree in theology, and she applied and was accepted at Elms for the 36-hour M.A.A.T. program.

As a result of her graduate degree from Elms, she was appointed an adjunct faculty member at Sage College of Albany, and got to teach night students the very course that had inspired her – "Ethics in the Workplace."

For her, the motivation to support the annual fund drive is because "it is so important to support higher education and Catholic education."

And she says she wants to remind fellow alumni that many companies, such as GE, often match an individual's contribution to their college. Thus the alumni's contribution can leverage additional financial support for Elms.

Annual Event to Honor Donors and Scholars

The Annual Donor-Scholar Brunch will be held in the Mary Dooley College Center on Sunday, April 27 at 11:00 a.m. At this gathering, donors who have established named endowed scholarships will have an opportunity to meet the recipients of their scholarships.

This event is held annually to celebrate our students, to honor our donors who provide for them, to recognize their parents and families for their sacrifices in securing higher education, and to thank the members of faculty, administration, and staff for nurturing and encouraging our students.

For information on how to establish an endowed scholarship, please call 413-265-2214.

THE ELMS COLLEGE FUND: THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING

While we build on our bold dreams for the future, Elms College continues to emerge as an extraordinary Catholic liberal arts college that stands in a rich tradition of excellence.

Our commitment to excellence is evident everyday in our environment, which creates a sense of spirit and accomplishment among students and faculty.

The gift of education is life long and one that benefits many. We see that every day in the lives of our alumni who reach out to others in their community and beyond. We know that we benefit from the support of those who came before us, and we are preparing our students to be the leaders of tomorrow.

At this moment in Elms history, the possibilities are limitless, and we call upon our alumni to support these possibilities. Gifts like yours support The Elms College Fund so that our students and faculty are given the resources to explore the possibilities in social justice, business, teaching, and science. These annual gifts provide a critical investment in the continued growth and strength of the Elms.

A gift to *The Elms College Fund* will help to provide:

· *Scholarship and financial assistance to students like Huong Nguyen '08, who you can read about on the inside back cover.*

· *Faculty developement opportunities that support teaching, research, and participation at national conferences for indiduals like social work professor Efrosini Kokaliari.*

· *Resources to support the library for research projects and upgrades to our technology for enhancing classroom teaching.*

Every gift is important, no matter how large or small. Your gift *will* make a difference at the Elms. If you have not made your gift yet, please do so today.

To make a gift to *The Elms College Fund*, call 413-265-2214.

ALUMNA ENDOWS SCHOLARSHIP IN THANKS FOR HER ELMS EDUCATION

Leaving her home in Milford, Massachusetts to attend Elms College in 1947 was a daunting experience for Rita Kellett Prevoznik. She came from a close family of three sisters and three brothers. And her father, who held a degree in civil engineering from the University of Notre Dame, had closely supervised the children's education.

She was the first of her siblings to go away to college and having begun first grade at a Catholic school in Milford when she was four, she was only 16 when she entered Elms.

Her father was not there to help her make course choices and she had to make the decisions on her own. She persevered, helped by the fact that the school was all girls and strict. It provided her with the structure that her family had provided at home.

In her four years at Elms, in which she majored in English and minored in history and education, she particularly enjoyed working on the college's weekly newspaper, *Elmscript*, and the school magazine, *Tourmaline* (named for the green stone in Elms' class rings.)

When she graduated from Elms in 1951, she returned to her home in Milford.

"It was what young people did in those days," she says.

She looked for a teaching job. Superintendents liked her academic record, but told her that because she had gone to Catholic schools for 16 years, they wouldn't be able to get their school committees to approve her for a full-time job. She ended up as a permanent substitute in Milford for a year and then got a teaching job in Whitinsville, a mill town south of Worcester where her sister taught.

Then came the fateful summer of 1953, when she went to her father's alma mater, Notre Dame, for six weeks of graduate study in education.

It started mundanely enough – there were no female students at Notre Dame at the time except in the graduate school, and the college had a hard time finding someone who was willing to take on a female on her own. Finally, a local school teacher volunteered.

Early one day on campus, unsure what time Mass was, she caught up with a young man on a footpath and asked him. When she left the church after Mass, he was sitting on the steps. He invited her to breakfast – and lunch.

Stephen Prevoznik was a male nurse, working 40 hours a week while pursuing his degree at Notre Dame. The two spent a lot of time together in the next six weeks. And when she returned to Milford after the summer session, she put her writing skills to work. They wrote each other a letter every day for three years.

Rita Kellett and Stephen Provoznik were married in 1955 when he entered medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. After he graduated, he stayed on as a professor of anesthesiology for 35 years. She taught elementary school in Media, Pennsylvania until the first of their eight children was born.

When the family's finances had reached the point where she could make regular donations to the college, she remembered how much she enjoyed working on the Elms' newspaper and magazine. So it seemed natural to her to dedicate the money to the journalism program.

However, when Elms informed her she had now donated enough money to establish an endowed scholarship, she decided to go in another direction.

All of her five siblings and each of her eight children had received scholarship help to attend college. So she decided that the Rita Kellet Prevoznik Endowed Scholarship would be used to assist a student who comes from a family of five or more children.

"I wouldn't have been able to go to Elms without a scholarship," she says. The scholarship that bears her name is meant to pass on that help.

Rita Kellett Prevoznik '51



REUNION GIVING PROGRAM FOR HONOR CLASSES: SPECIAL GIFTS

In addition to celebrating one's graduation from the Elms through participation in the reunion program, we ask our alumni to commemorate this significant event with a special gift. These gifts not only represent gratitude for an excellent education received at Elms, but also demonstrate support for a better tomorrow.

This year, on May 2 to 4, we honor those classes ending in 3 and 8 as they celebrate their anniversaries. Classmates are asked to consider a special gift, and in some cases, make a gift in honor of or in memory of loved ones or deceased classmates. Additionally, alumni often consider honoring a faculty member who made a difference in their time at the Elms.

For more information or to make a special reunion gift, please call 413-265-2214.

NURSING STUDENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP THAT RECOGNIZES "SERVANT LEADERSHIP"

Not many people would think of working in a hospital emergency room as fun. But that is how Justin Ritter of Belchertown remembers the 19 months from June 2006 to January of this year that he spent in the Baystate Medical Center emergency room.

Ritter, who is scheduled to graduate from Elms in May with a degree in nursing, says he found the work as part of the student nurse apprentice program exciting and, perhaps even more important, "people were counting on me."

Ritter is a good man to count on.

In October 2006, a classmate from Elms was pushing her car on Interstate Route 91 after running out of gas when she was struck by another car.

Ritter was the first person on the scene. Before emergency personnel arrived, he administered "rescue breaths," or insufflation to make sure the student was breathing normally. He also held the student's head and neck straight to avoid any further damage to her spinal chord.

For his effort, he received the John Meara Hero Award from Chicopee.

Shortly after, he received the Joachim William Froehlich Student Leadership Endowed Scholarship from Elms. The scholarship was established in 2004 in memory of the eighth president of the college. It is meant to recognize a student who reflects Dr. Froehlich's philosophy of "servant leadership."

Ritter says he has always known he wanted a profession that would help people and allow him to be of service.

He says a few years ago he was "playing around taking courses at HCC (Holyoke Community College)" when he decided to apply to four-year colleges.

When he learned of the nursing program at Elms, he decided that was the path he wanted to take.

He says his four years at Elms has been "a great experience." He particularly appreciated the small class sizes as opposed to the much larger classes found at state universities.

The instructors, he says, were always ready to help out and answer questions and he does not ever remember "a negative comment from any of them."

When he graduates in May along with 48 other students in the nursing program, he will go to work at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Northampton as a graduate nurse.

And he will prepare for the state board exams to get the nursing license that will allow him to embark fully on his career.



Jill Bigos '09 | *Kristen Havey '08* | *Jamie Walsh '08* | *Katelyn Wasgatt '09* | *Julie Wickman '09*



STUDENT ATHLETES NAMED TO ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

Five Elms College student athletes were named to the 2007 Fall All-Academic Team of the North Atlantic Conference (NAC).

They are:

· *Jill Bigos '09,* biology major, cross-country
· *Kristen Havey '08,* history major, volleyball
· *Jamie Walsh '08,* social work and psychology major, soccer
· *Katelyn Wasgatt '09,* communication disorders major, field hockey
· *Julie Wickman '09,* nursing major, soccer

To be named to the All-Academic Team, a student athlete must have reached junior academic standing, and have completed a minimum of two years in their sport with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.50.

In all, 72 student athletes who participated in a fall NAC sport earned recognition from the conference.

NEW ATHLETIC CONFERENCE LAUNCHES WEBSITE

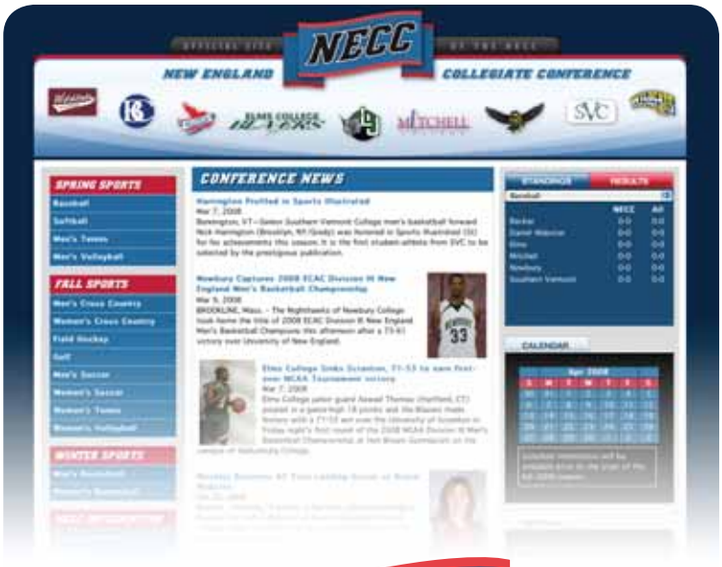
The New England Collegiate Conference (NECC), a new athletic conference established by Elms College and eight other New England colleges, has launched a website in anticipation of beginning conference play next fall.

The site includes information such as NECC member highlights, links to member web sites, league bylaws, constitution, and the conference directory. The web address is http://www.neccathletics.com.

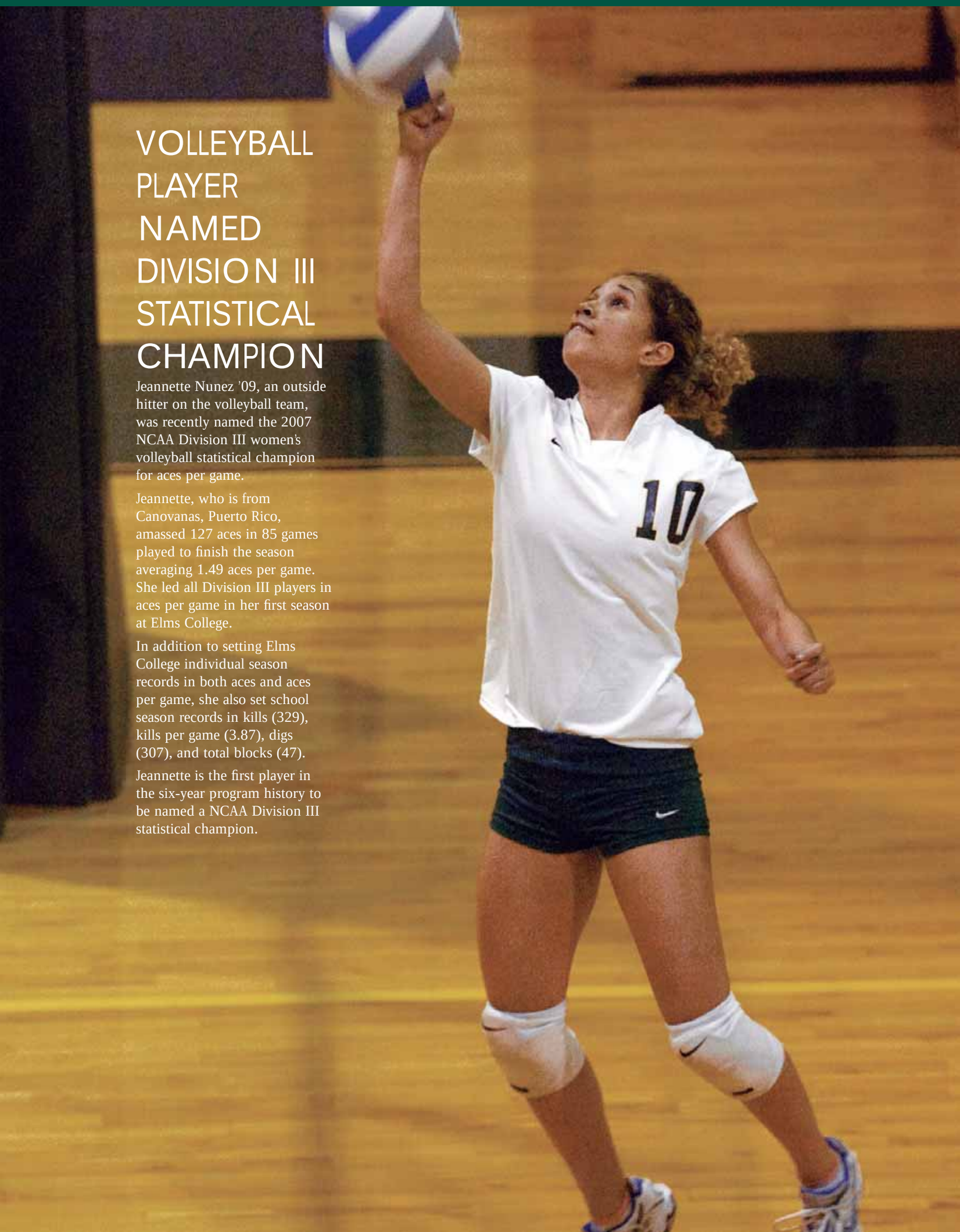
The NECC, which is an NCAA Division III conference, was established on May 31, 2007 with a mission to provide athletic competition among institutions that share similar academic aspirations and are committed to the importance of the total educational experience for students engaged in sports. Conference championships will be sponsored in 14 sports.

Members of the New England Collegiate Conference will include Elms College, Bay Path College, Becker College, Daniel Webster College, Lesley University, Mitchell College, Newbury College, Southern Vermont College, and Wheelock College.

Elms College director of athletics Louise McCleary is serving as NECC chair of athletic directors. The NECC is currently conducting a national search for its first commissioner.



NEW ENGLAND
COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE



VOLLEYBALL PLAYER NAMED DIVISION III STATISTICAL CHAMPION

Jeannette Nunez '09, an outside hitter on the volleyball team, was recently named the 2007 NCAA Division III women's volleyball statistical champion for aces per game.

Jeannette, who is from Canovanas, Puerto Rico, amassed 127 aces in 85 games played to finish the season averaging 1.49 aces per game. She led all Division III players in aces per game in her first season at Elms College.

In addition to setting Elms College individual season records in both aces and aces per game, she also set school season records in kills (329), kills per game (3.87), digs (307), and total blocks (47).

Jeannette is the first player in the six-year program history to be named a NCAA Division III statistical champion.

Life has been a difficult journey for Huong Nguyen.

But she found a smooth path to Elms College.



Huong Nguyen's journey in life has not been easy; she came to the United States from Vietnam when she was five, and her mother died shortly thereafter. But with the support of her new family and that of the Sisters of St. Joseph – and her own bright intellect and determination to rise above her circumstances – Huong made the transition to a new language and a new culture, and in 2004 she graduated from Longmeadow High School at the top of her class. Huong received the Elms College presidential scholarship and the Sisters of St. Joseph endowed scholarship, and says that helped make it possible for her to attend Elms College.

"I've received a lot of opportunities at Elms College. I'm studying graphics and web design, and last summer I did an internship and helped design a website for a local company. I also work as a computer lab monitor, so I'm getting great hands-on experience.

I'm getting a chance to do other things too. I've traveled to West Virginia three times with the Campus Ministry Club to do service work with the Passionist Volunteers, and I belong to the International Club and play the violin in the Elms Instrumental Ensemble. I am very grateful for all the help I've received along the way." **— Huong Nguyen '08**

Huong maintains a 3.93 GPA at Elms College, and looks forward to graduation in May and a job in graphic design.

Students like Huong benefit from support from alumni and friends to The Elms College Fund, a tradition of annual giving.

ELMS COLLEGE fund

To make a gift call 413-265-2214

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