SUMMER 2009

ELMS COLLEGE

MAGAZINE



Elms Welcomes Tenth President

Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D.

Remake, Renew, Realign

What did Thomas Paine say? "These are the times that try men's souls."

Indeed. These are trying times.

The American economy is facing its deepest, most complex crisis in 80 years; we are involved in two wars; and we continue to struggle with issues as diverse as our national healthcare crisis and race relations. Some days it seems like a bad dream, doesn't it?

Yet it's nothing new.

In the past century we've lived through world wars and the Cold War, the Great Depression and the horrors of the Holocaust, and September 11, 2001.

At our commencement in May, Reverend J. Bryan Hehir, the Parker Gilbert Montgomery Professor of the Practice of Religion and Public Life at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, made note of the world in which our graduates live:

"This is a class that understands that life is full of surprises and always full of challenges. You've lived with these, you've lived through them; and now you stand ready to shape the world you've inherited and now that you own."

Reshape the world.

President Barack Obama, in his commencement address at the University of Notre Dame in May, referred to our time as "a rare inflection point in history where the size and scope of the challenges before us require that we remake our world to renew its promise; that together we align our deepest values and commitments to the demands of a new age."

Remake our world, renew its promise, realign our values.

These times DO try us. But they also challenge us – to step up, to work together, to make things better.

While Elms College continues to move forward and adapt, to work together to meet the needs of each new generation's challenges and educational needs, we remain ever faithful to our mission — to develop compassionate, creative students rooted in faith, and guided by the intellectual tradition of the Catholic Church, cognizant of their call to live lives of service and justice.

Can they reshape, remake, renew, and realign our world? They are certainly our best hope.

John Guimond
Director, Institutional Marketing



We are saddened to note that, as this issue was going to press, we learned that our dear colleague and friend Vicki Joseph, a faculty member and administrator, passed away on August 2. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Vicki's family and friends. We will miss her.

Save the Date - November 14, 2009

VICKI JOSEPH: A CELEBRATION

Please join us in a celebration of Vicki's life and achievements on Saturday, November 14, at 7:30 p.m. in Veritas Auditorium. Proceeds from the fund-raiser will support the Alpha-1 Foundation, of which Vicki was a new member of the Board of Directors. All are welcome.

1 ALPHA-1 FOUNDATION

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ON THE COVER

Transitions.

The summer of 2009 has been full of exciting changes and transitions at Elms College. We sent 277 new graduates out into the world in May, and welcomed a new president, a new vice president of student services, and 10 new trustees in July. We launched a new and improved website in April, and added a new minor in Asian studies to our academic offerings.

ELMS COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D., who joined Elms College in July as its tenth president, reflects on her new role, and on the topics of leadership, alumni, liberal arts, community partnerships, and the importance of Catholic education.



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Welcoming a New Leader

"Accomplishing Possibilities is Done One Decision at a Time"

On July 1, Elms College welcomed Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D., as its 10th president.

Sister Mary had previously served for 19 years as president of Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania, from 1988 to 2007. Marywood, which was founded in 1915 by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM), was the first Catholic women's college in Pennsylvania.

"We are pleased to bring someone with Sr. Mary's depth of experience to the Elms at this point in our history," said Linda K. C. Mansfield '77, chair of the college's board of trustees and an Elms College alumna. "She is a campus and community leader with expertise in strategic planning, fund raising, and financial management who can embrace the specialness of the college's mission."

A native of Archbald, Pennsylvania, and raised in Binghamton, New York, Sister Mary was called to her vocation in her third year as a student at Marywood College, joining the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1961. She earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Marywood in 1965 and a master's degree in Spanish from Assumption College in 1972. She returned to her alma mater as a faculty member in 1973 and later held positions as the dean of the undergraduate school for women, chair of the Education Department and Graduate Department of Education, director of the off-campus degree program, and director of international students. In 1979, she earned her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the Pennsylvania State University.

During Sister Mary's presidency, Marywood established many new undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degree programs, including majors in physician's assistant, art therapy, aviation management, biotechnology, information sciences, and sports nutrition and exercise science. In 1997, Sr. Mary led the transformation of Marywood from a college to a university.

"During Sister Mary's presidency, Marywood University became a leader academically, and our campus emerged as a state-of-the-art learning environment," said Patricia Matthews, IHM, Ph.D., vice president of academic affairs and Sister Mary's long-time colleague at Marywood. "But her leadership is best realized in the vision she had for this institution - a vision of a premier Catholic institution. She chose daily to take actions to meet her goals for Marywood and sought the resources to turn dreams into reality. She believed in Marywood's possibilities."

Sister Mary was chosen to be president of the Elms after an extensive national search that yielded 40 very high caliber candidates.

Mary S. Quinn '71, ssj, president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, said, "The Sisters of St. Joseph are confident that the value-centered Catholic education at Elms College will continue to flourish under the very capable and experienced leadership of Sister Mary Reap."

Sister Mary said she was honored and happy to have been chosen as Elms' new president.

"For more than 80 years, the Sisters of St. Joseph and the faculty and staff of Elms College have been leaders in providing Catholic higher education in this region," she said. "It is an honor to be appointed as the 10th president and to become a part of this great legacy, where the teaching of values and the achievement of high standards of educational quality are so clearly lived out. I look forward with great joy to the opportunity to be part of the Elms College community in this important work."

Q&A With the New President

John Guimond, director of institutional marketing, asked Sister Mary to reflect on her new role at Elms College, and on the topics of leadership, alumni, liberal arts, community partnerships, and the importance of Catholic education.

*In his book, **On Leadership**, John W. Gardner writes, "Leaders today are familiar with the demand that they come forward with a new vision. But it is not a matter of fabricating a new vision out of whole cloth. A vision relevant for us today will build on values deeply embedded in human history and in our own tradition."*

What is your vision for Elms College and how it will play off the traditions built over the past 80 years?

A. I agree with Gardner that the vision of any particular moment flows from the vision that has gone before. One always needs to be rooted in that identity that has been formed over so many years. Because we live in a time when the effects of change anywhere in the world can affect us, it is also important to recognize that an institutional vision also flows from societal changes around us.

Because the mission statement and statement of institutional goals serve as guides for an institutional vision, the pace of the time in which we live may require a more frequent examination of these documents by the college community.

I believe that the consideration of alternative responses to these needs and the restatement of mission when necessary is an important way to make sure that the institutional vision is shared and that it is deliberative.

Q. Sister Mary, as you assume the presidency of Elms College, what do you see as your role as the president?

A. The role of president is difficult to define because it is so inclusive and multi-layered. At one moment you may be reminding someone that the printer needs paper, and the next you are responding to a major donor considering a lifetime gift. Sometimes these very different events can be happening at the same time, which becomes even more challenging. Each of them is important to the persons involved and the president needs to be available to both. As strange as it may sound, it is this diversity and multi-tasking that makes the work so appealing for me on the one hand. On the other hand, we are all limited by time and ability to deal with all the issues of a complex organization. So part of the president's job also is to allocate ample time for the most important issues and to let go of some things that are, perhaps, enjoyable, but not as essential.

Q. One of the goals of the college is to build stronger ties to our alumni, to engage them in the Elms College of today. What are some ways in which you believe our alumni can continue to be active members of the Elms College community?

A. A close connection with alumni is important. From the conversations I have had with Elms alumni, it is obvious that they have a deep appreciation for the education they received at the college and that they are proud to be alums. I am sure that our graduates will continue to serve as ambassadors, as fund-raisers, and as supporters in any way possible.

There are many demands on time today and many ways in which people can contribute to their communities. I trust that our alums will continue to keep the college on their list of priorities and that they will continue to respond as they always have. I presume that developing this commitment among younger alums will be as challenging here as it has been in other places. I hope we can initiate some opportunities for alums to interact and bond with current students so that the transition to active alumni will be easy for them.

Q. Elms College has created strong partnerships with community organizations, such as Berkshire Health Systems, the Holyoke Health Center, and the Chicopee and Springfield public school systems, to deliver educational programs when and where they are needed. As the college experiences success with these partnership programs, what impact will each of these and other partnerships have on how Elms College delivers educational services in the future?

A. This question relates to the first question you asked about our vision for the future flowing from our traditions. The issue of growing partnerships is a good example of the tradition of serving our neighbor. Professional demands today require ongoing professional preparation and lifelong learning. The success of the initiatives mentioned provides a strong rationale for pursuing additional partnerships. In my short time here I have already heard how important the Elms is to the local community. Creatively reaching out to current educational needs is in keeping with the 80-year tradition of the Elms and of the Sisters of St. Joseph. I hope that our partnerships will continue to grow as needs are identified.

Q. Your commitment to Catholic education has been lifelong, beginning with your undergraduate and graduate degrees and spanning your entire professional life. You bring a fresh and authentic voice to our ongoing examination of how best to incorporate Catholic values in an Elms College education. Can you speak to the importance of a Catholic education, especially in today's troubled world?

A. Perhaps I am my own best example of the importance of a Catholic college. Until I attended Marywood College as an undergraduate, I had always attended public school. I received a fine education, but it was the experience of a Catholic faith community, and the lives of the Sisters and others who inspired me at the college, that fed a hunger in me. I owe my decision to enter religious life and my passion for Catholic higher education to that opportunity.

Today, there are fewer opportunities than ever in our society where the quest of young people for meaning and purpose in life can be explored with assistance, and where they can find an environment where goodness and compassion for others are so evident.

Catholic higher education is that place where tomorrow's leaders can be developed spiritually and ethically, where their own goodness can be nurtured, and where their faith can be expressed openly. Those of us who participate in this education are so privileged and blessed. I am convinced that our colleges are the best hope for a peaceful future.

Q. According to a former colleague of yours at Marywood University, one of your major strengths was in having a vision of the possibilities for the institution, and taking actions to turn those possibilities into reality. What do you see as Elms' possibilities?

A. It is a little early for me to be specific about the possibilities at the Elms. But I have learned during my years in leadership that there is very little you cannot accomplish if you put your mind and heart to it. That old cliché, "the harder I work, the luckier I get," contains more than a little truth.

Accomplishing possibilities is done one decision at a time. The moments of major accomplishments in life are few and far between for most of us, but they all have one thing in common: they are built on the strong foundation we build brick by brick each and every day. The strong foundation built by those who have gone before us should give us the courage and the determination to pursue our possibilities and to be convinced that we can transform our dreams into reality.

Q. Sister Mary, you led Marywood through a period of unprecedented growth and change, from a small college to a university with nearly 4,000 students. In this uncertain economy, how can Elms College continue to grow, strengthen its programs, and remain financially strong?

A. There is no easy answer to this question. But my experience has been that, if you stay focused on the vision, if you plan carefully, and if potential donors are convinced that you are a good investment, you can succeed. Of course, a little luck also goes a long way…

Q. Sister Mary, can you talk about the importance of a liberal arts education, especially as it forms the core of many of our professional programs at the Elms?

A. A solid liberal arts tradition is essential to our identification as a Catholic college. True education must include preparation for living a good life as well as in being prepared for a career. A solid formation through liberal arts differentiates Catholic higher education from many other schools today. It is a value-added component. Ethics, appreciation of the arts, religious formation, and understanding of our global community are all goals of this component of our curriculum. In my opinion, providing a liberal arts foundation is more important today than it has ever been.

Alumni are invited to attend the investiture of President Reap at Elms College on Friday, October 2 at 2 p.m.

Commencement 2009



"Our nation needs us now, more than ever, to be leaders, and to demonstrate the importance of what we have learned during our journeys," student commencement speaker Joe Esile told his fellow graduates in the Elms College class of 2009. "We have an opportunity to institute change, and to build a better world."

Joe was one of 277 students who received degrees at the 78th commencement exercises of the College of Our Lady of the Elms on May 17. Eighty percent were undergraduate degrees, and 20 percent graduate degrees. Two-thirds of the undergraduates received degrees in the three most popular majors - nursing, business, and social work.

"Take the lessons we have learned here at the Elms, and cherish them, share them, use them to make a difference in someone's life every day," said Joe, a management major and member of the Elms College basketball and baseball teams.

The main commencement address was delivered by J. Bryan Hehir, professor of religion and public life at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and secretary for health and social services in the Archdiocese of Boston. Rev. Hehir also received an honorary doctorate from the college.

"My purpose is to invite you for a moment to think about the resources you take from this place to confront what is ahead of you in your lives," said Rev. Hehir, who served as president of Catholic Charities USA from 2002 to 2004. "You take with you things that no one can take from you."

"Because you were educated in this college with its tradition, you take with you the profound conviction of Catholicism that reason and faith belong together. Reason is about facts, data, knowledge; faith is about meaning. As we take the world apart with reason, faith teaches us what holds the world together.

"You take the product of reason and faith – the great gift of wisdom, which brings a moral character to what we do. How do we give moral direction to what we know, to what we learn, as we take the world apart?

"And the final thing you take is the gift of hope. Like faith, hope is a gift from God. Hope is the capacity to face the reality of life and not be overwhelmed by it.

"Faith, reason, wisdom, hope – take them with you; change the world."

Also speaking was Elizabeth J. Bienia '09, a teacher in the Chicopee public school system who came back to the Elms to earn a master's degree in education.

"On a daily basis, my classmates and I practiced the values that Elms College believes in - integrity, humanity, unity, peace, and collaboration," Elizabeth said. "I believe that through focusing on these five principles, we can achieve anything we put our hearts and minds to. We must make every effort to push forward while simultaneously reflecting on the things we value most."

Elizabeth, who is co-regional director of Destination Imagination (creative problem-solving for children), ended her speech with advice for her fellow graduates: "Take advantage of every situation, follow every path to completion. Take nothing for granted, have faith. Set high goals for yourself and others. Be honest and strive for excellence. Value all opinions, entertain all viewpoints. Listen to the message, and not the messenger. And always, always, be true to yourself."

Six Recognized with Honorary Degrees and Awards

Elms College awarded four honorary doctorate degrees and two special awards to recognize leaders of social change, leaders of the community, and people who have lived their lives in service of others, in the hopes that they would be an inspiration to the class of 2009.

Honorary degrees were presented to:

- Commencent speaker Reverend J. Bryan Hehir, professor of religion and public life at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and secretary for health and social services in the Archdiocese of Boston.



Student speaker Joe Esile '09



Student speaker Elizabeth Bienia '09



Left to right: The 2009 Honorands: Sister Bette Gould, Reverend J. Bryan Hehir, David Phelps, Sister Mary Wright, Daniel Melley, and Mary Ellen Long Franz.

277 Graduates Sent Forth with Messages of Change, Faith, Wisdom, and Hope



- Daniel M. Melley, who was an Elms College trustee from 1994 to 2004, and board chair from 1997 to 2003. He was employed at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst for 35 years, most recently before his retirement as vice chancellor for university relations and development.
- David E. Phelps, president and chief executive officer at Berkshire Health Systems since 1993, who led the organization from a clinically limited and financially threatened organization to a comprehensive, award-winning healthcare system, with revitalized medical services, consistently strong financial performance, and restored community respect.
- Mary L. Wright '57, ssj, Ph.D., who has taught biology at Elms College for 51 years. She served as chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics from 1969 to 1973, and chair of the Department of Biology three times for a total of 19 years. Sr. Mary's teaching and research interests focus on developmental endocrinology, and she has carried out research in the area of amphibian metamorphosis with student collaborators for the past 35 years. She has received more than three-quarters of a million dollars in grant funds to pursue her research, invest in equipment, provide research experiences for teachers, and fund undergraduate research participation.

Awards were presented to:

- Mary Ellen Long Franz, Elms College class of 1954, received the 2009 Elms College Distinguished Alumni Award, given annually to a graduate who has distinguished herself or himself through unusual service to profession, community, family, or religious life. She was a teacher for 29 years, a member of the Alumni Board at the Elms from 1992 to 1994, and is a class agent for the class of 1954.
- Bette Gould ssj, Elms College class of 1968, received the 2009 Elms College *Via Veritatis* Award which is presented annually to an outstanding Catholic woman who exemplifies Catholic womanhood and culture at their best, and who has made significant contributions to society. Sr. Bette entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1957. She has served in Catholic education for 49 years, currently as coordinator of the mentoring program at East Catholic High School in Manchester, Connecticut. *Via Veritatis*, which means "way of truth," comes from the college's motto, *Viam Veritatis Elegi*—"I have chosen the way of truth."



Reunion 2009

A Focus on Connecting, the Elms Way

By Alan Gelb

Reunion 2009 brought more than 200 alumni back to the College of Our Lady of the Elms for an affirmation of old friendships, a renewal of old acquaintances, and a confirmation of the positive experience that so many students have enjoyed here over the years.

All classes ending in 4 and 9 gathered together—'34 and '39, '44 and '49, '54 and '59, '64 and '69, '74 and '79, '84 and '89, '94 and '99, and 2004—for three days of stories, laughter, and memories.

For some, the most vivid memories of their time at the Elms were of playing cards and eating bologna sandwiches in the evenings back in the old days, when lights went out at 10 p.m. sharp. Others remembered special teachers who had influenced their lives.

Many of those who came for the reunion noted the changes that have occurred at the Elms. Rita McInnis Spencer '35 was the most senior guest, and perhaps the one who had witnessed the most change over the years. But all noted the fact that, even though the college is now coeducational and as technologically enabled as any college today has to be, the same core values that have always undergirded the school continue to prevail.

While the weekend was truly a whirlwind of activity—including everything from a wine and cheese social, a silent auction, class meetings and photos, inductions into the Living Legacy Society and the Golden Blazers, teas with Elms authors, and a parade of classes led by bagpiper Terri Adams '85—the focus was really on connecting, as it always is at the Elms.

At dinner on Saturday night, members of the class of 1959 reprised hit songs that they had performed at their Soph Show, like "Hernando's Hideaway" and "It's a Lovely Day Today." The audience was delighted, and younger alums showed their appreciation by chanting, "We love you, 50s—oh, yes we do!"

The very nature of reunions is to look at the mirror one sees in the faces of one's old friends, and to reflect on that reflection. The sharing that is so expressive of the Elms and the feeling of commonality was validated over and over again during the course of this memorable and memory-filled weekend.

The farewell brunch on Sunday meant time to say goodbye. Addresses and phone numbers were exchanged. Hugs and kisses were shared. It was clear to all who attended the reunion that the College of Our Lady of the Elms remains a special place whose warmth and support still plays a significant role in the lives of its graduates.

A Golden Anniversary

Natalie Mackey Strahey '59 came all the way up from Maryland to attend the reunion. She wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Five decades ago, Natalie, a graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Pittsfield, chose to come to the Elms to pursue her studies in education. "Eight of us came from Pittsfield," she recalls. "It was wonderful. The rules were strict, but I remember a lot of kindness, joy, and laughter."

As an inductee into the Golden Blazers, Natalie gave a speech at the Saturday night dinner that focused on the joie de vivre she and her classmates experienced at the Elms, and the common bond they still feel. "Somehow we translated any difficulties into humor, which made us grow strong for the task of living as we retained our joy of life."

As to being a 50-year alum, Natalie said she was stunned. "I thought, wow! We were 16 to 18 when we first met, and now we're 69 to 71! It's just great that we're here, able to get together like this."

Natalie said she was also thrilled that her class' 50th reunion year was also the 125th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield.

No Distance Too Far

It's a bit of a hike from Chesterfield, Missouri to the Elms, but that wasn't going to keep Kathy Murphy Hem '69 away from the reunion.

"I went to the 30th," she says, "and had a wonderful, wonderful time. I realize I'm getting older and I want to see my friends. This time, for my 40th, my husband came with me."

Visiting the college only at 10-year intervals, Kathy sees changes. "It was all women when I started, and now you see young men," she says. "But I still get the same warm feeling now that I had as a student. I'm so grateful to Peggy Clark for making us all feel welcome."

All in the Family

Over the last 70 years, the Britton family has established itself as something of an Elms dynasty, with seven alumnae from three generations. The doyenne is clearly Gertrude Footit Britton '39, and she was joined at reunion by daughters Ann Britton Kotfila '65, Noreen Britton Minkler '66, Barbara Britton Moran '67, and Liz Britton '81, and



Kathleen Murphy Hem '69 (center) enjoyed time with classmates Noreen Moriarty Harrigan and Maureen Dwyer Howard

granddaughters Kathleen Moran '94 and Brigid Moran Roffe '96 to make the Elms reunion a family reunion as well.

"I loved my time at the college," says Barbara, who followed years of teaching at the elementary school level with a 19-year stint running the Elms College bookstore. "It's warm and supportive. I also see how it empowered my daughters Kathleen and Brigid to become successful women in the world."

For Kathleen, the reunion was particularly meaningful. "My 15th reunion coincided with my grandmother's 70th reunion, so I got to share that time with her," she says. "That meant a lot to me."

Always Grateful

Carmela Isabella '04, who celebrated her fifth reunion, was among the most recent alumni who attended the event. "I loved the Elms," says Isabella. "It was because of the Elms that I was able to do an internship in Hillary Clinton's office, and then got to work for her in the Senate and on her presidential campaign."

Isabella is now a program coordinator for ISSI, a not-for-profit corporation that provides data management, targeting, and coalition building advice and allied services to a variety of clients including advocacy groups, charities, and political organizations. She serves on the Elms alumni association board, and this was her first official reunion. "I loved it," she says. "It was just so much fun hanging out with friends."



Natalie Straley '59 (second from right) enjoyed time with members of her class at the reunion: (left to right): Nancy Madden Lukasiewicz, Elizabeth Garrity Lawler, Helen Meagher Sullivan, Beverly Alexander Valentine, Helen Sullivan Furciniti, Marlene Mullin Robinson, Betty McDermott Walsh, Natalie, Genevieve Masterson McLaughlin.



Carmela Isabella '04 (sitting on Jason's lap), enjoyed the reunion with classmates Darcy Flynn, Molly Clark, Sister Kay Reagan, Jason Ostrander, and Janna Schrandt.



Left to right, standing: Liz Britton '81, Ann Britton Kotfila '65, Noreen Britton Minkler '66, and Barbara Britton Moran '67. Left to right, sitting: Kathleen Moran '94, Gertrude Footit Britton '39, and Brigid Moran Roffe '96.

Scene at the Reunion

Class of 1954



Class of 1949



Class of 1964



Class of 1959



Class of 1974



Class of 1994





Class of 2004

Class of 1969





Class of 1984

Class of 1989





Class of 1944





Blerina Ademi '10

Holy Name Partnership Bears Fruit

"I walked over to Holy Name a student, and I came out a teacher," said Elms College student Blerina Ademi '10, speaking about her experience as a student teacher at Holy Name of Jesus School, just around the corner from the Elms.

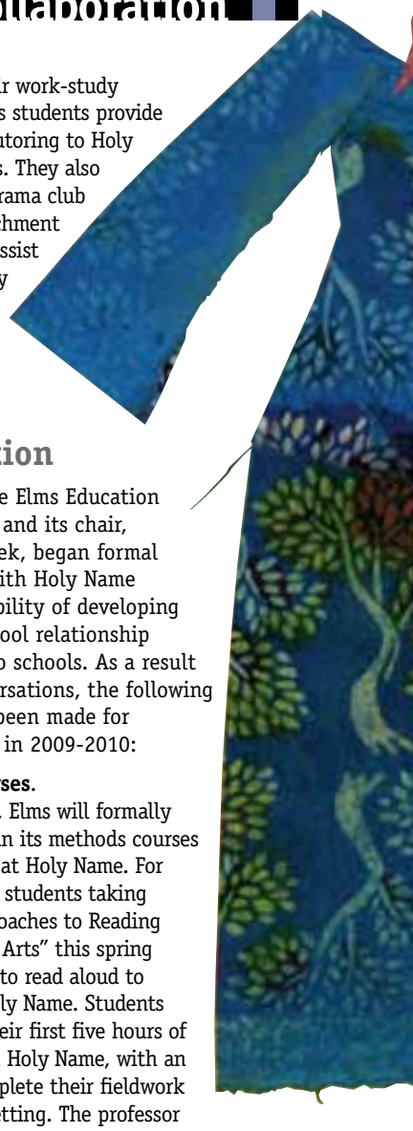
Blerina is one of many Elms students who have benefited from practical training at Holy Name over the years. Recently, the collaboration between the Elms and Holy Name has become stronger, thanks to two grants supporting the partnership:

- $100,000 grant from an anonymous donor, apportioned between the two schools, is currently being used to fund salaried positions, provide tuition assistance and funding to help operate the Elms Summer Reading Program for 80 area pupils in grades one through six, and to purchase a SMART Board for use at Holy Name. (The SMART Board is an interactive display frame that fits on flat-panel screens, and combines the simplicity of an interactive whiteboard with the vibrancy of a plasma display. Users of the SMART Board can switch between pencil, eraser, and finger to write, erase, and navigate.)
- $15,000 grant to Elms College from the Massachusetts Department of Education STEM Pipeline Fund to provide support for mathematical preparation of elementary teachers. The project will unite Holy Name elementary school teachers with math professors from Elms and Holyoke Community College. The STEM Pipeline Fund, established through the federal Economic Stimulus legislation, seeks to increase student interest in and improve teacher preparation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

A tradition of collaboration

Elms College has long enjoyed a close working relationship with Holy Name School, which has included:

- **Education course observations.** Each semester, approximately 40 Elms education students complete all or part of their fieldwork hours at Holy Name. Students observe skilled teachers and assist individual children.
- **Summer reading clinic.** For the last three years, Elms has held its summer reading clinic at Holy Name. Each summer, 80 Pioneer Valley schoolchildren who are struggling with literacy skills are instructed by reading specialist students from the Elms.
- **Communication sciences and disorders.** In the 2008-2009 academic year, 31 Holy Name students received speech and language services from four students in the Elms College communication sciences and disorders program. The Elms students worked two full days a week at Holy Name. They screened Pre-K, K, and grade-one students; conferred with parents; and provided speech and language services to the children. These services have been provided for the last three years.
- **Tutoring.** As part of their work-study positions, Elms students provide after-school tutoring to Holy Name students. They also conduct the drama club as an art enrichment activity, and assist the technology teacher with pre-K students.



Future collaboration

Last October, the Elms Education Division faculty and its chair, Dr. Mary Janeczek, began formal conversations with Holy Name about the possibility of developing a laboratory school relationship between the two schools. As a result of several conversations, the following proposals have been made for implementation in 2009-2010:

- **Methods courses.** Each semester, Elms will formally link students in its methods courses with students at Holy Name. For example, Elms students taking "Current Approaches to Reading and Language Arts" this spring were required to read aloud to children at Holy Name. Students will also do their first five hours of observation at Holy Name, with an option to complete their fieldwork in the same setting. The professor of "Models of Inclusion" and "Inquiry-Based Science Methods" intends to have students observe, tutor, and teach mini-lessons at Holy Name in spring 2010.
- **Fieldwork.** Students in courses with fieldwork ("Introduction to Schooling and Education," "Introduction to Students with Special Needs," and "Models of Inclusion") will be encouraged to do at least their first five hours of observation at Holy Name School.
- **Student teaching site.** Elms education students will be encouraged to explore Holy Name as a possible student teaching site for spring 2010.
- **Demonstration lessons.** Elms College professors teaching classes during Holy Name's hours of instruction will offer to conduct demonstration lessons for their classes at Holy Name. "Methods of Teaching Math" will initiate the project in fall 2009.

Looking ahead, both the Elms and Holy Name are considering many other possibilities for increased collaboration.

"Elms in Japan"

Connecting the Classroom, the Campus, and the World

"I feel like I learned more on this trip from my Japanese friends than any formal classes could have added to my education," says Ryan Sullivan '10, about his visit to Japan this spring as part of annual exchange with Kochi Women's University (KWU) in Kochi, Japan.

Ryan was one of 10 Elms students who traveled to Japan May 19 to June 5 with Elms professors Joyce Hampton, director of English as a second language and international programs, and Anne Harrison, professor of education.

Joyce launched "Elms in Japan" more than a decade ago, enlisting a handful of Elms students to host a group of visiting college students from Kochi. Since that time, groups of KWU and Elms students have visited each other's campuses in two-week intervals, and several individual KWU and Elms students have completed study abroad terms. Today, more than 50 students on each campus serve as "friendship partners," learning about Japanese and U.S. language and culture through shared learning experiences.

"Our students live with Japanese families, study in Japanese classrooms, and develop lasting friendships with Japanese students," says Anne. "The result is much more profound than a travel tour. The program gives our students deeper insight about another culture and, for many, is a transformative life experience."

"This trip was a rare learning opportunity for me," Ryan says. "I think I gained a better understanding of my place in the world and a better concept of just how big the world is."

The trip began with three days in Kyoto, home to many important Japanese cultural and historical sites.

The group then travelled to Kochi, where professors and students from KWU, along with host families from the Kochi community, immersed the group in the language and culture of traditional and modern Japan.

Elms students practiced Japanese while their host families practiced English, all the while establishing common bonds of respect, friendship, and understanding. They used their Japanese language skills in visits to ancient castles and upscale shopping malls. They shopped for food in market stalls and gleaming supermarkets. They tried new foods, rode bicycles through busy streets, and laughed with Japanese friends. They kayaked and swam in the Pacific Ocean with students from China, Taiwan, Mongolia, and Japan.

Dealing with the challenges posed by language barriers really brings people together, Ryan says.

"My Japanese friends made this trip so much more meaningful by just showing kindness and patience in teaching us their language and customs," says Ryan. "Friendship can crush cultural barriers, and I feel like the connections I made during this trip can truly change the way I see myself and the world around me."

The Elms students experienced traditional Japanese architecture, musical instruments, tea ceremony, papermaking, art forms, cooking, and archery.

"I feel like the best parts of my cross-cultural experience were the small ones that could very easily have been overlooked," says Ryan. "One of the little things that stuck with me is that everyone is so rule-abiding, from the tea ceremony and its precise nature, with a set number of turns of the bowl before one can drink, to the people in Kyoto waiting for the crosswalk light at midnight even when there was no traffic."

When the day came for the Elms students to return to the U.S., more than 50 Japanese colleagues and friends came to the airport to bid them farewell.

"I will always cherish the memories of this trip," says Ryan. "And I will share these experiences in hopes of encouraging someone else to embark on their own cross-cultural experience, so that more bridges can be built."



Ryan Sullivan '10 participates in a ritual cleansing ceremony at Kiyomizudera Shrine in Kyoto, Japan.

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New Asian Studies Minor:

Increasing Our Students' Global Competence

Elms College students can increase their global competence through a new Asian studies minor, an 18-credit program that includes the study of Asian language, culture, history, and religion.

The Asian studies minor gives students an interdisciplinary option to complement either a professional or liberal arts major. It will provide a foundation for students to explore issues in such areas as politics, business, and education through a global perspective.

"We are committed to educating global citizens, so we need to build programs that will give students these types of opportunities," said Joyce Hampton, director of the English as a second language and international programs. "In addition, employers want graduates who are educated in a particular discipline, but who are also globally competent. The Asian studies minor affords Elms students this opportunity. It integrates theory and critical thinking skills, language, and a learning abroad experience that can be of great value to a disciplinary major."

The Asian studies minor enables students to explore Asia and integrate their learning through in-depth cross-cultural experiences, Joyce says. The goal is to be able to reflect on the process of becoming a world citizen with particular expertise in the area of Asia.



Elms students trying on kimonos in Kochi, Japan: Serina Percoski, Stephanie Soriano, Jennifer Allard, Deb Daniels, Cheryl Roux, and Kathy Newman.

In the "Elms in Japan" program, a group of students learn the Japanese language together, gain a deeper understanding of the country's history and culture, and are involved in hosting Japanese students for two weeks each year at the Elms. Our students then spend time in Japan, visiting historical sites, living with host families, continuing language and cross-cultural study, and interacting with Japanese students.

Faculty and Staff News



Chris Bakriges, Ph.D., lecturer in music, has won the 2008 Association for Recorded Sound Collections Award for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research for his contribution to the University Press of Mississippi book *Cross the Water Blues: African American Music in Europe*. Chris, a pianist and composer, co-leads the Oikos Ensemble, a Cleveland-based world jazz group.



Patricia Moran Bombardier '67, M.L.S., director of the Alumnae Library, was one of 100 librarians invited to participate in a statewide planning day on the future of library service in Massachusetts. The conference focused on trends and developments in service, and goals for future success.



M. Cristina Canales, Ph.D., chair of the Humanities and Fine Arts Division, made two presentations about the island of Hispaniola to the Foreign Language Teachers of Western Massachusetts Collaborative. In April, Cristina participated in a panel discussion entitled "Racism, Classism, and Religious Intolerance in the United States," at Elms College.



Tom Cerasulo, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, has been awarded tenure. He recently published a biography of author and screenwriter Budd Schulberg in *American Writers: A Collection of Literary Biographies*. He was also elected to the executive committee of the Modern Language Association discussion group on Italian American literature. His book, *Writers Like Me: Fitzgerald, West, Parker, Schulberg, and Hollywood*, will be published next spring. In May, at the American Literature Association conference in Boston, he was a member of a discussion panel on film adaptations of Eugene O'Neill's plays.



Dan Chelotti, M.F.A., lecturer in English, has had three poems published in the online literary journal *Glitterpony*. Last fall, Dan read his poems from *State of the Union: 50 Political Poems* at the City University of New York Graduate Center to celebrate the book's publication. Published by Wave Books (2008), all royalties will be donated to benefit poor and homeless veterans.



Nanci Costanzo, M.A.E., C.A.G.S., associate professor of art, exhibited her artwork in an alumni show at the Rhode Island School of Design last fall, and this spring was one of the artists featured in the Monson Arts Council GAIA show. She also received a medal for completing the Women's Challenge, a half marathon in New York City this spring. She ran in the race for her mother, who is a breast cancer survivor.



Bill Donovan, M.S.B.A., associate professor of accounting, won the Academia All-Star Award from the National Association of Black Accountants, Greater Hartford Chapter.



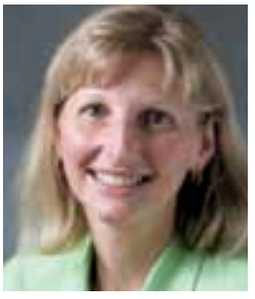
Laurie Downes, Ph.D., associate professor of nursing, has been awarded tenure.



Roberta Gordenstein, Ph.D., professor of Spanish, has published a translation of *Of Earth and Sky: A Chilean Memoir*, a book by Marjorie Agosin. Published by the University of Arizona Press, the book deals with the people and places of Chile, the dictatorship, and the Disappeared. In addition, Roberta published three reviews in the Winter 2008 edition of *Multicultural Review*.



John Gould, Ph.D., assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders, presented a poster he coauthored entitled "The Formation of Predictive and Bridging Inferences," at the Psychonomics conference in November in Chicago.



Joyce Hampton, M.Ed., director of English language learning/ international programs, has been granted a sabbatical leave for the fall 2009 semester.



Scott Hartblay, M.S.W., associate professor of social work, participated in a panel discussion entitled "Racism, Classism, and Religious Intolerance in the United States," at Elms College in April.



David Kimball, Sc.D., associate professor of management, has published the second edition of his successful sport management textbook, *Applied Sport Management Skills*.



Robert King, Ph.D., professor of English, is under contract to the Catholic University of America Press for the publication next year of his book, *The Ethos of Drama: Rhetorical Theory and Dramatic Worth*. He received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for presenting a paper related to the book at the International Society for the History of Rhetoric in Montreal, and for attending the International Dublin Theatre Festival in Ireland as contributing editor in drama criticism to *The North American Review*, where his 36th theatre essay appeared last year.



Eileen Kirk and ***Dee Ward***, co-directors of the Step Forward/ Quest program, were honored at the Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield breakfast on December 3, 2008. In a keynote address, York Mayo, executive director of Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity, highlighted Eileen and Dee as the best local examples of philanthropy and nurturing.





Efrosini Kokaliari, Ph.D., LICSW, social work professor, has been awarded tenure. She also was keynote speaker at a seminar on "Building Practical Skills in Working with People at Risk for Suicide," held at Elms College April 24.



Amy Lane, cross country coach, was crowned champion of the 7 Sisters Trail Race held in Amherst May 3, a 12-mile trail run, with a time of 2:15:13.



Rebecca A. Lescarbeau '95, G'04, associate director of admission, began a one-year term in May as president of the Western Massachusetts Counselors Association (WMCA), which consists of 200 school counselors and representatives from colleges and universities.



Laura McNeil, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, has been awarded tenure. In June, she presented a paper called "Irish Emigrant Political Identity and the Battle Over the Irish National League of Great Britain," at the American Conference for Irish Studies annual meeting in Galway, Ireland. The paper evolved from research she has been conducting on 19th century Irish nationalist and labor activist Michael Davitt. In addition, her article on Davitt's legacy, entitled "Dissecting Davitt: Using the Memory of a Great Irishman" appeared in Lane, Fintan and Andrew Newby's book, *Michael Davitt: New Perspectives*, published by the Irish Academic Press in Dublin in summer 2009.



Damien Murray, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, has had two articles published: "Lighting the Cause of Humanity: Boston's Irish and the Limits of Transnational Ethnic Nationalism 1900-1916," in *Studies in American Culture*, October 2008; and "Go Forth as a Missionary to Fight it: Catholic Anti-Socialism and Irish-American Nationalism in Post-World War I Boston," in *Journal of American Ethnic History*, summer 2009. Last fall, Damien presented two related papers at the American Culture Conference in the South held in Kentucky in October, and in November at the Elms College Irish Cultural Center. In June, he presented a paper entitled "From a Manly Movement to Unmannerly Women: the Role of Irish-American Women in Creating a Progressive Irish-American Nationalism in Boston After World War I," at the American Conference for Irish Studies annual meeting in Galway, Ireland.



Martin Pion, Ph.D., professor of religious studies, appeared in December on "Watercooler," on the Springfield public television station WGBY, participating in a discussion of what faith means to people, and whether the role played by traditional religious organizations is changing. In March, Marty co-hosted a showing of a documentary at Elms College as part of the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film and Arts Festival. The award-winning film *The Optimists* tells the story of Bulgarian Christians and Muslims who worked together to save an entire Jewish community from the Holocaust. After the showing, Marty participated in a discussion of the film with Rabbi Robert Sternberg of Temple Israel in Athol.



Sister Kay Reagan, Ph.D., professor of sociology, received the 2009 Mary Killeen Bennett Human Service Award on April 16. The honor is given annually to a human service worker who has demonstrated a commitment to social change and justice. Sister Kay has been a sociology professor at the Elms for 35 years, and teaches two courses that social work students are required to take: social research, and racial and ethnic groups. "Our world needs social workers who have personal integrity rooted in sound moral values," said Sister Kay. "I try to move our students to understand the backgrounds of the diverse populations they'll be working with." Mary Brainerd, director of the college's social work program, said, "Sister Kay is so deserving of this award. She has done so much to contribute to the education of our social work students. She sets a model for social change and social justice."



Joyce Thielen, Ph.D., associate director of undergraduate nursing studies at Elms College, has been awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. Her doctoral research, entitled "The Experience of Neurocognitive Changes in Women on Chemotherapy for Breast Cancer," received the first-place award for Outstanding Doctoral Student Paper Presentation at the 20th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Eastern Nursing Research Society in Philadelphia in March. Dr. Thielen also presented her research on Chemobrain at the National Cancer Research Conference in Orlando, Florida in February.

New Website: Easy Access to Everything Elms

With its clean layout, easy navigation, vibrant colors, multitude of photos, and wealth of institutional information, the new Elms College website is a powerful resource for anyone who wants to learn more about the college.

Mary Ellen Hogan '66, who is a regular visitor to www.elms.edu, said, "You can visit the website and find out what is happening at the Elms — alumni events and activities, academic programs, and so on. It seems to me, the more contact we have with the college, the more we learn about the college, the more likely we are to support the college — and that's a good thing."

We invite you to explore our new website.

Here are some of the highlights:

In the "About Elms" section:

Read about our proud history, heritage, and Catholic identity at elms.edu/elmshistory and elms.edu/catholicidentity.

Stay up to date on everything that is going on here by visiting our "News and Events" page at elms.edu/newsandevents.

In the "Academics" section:

Get to know our students and faculty at elms.edu/meetourstudents and elms.edu/meetourfaculty.

Read about our liberal arts core curriculum at elms.edu/corecurriculum.

Check out our non-degree life-long learning courses, designed to keep the minds and spirits of adult learners active and healthy at elms.edu/noncredit.

In the "Student Life" section:

Visit the Office of Campus Ministry at elms.edu/campusministry to see the work our students are doing in the community and around the world.

In the "Alumni" section:

Find out what alumni events are coming up at elms.edu/alumnievents.

Update your contact information to make sure we can keep in touch with you. elms.edu/updateyourprofile.

Have you missed an issue of *Elms College Magazine*? You can find an archive of past issues at elms.edu/elmsmagazine.

There are many benefits available to Elms College alumni. Visit elms.edu/alumnibenefits to read about them.

In the "Admission" section:

Do you know a student who would be perfect for Elms College? Have them request more information at elms.edu/requestinfo, schedule a visit at elms.edu/visit, or sign up for an open house at elms.edu/openhousesignup.

If you know someone who would like to get a graduate degree or take classes part-time, point them to elms.edu/gradprograms and elms.edu/continuinged for information.

In the "Support Elms" section:

Why give to Elms? Several of our donors answer this important question in their own words at elms.edu/donortestimonials.

Visit elms.edu/onlinegiving to make a gift online.



Balancing the 'Challenge-Support' Ratio for Students

John Keller, the new vice president of student affairs at Elms College, promises to focus on challenging students to grow and develop, while providing them with a "supportive safety net." Mr. Keller, who joined the college on July 20, will supervise student services ranging from athletics to residential life.

"John's experience and leadership will contribute to the educational experience of our students in a significant way," said Elms College president Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D.

Mr. Keller most recently was vice president for student development and dean of students at Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana.

"This is a challenging time for small, private, enrollment-driven institutions, and I am looking forward to applying what I've learned throughout my career to the benefit of the Elms community," Mr. Keller said.

Mr. Keller has a master of science degree in counseling from Shippensburg University, and has completed doctoral work in education administration at Kent State University.

"We need to be challenged in order to grow and learn, and sometimes the challenges students face may seem overwhelming," he said. "One of our primary tasks as educators is to push and stretch students to develop new and increasingly more sophisticated life skills, while providing them with a supportive safety net. Balancing this 'challenge-support' ratio is the key."

Visit John Keller's biography on our website at *elms.edu/profilejohnkeller*



Ten New Trustees Join Elms College Board

Teachers, bankers, and business leaders are among the 10 new members of the Elms College board of trustees.

"We are excited to have this infusion of energy and talent," said board chair Linda K. C. Mansfield '77, in announcing the appointments. "The new members bring a wealth of experiences and perspectives to the board, and share a commitment to the future success of Elms College."

The new trustees are:



Richard D. Bourgeois is a senior vice president, corporate financial operations, for the MassMutual Financial Group. A certified public accountant, he earned his bachelor's and juris doctor degrees at the University of Pennsylvania.



Carolyn O'Connor Connelly is a 1960 graduate of Elms College, and received the college's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003. A former elementary school teacher, Ms. Connelly has a master's degree in education from Westfield State College. She currently volunteers with the Elms College Alumni Association, Sisters of Providence Health Systems, Carew Hills Girls Club, and Catholic Women's Club of Springfield.



Kathi Donahue, senior vice president of commercial lending for Chicopee Savings Bank, has a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, and a master's degree in business administration from Western New England College.



Catherine Homrok, SSJ, will begin her second stint as a member of the board, having served previously during the presidencies of Sr. Mary Dooley and Sr. Kathleen Keating. Sister Homrok is co-director of Catholic Communications, producers of the weekly television programs *Real to Reel* and *Chalice of Salvation*, and the biweekly diocesan paper, *The Catholic Observer*. She received her bachelor's degree from Elms College in 1970 and her master of arts degree from Emerson College.



Carolyn Jacobs, M.S.W., Ph.D., is dean and Elizabeth Marting Treuhaft Professor of the School for Social Work at Smith College. She is interested in religion and spirituality in social work practices, and social work research and statistics. Dr. Jacobs has a bachelor's degree from Sacramento State University, a master's degree in social work from San Diego State University, and a Ph.D. from the Heller School at Brandeis University.



David O'Brien, Ph.D., is professor emeritus, Loyola Professor of Roman Catholic Studies, The College of the Holy Cross. He is internationally known as one of the most prominent American Church historians of our time. Dr. O'Brien's bachelor's degree is from Notre Dame University, and his Ph.D. from the University of Rochester. He completed post-doctoral studies in theology at Harvard Divinity School and Weston School of Theology.



Jason Ostrander, a 2004 graduate of Elms, is the newly-elected president of the Elms College Alumni Association. He is an economic development specialist in Congressman John Olver's Pittsfield office.



Judith Riordan '60 earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Elms College, and has a certificate of advanced graduate studies from Springfield College. She had a 40-year teaching career in the Springfield public schools. Ms. Riordan is the outgoing president of the Elms College Alumni Association.



Kathleen M. Riordan '67, Ed.D., a graduate of Elms College, earned her master's degree in education from Assumption College, a certificate of advanced graduate studies from Springfield College, and an Ed.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. A foreign language educator in the Springfield public school system for 35 years, Dr. Riordan is a past president of the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association.



Paul Stelzer, president of the Appleton Corporation in Holyoke, earned his bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire and master's degree in business administration from New Hampshire College. He is currently a member of the board of directors of Cathedral High School in Springfield, the Springfield Technical Community College Foundation, and WFCR 88.5 FM public radio.

Agata Pikula Jurczyk '96

From an Elms Science Lab to a Career in Life-saving Diabetes Research

By Reed Ide

With more than 23.6 million Americans living with diabetes, Agata Pikula Jurczyk '96 finds herself on the front lines of research in a battle to bring the epidemic under control. As a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Diabetes at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, she is involved in cellular research aimed at discovering the mechanisms that work in the human body controlling the level of insulin – the hormone needed to convert sugar, starches, and other food into energy.

"I am investigating the cell biology of the secretion of insulin," Agata says. "Our goal is to determine why, in a large and growing number of people, cells in the pancreas are not producing adequate amounts of insulin, and are even dying."

Diabetes ranks as this country's fifth-deadliest disease, and its death rate has increased by nearly 50 percent in the past 20 years. The Centers for Disease Control predict that one third of children born today will become diabetic at some point in their lives. Complications arising from diabetes can include high blood pressure, blindness, infections that lead to limb amputation, and myriad life-threatening conditions. There is currently no cure for either of the two types of the disease.

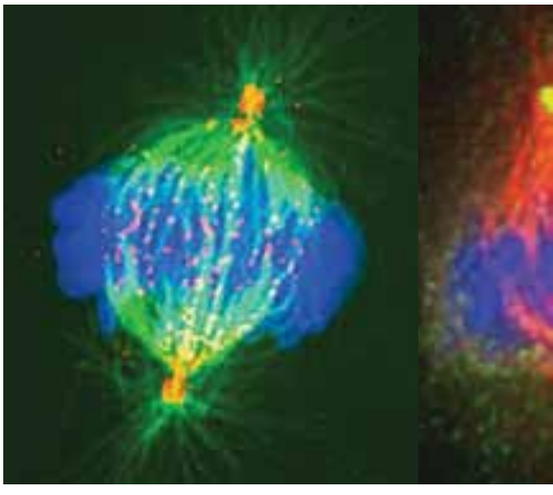
"Type One diabetes is an auto-immune disease: the beta cells that produce insulin are destroyed in error by the body's immune system," says Agata. "Type Two diabetes, by far the more prevalent, is a disease where there is a relative deficiency of insulin produced by the beta cells.

"Those who suffer from Type One must regularly inject themselves with synthetic insulin. Those with Type Two must constantly monitor blood sugar levels, manage diet and lifestyle issues, and take medications that stimulate insulin production, and eventually they also end up injecting themselves with insulin," she said. "With the epidemic of diabetes rising, there is a great need for discovery of agents which could stimulate insulin secretion and sensitivity."

Agata's present-day dedication to research was developed and nurtured at Elms College where she arrived in 1992. A young Polish immigrant from a small town near Krakow, she had spent her first two years in America at Chicopee High School, where she not only had to fulfill her academic program, but had to learn English as well.

When it came time to look for a college, Agata had well-defined criteria. Elms College fit them well. "I wanted small classes. I wanted a local school. And I liked the fact that, at the time, it was an all-women college," she said.

Agata's present-day dedication to research was developed and nurtured at Elms College.





"I began in continuing education classes, because I lacked a permanent visa, so I could not enroll as a regular student," she recalls. Luckily, that year she won a much-coveted green card in the annual Immigration and Naturalization Service lottery. "With that, I was able to continue full-time as a regular student at the Elms," she says.

She had always had an interest in science, and by the time she arrived at Elms College, she set herself the goal of going to medical school. But she soon met biology professor Sister Mary Lou Wright, and through this mentoring relationship, Agata first experienced the world of research. "Through Sister Mary's discipline and enthusiasm for research, my own interest grew very quickly," Agata says.

Much of her undergraduate research centered on circadian rhythms and metamorphosis in frogs.

By the end of her years at the Elms, she had been published four times in the journal *General and Comparative Endocrinology* – no small feat for an undergraduate, especially one who graduated with three majors – biology, chemistry, and mathematics.

In addition to Sister Mary, Agata also gives large credit to Dennis Drake in the Chemistry Department, and Dr. William Macanka, who taught both chemistry and calculus. "All these people helped form and refine my interests and my developing passion for research," she says.

Agata has watched Elms College expand and develop in the years since she was there. "The college remains an exciting place today," she says. "It has a wonderful multi-cultural atmosphere. It is a school where the small class size means professors can be flexible with students, and students can expect more individual attention from professors. There are few other schools that offer such excellent one-on-one interactions."

From the Elms, Agata went to Smith College in Northampton to pursue a graduate degree in plant molecular biology. "I spent much of my time studying the day lily," she says. "This plant creates a flower that dies within 24 hours of its blossoming. It makes it easy to study the life and death processes of flower and petals on a cellular level."

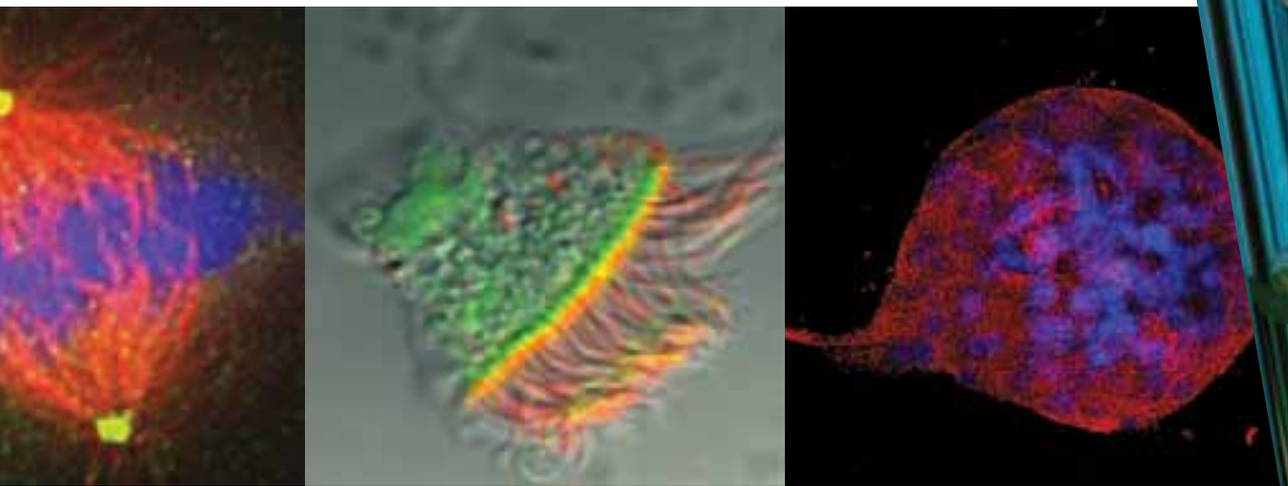
After completing her work at Smith, she spent a year working at a commercial microbiology laboratory. "This was where I quickly learned that I was not cut out to do repetitive corporate work," she says. "It was an easy decision to apply to the University of Massachusetts Medical School." Agata completed a Ph.D. program there in 2004, concentrating her work in the interdisciplinary biomedical program.

She managed to do all this while at the same time starting a family. Today, she is the mother of a seven-year-old son, and values the time with her family as much as her professional commitments. She is currently nearing the end of her postdoctoral training, and anticipates remaining at the UMass Medical School campus as an independent investigator.

The language of her work can seem quite incomprehensible to mere mortals not schooled in her field of expertise. Agata lives in a world of centrosome proteins, intracellular insulin granules, membrane trafficking machinery, hypersecretion, immunoflourescence, electron microscopy, glucose tolerance tests, and beta cells.

Luckily, mere mortals do not need to grasp the finer points of her research to know that it is significant. What is important to understand is that her research has yielded results that indicate an important role for a certain type of protein (those centrosome proteins), in maintaining proper insulin storage and regulation of insulin secretion. This novel function of the centrosome proteins provides a new target for drug development to treat diseases – like diabetes – that are associated with abnormal secretion.

Is this the pivotal step the medical world hopes for in conquering diabetes? It is too early to know. But it is an important development, and one that holds more than a little hope for the future of those who will certainly develop the disease in the coming years. In short, it is another important building block in the development of our knowledge of this serious disease. And that is certainly something all mere mortals can understand, and applaud.



Agata took these photos in the lab during her Ph.D. program. They are (left to right): mitosis, metaphase, trechea cell, and islet with insulin, showing DNA in blue. This islet, isolated from a mouse pancreas, is 80% insulin-producing beta cells.



Regina Noonan Hitchery '71

One Alumna's Exploratory Approach to Learning, Working, and Succeeding in the World

By Kathryn Dunn

If you happened to be sitting next to Regina Noonan Hitchery '71 on an airplane, or chatting with her in line at the grocery store, you probably would not guess that she is responsible for the work life of 87,000 people, in 35 countries around the world. It's a matter of style: she has a thoughtful, engaging, and - above all - understated manner.

If time allows a longer conversation, you will undoubtedly discover the essential ingredients for her remarkable career: her penchant for exploration, discovery, and learning, and a strong results-oriented work ethic.

Regina's career in human resources has taken her throughout the world – and most recently to New York City, where she serves as vice president for human resources at Alcoa Inc. Regina attributes her accomplishments to a pragmatic approach, rather than to her considerable talent and strengths.

"I always tell people it's about making choices and being accountable," Regina says. In fact, when she returned to the Elms in 1996 to accept an honorary doctorate, "Making choices, taking responsibility, and going forward" was the topic of her address to the graduating class.

In light of her successful career, Regina is often asked if she knew early on what she wanted to do. "Far from it," she affirms. "Don't credit me with being very planful." Regina's approach to choices during those early days at Elms took the form of exploration and discovery.

Entering Elms College as a math major, Regina followed her curiosity into a wide range of courses. Physics and structural mechanics appealed to her analytical bent, but she also ventured into a Shakespeare class taught by Sister James Mary, and was intrigued. Under Sister's tutelage, Regina learned to think beyond the poetry, to the meaning it held for society. English professor Dr. Bob King further challenged her. "He stretched you, really made you think through the issues. You couldn't get away with some half-answer with Dr. King," she asserts, "you'd better have the analysis down."

When it came time to declare a major in her junior year, Regina switched from math to English literature. Even then, she recalls, "It could have gone a lot of different ways."

The following summer, Regina traveled to Ireland to study Irish history and literature. She also learned a great deal about living in a different culture and becoming self-reliant – skills that would serve her throughout her career. She returned to Elms for her senior year, and graduated with a degree in English, *magna cum laude*.

"I still had no idea what I wanted to do, and jobs were hard to find in 1971," Regina continues. With the assistance of a graduate loan, she returned to Ireland to explore Anglo-Irish studies at University College Dublin. Looking forward to the academics, she also felt the experience would be meaningful to her growth and independence. After immersing in a different culture for over a year – with





Regina enjoys passing on what she has learned to current students.

"Having benefited from the support of mentors across her 36-year career, she finds ways to pass along her learnings to current students."

only one phone call home – Regina returned to the United States with a master's degree and an increased sense of confidence and self-reliance.

The exploratory approach that served as a compass in Regina's academic life continued to guide her as she entered the work world. She flooded area companies with resumes, and interviewed with a wide variety of organizations. When a representative at aerospace manufacturer Pratt & Whitney talked to her about training programs, purchasing, and personnel, something resonated. "I can do that," Regina decided.

She signed on with the personnel training program in a company whose training programs would provide ongoing opportunities for exploration and learning.

Following the Pratt & Whitney training program, Regina moved into college recruiting. She also returned to school to take a few physics and engineering courses. Her responsibilities grew steadily, and she attributes her success, in part, to the Elms approach to campus activities.

"Everyone pitches in," Regina summarizes. "Things got done collaboratively and quickly. Whether it was doing the 'Soph Show,' or getting freshmen to be ushers at commencement – everyone got involved. Then somebody would ask you to take the lead. It was about being generous of spirit."

And Regina had pitched in. She'd worked on numerous projects and developed what she terms a "pretty good capability" for multi-tasking, pulling things together, and engaging people in those efforts. During senior year, she had served as editor of *Elmata*, honing her organizational skills by managing the fundraising, advertising, assembly, and distribution of the yearbook.

So when Regina began work at Pratt & Whitney, applying the learning and attitudes she had developed at Elms was "simply the logical thing to do." She developed a track record for delivering results. By age 28, Regina rose to the rank of manager of professional recruiting; she was responsible for hiring 800 engineers, accountants, and other professionals each year to support a workforce of 50,000. "I thought that was normal," Regina smiles in reflection.

After six years in recruiting, Regina was ready for a new challenge. Understanding that sometimes it's a matter of creating choices, Regina went to her supervisor and asked about ways she might learn new aspects of the work. He offered her a part-time internship within the company, and she spent that summer gaining hands-on experience in employee and labor relations at one of the Pratt plants. The following spring, a personnel management position opened up, and Regina was offered the job.

Over the next 20 years, Pratt & Whitney, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation (UTC), became a doorway to positions at other UTC subsidiaries, including Sikorsky Aircraft, Otis Elevator, and Carrier Corporation. Regina tapped learning and leadership opportunities in all four divisions, increasing her responsibilities through a series of positions in human resource management. Along the way, she added night classes to her schedule, and in 1979 she earned a master of science degree in management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

By the mid 1980s, UTC had developed a growing international presence. As vice president of human relations for Sikorsky Aircraft, Regina had gained some international experience – and had liked it. She created her own choices by talking with her mentors and supervisors, letting them know she was interested in working internationally. She was offered a Paris-based position as vice president of human resources for Otis Elevator, with responsibility for employees in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

"It was a terrific time," Regina reflects. The Berlin Wall came down, Russia was opening up, the Middle East was developing, and her company had a large business unit in South Africa, where apartheid was nearing its end.

"Those were fascinating times; it was a mind-expanding experience," recalls Regina, who was living in Paris with her family. She and her colleagues took on operations in Hungary and Russia, along with joint ventures in eastern Germany.

After 26 years at UTC, Regina was ready for a change. Once again, she sought and found an opportunity to learn something new: she accepted the top human resource

job at Invensys plc, a British company that had been newly created through a merger. Unfortunately, the company began to falter after two years, and Regina shared with other senior managers the sobering responsibility of shrinking the company through divestitures and restructuring. The workforce was reduced from 120,000 to 40,000. The concept of "choice" gained additional meaning.

"Sometimes it might be the least-worst choice," Regina reflects. "But – even then – it's a choice. And if you can be rational about it, you can live with it." She set to work.

"It was a great learning experience. I learned to act fast, and get much more fluent in financial concepts.... It was fascinating to learn about the differences in corporate governance between the United Kingdom and the U.S." Regina completed her 5-plus-year commitment to the company, gathered up her learnings, and went forward with her planned departure.

In 2004, Regina accepted the job of vice president of human resources at Alcoa. During the ensuing four years, she has reshaped and transformed Alcoa's human resources organization, moving talent development into the heart of the department, placing a high priority on diversity initiatives, and creating company-wide HR systems resources for employees. Acknowledging that "what gets measured gets done," the management team added diversity as a metric for incentive compensation. "And guess what – we made significant progress last year."

Among Regina's more unusual responsibilities at Alcoa: visiting aluminum smelters. She recently returned from Alcoa's newest smelter in eastern Iceland, where the population hovers around 8,000 and, prior to the opening of the smelter, there was only one unemployed electrician in the country. Alcoa used the best practices of other smelters around the globe to build a highly efficient facility near Reydarfjordur. For the company, this meant hiring and training an entire workforce – as there were no veterans to pass along the skills and information.



Regina spoke to a group of business students at the Elms about making choices and creating opportunities.

Regina says that when she thinks back over the years, she thinks about Elms College, and staying connected to the Elms community. She has been honored twice by the college - in 1985, when she received the distinguished alumni award, and in 1996, when she delivered the commencement address and received an honorary doctorate. Having benefited from the support of mentors across her 36-year career, she finds ways to pass along her learnings to current students. She recently attended a dinner at the college where she spoke to business students about making choices and creating opportunities to learn. She spoke of the importance of taking advantage of the current economic crisis by creating choices when opportunities are not apparent. Having done this at key points in her own career, Regina encouraged the students to do the same: "You have to drive your own direction, and speak up, look for sponsors or mentors, so that you can continue to grow and move through your career."

Regina also finds ways to stay connected with Elms friends. Her first friends are still her closest friends, and they gather for Elms events, as well as on their own. As she describes it, "Somebody throws a picnic, everybody shows up." Regina talks about plans for the fall, when some 16 friends will gather in New York City to celebrate their 60th birthdays. She smiles, then adds, "It's easy; it feels like we're students again."



Regina worked with employees at the new Alcoa aluminum smelter in Iceland.

Alumni Association



Dear Fellow Alumni:

I am excited to write my first letter to you in my new role as president of the Alumni Association board of the College for Our Lady of the Elms. I joined the board in 2005, just a year after my graduation. Elms College came to mean a great deal to me during my years there, and has come to mean even more during my service on the board.

These next two years are going to be very exciting for the college, and for us alumni. One of our goals is to develop the most creative ways to keep us connected to the place we love. With your help, we can bring innovative ideas and renewed energy to events.

I encourage you to stay connected, whether it is by getting together with former classmates, participating in alumni events, visiting campus, checking in with favorite faculty or staff, joining the Elms Facebook group, attending a sports game or performance, or simply reading or responding to the materials we send to you, such as this magazine.

My class celebrated our fifth reunion in May; you will see photos and hear from some of the alumni who attended on the pages of this magazine, as well as on the new college website (check it out at www.elms.edu.) Click on the alumni section to view more reunion and other photos, get information on upcoming events and activities, and to update your information.

While you are looking at the website, I hope you will also take the opportunity to read about some of the current students who appear on the main page (click on "Meet Our Students"), and some of our alumni by selecting "Support Elms" and then viewing donor testimonials. I think you'll find that the stories of today's students and those of alumni donors reflect some of our own feelings and values, which we gained at the Elms.

We, the alumni of Elms, have much to be proud of in our alma mater. The Alumni Association board members and I look forward to meeting with you, to hearing your stories, to learning how your Elms education has benefited you, and through you, the community and the world.

With sincere regards,

Jason Ostrander '04

President, Alumni Association

Alumni Association Board of Directors 2009-2010

Officers
Jason Ostrander '04 - president
Patricia McGrath '74 - vice president
Martha Noonan Murtaugh '68 - secretary
Donna Duval '80 - treasurer

Board Members
Carol Brodeur Bardzik '62
Jean M. Brigham '69
Carol McKenna Burke '60
Kathi Carduff '97
Patrick Carpenter '02
Mena DeCarvalho '75
Darcy A. Flynn '03
Allyson Graffum '10 (student representative)
Barbara E. Gregory '48
Carmela Isabella '04
Linda A. Kaczmarczyk '71
Sr. Margaret James McGrath '44
Anne McTiernan McLaughlin '66
Rosemary Broderick O'Connor '60
Sr. Kathleen Reagan (faculty representative)
Kristin Irey Reardon '03
Judy E. Riordan '60
Rita D. Rodden '44
Teresa Marchese Sergentanis '69
Mary Jane Cameron Sheehan '61
Bonnie Anne Monachelli Stevens '74
Eileen Zajchowski Walczak '75

Chapter Chairs
Berkshire Chapter - Lorita Calderella Decorie '57
Berkshire Chapter - Judi DiSantis King '03
Cape Cod Chapter - Susan Watkins Simon '65
Connecticut Chapter - Linda A. Kaczmarczyk '71

Nominating Committee
Karina Jimenez Lewis '93
Caroline M. Murray '97
Judy A. Zeh '77

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 Thursday Masses
In memory of deceased alumni, members of the Elms College community, and their family members.
Our Lady's Chapel, 12 noon:
September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3.
2010: No mass in January
February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6.

Monthly Luncheons for Alumni
Munich Haus, Chicopee Center
Wednesdays, 12 noon:
September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2.
2010: January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5.

Alumni Association Board Meetings and Brunch
September 13 (Sunday)
November 8 (Sunday)

2010:
February 14 (Sunday)
April 11 (Sunday)

Alumni Men's Soccer Game
September 1 (Tuesday)
Campus field
7 p.m.

Berkshire Chapter Liturgy
October 13 (Tuesday)
St. Joseph's Church, followed by luncheon at Zucco's
12:10 p.m.

Class of 1960 Pre-reunion Liturgy and Luncheon
November 5 (Thursday)

After Work Social
November 19 (Thursday)
Piccadilly Pub, West Springfield
4:30-6:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATES:

Homecoming and Family Weekend
October 16 to 18, 2009

Alumni Career Mentoring Day
March 24, 2010

Reunion Weekend
April 30 to May 2, 2010

Memories

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 clarkm@elms.edu, or mail them to Marketing Editor, Elms College, 291 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

You may also email information to any of the class agents listed on the website at www.elms.edu/classagents.


Sr Eleanor Dooley '50


Sr Kathleen Keating '52


Jean Hogan Doyle '53


Lois Salome '59


Pat Pelland Jamrog '60

Class Notes

1950s

Sister Eleanor Dooley '50 was honored by the Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center in Springfield as one of the "Righteous Among Nations" at a Holocaust Remembrance Day service April 21. The term "Righteous Among Nations" was originally used to designate people who risked their lives to save Jews during World War II, but has grown to include all who promote respect and acceptance among the religions. Sister Eleanor is considered an important pioneer in the field of interreligious relations in western Massachusetts. In addition, she was honored by the Diocese of Springfield on December 2, 2008 for her 22 years of service educating deacons. The Sister Eleanor A. Dooley Diaconate Formation Center was created and dedicated at Holy Name School, where she teaches potential deacons.

Sister Kathleen Keating '52 has published *Uncommon Trust In God: The Recent History of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Springfield*. Four essays in the book describe the congregation's membership, spirituality, ministry, planning, leadership and governance, and an appendice demonstrates how the Elms, founded by the sisters, was rooted in social justice from its beginning. Sister Kathleen has been a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph for 57 years, and was president of the Elms from 1994 to 2001. Having been a participant in many of the events described, she combines her own experience with her research findings. For information on purchasing the book, contact Sister Kathleen at kkeating@ssjspringfield.com.

Jean Hogan Doyle '53 has created a unique way to give to charities: she uses her energy, sociability, and culinary skills to prepare and host dinners in her home in a program called "The Giving Table." Recently Jean held a dinner for 10 Elms College alumni who in turn made donations to the Step Forward/Quest program at Elms College. Eileen Kirk, co-director of SF/Q, shared information about the program during the social hour.

Shirley Bass Pratt '53 was honored this summer for her outstanding work at Cathedral High School over the past 40 years. Shirley, who graduated from Cathedral in 1949, began teaching honors English there in 1969. She has served as department chair, director of the Minstrel, and associate editor of the Cathedral *Pantherpix*. After graduating from the Elms in 1953, Shirley attended the Mercy Hospital School of Technology and worked at Mercy as a certified medical technician until she married. She and her husband Jim raised four children. In 1966, Western New England College began a program called "Operation Housewife," with courses offered in "mother's hours." Shirley was the first applicant. She earned a second bachelor's there in English, and went on to earn a master's degree in English from American International College in 1972. Shirley's advice: "Find a job you love and you'll never work a day in your life. For me, that has been my experience at Cathedral."

Lois Salome '59 wrote a reflection about Reunion 2009 (available through the Alumni Office) on the occasion of her 50th reunion. Lois writes a biweekly column for *The Woonsocket (RI) Call* and its sister paper, *The Pawtucket (RI) Times*. Lois writes: "Gives me something to do, and because I am the age I am, I can pretty much say anything I want, as long as I'm courteous about it!"

1960s

Pat Pelland Jamrog '60 has opened a business in Conway called "Posies by Piper," with the assistance of her 6-year-old granddaughter Piper and her son Kris. The family roadside stand sells herbs, flowers, maple syrup, quilts, and unique gift items. Pat makes the quilts, Piper



Sheila Nesbit Keator '59, founder of The Keator Group, a financial advisement firm in Lenox, was named one of state's top 25 financial advisors by *Barron's Magazine*. She was 15th on the list, and the only one on the list located west of Worcester.

According to Barron's, there were more than 3,000 nominations, and the top 25 selections were based on criteria including assets under management, revenue produced for the firm, client satisfaction, regulatory record, and philanthropic work.

"It says something that they are able to build assets and customers in a place that isn't a metropolitan money center," said Matthew Barthel, an associate editor at Barron's.

The Keator Group is a wholly owned, independent business with total team assets listed as $459 million. Sheila said that their typical customer account is $850,000, the smallest number on the state's top 25 list.

Sheila has been named to Barron's list of the country's top 100 female financial advisors for the last three years, and she and her three sons — Frederick, David, and Matthew, who all work for the firm — were selected as one of the country's top 25 family financial teams last September by a Dow Jones publication.

Sheila, who has eight children, began working as a broker for Kidder-Peabody in 1980. She and her sons worked as financial advisors for a variety of other companies from 1987 to 2005 when they formed the Keator Group, which accesses the services of Wachovia Securities for statements and sales transactions.

Sheila's story was featured in an article by Tony Dobrowolski in the *Berkshire Eagle* February 12.



Carol Fradet Raffalle '65 Charlene Gamache St. Onge '69 Patricia Beglane Pearson '71 Lora McNeece Barrett '72 Mary Ann Kane Cleland '72 Liz Frost Gazda '72 Nelly De Carvalho '78 Michele Guay Young '84

grows flowers and makes art, and Kris makes the maple syrup in a sugarhouse on the property. Pat opened "Posies by Piper" after she retired from a long career as an elementary school teacher in the Chicopee public schools and the Diocese of Springfield elementary schools. (www.posiesbypiper.com)

Carol Fradet Raffalle '65 was recently appointed principal of the newly formed St. Michael's Academy Middle School in Springfield. The Academy was formed from the closing of Our Lady of Hope, Holy Name, Our Lady of Sacred Heart, Mount Carmel, and Holy Cross schools in Springfield. She was previously principal at Mount Carmel School in Springfield.

Sister Diane Tetreault '68, a Catholic school teacher at Cathedral High School in Springfield, recently received a Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching award.

Jean Brigham '69 and ***Linda Connolly Sullivan '72*** traveled to Ireland with Alumni Holiday International Tours September 25 to October 3, 2008. The group of 23 stayed in Ennis, the capital of County Clare, and visited Bunratty Castle, the Burren, the beautiful Cliffs of Moher, and the Aran Islands.



Sister Kathleen Imbruno '69 and ***Sister Eileen Murphy '69*** recently celebrated 50 years of religious life with a Mass and reception at Mont Marie.

Charlene Gamache St. Onge '69 has published her second novel, called *Another Mountain!* The book's protagonist shocks family and friends when she suddenly breaks ties with them and moves to a mountain in Wyoming. Three years later, she rescues an injured hiker who challenges her ideas of family and healing. Charlene's first novel was entitled *Reckoning at Small Creek*. Charlene tells us that she keeps busy with her writing as well as working as a substitute teacher in Springfield middle and high schools. She and her husband Bob have been married for 38 years, and look forward to the arrival of their sixth grandchild in 2009.

1970s

Sister Jean Bostley '70, Sister Mary Duffy '70, Sister Mary Louise Gillon '70, Sister Paula Misitano '70, Sister Patricia Rahaim '70, Sister Madeline Tiberil '70, Sister Mary Patricia Carr '72, and ***Sister Gloria Corriveau '72*** recently celebrated 50 years of religious life with a Mass and reception at Mont Marie.

Sister Patty Hottin '70 has begun work as principal of St. Thomas the Apostle School in West Springfield. She previously worked at the Elms as associate dean of students.

Patricia Beglane Pearson '71, a teacher at Talmadge Elementary School in Springfield, was awarded the 2009 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award. The award is based on nominations from teachers and other peers.

Lora McNeece Barrett '72, Ed.D., has become the newest partner in an artist-owned gallery called Gallery 31 in Orleans, Massachusetts. Lora, who paints landscapes and still lifes in oils and pastels, is retired from a 35-year teaching career in the Holyoke public schools, and currently teaches art education at UMass-Amherst. Her work has been shown internationally, and is in numerous private and public collections, including the Federal Reserve. Samples of her work can be seen on the Gallery 31 website at http://www.gallery31capecod.com.

Mary Ann Kane Cleland '72 has been named secretary for the Westfield School Committee. Mary Ann has been a member of the Westfield School Committee for 17 years, and has been vice chairman for the past three years.

Liz Frost Gazda '72, a Catholic school teacher in Holyoke, recently received a Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching award.

Nelly De Carvalho '78 has been appointed head of the new St. Michael's Academy in Springfield. The Academy was formed from the closing of Our Lady of Hope, Holy Name, Our Lady of Sacred Heart, Mount Carmel, and Holy Cross schools in Springfield. Nelly was principal at our Lady of Hope School in Springfield from September 2008 to June 2009.

1980s

Michele Guay Young '84, J.D., has joined Bowditch & Dewey, LLP in Worcester as a partner. She earned a B.A. in chemistry at Elms College, and graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 1996. Her law practice involves the domestic and international protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights for clients in academia and industry. Michele has experience in a variety of technology areas, including electrochemistry, medical devices, polymer processing, semiconductor device fabrication, and wastewater and air treatment. Prior to attending law school, she worked as a semiconductor wafer fabrication engineer for several companies. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar, is registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and in the District Courts of Massachusetts.

Kathleen Curran '85, a Catholic school teacher at St. Thomas the Apostle School in West Springfield, recently received a Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching award.

Maura Morrissey '85 has been working as a recreational therapist with Alzheimer's residents at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke for the past seven years. She is organizing a team consisting of residents, families, and friends to participate in the Pioneer Valley Memory Walk, which will be held September 27 at Stanley Park in Westfield. If you are interested in joining Maura, please email rectherap1@aol.com.

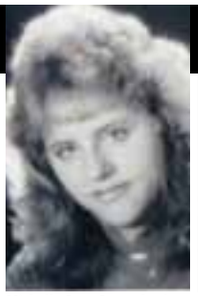
1990s

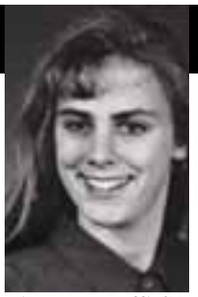
Norma McCain '92 retired this year from Michael Smith Middle School in South Hadley after 15 years of teaching fifth grade. She said her favorite part about being a teacher was the ability to make a difference in the lives of students. Norma became a teacher after she went back to school at the age of 46, majored in elementary education, and graduated magna cum laude. She said she thought she would never make it through college; earlier she had dropped out of Westfield State College after her first year for financial reasons. She spent many years working in research and development at a now-defunct paper mill in Holyoke and three years driving a school bus in order to spend time with her young son. When she started doing volunteer work in the school, she rediscovered her interest in teaching and worked several jobs and borrowed money from her husband's retirement funds to finance her return to college. Norma, who is 65, said one of the first


Kathleen Curran '85


Maura Morrissey '85


Norma McCain '92


Michelle Leas Letendre '93


Keita Hanscom Franklin '94


Sharon B. Ford '96


Katherine Anderson '01, '07


Elizabeth Goebel '02

things she will do in retirement will be major housecleaning followed by a tag sale. She also hopes to travel to the Grand Canyon.

Michelle Leas Letendre '93 was named Neonatal Nurse of the Year in November 2008 at the Connecticut Organization of Neonatal Nurses annual conference. Michelle is a neonatal nurse practitioner at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford, and a clinical instructor at the University of Connecticut Graduate School of Nursing.

Keita Hanscom Franklin '94 recently completed her Ph.D. coursework in social work at Virginia Commonwealth University. After she graduated from the Elms with a bachelor's in psychology, she went on to obtain a master's degree in social work at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. Keita told us she was interested in connecting with, or mentoring, students and alumni in social work or psychology. She resides in Virginia, and can be reached at franklinfamily4@verizon.net.

Sharon B. Ford '96, a world geography teacher and coordinator of the international baccalaureate program at the Van Sickle Middle School, became the state's sole recipient of the National Education Foundation's Books Across America Library Books Award in March. In her honor, the organization awarded the school $1,000 for the purchase of library books. Sharon is in her 12th year with the city's public schools, and in her fourth year at Van Sickle. She had previously won a grant from Target enabling her to take some of her students to the United Nations in New York City.

Sara Kendall-Ruest '99, LICSW, was keynote speaker at a one-day seminar for undergraduate students on "Building Practical Skills in Working with People at Risk for Suicide," held at Elms College April 24. Sara is the staff development supervisor at the Behavioral Health Network's crisis team in Springfield, and team leader of BHN's trauma response team. She received her master's degree in social work from Fordham University.

Gail Whitney, MAT '99, was featured artist in an exhibit in the college's Borgia Gallery. Her exhibit, entitled "Colors of Our World," featured works in oils and pastels reflecting the renaissance of classical realism being seen throughout contemporary art today.

2000s

Katherine Anderson '01, '07, a special education teacher, has announced the publication of her first book, *Behind the Walls: Shadows of New England Asylums*. The book of her photographs is the result of four years of research into the history of asylums and state schools in the Northeast, which began with her exploration of the abandoned Northampton State Hospital and grew into a documentation of numerous institutions in New England. The book is available on her website at www.katebroderickphotography.com, and at Borders Bookstore in the Holyoke Mall.

Elizabeth Goebel '02 curated the annual art exhibit in the Borgia Gallery at the Elms of artwork from students of Academy Hill, an independent school located in Springfield, where she is an art instructor.

Gail A. Goraj '04 of South Hadley has joined the Polish National Credit Union as business development officer, a new position in the organization. Her new responsibilities will include cultivation of new member relationships in the community, development of new lending and deposit products to benefit members, and the coordination and delivery of financial education programs. Gail has more than 20 years of banking experience as a branch manager, customer service manager, training officer, and business service officer.

Jeffrey Trant '04 received a master's degree in social work from Boston College. Jeffrey, who previously worked at Baystate Medical Center, is employed by Lighthouse-Human Resources Unlimited Inc. as a program director. He was recently featured on the "Career" page in the *Sunday Springfield Republican*.

Patrick Hurst '07 was sworn in as a Chicopee police officer on November 13, 2008 at Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee, where all the cadets endured months of training. It was the largest graduating class in the history of Chicopee, with 25 officers from Springfield and 15 from Chicopee. Their new duties will include public safety, attention to quality of life issues, and economic development.

Jesse Columbo '08 has been accepted to the highly competitive UMass Medical School in Worcester, and will attend in the fall. "This is very exciting news for the Elms College community," said Dr. Janet Williams, associate professor of biology and advisor for premedical and prehealth professional programs. "UMass Medical is very difficult to gain acceptance to, even more competitive than Harvard Medical School, because it is state funded (in a state that has the most educated and competitive applicants to medical school). We are very proud of Jesse, and honored, and we wish him all the best!"

Ashley Rose LaPointe '08 is employed as an accountant for Big Y Supermarkets in the home business office in Springfield. Ashley was featured on the "Career" page in the *Sunday Springfield Republican*. Ashley is the daughter of alumna Helen LaPointe Sbrega '86.

Nicole Margiotta '09 has joined Be Well Kids, Inc. in West Springfield as assistant director. Nicole graduated in May with a B.S. in social work, and had interned at Shriners' Children's Hospital in Springfield, and Mittineague Elementary School in West Springfield. Be Well Kids is committed to providing middle school children high quality after-school educational and recreational programs, health and fitness resources, and time for positive socialization with peers, all in a safe and supportive environment.

Engagements

Jeffrey Trant '04 and ***Rachel Latour '07*** are engaged. A summer wedding is planned.

Lauren C. Bennett '08 is engaged to Jason A. Stefanik of South Hadley. Lauren received a master's degree in education, and is an art teacher at Sabis School in Springfield. An April 10, 2010 wedding is planned.

Rachel Garcia '08 is engaged to Mark Gosselin of Springfield. Rachel received a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders, and is a speech and language therapy assistant in the Springfield public school system. Rachel is also a staff sergeant in the Air Force Reserve. An October 23 wedding is planned at St. Mary's Church in East Springfield.

Cristen Sacco '08 is engaged to Matthew Dion. Cristen is currently working toward her master's degree in social work at Springfield College. A fall 2010 wedding is planned.

Weddings

Krista Lynn Fijal '01 married Kevin Paul Brogle in an April 12 ceremony in the Basilica of St. Stanislaus in Chicopee. A reception followed at the Portuguese American Club in Chicopee, and the couple honeymooned in Cozumel, Mexico and Key West, Florida. Krista, who earned a master's degree in


Patrick Hurst '07


Rachel Latour '07


Rachel Garcia '08


Renee Lynn Dion '02


Rebecca Dooey Turgeon '97


Jennifer Faust Biedrxycki '06

teaching reading from Elms College, received a bachelor's degree from Providence College in Rhode Island, and a master's degree in library science from Cambridge College. She is a teacher in Ellington, Connecticut.

Renee Lynn Dion '02 married Jose Rafael Fernandez recently in San Juan, Puerto Rico. A reception was held at the home of the bridegroom's cousin in Cidra, Puerto Rico, and the couple honeymooned in Aruba. Renee is a special education teacher in Holyoke.

Mary Cummings '06 married Damian Flowers on June 12 at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. Mary is a registered nurse at Hartford Hospital where she met her husband, who is an emergency room resident. Mary worked as an admissions counselor at Elms College in the late 90s. The couple resides in Manchester, Connecticut.


Mary Cummings and Damian Flowers

Sarah Grace Burney-Nash '07 married Lamar Donell Nash November 11, 2008. The ceremony and reception were held at the Castle of the Knights in Chicopee, and they spent their honeymoon in Bradford, New Hampshire. Sarah is a customer relations manager for Burlington Coat Factory in Holyoke.

Marc A. Hunter '09 married Kathleen Rodd at St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam June 20, 2008. The reception was held at the Marriott Hotel in Springfield, and they honeymooned on a cruise to Bermuda. Marc is a legal assistant-paralegal at Gelinas & Lefebvre P.C. in Chicopee.

Births

Stephanie Angelini Sweeton '96 and her husband Jerry welcomed their first daughter, Amelia Elizabeth Sweeton, on January 3.


*Amelia Elizabeth & **Stephanie** Sweeton*

Rebecca Dooey Turgeon '97 gave birth to her second child, Benjamin Daniel, on January 8. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long. Ben has a big sister named Kathleen. Rebecca works at the Community Mental Health Affiliates Child Guidance Clinic.

Teresa Winters-Dunn '98 gave birth to her first child, Rachel Marie, on Easter Sunday, April 12. The baby weighed 4 pounds, 15 ounces. Teresa is associate dean of students at Elms College.


Rachel Marie Dunn

Jennifer Faust Biedrxycki '06 gave birth to a son, Joseph Matthew, on September 30, 2008. He weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Jennifer is a registered nurse case manager at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford Springs, Connecticut.

Sheila Murphy Gould '06 and Jenkins Gould, athletics operation manager at Elms College, welcomed their first child, James Franklin Gould, on January 5. James weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces. Sheila works at Longmeadow Montessori as a preschool teacher focusing on art.


James Franklin Gould

In Memoriam

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

Alumni:

Margaret Cahalan Sigda '30 died January 29 at the age of 98. Margaret was a graduate of the Elms Normal School. She worked as a secretary for Maryland Casualty until her retirement in 1970. She was a member of the Catholic Junior League, Catholic Women's Club, and a communicant of St. Catherine of Sienna Parish.

Alice O'Neill Auth '35 died at the Jewish Home for the Elderly in Fairfield, Connecticut on May 27. Alice was a graduate of the Elms Normal School. She began her teaching career in Windsor Locks, and worked as a social worker for Old Age Assistance in Holyoke. After staying home to raise her four children, Alice taught in Bridgeport, Connecticut. She attended daily Mass, and was a member of the Elms College Alumni Association, St. Peter's Church Women's Club, College of the Holy Cross Alumni Club, and the Dominican Order.

Ruth P. Quinn Meaney '36 died at home in North Adams January 27 at the age of 93. Ruth completed her master's degree at North Adams State College, taught elementary school in Williamstown, and later was a nursery school teacher. She was last employed as a kindergarten teacher for many years until her retirement in 1980. She was a communicant of St. Francis of Assisi Church, a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, St. Francis Rosary Sodality Bowling League, and Rhythm Belles Line Dancing Group.

Sister Mary Ellen (Rose Philippine) Quilty '38 died May 26. Sister Mary Ellen entered the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in August 1942, and received a master's in history in 1952 from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. She worked at St. George's Book Stall, operated by a prominent Catholic family noted for its zeal for social justice and scholarships for black children. She was editor of her congregation's magazine; administrator of an Indian School on the Navajo Reservation; assistant to the president and a history teacher at Xavier University; secretary of New Orleans Archdiocesan Sisters Council; and director of the communications center at the Motherhouse. She received an honorary degree from the Elms in 1988.

Carmen Padilla Turnure Wrigthson '40 died April 29. She is survived by two sisters who are also alumnae, Irma Padilla Nevares '42, and Anabel Padilla Casey '54, who received the Elms College Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006.

Helen Meagher Stocks '41 died Dec. 20, 2008 at the age of 88 in Venice, Florida. She earned a master's degree in education from Westfield State College. Helen volunteered at the Opera Guild of Venice and the Venice Little Theater Guild.

Maria C. McCallin Stipek '43 died February 21 at Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Worcester. She was 90. Maria graduated from Assumption College and received her master's degree from Worcester State College. She worked as a teacher and guidance counselor for 21 years for the Worcester Public Schools. She was a member of Our Lady of the Angels Church, and was a delegate for the Massachusetts Teachers' Association.

Elizabeth Hayes Tetreault '43 died March 14 in Putnam at the age of 88. Elizabeth worked as an English teacher for Putnam High School. She was a communicant of St. Mary Church of the Visitation and a member of the League of Catholic Women.

Frances M. Brown Ashodian '45 died November 19, 2008 at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Frances was in charge of the thyroid laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital from 1952 to 1958.

Imelda G. Nugent '45 died June 11 at the Holyoke Medical Center at the age of 84. In addition to being an alumna of Elms College, she was a graduate of the Mercy Hospital School of Medical Technology. She was a retired civilian employee at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, and had volunteered in the South Hadley Public Schools.

Sister Therese (Margaret Mary) Cartier '47, a cloistered member of the order of Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood for 54 years, died March 30 in Manchester, New Hampshire at the age of 83. Sister Therese taught Spanish and Latin in Bennington, Vermont for five years before entering the Monastery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cartier Family Scholarship at Elms College.

Rosemary Tower Maloney '47 died January 15 at Mercy Medical Center at the age of 82. Rosemary was a teacher in the Springfield public schools for more than 20 years. She was a communicant of Christ the King Church.

Ruthmary Wirtalla Colton '48 died February 24 in Florida at the age of 82. Ruthmary received a master's degree from Springfield College.

Josette Maynard Dupuis '48 died December 1, 2008 at the age of 82 in Royal Megansett Nursing Home in North Falmouth after a long illness. Josette received her master's degree from American International College in Springfield. She was a retired teacher from the Southbridge schools, and a former member of Notre Dame Church.

Rosemary E. Cotter Naughton '48 died February 5 in the Jewish Healthcare Center in Worcester at the age of 82. She received a master's degree in social work from Fordham University, and was a social worker working with foster children and their parents for Catholic Charities in New York City. She then returned to Worcester and worked at Family Services and the Nazareth Home for Boys. She was a member of Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

Ruth Vigeant Donovan '51 died April 18 at Baystate Medical Center at the age of 79. Ruth taught school for several years, took time off to raise her five children, and then taught fifth grade science in Springfield for 15 years before retiring in 1995. Ruth was an active member of Holy Cross Parish, where she cantored and sang with the choir for 50 years. She sang with the Springfield Symphony Chorus and *Schola Nova*, devoted exclusively to sacred choral literature. She was a member of the Holy Cross Social Club, and had been past president. She served as precinct warden at the polls and as the Ward 7 treasurer.

Grace Syner Land '51 died suddenly on January 21 at the age of 79. Grace earned her master's degree at Boston University. She taught first grade at Frederick Harris Elementary School in Springfield, and the American School at the Lago Oil Refinery in Aruba. She was active in the Cherry Hill Republican Organization.

Audrey Kelly Flanagan '53 died peacefully in her home surrounded by her family on May 14, 2008. Audrey and her husband raised their eight children in Broadalbin, New York, and she taught elementary grades in Broadalbin for 30 years. She also owned a clothing boutique in upstate New York. After her retirement from teaching, she settled in Dennis, and was proprietor of Audrey's Antiques there.

Patricia Hampson Rodgers '54 died December 13, 2008 at the age of 76 surrounded by her beloved family. After earning a degree in chemistry, Patricia was employed as a math teacher for the Chicopee schools, and was co-owner and chief financial officer for Industrial Chromium Corporation in Holyoke. In her later years, she was a math and science teacher in Easthampton, and then an eighth grade math and science teacher in Holyoke. She also worked as a part-time receptionist at the Marian Center in Holyoke.

Joan Carol Tovani '54 died December 28, 2008 at Hillcrest Commons at the age of 76. She received a master's degree in teaching at North Adams State College, and was a third grade teacher in North Adams until her retirement. She was a longtime communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church, and a former member of its Rosary Society. She also attended St. Patrick's Church in Williamstown, and was a member of the right to life group.

Sister Gertrude (Mauritius Maria) Brown '56, beloved member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield in her 68th year, died in Holyoke on March 27 at the age of 86. Sister Gert taught elementary school in Chicopee, West Springfield, Longmeadow, Greenfield,

Holyoke, Springfield, Westfield, Worcester, and Southbridge. She served as coordinator of Mont Marie Conference Center in Holyoke, and as special events coordinator at the Elms. She retired in 2003 and became a member of the Retirement Community at Mont Marie in 2008.

Sister Florence (James Marion) Butler '57, beloved member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield in her 67th year, died in Mont Marie Health Care Center on October 26, 2008 at the age of 85. Sister Florence taught in Catholic schools in Holyoke, Pittsfield, North Brookfield, Webster, Southbridge, Cherry Valley, and Warwick and Pawtucket, Rhode Island. She also served as a library aide at Cathedral High School, on the support staff at Mont Marie, and as a companion to the elderly. She became a member of the Mont Marie Retirement Community in 1995, and Mont Marie Health Care Center in 2005.

Diana Calabro Gereski '59 died of cancer on February 8 at the age of 71 surrounded by her loving family in Watertown, Connecticut. Diana had earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree at the Elms. She began her career as a teacher in Waterbury, Connecticut, and taught in Virginia from 1974 to 1985. After an eight-year stint back in Glastonbury, Connecticut, she and her husband moved back to Virginia where they enjoyed retirement. She was a longtime member and former president of the Cross Street PTA in Naugatuck, Connecticut, and a member of the Connecticut Education Association, National Education Association, and the Waterbury Teachers Association. She was a member of the Military Officer's Wives Association, both in Virginia and Connecticut.

Genevieve Virginia "Jenny" Slepecki '59 died March 13 in an Agawam nursing home at the age of 79. Jenny was a graduate of the Springfield Hospital School of Nursing, and worked at Baystate Medical Center for more than 42 years. She was a member of the Elms College Alumni Association, and had been a communicant of Christ the King Church.

Margaret "Peggy" Maybury Springer '60 died March 23 in East Longmeadow at the age of 71. Peggy received a master's degree from American International College and was a teacher in the Longmeadow schools from 1960 to 2002. She was a member of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, Hampden East Chapter of the Retired Educators of Massachusetts Association, Elms College Alumni Association, and the Reflections group of St. Michael's Church.

Joan Jazab Czapla '61 died April 24 at the age of 70, after waging a long and courageous battle with cancer. Joan attended the Holyoke Hospital School of Nursing, and received her master's degree from Elms College. A registered nurse, she was the department head of the LPN programs at Vinal and A.I. Prince schools, and later worked as in-service director at Vernon Manor.

Margaret Rush Grogan '62 died April 26. Margaret was an English teacher.

Dorothy LaBelle Luscavage '64 died May 12 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Savannah, Georgia. She taught in Virginia, Fourfax, and Prince William Counties in Georgia.

Mary Donovan Welch '65 died peacefully at home in Wilbraham on May 5 at the age of 66. Mary received an M.A. in special education from American International College. She began her 35-year career in the Springfield schools as a second grade teacher at Pottenger School. In 1975 she began teaching special education at Warner School, where she remained until she retired in 2000. She volunteered in the schools during her retirement. Mary was a member of the St. Cecilia's Parish in Wilbraham, belonged to the Women's Club, and volunteered for Catholic Charities.

Patricia Dooley Pietruski '69 died February 20 at the Holyoke Medical Center at the age of 61. Patricia earned her master's degree in education at the Elms. She was an educator for 30 years, having taught in Holyoke, and retired in 2003. She was a communicant of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, where she volunteered her time, and was a former member of its Ladies' Guild, and a member of the Massachusetts Retired Teachers Association.

Honora "Betty" Elizabeth Sheridan '70 died May 16 in the Willimansett Center West Nursing Home at the age of 74. Betty entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1955, and received a master's in education from Cambridge College in Springfield. She taught in West Springfield, Holyoke, Pittsfield, and Indian Orchard, and worked for Alcoholism Services of Greater Springfield. Betty returned to school and became a social worker for the state. She was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in Chicopee and an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. She was an associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph at the time of her death.

Michele Zombik Hellyar '85 died peacefully on March 23, with her family by her side. Michele received her bachelor's degree in nursing from the Elms. She was a very skilled and compassionate nurse for 23 years, most recently at Renaissance Manor in Holyoke.

Correction:

Sister Elizabeth Anna Kane '53, who died on July 7, 2008, was incorrectly identified as a member of the class of 1971 in the "In Memoriam" section of the last issue.

Husband of:

Margaret Bowen Diggins '51
Joan McKenna Percy '53
Elizabeth McGauley Sarfaty '54
Charlene Cabana Jajuga '66 (deceased)

Mother of:

Anne Taylor Babcock '62
Sister Marlene Mucha '62
Sister Maureen Charest '68
Judy Cadden '69
Teresa Scovera Popek '69
Maria Santos Mazzei '71
Clare E. Lorenzatti '73
Sister Linda Donovan '77
Margaret Mary Naughton Hoogasian '78
June B. Hickson Schladenhauffen '78
Barbara Brennan Garde '79
Laura Fitzell '83
Rebecca Pitre '95
Felix Montalvo '12

Father of:

Sister Constance E. Cawley '58
Irene Cieplinski Cupillo '62
Sister Marlene Mucha '62
Mary Ellen O'Connor '74
Cori Estelle Nevers '87
Christopher Lockwood '01

Daughter of:

Barbara Hartford Garde '79

Son of:

M. Edwina Karpells '84

Sister of:

Ann Catherine Syner '38
Irma Padilla Nevares '42
Claire Syner Culver '46
Violette Cartier Sweeney '50
Sister Veronica Brown '51
Claire Cartier Daigneault '52
Anabel Padilla Casey '54
Alice Buxton Preece '55
Polly Shea Gavin '63
Joan Donovan Bannish '66

Brother of:

Norma Savoit Ianello '44
Rita Rodden '44
Dorothy Savoit McDowell '49
Sylvia Vomacka Kennedy '55
Sister Mary Lavelle '58
Sister Maureen A. Griffin '68

Grandmother of:

Jennifer Perreault Russell '98
Ashleigh Fitzell '07
Kirsten Maloney '09
Lauren Sparks '10
Will Dziura '11

Student

Christopher J. Burnham '11

Giving Thanks

Elms students receive a considerable amount of financial support from endowed scholarships. The recipients may not know it, but each scholarship has been funded by an alum, a parent, a friend, or someone who cared about the college and its students. Currently, 142 such scholarships exist at the Elms, and the college carefully matches the awards with appropriate students.

At the 14th annual Donor-Scholar Reception held April 19, many of this year's student recipients and the donors of their scholarships had a chance to meet and share their stories. More than 180 people attended.

The event originated in 1995, when a donor wanted to meet the recipient of the scholarship he endowed.

Five newly created endowed scholarships were announced:

The Daversa Family Social Work Endowed Scholarship, established by Maria T. Daversa '82

The Kara Lynn Evans-Scott '91 Memorial Fund, established by Raymond and Sandra Evans

The Sister Peter Maria Picknelly Endowed Scholarship, established by Paul Picknelly

The Sophie M. Gunn Endowed Scholarship and the Sophie M. Gunn Annual Scholarship, established by the estate of Sophie M. Gunn



▶ *Dr. Maria T. Daversa '82 established the Daversa Family Social Work Endowed Scholarship to encourage others to carry on the mission of social work as she learned it at Elms College. Maria, who went on from the Elms to earn master and doctoral degrees in counseling and clinical psychology, works with high-risk youth in her private practice, and teaches doctoral level psychology courses at a Boston college.*



◀ *Paul Picknelly (left) established the Sister Peter Maria Picknelly Endowed Scholarship in memory of his aunt, who passed away last October. Sister Peter Maria graduated from Elms Academy in 1934, and earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees from Elms College. She dedicated herself to the Sisters of St. Joseph for 75 years, and was a teacher for 60. "This scholarship will honor her memory by providing support to students from Cathedral High School entering Elms College as freshmen, to continue her life work of teaching, learning, sharing, and enriching," Paul said. Paul is pictured with Sister Alice Kenney '49, longtime friend and companion of Sister Peter Maria.*

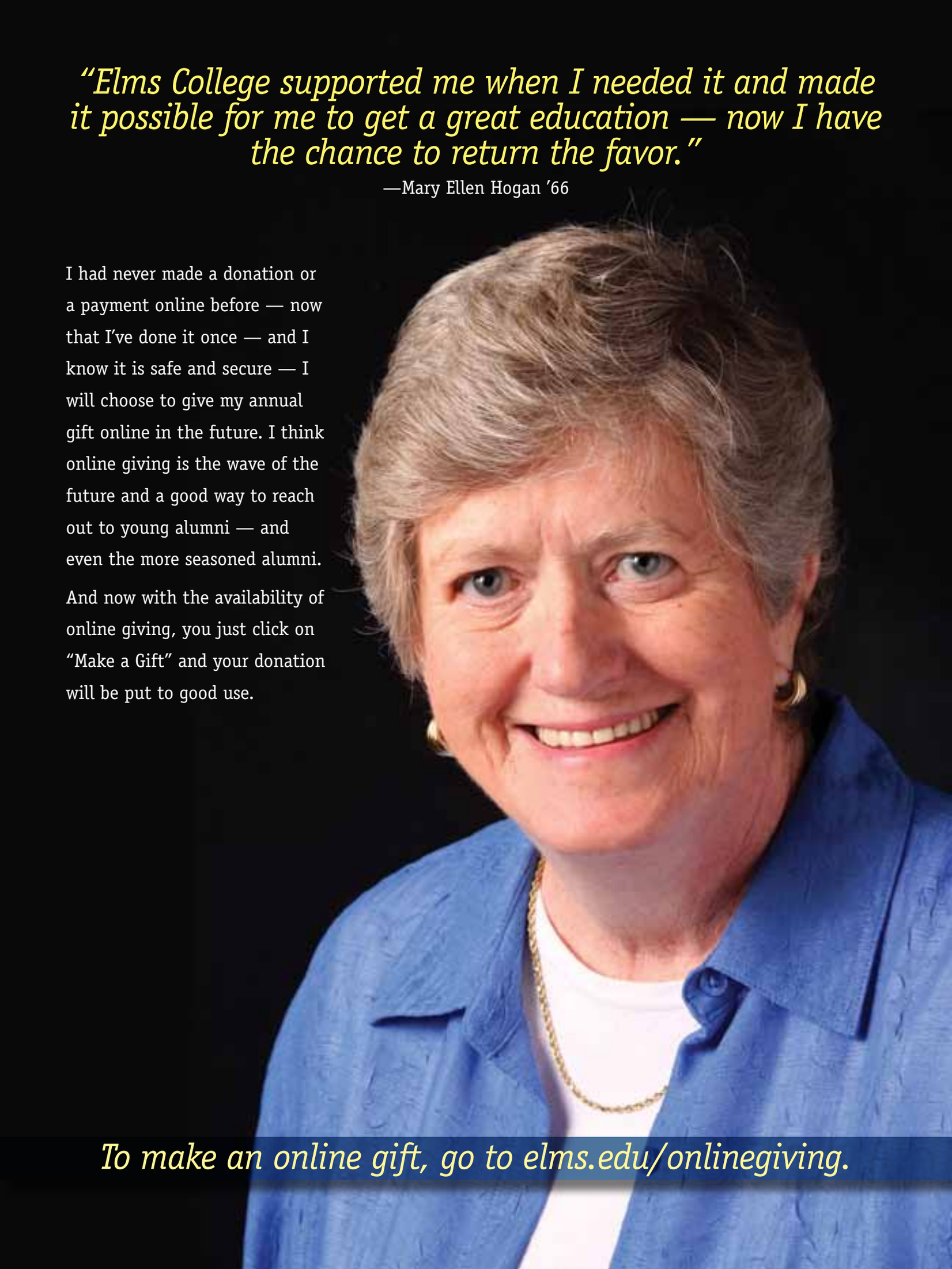
▲ *Raymond and Sandra Evans (right) with their good friends G. Todd and Marilyn Marchant (left) created the Kara Lynn Evans-Scott '91 Memorial Fund in memory of their daughter Kara, a devoted teacher who earned her bachelor's degree in education at the Elms. She passed away in 2004. "Kara was a special person and had a huge impact on others during her life," said her parents. "We hope this scholarship in her name will allow for others to carry on through the teaching profession. One person, one teacher, can make a difference in the lives of many children."*



▲ *These Elms College students received endowed scholarships, and were able to thank the donors who funded them.*

"Elms College supported me when I needed it and made it possible for me to get a great education — now I have the chance to return the favor."

—Mary Ellen Hogan '66



I had never made a donation or a payment online before — now that I've done it once — and I know it is safe and secure — I will choose to give my annual gift online in the future. I think online giving is the wave of the future and a good way to reach out to young alumni — and even the more seasoned alumni.

And now with the availability of online giving, you just click on "Make a Gift" and your donation will be put to good use.

To make an online gift, go to elms.edu/onlinegiving.

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