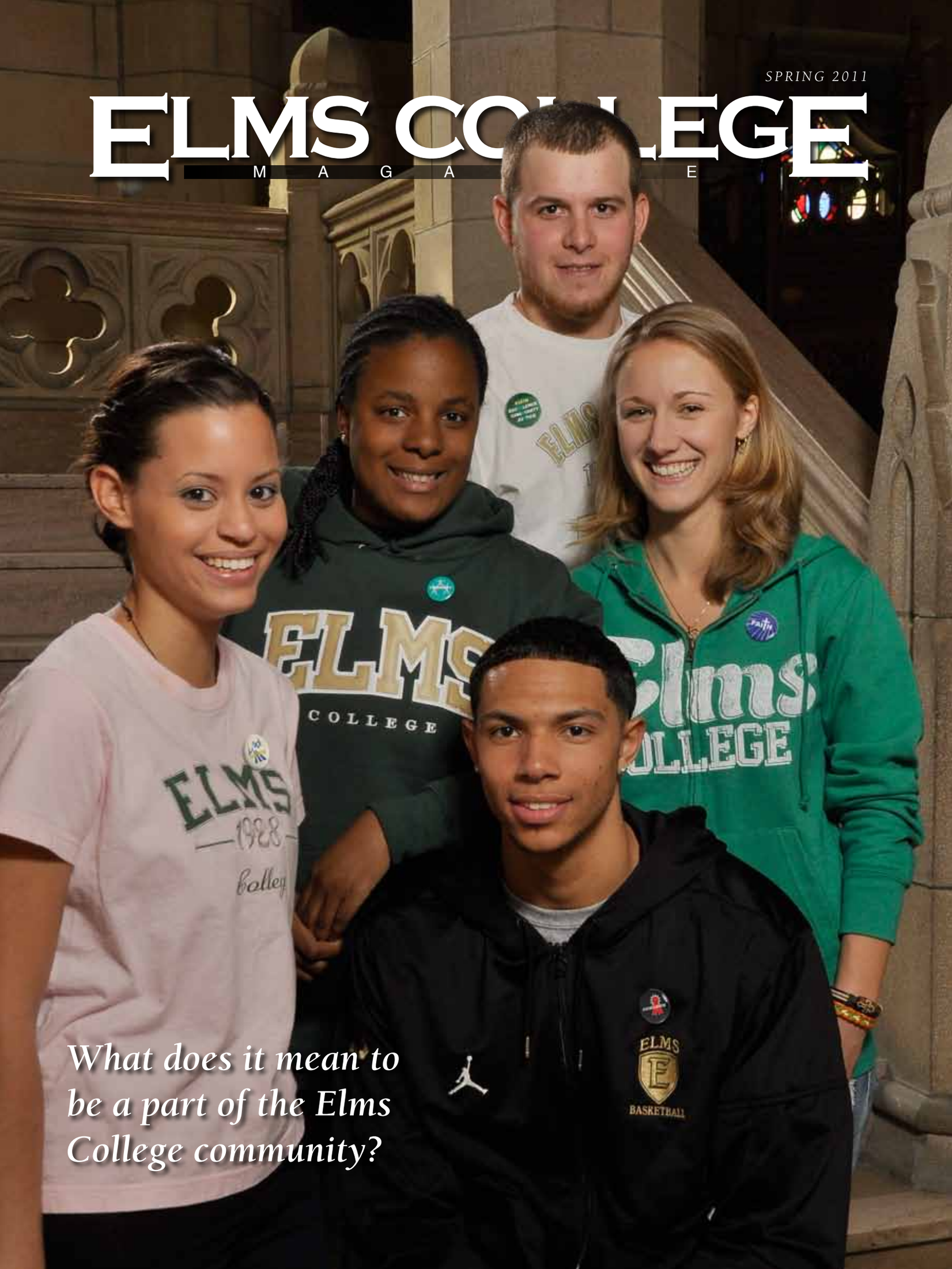
SPRING 2011

ELMS COLLEGE

MAGAZINE



What does it mean to be a part of the Elms College community?

"If we are to go forward, we must go back and rediscover those precious values - that all reality hinges on moral foundations and that all reality has spiritual control."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



Last fall, the Elms College community looked inward to rediscover the values that serve as our foundation. The purpose of the process was not to introduce something new into how we operate, but to better describe why we operate the way we do. The result of a process that involved many members of the Elms family was an affirmation of the four core values that embody our Catholic identity, our relationship with the Sisters of St. Joseph, and our approach to our world and the people in it:

Faith

Community

Justice

Excellence

These values have always been strong in the heart of Elms College. They are so important to our sense of self as a community that it was necessary to state them clearly. They remind us that we should aspire to live and work according to them, to let them drive our decisions, and to share them with others.

As you read through each page of this magazine, you will see the role these values play in the lives of current students, the professors who teach them, and the graduates who have long gone to send our core values out into the world. You will read about Mary Riordan '60, whose approach to Catholic education led her to bring green energy to her school as a true steward of God's creation.

You will read about Lauren Sparks '10 and her spiritual journey from uncertainty and endless questions to finding comfort in the sacred unknown, and a place in one of the country's most prestigious religious programs.

You will learn how one professor's tenacity helps students raise their expectations of themselves and their education, preparing them to graduate into challenging and rewarding careers, and how students entering college for the first time are shepherded through their first year in programs designed to develop their sense of community.

The true testament of what Elms College does for its students lies deeply within the moral and ethical core of the men and women we educate. We see our core values at play across time and disciplines, often intertwined and inseparable, with no prior prompt. They have always been woven into our mantle, and our students, alumni, staff, and faculty carry them each day. Restating them now does not make them more real, but it is good to reaffirm who we are and to recognize why.

Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D.
President

On the cover, back to front:

Donald F. Morse IV
Class of 2012
Management major
Baseball

Lissamar Rodriguez
Class of 2012
Education and psychology double major
Secretary of the Future Teachers' Club
Campus Ministry
Participated in service trips

Janyce J. Prendergast
Class of 2012
Education and liberal arts double major
Student Representative to the Elms College Board of Trustees
Resident Advisor
Active Minds Club
Campus Ministry
Participated in service trips

Sarah I. Donovan
Class of 2012
Class President
Psychology and Spanish double major
Participated in service trips

Bryant Corcoran
Class of 2012
Sociology major
Basketball

CONTENTS



ON THE COVER

Core Values.

Faith. Community. Justice. Excellence. Our students, alumni, faculty, and staff put these values into action every day. They define what it means to be a part of the Elms family, tell the story of who we are, and set the foundation for where we are going.

Features

6.... Community: First Year Seminar

First year students learn about the importance of community through volunteering, academics, and engaging in campus activities.



10 .. Running Start

Elms professor prepares students for rewarding careers.

Alumni Profiles

4.... Lauren Sparks '10

Elms alumnae finds peace in her spiritual journey.

8.... Mary Riordan '60

Riordan shows care for God's creation by bringing sustainable energy to Holy Name Central Junior Senior High School.



In Every Issue

12 • Faculty and Staff News

13 • News

15 • Alumni Association Board

16 • Class Notes

22 • In Memoriam

24 • Mission Review



ELMS COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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Educating Reflective, Principled, and Creative Learners in the Tradition of the Sisters of Saint Joseph

The editors invite your comments and questions at 413-265-2366.

Core Values

Community

Catholic identity

Service

Social justice

Compassion

Commitment

Respect

Loyalty

Hospitality

Integrity

Diversity

Love

Social responsibility

Elms as family student centered

Respect

Honesty

Trust

Acceptance and openness

Community

Elms is like family

Dedication

Knowledge development

Faith in self and others

Responsibility to make Elms greater

Creativity

Increasing students self esteem

Stability

Community & Family:

Camaraderie

Enablement, integrity, inspiration of each integrity to live the gospel

Reaching out as a community

Educating the total person, compassion and faith

Humility & respect

Quality education in search of knowledge/spirituality

Support in need

Excellence, altruism, commitment, loyalty

Social resp/service:

Social justice provide an environment to learn, quality education, critical skills, rooted in faith

Nurture potential

Spiritual faith, self-determination and empowerment, teach

Awareness of what's happening



Global player

Academic excellence:

work in the world

Service to the whole person through faith, service

student centered

if they fail they are nurtured to succeed

FAITH

Academic integrity, desire to serve

Scholarly emphasis of faculty

to education

Campus excellence

High expectations for students

COMMUNITY

Meeting the needs of the day

Faith:

JUSTICE

Social justice

Campus ministry

EXCELLENCE

Divinity scholars

We are Elms College.

What does it mean to be a part of the Elms College community? Who are we? What are we called to do? To shed light on these questions, the Elms College community embarked on a yearlong process to formally review and compose a statement of our core values.

"It's important to communicate who you are, what your values are and make sure that we are living out those values," said Elms College President Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D.

Through several open forum meetings, members of the Elms community were given the chance to answer these questions in their own words. A committee comprised of trustees, faculty, and staff sifted through suggestions from the meetings and identified key themes. Each member of the committee selected a theme to research and write about, often emailing the Elms community for their input.

As a board of trustees member, and head of the core values committee, Dr. Carolyn Jacobs, M.S.W., Ph.D, noted how influential values are to the curriculum of academic institutions.

"Course content, pedagogy, and community living and programming should reflect the values of the institution. Values enable an institution to distinguish itself from others in its cohort group. They speak to the mind and heart of learning and are expressed in student outcomes such as academic performance, career choices and community service," said Jacobs.

After an arduous, yet affirming process, the committee submitted to the board four core values. These core values represent our foundation, our identity and our future.



Faith

Elms College, empowered by love and faith, welcomes all, while seeking to promote the traditions of our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph, through programs that challenge all members of the college community, spiritually, ethically and intellectually.



Community

Elms College commits to compassion and relationship building, in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust, creating a sense of belonging for the entire campus community. This encourages us to respond to the needs of others, in a spirit of hospitality, within and beyond the college.



Justice

Elms College aspires to the highest standards of social responsibility as an institution and is committed to instilling values of equal opportunity and justice in our college community. Individually and collectively, we are dedicated to pursuing the common good and to improving the lives of all people.



Excellence

Elms College fosters excellence in our students and in our community by educating the whole individual, intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically. We challenge each other to realize our full potential to impact the world though our knowledge and enhanced skills.

We Are Elms College

Our values are reflected everywhere from the classroom to the athletic fields to the community at large. They guide us through tough ethical situations and propel us to seek justice and work for the greater good. They tell the story of who we are.

To that end, the trustees, faculty, staff and students of Elms College strive to represent a community of individuals committed to the values instilled through our Catholic identity and our relationship with the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The stories you will read in the following pages are representative of how our community brings these core values to life.

"It's important to communicate who you are, what your values are and make sure that we are living out those values." — *Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D.*

Faith Grown Into



Mr. Brooks and Lauren Sparks '10 in Mount Friendship, Jamaica, West Indies

The news came over a tenuous Internet connection in a Jamaican village. Lauren Sparks, then a senior English and religion major at Elms College, had received her acceptance email from Yale Divinity School. For a young woman who had struggled intensely with her Catholic self, the decision to attend marked a calm acknowledgment of her religious identity.

Growing up in tiny West Brookfield, on the edge of Worcester County, Sparks '10 attended a small regional high school where she excelled in writing and theater. Brought up as a Catholic by an American father and Colombian mother, she often felt dissatisfied with her church life. "I had always been very spiritual, but not sure that I was Catholic," she said. "I struggled with my faith a lot, and I wanted a place where I could fit in and feel comfortable," she said. She sought answers to her questions through research and reading about world religions.

Intellectually curious and a good student, Lauren worked hard to get into college. Sparks' mother suggested Elms College, where she had recently attended a diversity workshop. Sparks' academic achievements earned her acceptance to Elms, as well as Smith College—her top choice. She was disappointed to find Smith would be out of her financial reach and had to reconsider going elsewhere. Initially, she was reticent about going to a Catholic school. "I knew I wanted to study religion, but I wanted to study it in a secular setting," she said.

A scholarship offer made Elms more affordable, and Lauren started college in Chicopee. She fell in love with the campus and genuine sense of community, feeling that like Smith, Elms was one of few colleges to offer a beautiful close-knit setting and a religion major.

Carol Allan, ssj, director of campus ministry at Elms College said "Elms was a good choice for Lauren. The professors recognized her ability and helped her set a challenging course." Sparks grew to appreciate the college's Catholic identity, saying it helped her grow into her Catholicism. "I was learning about the church and experiencing it in a new way," she said, "and learning from clergy and sisters who are passionate about what they're teaching inspired me."

Lauren thrived academically, often challenging the classroom status quo with tough questions, to the delight of some professors and chagrin of others. "Lauren challenges all who know her to rethink long-held assumptions and biases," said Fr. Mark Stelzer, who teachers religion at Elms College. Sparks admitted she "fired question after question," and appreciated her professors' patience with her sincere search.

Over time, Lauren felt a shift between her hunger for answers and her satisfaction with her faith. "The beautiful part of religion is a mystery, and it's a sacred mystery," she said. "I started to enjoy the comfort of not knowing everything."

Lauren began going on service trips in order to help others. As a sophomore, she took her first trip to Jamaica. "That trip changed my life," she said. "Seeing the way others worship, people who are poor and struggling, forced me to confront my own faith and beliefs in a tangible way."

The night before departing on a service trip to Honduras the following year, Lauren found

herself by her grandmother's hospital bed. While in treatment for pneumonia, her grandmother had brushed off her oxygen mask, suffering crippling brain damage as a result. With her father on a business trip, and the rest of the family unavailable, Lauren alone kept watch and answered for her grandmother when a priest arrived to offer the final sacrament. "I didn't want to go to Honduras after that. I just wanted to go home and cry. But being with [my grandmother] really brought out the value of the sacraments to me. It had an impact on me that nothing else had before, not communion, not confirmation—because it was so irrevocable," she recalled. Sharing in her grandmother's last rites developed Lauren's appreciation for the sacraments, and became a source of comfort during the trip.

Maureen Kervick, former director of campus ministry at Elms, had gone to Jamaica with Lauren. "I believe Lauren's strong faith in God ignites her passion for justice and service to others," she said. "She has an uncanny ability to reach across lines, and to accept people from any background," Allan added.

In her senior year at Elms, Lauren reached out to a Palestinian professor who taught Arabic. Fascinated by Islam, Lauren engaged her professor in conversations about their religions. She was moved by Muslim people's devotion to Islam despite facing persecution around the world. She said "answering [the professor's] questions forced me to explain things and examine my own faith through new eyes." The exchange further developed Lauren's comfort with her Catholicism.

Though Lauren did not have specific plans for continuing her religious education after college, she knew she would pursue graduate study. In her senior year, she applied to graduate programs in English, religion, law, and Middle Eastern studies at various universities. The possibilities seemed infinite, and she hoped the right path would become obvious when the time came. When the email from Yale reached her in Jamaica, Lauren found the clarity she had been awaiting. "It felt like the most right thing in the world to me. I felt like everything finally fell into place," she said.

Moving to New Haven, a big city, and to a much bigger school away from the campus that had been her home made Lauren nervous. Elms College faculty, however, have no doubt Lauren belongs at Yale Divinity. Considering the many accomplishments of a student like Lauren, said Stelzer, shows that "Elms College is doing something very right and very good for our world and for our Church."

Originally due to graduate in 2012, Lauren recently applied into a joint program of Yale's divinity and law schools. If accepted, she would complete a degree in public interest law by 2015. "I know I want to work in advocacy, probably for immigrants or in the prison system," she said, adding that she has many other ideas for potential career paths.

Her initial anxieties have subsided in her second semester, and she fondly recalls the nurturing environment founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph, where ecumenism, understanding, and female leadership were encouraged. "Being at a Protestant school, where they see a much narrower view of Catholicism, I realize how much I took the Catholic part of Elms for granted."

Lauren is deeply humble about her presence at Yale, despite being one of only three degree candidates in the World Christianity program. "So much of why I'm here is because of God and the support of my family and friends and my professors at Elms. My part of this is minimal," she said.



above: painting the school library in Mount Friendship.

below: visiting with children in Devon Pen, Jamaica, West Indies.

Elms College volunteers with the Passionist volunteers visiting Lime Cay off the coast of Kingston.



"People don't expect 18 to 20-year-olds to care about the world. It's so nice to see the look on their faces. It's as if they're saying, 'Wow – an entire freshman class did this!' The payment of a smile on someone's face is beyond expectation."
—Stephanie Konstentinidiss

Community

by Kathy Dunn

Common Good and Community

Ask any group of first years about the college's core value of community, and you'll get a flurry of answers. Some will talk about attitudes they learned from their families. First year student Caitlin Janchuk gained a lifelong perspective when her parents told her to set an extra place at the table—"so when you want to invite someone for dinner, there's always a place for them." Other students will share their experiences with community groups such as Girl Scouts, Young Marines, and religious organizations. Several students will tell you they were drawn to the Elms College focus on community. Whatever their prior experience, the 211 students entering Elms this fall become deeply immersed in campus programs, academics, and community through their First Year Seminar. This year's seminar focus: "Common Good: Building and Community."

The eleven instructors who lead the first year seminars take their mission to heart, offering students a rich variety of topics and a wide range of approaches. "This symposium is designed to help students explore ways to make a difference in their communities—from various perspectives, and through different disciplines," explains Joyce Hampton, coordinator of the first year seminar and also a seminar leader. "Students attend presentations on subjects ranging from developing grassroots organizations to understanding the challenges incarcerated women face upon release from prison." Along with Assistant Director Carol Allan, ssj, organizer and seminar leader Ann Harrison, and their ten co-leaders, Joyce welcomes incoming students with a challenge to "be ready for the journey with an open mind, an open heart, and an open map!"

Circles of Community

Recognizing that fellow classmates are often the first and most immediate circle of community, seminar leaders provide students with ways to explore and develop new friendships. Bryan Davey appreciates this: "The first year seminar helped me broaden my comfort zone for meeting new people and making new friends." Tamisha Francois was initially reluctant to invest in the work of building a new community of friends. She has met the challenge and smiles now, encouraging her classmates: "You can't lose anything by making new friends."

As this burgeoning community becomes a home base for first year students, their focus widens: they begin to apply their learning and talents to local, regional, and national communities. Some students set up dry-erase boards and assembled furniture for the children who would be attending Homework House in the fall. Others spent Saturday mornings during the fall making and distributing ham sandwiches from a Springfield parking lot, so that people with very few resources could have a nutritional meal. Several students helped families staying at the Ronald McDonald House while their children underwent orthopedic surgery at Shriners Hospital. Some prepared and served an Italian dinner for everyone; others offered bilingual tutoring and played games with the children; several collected warm clothing for families; and as Christmas approached, they brought a Christmas tree, worked with the families to make ornaments, and read "The Night Before Christmas" to the children – in English and in Spanish. A short list of the many First Year topics and activities would also have to include: making the planet more sustainable through ecology; exploring career options with an eye to ethics, values, and diversity; understanding social behavior and countering stereotypes, isolation, and bullying; and meeting with local agencies that provide legal services for citizens who cannot afford a lawyer.

Gifts Multiply

Students will tell you the rewards for their work are deep and lasting. They will also tell you how a simple gift can multiply—how giving out ham sandwiches becomes a smile, or a "thanks"; how it leads to gathering and distributing mittens, socks, and warm clothing, as well; how strangers donate money so the students can buy more supplies; and how a small community emerges as students get to know the people who return each week. "It's a simple community event, simple ham sandwiches," Yanisha Perez reflects. "But people would come and sit; they just wanted to talk. We knew everyone by name."

Juan Quintana and his fellow students who helped set up furniture at Homework House didn't get to meet the children who would benefit from their work. Still, they understood



the value of their efforts. What they didn't anticipate were the personal benefits: "We bonded as a group," Juan Quintana explains. "We also did a lot of reflecting, a lot of getting to know ourselves – I think that's what community service does. It's getting to know yourself, as well as helping others."

Challenges and Choices

I don't have time … I won't know anyone else there … I can't change the world with a few sandwiches. Moving beyond one's comfort zone is always a challenge, and many students experience internal resistance when they are required to join new community activities. Add to this the challenge of external resistances such as negative attitudes, low expectations, cultural barriers, and lack of organized efforts—and the difficulty of creating change can be daunting.

Students credit the structure of their Seminars with helping them develop the courage and resources they needed to move through these barriers. Joyce Hampton's seminar required students to attend two cultural activities during the semester. "There is a dynamic environment here with wonderful learning opportunities, if students learn to take advantage of it." Caitlin Janchuk admits that she was reluctant to go the first time. "I didn't know what to expect, so I told my roommate she had to go with me. The next week, she made me go back with her—and after that we just kept going."

Added to the support of the seminar structure is the mentoring provided by seminar leaders. Sr. Carol Allan's students can assure you that their seminar leader "sets the bar incredibly high." At the same time, she helps them out: if they ever need her, she's there. When a student emailed her at night for help on a paper, Sr. Carol responded. One student captures an essential quality of mentoring as she affirms that "Sr. Carol believes in us, and now we believe in ourselves."

Class-wide Events

When students talk about the First Year Seminar's class-wide events, Cory Booker's name comes up frequently. As Mayor of Newark, NJ Cory walked the beats with police officers every night until four in the morning. He held basketball games at midnight for teens and young adults. He challenged people to show his level of commitment. And he reduced violent crime by an unprecedented 40 percent.

As first year student Nicole Brunson points out, Springfield has many of the same challenges that Cory's city has. His lessons hit home, and Tamisha Francois takes them to heart: "Cory Booker didn't want to just lower crime rates; he wanted to have no crime. People told him to lower his expectations. He said, 'Never listen to someone who says you should lower your expectations. That's when you don't try your best.' "

The Larger Circle: a Summative Experience

On a Wednesday in December, Veritas Auditorium resounded with the voices of students gathering for the Summative Experience of their First Year Seminar. During the celebratory event, 211 students shared stories, skits, PowerPoint presentations, friendship bracelets, and videos detailing their activities and learning across their first semester at Elms College. Nicole Brunson captures the spirit of the day, and one of the larger lessons of the semester, by pointing out that: "community is not just individual efforts; it's our individual efforts joined together."

"This course is designed to offer students a linkage between the theoretical "book learning" and experiential learning. It focuses on an academic topic and then applies the knowledge to a broader community." Other students reflect on their learnings for the semester. Yanisha Perez admits, "When I first came to Elms, I wasn't expecting to be involved in community service. When I started going to class, it totally changed my perspective on everything." Fellow student Matthew Gosselin would like to see a class like this at the high school—and even grammar school—level. "This is one of the most important classes in college," he adds. "The real life lessons—that's what we're learning in this class."

And, as gifts tend to grow, seminar leaders find great rewards as well. Joyce Hampton is quick to say, "I love teaching and directing this class. The students have such energy and vision. We give them the tools—chicken, bread, whatever they need to make it happen—and they go out and do wonderful things…I see how they change after we teach this course. I grow also; I'm a different person in some way each time I go through this process. I am grateful."

Kellie McLaughlin said "I know I'm always going to remember this seminar, because we did something. The First Year Seminar should always be about Community, because it's the first and most important lesson we could learn."

First year seminar students Nick Wyckmans, Gianna Gorneault, and Vanessa Borisova from Attorney Caroline Murray's first year seminar class.



"Without a vision, the pe

JUSTICE

The sound of rotor blades slicing through the air is barely noticeable at first over the other ambient sounds of Worcester, Massachusetts. On a hill overlooking the city, a wind turbine towers over Holy Name Central Junior Senior High School, where former headmaster Mary Riordan '60 made it her mission to find a power source that would reduce the school's electric bills as well as its harmful impact on God's creation.

A self-proclaimed life-long environmentalist, Riordan realized shortly after taking on her responsibilities as headmaster that Holy Name would need to make drastic changes in order to address the skyrocketing energy costs that had burdened the school for years. "When I took over as headmaster, the school was spending $200,000 a year on heating alone," Riordan said. Riordan explained that energy costs had always been an issue at Holy Name because the heating system ran entirely on electric power. When Holy Name was built in 1967 and baseboard heating was installed, electricity was considered the most cost-effective source of heat. Over time, the price per kilowatt-hour increased and Holy Name instituted energy saving measures such as installation of motion lights and computerized energy management. These measures resulted in minimal savings for the school, and the utility costs strained the budget.

Riordan's Catholic education had always informed her decisions, and she was able to see two distinct crises through the lens of Catholic social teaching. Relying on power plant generated electricity had lasting environmental consequences, and the role of mankind is to steward creation instead of abusing it. High energy costs were pulling resources from crucial areas at Holy Name, impacting academics and the school's ability to offer financial assistance to students. Creating opportunities for the disadvantaged is a key theme in Catholic values. The problem had become one of not only resources, but of justice.

Riordan committed herself to bringing a new, clean energy source to Holy Name. "My predecessor had explored every option imaginable to curb the cost of heating the school, including conversion to oil. Unfortunately, none of these options were viable. When I took over, I saw that our location was prime territory for wind power. I thought wind could potentially be the perfect solution to our problem," she said.

Armed with seed money from the Sisters of Saint Anne, Riordan approached a group of students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and enlisted them in researching and planning the project. Riordan hoped that their feasibility study would provide her with the necessary hard data crucial to securing additional funding for the project. The six-month study concluded with a recommendation that Holy Name install a 600-kilowatt turbine, which would produce 60-70 percent of the school's electricity during peak demand periods.

Based on the data that Riordan had accumulated, she was able to secure enough funding to build the turbine, a 1.7 million dollar project. Although, there were other obstacles the project would have to overcome as well. Stephen Perla, former Superintendent of Schools, a close colleague of Riordan's, and staunch advocate of the turbine project, recalled one particular challenge. "No one had ever built a wind turbine in Worcester before, so there was no ordinance in place for this project. Mary had to work with the city to establish a zoning ordinance and then had to meet the stipulations of the new ordinance," Perla said.

Perla attributes the success of the project to Riordan's tenacity. "I worked with Mary for a number of years and came to know her as a woman of strategic vision and an extremely talented finance person. Not only is she one of the best in the school system, she is one of the best in the business." Riordan admits that she was surprised by the warm reception to her plan, which was met with almost uniform approval from the politicians, educators, church representatives, and community leaders she had invited to discuss the project.

Commenting on Riordan's initial concerns, Perla acknowledged she successfully addressed both issues with one solution. "Not only does [the turbine] provide a clean energy source, it also addresses the issue of affordability and accessibility by stabilizing the tuition costs at Holy Name," he said. In addition, he said the wind turbine has proven to be an invaluable educational tool for local youth.

Riordan said in the time since the turbine was built, many students from middle school to college have benefited from coming to Holy Name to study the turbine. The subject frequently comes up in science classes in area high school and college classrooms, and other institutions have been contacting her regularly for recommendations on how to pursue similar projects on their own.

...ople perish." Proverbs 29:18

Riordan feels the education she received at Elms College played a key role in her development as a life-long educator. A biology major and chemistry minor, she fondly recalls the impact Sr. Norah Harrington and Sr. Margaret James had on her growth a as student and a leader. "I can never repay Elms College for what they did for me. Under the guidance of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, l learned how to interact with people, how to work collaboratively with diverse groups of people, and most importantly, how to listen. It is also where I learned the importance of protecting what God has given us," she said.

Over the course of designing and constructing the turbine, Riordan focused her time exclusively on the project, eventually stepping down as headmaster. Today she focuses on ongoing fundraising to help repay construction costs, speaking to other schools and communities about implementing green power, and working out the details of selling excess energy back to the grid that used to be Holy Name's sole source of electricity. Much of her delight in the success from the project comes from the way it starts conversations about the environment, energy, stewardship of the planet, stewardship of resources for the benefit of other people, and Catholic values in action.

Although she recognizes the significance of building the first wind turbine in Worcester and making Holy Name the first school in Massachusetts to be powered by green energy, Riordan hopes the 242-foot 600-kilowatt turbine does not become the sole hallmark of her tenure. "I hope my legacy is not the turbine," she said. "I am very proud of it because it will help students and the school in the future, but I truly hope my legacy will be that of a Catholic educator."



Mary Riordan '60 says she is proud of the wind turbine but she hopes her true legacy is as a Catholic educator.

Wind Power As Old As Civilization

Although the turbine that towers over Holy Name High School is a first in Central Massachusetts, wind power is nearly as old as civilization itself. Sailing vessels relied on wind power as early as the fifth millennium B.C., and windmills are traced back to ancient Persia (modern day Iran), around 200 B.C.

The first electricity-generating turbine was installed in 1887 Scotland by James Blyth, an academic seeking to power his holiday home. By the time of World War I, more than 100,000 farm windmills were produced per year in the U.S.

The design of wind turbines has continued to evolve over the years but only recently have more individuals and organizations turned to them as a viable source of power.

Today's turbines are far more sophisticated than their historical counterparts. They are seen by many as a good answer to the need for sustainable, reliable, and affordable power sources that minimize environmental impact.

Wind Turbine Facts

The largest capacity wind turbine is the German-built Enercon E-126, with a capacity of over 7.5 megawatts (MW), capable of producing over 20 million kilowatt hours (Kwh) in a year.

The largest U.S. wind farm is in Roscoe Texas, and its 781.5 MW output could power roughly 230,000 households – or nearly all the homes in Boston.

Most turbines used in a wind farm can have tip speeds of up to 200 miles per hour, with blade rotations clocking in at 10-22 per minute. A gearbox controls their speed to maintain production and shut down if high-speed winds risk damaging the unit.

The Fuhrlaender is the tallest wind turbine in the world stands at 525 feet—more than twice the height of the Holy Name turbine and taller than Seattle's Space Needle (518.8 feet)—with its rotor tips reaching as high as 673 feet (the Space Needle's antenna only goes as high as 605 feet).



Running Start

Elms is moving full-speed ahead with real-world programming and a new M.B.A.

By Jaclyn C. Stevenson

Accounting professor Kerry Calnan believes that practical experience blended with academic theory is the best way to learn, and there's not doubt that she walks the walk.

In fact, upon rushing across the Elms campus one day, a colleague who'd been in academia longer than she told her she stood out.

"He said, this is a college—you can walk slowly," Calnan remembered. "Sometimes, you can even mosey!"

Calnan's career began in corporate America, and as it seemed, her brisk pace was hard to shake. She worked with the multi-billion dollar company ABB (Asea Brown Boveri; now Alstom Power), managing a $150 million segment of business. Later, she worked with a start-up offering management resources before turning her attention to teaching. It's this diverse set of experiences that Calnan says colored her first view of the accounting division at the Elms.

"I had the opportunity to view things differently—I'm not an academic," she said. "Today's business students require networking skills and practical experience, and I know that there are a lot of ways to get there. In a way, that made it easier to build the bridge between the students' needs and those of hiring companies."

Off to the Races

So, with a spring in her step, Calnan began to incorporate her real-world approach into accounting programs at the Elms. Students began working with area companies to test their skills, and in the community to put those skills to work. Many, for instance, complete taxes for low- to middle-income residents at no charge in conjunction with the Valley Opportunity Council.

Gradually, the local business community started to take a second took at the activity coming out of the Elms campus, and realized that students were also making academic strides of their own.

A team of accounting students recently competed in the first annual American Institute of Certified Public Accountant (AICPA) Accounting Competition, advancing to the semi-finals alongside nine other institutions from across the country. Accolades like this are important—"they build confidence and demonstrate the skill level of our students," Calnan said—but moreover, the issues students are charged with solving are valid and timely. Teams were charged with creating proposals for the Umstead Hotel and Spa in Cary, N.C.,

outlining ways in which the hotel can maintain its quality visitor experience while introducing more sustainable practices.

Elms students also took first place in the annual Stock Market Challenge sponsored by Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts, an annual event that until last year had no college-level competition—students instead tested their skills against corporate sponsored teams loaded with executives from banks and C.P.A. firms.

Blazing a Trail

Now, accounting students will have an opportunity to take their education even further, through the creation of a new masters of business administration program set to launch in the fall. Calnan has taken on the role of director of M.B.A. programs at the Elms, which will offer three separate tracks of study: accounting, healthcare leadership, and management, in a fast-track, hybrid format that will pair online and on-campus courses. Calnan explained that a cue from the accounting world first piqued her interest in adding an M.B.A. to the Elms' repertoire.

"We've seen a significant change in how we teach accounting and how it affects the working world," she said, noting in particular a rule change in the C.P.A. certification process, effective in all of the New England states as well as most across the country, that requires students complete 150 credit hours before certified work can begin. "Essentially, that means students need a master's degree, and we were sending our students to other institutions to finish their requirements."

Calnan and her colleague Amanda Huston '03, an adjunct accounting lecturer at the Elms and vice president of operations with Junior Achievement, soon began work on an extensive white paper and proposal to launch an M.B.A. program at the Elms.

"We're good at it, and it makes sense to springboard," Calnan said, adding that she once again turned to the local business community to help shape the program. "We wanted it to be real, and have some teeth. To that end, we focused on the insurance sector, investment firms, healthcare providers, and others, and asked them what they would look for in a program. The answers were that students should be exposed to practical experience and learn by doing, and that courses needed to be relevant and stay relevant," she said.

Armed with insight from several well-heeled outfits including MassMutual, Wolf and Co., PricewaterhouseCoopers, Savage Arms, St. Germain Investment Management, Health New England, LEGO, Baystate Health, the Sisters of Providence Health System, and Westfield Savings Bank, among others, the M.B.A. began to take shape with a strong emphasis on communication and ethics, as well as an eye on the ever-changing business landscape both locally and globally. Several local executives signed on to teach courses, and an advisory council has been formed to help guide the program and develop curricula.

"We worked hard not to have a philosophical approach; we want to create doers, not philosophers," Calnan said. "One component of that was developing a faculty of true practitioners, and some pivotal courses."

One cornerstone course, for instance, will focus on the effect of current events on the economy, and another on global political environments. Calnan said both are mission-driven and fit well into the Elms' educational values.

"These courses are key in establishing who we are as an institution, and will teach students skills that will be used at many points in their lives," she explained. "They will challenge students to think holistically, and to examine the political and social aspects of their decisions."

Going the Distance

With these aspects in place, the M.B.A. is well positioned to take on its first class. Calnan said the program, as well as undergraduate programming in the accounting division, will continually evolve as times, needs, and trends change.

"We will continue shape and reshape to provide value," she said. "Corporate America moves very quickly."

Indeed, modern business runs fast and hard. But Calnan believes that she and her students are hot on its heels.

"We've seen a significant change in how we teach accounting and how it affects the working world…"



Kerry Calnan, M.B.A., C.M.A. program director for the M.B.A. program knows how fast business moves - and has developed a program that will keep pace.

Faculty and Staff News



Kerry Calnan, M.B.A., CMA, director of M.B.A. programs and assistant professor of accounting and finance was awarded tenure. Professor Calnan brings more than 10 years of experience in corporate accounting and finance. Her wealth of business experience enriches and enlivens her students' classroom experience. As the director of the new M.B.A. program, Calnan has been instrumental in the creation of the graduate degree set to launch this fall.



Joyce Hampton, Ed.D., assistant professor of English as a second language, was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. Dr. Hampton directs the English as a second language (E.S.L.) program. She also directs the exchange program with Kochi Women's University in Kochi, Japan. Dr. Hampton has traveled extensively throughout Asia, and she strives to introduce students to the value of diversity and multiculturalism.



Damien Murray, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, was awarded tenure. Born in Dublin, Ireland, Dr. Murray's teaches Irish-American and Irish history. His other areas of interest include U.S. immigration and ethnicity, the Progressive Era, and historical studies that adopt the transnational approach.



Janet Moore, Ph.D., assistant professor, was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. Dr. Moore has practiced nursing for many years in staff, staff development, and administrative positions with a primary focus in gerontology. She is certified as a clinical specialist in gerontology, and has published in that field.



Jennifer Rivers, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology, was awarded tenure. Dr. Rivers is an experimental social psychologist with research interests in basic processes related to self-concept change, social influence and prejudice. Dr. Rivers teaches courses in research methods, statistics for the behavioral sciences, general psychology, and social psychology. In addition to her teaching, Dr. Rivers is advisor to the Psychology Club.



Tom Cerasulo, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, was promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Cerasulo teaches courses in American literature, film studies, and writing. He is currently working on a book reconsidering Hollywood's effect on American literary authors. He has published on film adaptations and on the cultural history of American authorship, and his stories and poems have appeared in magazines and journals.



The editors of the literary journal, Notnostrums, have nominated Elms College lecturer ***Dan Chelotti*** for a Pushcart Prize. Chelotti submitted three poems that were published in 2010 to the Pushcart Prize committee. The Pushcart Prize is an American literary prize by Pushcart Press that honors the best poetry, short fiction, and essays submitted from small press publications across the country. Chelotti has had work accepted by many literary journals including: Kenyon Review Online, Gulf Coast, Fence, North American Review, Hotel Amerika, Court Green, Bateau, and Handsome.



Elms College nursing professors ***Joyce Thielen and Janet Moore*** were among the speakers at a program titled "Quality and Safety in Nursing Education Take Home Messages from the QSEN Conference," sponsored by the Beta Zeta at Large chapter, Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, Nursing Organization of the Veterans Administration Chapter 232, and VA New England Health Care System Network Education System VISN Continuing Nursing Education Provider Unit. Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN), funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, addresses the challenge of preparing nurses with competencies necessary to continueously improve the quality and safety of the healthcare system in which they work.

International News



Elms College hosted 10 Japanese exchange students from Kochi Women's University during a 12-day visit, from February 22 to March 5. The exchange program is in its twelfth year, sending Kochi students to Elms College, and Elms students to Kochi in alternating years.

Thirty-one Elms College students were designated as "Friendship Partners" and hosted the exchange students as roommates, classmates, and partners in planned social activities.

The Japanese students have majors in cultural studies, social work, and food and nutrition. During their time at Elms College, each visiting student attended four classes in subjects varying from sociology to art history. The students also visited local attractions such as the Holyoke Mall, Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory, Old Sturbridge Village, and Yankee Candle, and enjoying favorite American pastimes such as bowling, movies, eating pizza, and karaoke.

During their stay, the Kochi students also taught Elms College students about Japanese culture through demonstrations on cooking, calligraphy, and traditional dolls. They also assisted as language partners in a Japanese language class taught by visiting Fulbright Scholar Shio Tanaka.

Joyce Hampton, director of international programs and the English language learners program at Elms College and Anne Harrison, professor of education, coordinated the visit.



Hampton has traveled extensively throughout Asia, and she strives to introduce students to the value of diversity and multiculturalism.

Elms and KWU established the exchange program in 1998, and this is the twelfth annual visit from Japanese students. A group of Elms students travel to Japan every other year. Joyce Hampton took eight students in 2009, the fourth such study trip, and another group will go this May.





VITA
VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Throughout tax season Elms College students, in collaboration with Valley Opportunity Council for the fifth year in a row, will provide weekly tax assistance to qualified low-income residents in the campus' Alumnae Library. Each Monday, from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m., Elms College invites qualifying residents to participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

VITA, an IRS sanctioned program that trains and certifies volunteers to file tax returns, will also have volunteer sites at Holyoke Community College, Westover Air Force Base, Chicopee Village Town Homes and the Mt. Carmel Social Service Campus.

"The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program provides Elms College students with the opportunity to strengthen their commitment to the local community while gaining real-world experience outside the classroom," said Walter C. Breau, Ph.D., vice president of academic affairs. Elms College has worked with Valley Opportunity Council for the past four years to file over 1,000 returns. This will be the first year the program is being offered on the Elms College campus. " The Valley Opportunity Council could not provide free tax preparation to the communities of Chicopee and Holyoke without the continued support of the volunteers, the faculty, and the administration of Elms College," said Kevin Reed, director of planning and program development, at the Valley Opportunity Council. "The partnership has provided Elms College students the opportunity to put their classroom instruction into practice and provides the VOC with knowledgeable trained tax preparers at locations throughout Chicopee and Holyoke."

VITA is funded by the IRS, MTAC Coalition, and the Department of Housing and Community Development. For more information about the program, contact Valley Opportunity Council at 413-552-1554. Valley Opportunity Council, the designated Community Action Agency for Chicopee and Holyoke, provides 18 human service programs. Last year Valley Opportunity Council completed 800 tax returns with over $1.8 million returned to the Chicopee and Holyoke communities and an estimated $200,000 in fee savings. Its mission is to eliminate poverty through the development of self-sufficiency and economic stability.

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE & ELMS COLLEGE

Elms College to Launch New Joint Programs with Holyoke Community College

Elms College will launch two new accelerated degree completion programs for Holyoke Community College alumni and students beginning August 2011. Classes are taught on the weekends by Elms College faculty on the HCC campus, earning students bachelor's degrees within 20 months.

The healthcare administration program will prepare students to serve in management positions in the healthcare industry. According to the 2010-2011 Occupational Outlook Handbook, this industry is growing and increasing in complexity, thus raising the demand for skilled managers with general business and industry-specific training.

The early childhood leadership program will provide students with a background in human resources, staff development, fiscal accountability, and legal issues necessary for assuming leadership roles in the field. This program is designed for experienced early childhood educators who are not seeking PreK-2 licensure in Massachusetts.

The new programs augment the existing degree offerings, which currently include accounting and information systems, business management, and psychology. "This joint program is faster and less expensive than the traditional route, enabling students to quickly see the rewards of higher education realized in their careers," said Betty Hukowicz, associate academic dean of the Division of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education at Elms College.

Alumni Association

Dear Fellow Alumna/us:

It is almost two years ago that I became president of the Alumni Board at the College of Our Lady of the Elms. At that time I wrote to you in the magazine, expressing ideas and goals to develop creative ways to keep us connected to the place we love, through innovative ideas and renewed energy to events. How quickly time passes – my tenure ends June 30, 2011.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to the alumni who strengthen the college in so many ways: by serving on the Alumni Board, committees, or chapters; participating in events and activities; contributing to the annual fund and to endowed scholarships; joining former teachers and current students in the classroom; promoting the college to family and friends.

Together, we make a difference to the education of today's students, and support the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the college's founders.

As I reflect on the past two years, I note many positive changes:

The arrival of our president, Sr. Mary Reap, who has done such a fine job of addressing deferred maintenance, making the campus glow and shine for current and prospective students; expanding the college's outreach through the Holyoke Community College/Elms degree program; revising and adding new majors such as sports management and new degrees such as the master's of business administration and its three tracks; improving the college's finances; and of ensuring a quality education remains attainable for students of all income levels.

Enhanced communications such as our e-newsletter, now "mailed" monthly, that keeps us informed of what and how Elms is doing, encourages our participation in college life and activities, and highlights alumni, students, and faculty who are wonderful examples of the qualities and vibrancy of Elms.

And greater involvement of alumni in annual and endowment giving, volunteerism for the college, and as excellent role models for today's students.

I encourage you to attend and participate in the Alumni Association annual meeting, during lunch on Saturday, April 30, during which you will vote on slates for new Alumni Board members and officers, and Nominating and Governance committee members. These volunteers are there to serve as your voice – our voice – and to ensure that you are aware of the ways in which you can be engaged in support of the college.

Sincerely,

Jason Ostrander '04

President, Alumni Association



Alumni Calendar

Reunion Weekend

Reunion is set to take place on **Friday April 29 through Sunday May 1.** Don't miss out! Return your reservation form today. For more information, contact Valerie Bonatakis in the Office of Constituent Relations at alumni@elms.edu or call 413-265-2227.

Alumni Board Annual Meeting

Calling all Alums…join us for the Annual Alumni Board Meeting and luncheon scheduled during reunion weekend on Saturday April 30 at 11:30am. Cost for luncheon is $26.00 (All Golden Blazers are free of charge, but will need to register).

Join us for lunch and cast your vote for new officers, new board and committee members. Review the candidates at http://www.elms.edu/-Alumni-/Reunion_2011.xml.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Valerie Bonatakis in the Office of Constituent Relations alumni@elms.edu or 413-265-2227.

Summer Events

Look for your summer events mailer in late spring. Events will include:

- July 25 - Evening of Reflection
- July 31 - Tanglewood
- August 2 - Cape Cod Chapter
- August 25 - Chicopee Backyard Picnic

We welcome and encourage you to share your ideas through alumni@elms.edu or by calling Valerie Bonatakis at 413-265-2227.

Class Notes

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

We'd love to hear about your life and accomplishments, from career news and engagements to awards and retirements. Please email your information and/or photos to alumni@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.

1930s

Kathryn Meaney Needham '35, just turned 92 years old this past June. She has four children, two boys and two girls. She has five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She is living at home and has an aide that helps her daily. "I'm thankful for my Elms education 100 percent," Kathryn said.

1940s

Dorothy Clifford Flanagan '40 reports that life is rather routine at age 90. She manages to participate in the activities in her area. Fortunately, she has been able to spend her summers in Maine and has hope she will be able to be there this year. She is still a weekly volunteer at the Pemaquid Fisherman's Museum.

Mary Gully Tanona '40 is 90 years old and living in her own home. She is taking care of herself. She has 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth Huller '44 is not able to get around as she used to because of physical infirmities that come with aging. She feels blessed to be living at Providence Place enjoying wonderful activities among friendly people including her sister, Sr. Barbara Huller S.P. '48 and three other "Elms Girls," Mary Manning '42, Elinor O'Malley '43, and Fitzie Fitzie (Catherine Fitzgerald) '40!

Sr. Patricia Sweeney SSJ '45 has retired to Mt. Marie.

Mary Vittengl '47 sends her greetings from Teresian House in Albany, NY. She is a resident volunteer. Some of her many responsibilities include chapel/altar duties, playing organ, and laundering altar linens.

Ann Heaphy Congdon '48 is still living on Cape Cod and enjoys it so much. She and her husband and hope to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in October of 2011 with their seven children and 11 grandchildren, God willing.

Marion Mercier Loughman '48 is still singing alto in St. Mary's choir in Longmeadow. She has been volunteering in Longmeadow's Senior Readers Program for over 15 years. She reads to first and second graders. It is "a tad different from the high school students I used to teach Biology to," Marion said.

Mary Diggins Woods '48 is an active member of the Aid Society to St. Vincent Hospital Guild and volunteers at the Free Health Clinic at St. Bernard's Church in Worcester.

Marguerite Corrinet '49 had a knee replacement in November 2009 and is now enduring rehab. She hopes some day to get back to golf.

Mary Maloy Ferris '49 has five children, three girls and two boys. She and her husband have six grandchildren and one great-grandson who is two years old. They spend winters in Florida and the rest of the year in Pittsfield, MA.

Nadine Mangan Henderson '49 is still happily teaching one grad course at Anna Marie College.

1950s

Sr. Doris Giblin '50 joined in spirit with her classmates of 1950 as they celebrate 60 years. She is having her 60th anniversary as a Dominican Nun also. She says, "God bless you all!"

Mary Connelly Kegelman '50 fills retirement spending time with her husband of 55 years, Matt, their 19 grandchildren, and their parents. On Christmas eve, 2007, son Jerry fell from his roof and sustained a traumatic brain injury. The hundreds of prayers for his recovery were heard, and he is again at work at NASA, Langley, VA. Sadly, the family lost a dear member when daughter-in-law Susan died. Susan was the wife of eldest son, John, and mother of two daughters. On a happier note, son James and family live next door, and the three granddaughters living there often follow a path through the woods to grandmother's house. Having been selected National Mother of the Year in 2004, she is now president of the Delaware chapter of American Mothers, an organization dedicated to strengthening the moral and spiritual values of the family.

Margaret Bowen Diggins '51 was awarded the Marion Medal this year by her parish of Christ The King in Mashpee, MA. It was presented to her by Bishop Coleman at the Catherdral in Fall River on November 21, 2010. "My education at St. Peter's in Worcester and at the Elms has always given direction in my life," Margaret says.

Mary Catherine Murphy '52 is an associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph, a docent at Arrowhead, a board member of the Berkshire Historical Society, and a board member of the Friends of St. Vincent dePaul at Sacred Heart Church.

Carole Speight Diliberto '54 retired to Sarasota 16 years ago. She misses going to Elms reunions. She has wonderful memories from friends that she met while attending the Elms!

Marilyn Abare '55 retired from teaching full time and is subbing in her hometown.

Joyce Doyle '55 is enjoying her volunteer work at Mercy, reading for the blind. She has entertained at St. Catherine of Sienna and it was great fun for her.

Arlene Holmes McCoy '55 reports that her life is very busy and fulfilling. As a marriage and family therapist in Stamford, CT in private practive, she works with individuals, couples, and groups. She has been traveling to Italy a lot and struggling to learn the language. Her six daughters are all productive citizens as are her 10 grandchildren.

Joan De Young Mulligan '57 has one daughter, three sons, and six grandchildren. She retired 10 years ago from teaching Special Ed in high school. She loves to read, garden, and travel.

Nancy O'Donnell Re '57 finally retired from teaching but it was hard to give up so she donates her time teaching English as a second language – and spending time at the beach – in Ocean View, DE.

Sr. Judith Kappenman SSJ '58 published the bio of grandfather John Donahue who was shipped from South Boston to South Dakota to work as an indentured servant.

Sr. Eileen O'Neill SSJ '58 retired nine years ago after more than 50 years of teaching grades three through twelve. She is living at the Sycamore House in Holyoke.



Mary Collins Vivaldi '58 has been elected 2010-2011 president, Sudbury Historical Society, Inc. in Sudbury, MA.

Helen Partyka Dzialo '59 is enjoying life with her husband and babysitting for their 11 grandchildren.

1960s

Cecelia Joy Alexander '60 is a retired teacher and volunteering as a eucharistic minister. She is visiting, and occasionally babysitting when needed, for 19 grandchildren.

Diane Newman Cote '60 has two sons. Her oldest, Mark, is the canine officer with the West Springfield Police Department. Her second son, Brian, is vice president of an insurance company in San Diego. He and his wife Karen have adopted four children from Korea. She and her husband are both retired and spend six months in Florida.

Joyce Gelinas Denault '60 has been married for 48 years and has six married children. After teaching nursery school for 15 years, she has been taking care of her grandchildren so their parents can continue working (three daughters and two daughters-in-law teachers) for the past 17 years. She is now down to the youngest who is three years old. Joyce explains that "God has been good and given me the love and strength to enjoy this great job."

Judith Finn Desfosses '60 lives in Rochester, NY. She is a retired registered dietician. She has three children and two grandchildren. Her professor-husband, Louis, is deceased (2000). She remembers the Elms with great fondness and keeps in touch with some of her Elms classmates.

Mary Privitera DiNunzio '60 is a retired first grade teacher. She enjoys being with her nine grandchildren, traveling, and winters in Naples, FL. She is also an avid bridge player!

Elizabeth Stamant Harkins '60 and her husband celebrated being married 50 years in June 2010. They were married five days after she graduated. They are both members of the Bonita Springs Lions Club. They donate most mornings to this club working in the thrift store and as treasurer. The club raises over $300,000 for charity.

Marsha Macary '60 is enjoying her retirement from teaching. During the past five years, she has had the pleasure to travel to Italy with her roommate, Mary Hayes Morrissey '60, and also cruised with Mary on the Queen Mary. In summer 2009, she sailed to Alaska with her niece. She also had spine surgery but she is doing very well. "Thank God!" she says. Marsha also visited Lebanon with her cousins from Nashville, to visit family and friends.

Judith Stagnaro McCarthy '60 is living in central NH which provides great hiking and cross-country ski opportunites. She continues to work part-time as a literary coach and workshop leader in the Boston Public School, AWC program. She writes for a small magazine, works on sustainability issues, and co-heads the local Democratic Town committee. Judith and her husband love spending time with their four children, their spouses, and their seven grandchildren who live in New England, California, and Jakarta, Indonesia.

Constance McGovern '60 has received her Ph.D. from UMass Amherst and became a professor, and sometimes administrator, at Kalamazoo College, the University of Arizona, the University of Vermont, and Frostburg State University in Maryland. She has published two books and several articles on the issues of gender, class, and race in American psychiatric history. She continues her research and writing after retiring in 2005 and recently returned to New England.

Marjorie Coon Moraes '60 retired from the Department of Public Welfare after 25 years.

Patricia Fogarty Nylin '60 retired in 2000 after 40 years of teaching. Her career was in Manchester, CT, 50 miles from Charlton, and she commuted 16 years after her marriage to Ken. She really enjoyed her students.

Karen Tierney Vollinger '60 says, "Hurrah, we made 50 years! Where have the years gone?" She looked forward to seeing all of her classmates at the reunion in May 2010.

Cecilia Joyce Joy '61 continues to work part-time at College Library in Geneva, NY. She has three daughters living on the West Coast. Jim, her husband, is retired from coaching. Both work the Joy of Sculling Conference in Saratoga Spring, NY every year.

Diane Gallese Parsons '61 retired from MCLA. She helps at her son's Berkshire Leather and Silver shop in Lenox a few days a week. Mark is also part owner of Harlow's Luggage in Northampton, not far from the Elms. "Come on over!" she says.

Susan Gelinas Agnew '63 is active in local charitable organizations. She is president of Wilbraham Women's Club and St. Cecilia Catholic Women's Club. She has 15 grandchildren. Susan is a retired French and Spanish teacher at Wilbraham Middle School. Her daughter, Rebecca Gurney, RN earned an Elms BS degree in nursing in 2006.

Vivien Najimy Delgado '63 retired after 41 years of teaching (1963-2004) and is a breast cancer survivor (2003 to present). She continues to tutor elementary education, creative writing, and Spanish. She visits her family-in-law is Spain and enjoys her two year old grandson, Jayden.

Joan Hansen Meehan '63 is the Winslow High School technology coordinator and computer science teacher. She also coaches a Cyber Defense team which came in third in the State of Maine competition in 2010.

Maureen O'Shea Abbot '64 is still substituting at Sidney schools K-12. She spends time visiting her three children and spouses and a total of seven grandchildren. She will be married for 47 years in July 2011!

Leticia Dibiase Clark '64 retired from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Systen in 2004. She loves retirement and spends her time traveling, reading, volunteering, and looking for new adventures.

Camilla Conti Crick '64 is a retired teacher who taught for 20 years at Westfield High School and Gateway Regional High School. She is now doing what she loves most, playing music as an organist and choir director at Mittineaque Congregational Church in West Springfield.

Robert Hendry '64 received his master's in education 46 years ago in 1964. He retired in 1994 as a teacher and administrator of Chicopee Public Schools. He is also active in the Knights of Columbus and in pro-life activities.

Eugenie Norman Persivale '64 has been a supervisor clinical microbiologist for 43 years. She planned to retire in November 2010. She worked for LabCorp for 33 years in Raritan, NJ and previously in Somerset Hospital. She has four beautiful grandchildren; Stephen, almost 7; Elizabeth, 4; and twins Emily and Natalie, 3½.

Margaret Conroy Quinn '64 is spending January – April 15th in Stuart, FL. "Anyone from '64 class nearby?"



Sean, Ryan, and Thomas, Marylynn Kennedy Clune's three grandchildren.

Marylynn Kennedy Clune '65 is happy to say that she and Dave had their 37th anniversary. They have four children and three grandchildren. Dave retired after 22 years as superintendent of schools in Wilston, CT. He had taken another job in New York City. Marylynn is presently president of "A Better Chance" in Wilton.

Frances Ziemba Hauck '65 is employed as pastoral associate in Holy Name Parish, West Roxbury and in chaplaincy at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She is enjoying her growing family, four children, three children-in-law, and two grandchildren, Charlie and Claire. Frances reports that "Life is good."

Judith Gallagher Kelly '65 is a grandparent to her son and daughter-in-law's two beautiful children; Jack, 4, Bridget, 2, and a third due in summer 2010.

Maureen Glynn Kester '65 is enjoying retirement in a "Disney for Adults" community in The Village, FL. She is sorry she has not made it to reunions. She spends June – mid October in New England and attends CT chapter events while she is here.

Virginia Hoarle Pellicano '65 retired from 30 plus years of social work, teaching and coordinating service for our collaborative for children with special needs. She enjoys her family of seven adult children, 16 grandchildren, and a husband with whom she travels and relaxes.

Carol Fradet Raffaele '65 is principal at St. Michael's Academy Middle Campus. She has seven grandchildren, ages six to 14.

Mary Reilly Tuffen '65 lived in England for 36 years and loves it. She has eight children and eight grandchildren and is now retired. Her husband retired last year and they then hope to do more traveling.

Katherine Turnan '65 became involved in a music program for "seniors" to learn to play the organ for recreation, sponsored by Falcetti Music Springfield, after retiring from teaching. She is now teaching beginner classes and is President of a music club called L.I.F.E. for music lovers and organ players.

Julie Corcoran Van Deventer '65 would like all to pray for her son Captain Timothy Van Deventer who deploys to Afghanistan in February 2011. "Pray for all our troops!"

Nancy Noonan Woitkowski '65 was named a "She Knows Where She's Going Award" Honoree by Girls Incorporated of the Berkshires, a program of the Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center. Her commendation noted her accomplishments: "Nancy Noonan Woitkowski has touched the lives of thousands of students over a span of 45 years. She retired in 2007 from the Pittsfield Public School System, where she finished her career as director of guidance at Taconic High School. She is currently employed part time by Westfield State College as their Berkshire County liaison and is a counselor for Project Reconnect. Nancy was born in Pittsfield and grew up on Pontoosuc Lake with her mom, dad and two younger brothers, John and Gregory. While growing up, she spent a lot of time at the Pittsfield Girls Club where she took swimming lessons, cooking and sewing classes. She also attended Camp Stevenson and Camp Witawentin. An honor graduate of St. Joseph High School, she received her B.A. degree with a major in mathematics from Elms College. She spent her junior year studying abroad at the University of Louvain in Louvain, Belgium. Nancy earned her M.Ed. at North Adams State College (MCLA). In 1995 she received a CAGS, certificate of advanced graduate studies from American International College. She has been married for 42 years to her high school sweetheart, Ray Woitkowski. They have four children, Kara, Jaclyn, Dasen and Raymond, as well as two grandchildren, Kate and Jack. Woitkowski hobbies include gardening, traveling, volunteering and spending time with family and friends."

Carole Krol Frappier '66 is director of religious education at Holy Family Church in Enfield, CT. She works with teens and adults (confirmation, pre-baptism, RCIA). She is also a nature photographer, "Seasonal Treasures."

Lucinda Rodrigues Gallela '66 retired as a special education teacher in June 2009.

Sandra Fiorentino Howie '66 retired last June from the East Longmeadow School System. She will be spending time with her husband, Doug, and her children, Jen, Jeff, and Bendan, their spouses, and her five grandchildren, Emma, Ayla, Liam, Seamus, and Ronan. She will probably volunteer and would like to become a justice of the peace.

Edward Masztal '66 has been retired from teaching since June 2004. He keeps busy daily by reading, working outside, and going to the YMCA.



Kathleen Austin Scherpa '66 and ***Kathy Riordan '67*** went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land April-May 2010. The photo was taken in front of the Dominus Flevit church, with Jerusalem in the background view, with the Dome of the Rock prominent.

Edward Moriarty '67 is retired and living the good life in Naples, FL.

Awilda Chaban-Colon '68 is retired and enjoying traveling. She visited Costa Rica last January. She is also cherishing her grandchild, Stuart, and keeping busy as a board director at STCC.

Ellen Moriarty Ezold '68 works for the Center for Cultural Interchange (Student Exchange Co.) and is chair of the Granby/South Hadley Lay Deanery Board. She is also coordinator of A.C.S. Road to Recovery Program as well as a public relations agent for the American Cancer Society, Holy Cross Parish, Holyoke.

Janis Haag '68 retired from Ford Motor Co. in 2007. She is now working as a system consultant at Ford. Her two sons, a dentist and IT professional, have given her four wonderful grandsons and two fabulous daughters-in-law. She cherishes them all!

Linda Greco Wayne '69 is enjoying retirement and traveling with her husband. She returned from a 16-day riverboat cruise in Europe and still volunteers in her "old" school. She enjoyed working with the children and helping out the teachers.

1970s

Patricia Gagnon Gordon '70 is a retired earth science teacher from H.W.R.S.D. She earned a masters degree from Worcester State College in natural science. She reports that there is no rest in retirement. Both her and her husband are volunteers for the American Red Cross and are "Red Cross Ready" to go nationally for any natural disaster or terrorist attack. She was also voted Ms. Senior Congeniality for 2010.

Annellen Strong Greene '70 gives her love to her fellow graduates and alumni friends.

Mary Shaughnessey Klein '70 cherished her time at the Elms.

Janice Desmarais McDonald '70 is a graphic designer at a local newspaper. Her husband is a semi-retired college professor. They have two children graduating from Iowa State University.

Barbara Paul Pastie '70 is currently an USUI Reiki and Karuna Reiki master practicing at the Berkshire Wellness Center in Pittsfield, MA. She recently completed her training as a "Shake Your Soul" and Kripalu Yoga Dance instructor and hopes to teach classes in the Berkshires when she retires.

Jane Malinowski Zawrotnak '70 is the director of social services at AristaCare at Norwood in Plainfield, NJ.

A***nn Marie King Dooley '72*** has two daughters, one working in New York City and the other for New York State Environmental Research. She is the assistant vice president of life reinsurance underwriting for GenRe.

Michelle Duval '72 works for Hasbro Games where she is a principal game designer. She creates and develops games for preschoolers.

June Slozak '72 is loving retirement after teaching 36 years in the Monson school system. She was honored to be awarded the Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Award before she retired.

Patricia Chmiel '73 is now in her 7th year of teaching first grade at Pleasantdale Elementary School in Atlanta, GA. This is her second career since she is a retired Commander from the Navy. "Teaching is very challenging, but rewarding," Patricia says.

Marguerite Genest '73 is the school psychologist at the Curtis Blake Day School at American International College in Springfield, MA. She counsels students with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, non-verbal learning disabilities, and Asperger's Syndrome. She also lectures on these topics.

Patricia Graves '73 retired in July 2010 after 37 years as an educator – 10 years in Hawaii, 27 years at Barnstable High in Hyannis with the last 11 years as principal. "Thank you Elms for making my career possible," she says.

Carolina Lombardi '73 is the senior attorney, Legal Services for Greater Miami Inc. She represents low income people free in civil matters and has been there since 1979.

Sr. Christine Lavoie SSJ '74 has been a Sister of St. Joseph since 1969 and received her MA in 1982 in education and reading from Westfield State University. She has been principal since 1993 at Holy Trinity School in Greenfield and principal of St. Mary's Elementary School in Westfield since 1999.

Helen Boliski Elmes Skiathitis '75 is working on reactivating her expired teacher's license to teach elementary grades first-sixth after retiring from the Northampton Police Department in 2007. Her daughter, Ursula, is in her second year of college. "There's always room for knowledge!"

Joyce Healy Karwoski '75 is married to a great husband and has a brilliant and beautiful step-daughter. She has been working in social services for the past 30 years. She plans to retire within the next few years. Joyce loves to travel and hopes to be doing a lot of that in the not too distant future.

Mary Beth Kwasnowski Krohel '75 is the founding member of F.E.A.S.T. (Families Empowered and Supporting Treatment for Eating Disorders), a member of the Academy for Eating Disorders (AED) Medical Care Standards Task Force, and on the 2011 Scientific Program Committee.

Nancy Andrews McCullough '75 is currently a New York City teacher. She says, "many of the strengths and skills I have today in my classroom came from the rigorous education and teaching program from the Elms … thanks."

Sandra Haynes Ginalski '76 is celebrating 35 years of marriage, 35 years since her Elms graduation, and her husband's 60th birthday. She says, "a February 2011 cruise is in order!"

Ann Claffie Mottley '78 decided to return to school and get certified to teach Spanish and get a masters degree in special education after her marketing job was terminated (after 15 years) at the Berkshire Visitors Bureau in February 2009. She is currently enrolled in MCCA's master's in special education and is very proud to say she has a GPA of 3.6! "Teaching people of need, any need, will be my next passion," says Ann.

Pamela Duncan Medlock '79 is a public affairs specialist for Northeast Utilities covering Western CT, CL&P, and Yankee Gas. She has been with NU since 1981 in various positions throughout MA and CT and says it is a great organization to work for.

1980s

Mary Nesi Grande '80 lives with her family in the wonderful town of Branford, CT. She is married to her husband, Bob, and has three children, Jonathon a freshman at the UConn School of Business; Jenna a high school junior; and Jeffrey a high school freshman. She is the development manager for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America Connecticut Chapter. She is definitely a soccer, baseball, and tennis mom. She has been a member of Branford's three-day Father's Day weekend festival since 1995, serving as chair last year. Mary has also chaired the Branford Recreation Department board since 2005 and is a proud member of the Branford Democratic Committee, working on several elections. She has been an active school parent and has chaired numerous school fundraisers and committees since her children entered kindergarten. She loves to read, attend the theater and concerts, walk, spend time with her great friends, and go on dates with her husband. Mary says, "While I didn't realize it at the time, my years at the Elms shaped my belief in giving back to the world I'm a part of. I have a blessed life and I thank God for it."

Rev. Rosemary Mackay '80 received her doctor of ministry degree from Andover Newton Theological School in May 2010.

Kimberlee Mahon Richard '84 was named the new director of customer service & guest relations for Saint Raphael Healthcare System in New Haven, CT. Her responsibilities include leading employee customer-service improvement efforts and coordinating patient-satisfaction surveys. She will also work with teams throughout the hospital and affiliated facilities to focus on improving service to patients and their loved ones. Kimberlee, a Meriden resident, joined Saint Raphael 19 years ago as a nurse in the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit. She was promoted to patient care manager at Saint Raphael's in 2003. She completed her bachelor of science degree in nursing at College of Our Lady of the Elms and is currently pursuing a master's degree in healthcare administration at Loyola University.

Barbara Collins Donahue '85 has four children and received a FNP at UMass in 2002.

Elizabeth Hawley '85 is teaching at St. Thomas the Apostle School in West Springfield. She is a math and science teacher in grades fifth-seventh. She is also enrolled in the master's in education program at the Elms.

Kathleen Nicora Labun '85 just become principal of Blessed Sacrement School in Holyoke, MA.

Suzanne Lavallee '85 received a BSN from Barry University in 1994 and is working as an adult nurse practitioner at the VA clinic in Coral Springs, FL.

Eileen Allen Lutat '85 has been teaching in West Springfield public school for 18 years. She just became a nana and also participated in International Reading Association Professional Development in Guatemala with public school teachers and students.

Elizabeth Woods '86 is the dean of students at Quinsigamond Community College. QCC is the largest college in Worcester and has been one of the fastest growing community college for the past two years.

Susan Gonthier Boucher '87 is the mother of three children and keeps very busy with their activities. She continues to work at Noble Hospital on Med-Surg Unit as a per-diem RN and she is BCLS certified.

Kerryann McLaughlin Deshaies '89 obtained her masters degree in nursing education from the University of Hartford and teaches nursing at Goodwin College in East Hartford, CT.

Theresa Nallett Nallett-Carmine '89 would like to thank the many educators at the Elms for her education and their high standards. She says that although she is not working in the field of her degrees, the education has served her well. She is a safety specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Southeast Region. Her office is involved with the occupational safety and health of employees within the regional office, national wildlife refuges, national fish hatcheries, ports of entry, etc. They also conduct site safety inspections, accident investigations, review draft national policies, etc. She owes a debt of gratitude to her English professors and all the other educators who corrected her papers for content, format, and grammatical correctness.

1990s

Kimberly St. John Ferris '90 is the owner of Medical Management Resolutions as a medical nurse consultant.

Marie Lambert Haley '90 has been working in the field of school nursing for the past nine years. She is currently the school nurse at SMK elementary school in Ware, MA. She has 484 students, grades Pre-K through third.

Norma Cosgrove Joniec '91 retired from Mercy Medical Center after 41 years as a registered nurse.

Marie Gelgut Hart '94 is a team leader and language arts teacher for the seventh grade team at Hampshire Regional High School. She is also currently involved with the Western Massachusetts Writing Project.

Harmony Couillard '95 had her first child, a son, in July 2009 and he has been the highlight of her life. Because she has been living and working in Florida for seven years, she now calls it home. While in her classroom, teaching eighth grade English, she often thinks back fondly about the excellent education she received at Elms College. "Thank you," Harmony says.

Sanae Koizumi Kolyani '95 relocated from Washington, DC to live closer to her mother. She welcomed their third baby in 2009, who joined their then 34-month old son and 20-month old daughter. They are enjoying the beautiful weather in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Meredith Powers-Lupo '95 continues to work at the VA Medical Center in Boston doing suicide prevention work and recently accepted a position as an adjunct faculty advisor at Boston University. Her daughter, Sara, is two years old.



Mary Jeanne Tash '95 participated in the ArtWalk at Homecoming 2009.

Joan Morris Reilly '96 wrote a nonfiction book, "A Hungry Hill Trinity," featured on Amazon.com. It is a collection of anecdotes from three generations.

Helena Pereira '98 is engaged to Christopher Thompson. A graduate of Ludlow High School, Helena earned a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders from College of Our Lady of the Elms, and a master's degree in speech-language pathology from Temple University in Philadelphia. She is employed as a speech-language pathologist with Future's Healthcare and is owner and co-founder of Small Measures, LLC in Wilbraham. Christopher is a graduate of St. Mary's High School, and earned a bachelor's degree from Southern New Hampshire University

in Manchester, N.H. He is vice president of business development for the Springfield Falcons Hockey Club. The couple is planning a spring 2011 wedding.

Sheila Rivera '98 opened Brown Sugar Bakeshop in Chicopee, MA in 2010.

Jennifer Perreault Russell '98 took time off away from her career in mental health counseling to stay home and raise her two children, Alyssa, 5, and Ainsley, 1, and to spend time with her husband, Timothy.

2000s

Janice Fitzgerald Kozub '00 is working in parent education at Baystate Medical Center. As a registered nurse and international lactation consultant, she has couples come to her classes for breastfeeding information and support both before and after the birth of their babies. She says her job is joyful.

Elizabeth Villani '00 is currently a real estate sales consultant and office administrator with Marinelli, Martini & Galagher R.E. in Holyoke, MA. She and her husband have had their own woodworking and siding business for the past 12 years. They reside in Belchertown with their 11 year old daughter, a dog, a cat, a snake, and a hermit crab.

Rebecca Hitt '01 is in Winthrop, ME where in April 2010 she reported that things are wonderful. She is working at her church a few days a week and is active in the deaf ministry. She was planning on going to Haiti at the end of 2010, to Fedja, about 50 miles outside of PAP, to an orphanage and deaf school there. She can't believe it has almost been 10 years since graduation and commented, "So much has changed there, all for the better!"

Melissa Stone '01 and Paul "PJ" Cooney '03 were engaged October 10, 2010 after she finished her sixth marathon in Chicago, running a personal best time of 3:08. They currently live in Boston.

Elizabeth White Chouinard '02 is an attorney with a law firm in Palmer, MA.

Tracey Alden '03 is now working as a product development engineer at Ahlstrom Nonwovens in Windsor Locks, CT. She has been working in the medical device manufacturing field in polymer chemistry since 2003. She is currently considering going back to school for her masters, possibly in education, and said, "Sr. Wright and Dr. Drake helped make this happen for me!"

Catherine Benoit '04 received her masters degree in business administration.

Jennifer Carlson-Benoit '04 was notified in June 2010 of receiving the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) Certification from the International Association of Emergency Managers. She was to receive the certification in person in San Antonio, TX at the IAEM 2010 Annual Conference on November 3, 2010. In Septmenber 2010, Jennifer completed the first year of her doctoral program in the pursuit of the doctor of management in organizational leadership degree.

Elizabeth Cotter '04 is engaged to Bryan Barsalou. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Holyoke High School. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Elms College and a master's degree in education from Cambridge College. She is a teacher at the Anna B. Barry School in Chicopee. The future bridegroom graduated from South Hadley High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from Assumption College and is completing his master's degree in education from the Hampshire Education Collaborative. He is a teacher at Brightside. A November 2010 wedding took place at Our Lady's Chapel at Elms College.

Anthony Braden '05 is engaged to ***Erin Kress '08***. The future bridegroom graduated from Quabbin Regional High School in Barre. He served five years in the Navy and received a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Elms College, Chicopee. He is employed at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield. The bride-to-be graduated from Southwick-Tolland Regional High School, received an associate degree and registered nurse certification from Holyoke Community College, and a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Elms College, Chicopee. She is employed at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield. A May 2011 wedding is planned at Our Lady of the Elms Chapel in Chicopee, with a reception at the Delaney House, Holyoke.

Rachel Jackson '05 is working in development at Northfield Mount Hermon School. She planned to walk in the Susan G. Komen three-day for the Cure Walk in Boston, MA in July 2010.

Jessica Carter '06 is engaged to Justin Corneau. Jessica is a graduate of Westfield High School, and earned a bachelor of science degree from Elms College. She is currently employed as a registered nurse at Baystate Medical Center. Justin is a graduate of Agawam High School, and joined the U.S. Army soon after. He is employed as an environmental contractor with WME, and is currently on active duty with the U.S. Army. A September 2011 wedding is planned.

Lauren Stauch '06 recently passed her MSW exam in Arkansas.

Rebecca White '06 is engaged to Greg Labonte. Rebecca, a graduate of Elms College in Chicopee, is employed with the Chicopee Public School System. Greg is a graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute and is employed by Meditech in Framingham. An October 2011 wedding is planned at the Springfield Marriott.

Jennifer Dube '07 will graduate from Boston University in 2011 with a masters degree in criminal justice. She has been employed at MassMutual in Enfield, CT since August of 2007.

Christopher Landry '07 is attending STCC for the ultrsound diagnostic program. He plans to make it into the program by 2011-2012.

Kathryn Meade '07 is engaged to David J. Vooris. Kathryn graduated from Chicopee Comprehensive High School and Elms College. She is a toddler teacher at Rise and Shine Academy in South Hadley. David graduated from Ludlow High School and Baran Institute. He is an Audi technician at Fathers and Sons in West Springfield. An October 2010 wedding was planned in Chicopee.

Karen Prattico '07 is engaged to Andrew Lynch. Karen graduated from Elms College with a liberal arts degree. She is pursuing a master's degree in early childhood education from American International College in Springfield and is currently a teacher at Enfield Child Development Center. Andrew earned an associate degree in business management from Holyoke Community College. He is employed as a buyer with C & D Electronics in Holyoke. A June 2011 wedding is planned at Elms College Chapel in Chicopee.

Sarah Styckiewicz '07 is engaged to ***Matthew Kapinos '07***. Sarah graduated from Sabis International Charter School and earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and management from Elms College in Chicopee. She is employed by Baystate Home Infusion and Respiratory Services. Matthew graduated from Ludlow High School and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Elms College. He is currently employed by Ace Chimney Sweeps, in Ludlow. An October 2011 wedding is planned at Hampden Country Club.

Ryan Lavoie '08 is engaged to Rina Maris Irizarry. The future bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger H. Lavoie, of Ludlow. The future bride is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Jose H. Irizarry, of West Springfield. The bride-to-be, a graduate of West Springfield High School, earned a bachelor's degree from Westfield State University and a master's degree in social work from Springfield College. She is employed as a clinician with Valley Psychiatric Services in Springfield. The future bridegroom, a graduate of Ludlow High School, attained a bachelor's degree in nursing from Elms College in Chicopee. He is a registered nurse in the emergency department at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. A May 2011 wedding is planned at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield.

Amanda Ewing '09 is engaged to Casey Bradner Walkwitz of West Springfield. Amanda graduated from Hampshire Regional High School and Greenfield Community College with an AA in Criminal Justice and BA in Legal Studies from Elms. She is a paralegal with Peskin, Courchesne and Allen in Springfield. Her fiancée graduated from West Springfield High School and attended Greenfield Community College, where they met. Casey is an entrepreneur with a business as an airbrush artist. The wedding was planned for November 2010 followed by a reception at the Whateley Inn. The couple will reside in their new home in Goshen, MA.

Jacqueline Ramsey-Rosenhein '09 is working on finishing her MSN which she will have completed in April 2011.

Renata Szulc '09 is engaged to Peter Houser. A September 2011 wedding is planned.

Diana Marquez is the mother of ***Solimari Sierra '13*** and is happy that her daughter will make a career helping others.

Alfred Scaia is a graduate of St. Joseph High School in North Adams, MA. He was taught by the sisters of St. Joseph and they prepared him to go onto St. Michael's College in Vermont. "***Sr. Eleanor Maria*** (Mary Dooley) was the driving force of St. Joseph High School," he says.

Weddings

Jennifer Braney '99 married Amir Mesarwi on June 14, 2009 at Harrington Farm in Princeton, MA. Jennifer is a registered nurse at UMass Medical Center in Worcester. Amir is a senior consultant at Grant Thornton LLP in Manhattan.

Maria Cardaropoli '01 became the bride of Thomas Morrillin in a June 5, 2010 ceremony at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Springfield. A reception followed at the Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House in Holyoke. Maria is an admissions coordinator with Redstone Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in East Longmeadow. Thomas is a middle school math teacher with Chicopee Public Schools.

Elizabeth White '02 became the bride of Robert E. Chouinard in a February 5, 2010 ceremony at St. Rose de Lima Church in Chicopee. A reception followed at the Hotel Northampton. Elizabeth is an attorney with the law offices of Joseph R. White in Palmer. Robert is an electrician with Laduke Electric Inc. in Granby. They reside in Chicopee.

Elizabeth Cahall '07 and Jeremiah Crocker were married September 12, 2010 at Five Bridge Inn in Rehoboth, MA. Elizabeth is a nurse case manager, pediatric services, in Attleboro, MA. Jeremiah is a fire protection engineer for Tyco Industries in Warwick, R.I. The couple lives in North Providence, R.I.



Tina Lempke '07 and Al Millar were married February 28, 2010 at her parent's home in Russell, MA. A second ceremony was held September 25, 2010, making them doubly blessed. Tina and Al reside in Everett, MA.

Births



Aimee Morrison Hefron '95 welcomed a new baby girl, Rorie Grace, into her family on September 10, 2010. She weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces and was 20-3/4 inches long. She and her husband Mike as well as Rorie's identical twin big brothers are very excited to have her in their family and she says Rorie is truly a blessing.

Rosemarie Boissonneault Jones '05 gave birth to Sophie Lucia Jones, 9lbs 09oz., on August 9, 2010.



Jennifer Faust Biedrzycki '06 gave birth to Ella Rose on January 21, 2010. She weighed 8 lbs, 13 oz. and was 21½ inches long. Ella's godmother is ***Stacy Collins '04***.



Erin LaFlamme Clark '06 and Tim Clark welcomed twins, Elizabeth Mary and Colin David, on June 16, 2010.

Donna Parchick Harvey '08 had a wonderful addition to her family with her new granddaughter Chloe, born on December 10, 2009, 3 lbs., 12 oz., 17" long. Her grandson, Sean, was born on May 3, 2007, 8 lbs., 10-½ oz., 22" long.



Ellis Jones '09 welcomed a daughter, Lucillie Ruth Jones, on August 26, 2010.

In Memoriam

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

Alumni:

Kathryn Meaney Needham '35, passed away on January 20, 2011. Kathryn grew up in Needham, Massachusetts, and attended Our Lady of the Elms boarding school from age nine. For 25 years, she drove a school bus Woodstock, Virginia, where she attended the St. John Bosco Roman Catholic Church. She leaves behind her husband Charles, their children Kathleen, John, Richard, and Mary, and five grandchildren.

Louise Welch Arnold '37, passed away on June 30, 2010. The retired history teacher was well beloved by her students in her hometown of Milford and her late husband, Clarence.

Mary O'Connor Sullivan '39, not previously published in the Elms College Magazine.

Mary O'Connor Austin '41, passed away on October 2, 2010. Mary was born in Palmer, and graduated from Our Lady of the Elms Academy. She spent 17 years teaching in the Wilbraham public schools before retiring. She leaves behind nine children: Rosemary, Christine, Joanne, Elizabeth, Sean, Winnie, Ellie, Sheila, and Patrick as well as 19 children and 13 great grandchildren.

Mary Cavanaugh Mariani '42, passed away on August 15, 2010. Mary was a Springfield native who lived to 90. A graduate of Our Lady of Hope School and Cathedral High School, she continued her Catholic education at the College of Our Lady of the Elms. She worked as a bookkeeper, retiring after 28 years with the former Seven Up Springfield Bottling Company. Mary is survived by her children Albert, Marita, and their spouses and children.

Marie Auth '44, passed away on June 19, 2010, in Naples, Florida. Marie was a retired guidance counselor. She is survived by her sister, Helen Auth '38.

Dorothy Savoit McDowell '44, passed away on July 19, 2010. She was born in Springfield, where she was a longtime teacher and devoted member of the Catholic Women's Club. She is survived by her eight children, 15 grandchilden, and two great-grandchildren.

Frances Greaney O'Grady '45, passed away on November 8, 2010. Frances was born in Worcester, where she lived for most of her life. She is a graduate of St. Peter's High School in Worcester and Elms College. For 33 years, she taught the third grade in the Holden Public Schools. She leaves behind many nieces and nephews, and their children.

Jean Shea Brush '47, passed away on Dec. 11, 2010. Jean grew up in Springfield, where she attended Cathedral High School. At Elms College, she majored in French, and went on to earn a master's degree in early childhood education from Springfield College. Following retirement from her teaching career, she served as a docent at the Springfield Museum a community volunteer. She leaves behind Jerome, her husband of 54 years, and their children Elizabeth, Katherine, and David, and several grandchildren.

Joan McCaffrey Richards '47, passed away on Dec. 26, 2010. Joan was a beloved grade school teacher who pursued a passion for dealing antiques later in her life. Born in Newport, Rhode Island, she passed away in Huntington Beach, California, leaving behind her husband Bob, their children Paul, Ann, Lisa, and Jim, and grandchildren Kristen and Kevin.

Barbara Parnell '47, passed away on March 8, 2010. Barbara was a lifelong resident of Easthampton, and graduated from Elms College with an English degree. She taught in Springfield and Easthampton elementary schools for 42 years. Barbara was a member of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Easthampton, where she played the organ for many years. She is survived by many nieces, nephews, their children, and her beloved dog, Clancy.

Alice Moriarty Wales '48, passed away on November 18, 2010. Alice was a Chicopee Falls native, born to Irish immigrants. She attended local schools and graduated from Elms College with a degree in Chemistry. She pursued a career as an educator before devoting her time completely to her family. A devoted wife and mother, she followed her husband John to many new places during his 27 years of service in the Navy. She is survived by her two children, John and Sheila, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Roberta Morrier Soliwoda '49, passed away Sept. 16, 2010. She was the daughter of the late Albert and Irene (Bissaillon) Morrier. Roberta graduated from Our Lady of the Elms College and received a master's degree in education from Springfield College. A retired teacher, she is survived by two sons, four daughters, two brothers, and eight grandchildren.

Rosemary Belcher Kubicek '50, passed away on Dec. 21, 2010 after a courageous struggle with Alzheimer's disease. She is survived by her husband, Attorney Robert E. Kubicek of Greensboro, her sister and brother-in-law, Peg and Peter Landon of Longmeadow and many nieces and nephews. The family is eternally grateful to caregivers who showered her with genuine love, attention, and compassion in her last days.

Anne Finnegan Conlon '51, passed away May 16, 2010. Beloved wife of John Conlon. Loving mother of Catherine O'Rourke and her husband Michael of Weymouth, Elizabeth Galluzzo and her husband Joseph of Andover. Patrick of Methuen, and Daniel and his wife Tina of Watertown. She is also survived by 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Mary Trainor Cronin '51, passed away on November 6, 2010 after a short illness. Mary was a beloved elementary school teacher for 40 years, spending most of her time as an educator in the Worcester Public School system. She especially enjoyed traveling and gardening. She leaves her husband of 55 years, Robert, her daughter, Maribeth, and a grandson.

Sister Julia Frances Killelea '51, beloved member of the Sisters of St. Joseph, passed away on July 2, 2010. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Holy Rosary Parish and earned a B.A degree from Elms College. A former teacher, she also served as a nurse's aide at Mont Marie.

Sister Patricia Anne O'Donnell '51, cherished member of the Sisters of St. Joseph, passed away on October 15, 2010. She earned A.B. and M.A. degrees from the College of Our Lady of the Elms, Chicopee, MA and taught at many area schools, including Holy Cross School, Springfield, St. Peter's in Worcester, and St. Joseph's in North Brookfield. In addition to her Sisters in Community, she is survived by one sister, three nephews, one niece, and several grandnieces and grandnephews.

Cathleen Cronin Regan '51, passed away on January 7, 2011, at the age of 81, at her home. She was the wife of the late Harold J. Regan, Jr., with whom she shared fifty years of marriage. A teacher, she worked for 34 years in the Haverhill public school system as an elementary school teacher until retirement in 1989. Her religion was a constant in her life and provided her much strength and comfort. She leaves behind three children and three grandchildren.

Mary Gill Roverse '51, passed away on February 8, 2010 at her home in Alexandria, Virginia. Mary left her husband of 52 years, Eugene, six children, eight grandchildren, and one brother, James Gill.

Margaret Doyle Schmidt '52, Passed away April 30, 2010. She was a retired teacher and librarian. Her survivors include her husband, Edward W. Schmidt, a son, Steven E. Schmidt, and a sister Joan Hart '56.

Helen Nee Wright '53, Passed away on February 15, 2010, at 78 years of age. Helen worked as a chemist at the New England Medical Center in Boston for over 20 years, retiring in 1992. Helen was a proud member of the Democratic City Committee and enjoyed politics. Helen was the wife of 55 years to Edmund, mother of three children, and is survived by one sister and several grand nieces and nephews.

Sister Rita Morey '54, Beloved member of the Sisters of St. Joseph passed away on, Dec. 31, 2010. Sister was highly educated having earned an A.B. Degree, an M.A. in History and an M.A. in English Literature at Boston College. She was an educator for 45 years in Diocesan schools. She retired in 1988 as an Archivist for the Sister of St. Joseph Springfield.

Dorothy Berthiaume Mortensen '54, passed away September 9, 2010. She was a retired teacher, dental assistant, and a customer

service specialist. Her survivors include four children and she is predeceased by her husband, Gerald Mortensen.

Sister Daniel Maria Yuknas, ssj '54, passed away on September 20, 2010. She served as teacher in the Diocese of Springfield at Holy Family School and Cathedral High School, Springfield; St. Patrick School, Chicopee Falls and Holy Trinity School, Greenfield; and in the Diocese of Providence at Sacred Heart School, Pawtucket, and principal at St. Louis School, Webster. In 1997 she was named a Woman of Distinction by the Montachusett Girl Scout Council in Central Massachusetts. She leaves behind nephews and nieces.

Sister Mary Courtney, ssj '55, passed away on October 24, 2010. Sister Mary taught in the schools of the Diocese of Springfield at Our Lady of Hope, Holy Name and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Springfield; in West Springfield at St. Thomas; in Westfield at St. Mary; in Pittsfield at St. Joseph and in Dalton at St. Agnes. She served as principal at Holy Trinity School, Greenfield. She was director of religious education at Our Lady of Hope Parish, Springfield and St. Thomas, West Springfield and director of pastoral care at the Providence Motherhouse Infirmary, Holyoke. She leaves behind her brother John.

Helen Pelissier '56, passed away on July 30, 2010. Helen was a math teacher for most of her career at the Hawley Junior High School in Northampton, and is fondly remembered by generations of her students as one of the classic grand ladies of teaching. She leaves behind caregivers, nephews, and nieces.

Ann Richards, ssj '56, passed away on December 15, 2010. Sister Anne taught in several schools in the Springfield Diocese and also worked at Mercy Hospital, Springfield. She leaves behind her husband, Daniel and two sisters.

Margaret Collins '57, passed away was on July 28, 2010. The former teacher leaves behind her sister Eileen McEleney.

Alice Weldon Teixeira '57, passed away on October 21, 2010. Alice was a kindergarten teacher for numerous schools in the Springfield School System. She was a longtime and involved communicant at Holy Cross Church in Springfield. She leaves behind two children and three sisters.

Janice Guertin Brunelle '58, passed away on April 22, 2010. She was a lifelong Chicopee resident and former teacher. She leaves behind four children, a brother, and three sisters.

Valarius Hutkoski Keilch '58, passed away on March 10, 2004. She worked as a nurse at the Northampton Veterans Administration Medical Center, now the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, for 28 years, retiring in 1978. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, she served as a nurse in the European theater. She was a member of the Holyoke Hospital Alumni Association.

Sister Patricia Rumse, ssj, '58, passed away on December 26, 2010. Sister Patricia taught at St. Jerome School, Blessed Sacrament School and Holyoke Catholic High School, Holyoke; and Our Lady of Hope School and Cathedral High School, Springfield. She served on the staff of the Springfield Diocesan Schools Office as Reading Specialist and as Principal of Holy Name School and Holy Cross School, Springfield. She was a teacher in the Diocese of Providence at St. Joseph and St. Catherine's Academy, Newport, RI. She leaves behind her sister Catherine Dugan.

Sister Virginia Duross, ssj '59, passed away on August 26, 2010. Sister Virginia taught in the Diocese of Worcester at Sacred Heart School, Gardner; in the Diocese of Springfield at St. Joseph School, North Adams and St Joseph School, Pittsfield and at Holyoke Catholic High School. In 2002 she was honored by the Diocese of Springfield as an outstanding teacher at Holyoke Catholic High School where she taught English for 26 years. She leaves behind an aunt and several cousins.

Sister Ruth O'Connor, ssj '60, was passed away on December 17, 2010. Sister Ruth taught at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Holy Name School, Cathedral Grammar and Cathedral High School and as principal at St. Matthew School, all in Springfield. She served as teacher at St. Stephen, and St. Peter Schools, Worcester and at St. Catherine Academy, Newport, RI. She leaves behind her brother John.

Judith Riordan '60, passed away on July 2, 2010. Judith was a teacher, member of the Elms College Board of Trustees, and past president of the Elms College Alumni Association Board. She leaves behind several cousins including Carolyn Dillinger '62, Ann Farrell '57, Catherine Palmer '45, and Margaret Roussos '51.

Mary Kelly Keane '61 passed away on March 5, 2010. Mary is a retired teacher and leaves to mourn two children and her two brothers. She was predeceased by her husband, Timothy J. Keane.

Sister Mary Frances Sidebottom, ssj '62, (Martin Therese), passed away at Mont Marie Health Care Center on May 16, 2010. She is survived by her sister and two brothers.

Ann Malboeuf Saffo '63, passed away November 11, 2010. President of the class of 1963, Ann is survived by her three children, Cristin, John and his wife, Heather, and David and his wife, Rachel. She also leaves her brother, Ed and his wife, Helen.

George Robidoux '64, passed away on January 17, 2010, in Ware, MA. George was a teacher and coach and leaves behind his wife, Rosemary Saletnik Robidoux, three brothers, a sister, and four children.



Betsey Dore Massey '66, passed away on August 23, 2010. She is survived by her husband, her sister, Nancy, and her daughters, Dianna, left and Lisa, right.

Regina Chechette Wingard '66, passed away on August 2, 2010. Regina was a former social worker and teacher. She leaves behind her husband, James M. Wingard, two children, a brother, and three sisters.

Janice Zeleski Kuchta '67, a lifelong resident of Chicopee, passed away peacefully on October 25, 2010. Janice was a dedicated elementary school teacher retiring after 35 years of service. She is survived by husband, Ronald, her daughter, Jocelyn M. Hemingway '95 and husband Shawn, and her grandson, Spencer.

Theresa Devine Moran '67 passed away on January 5, 2011. Theresa was a Public Health Supervisor for the Westfield city health department, retiring in 1990 after 34 years of service. She leaves a niece Anne Devine, two grand-nephews, Joel and Adam Mathieson, and a grand-niece, Claire Mathieson.

Ann Lesniak McCasland '70, passed away on December 13, 2010 at the Kaplan Family Hospice, Newburgh, N.Y, with her family by her side. Ann leaves her husband John McCasland, her mother, Helen Miller Lesniak Gop, of Housatonic, NY and a daughter Marnie Lynn Reidy.

Maryhelene Skiba Phelan '72, passed away on August 13, 2010, in Wilbraham, MA. A former teacher, Maryhelene is survived by her mother, Delphine Skiba, and four siblings.

Wendy E. Woods '72 passed away on October 20, 2010. Wendy was an educator in the Springfield Diocesan schools. She leaves her sister, Judith Kusinitz and her husband, Mike, three nieces and four grand nephews.

Kathleen Loos Brancato '74 passed away on November 10, 2010. Kathleen was a talented artist and leaves behind her husband Dennis Brancato her daughter, Adrienne Schneider and husband, Joshua her daughter, Dana Brancato, her son, Peter Brancato, and her brothers, Robert and Thomas Loos.

Karen Kareta Stevenson '74 passed away on October 19, 2010. Karen was a social worker and teacher and leaves her sister, Connie Barre, and brother, Fred Kareta.

Jeannine C. Connelly '84 passed away on June 15, 2010. Jeannine was a health care worker and leaves her mother, her companion, Romeo N. Lyszchyn, and brothers Michael Connelly and wife Vera, William Connelly and wife Rosalie, and Thomas Connelly, along with her many nieces and nephews.

Mary Rusiecki Passera '86 passed away on May 9, 2010. Mary was a nurse and leaves her step-children and her brother.

Darlene Watson Smith '90, passed away on April 5, 2010. Darlene founded Well Adjusted Chiropractic Wellness Center in Suffield, Connecticut and leaves behind her husband, Barry Charles Smith, her parents, and six brothers and sisters and their families.

LaVerne Howard '92, passed away on November 16, 2010. Laverne was an art therapy major who spent many years as a volunteer on the board of the Hampshire

County Action Commission. She leaves behind her mother Juanita, her sons Jason, David and Ian, and her brother and sisters.

Karen E. Riley '92 passed away on June 1, 2010. Karen was employed in the court system in Springfield working as a victim's advocate. Karen leaves behind her father, Robert, stepmother, Caroline Riley, her brothers Robert and Richard and stepsister Christine and stepbrothers Mathew and Peter Gauthier.

Kellie Anne Hamre Kenney '95 passed away on December 13, 2010. Kellie was a R.N. at Baystate Medical Center and leaves behind her husband, Mark, her son, John, her parents Philip and Nancy Hamre, and a sister, Tara.

Patricia Giordano '00, who dedicated her life to social services and provided foster care for more than 100 children, passed away on September 15, 2010. Patty received her degree in social work. She leaves her husband, Frank Giordano, a son, Anthony, two daughters, Shannon and Dawn, and a brother, John Jokinen.

Husband of:
Louise McCann Keenan '38 (dec)
H. Patricia Bardsley O'Neill '46
Lois Boland Quinn '46
Rose Marie La Mountain Nathan '49
Margaret Shea Cheney '50
Dorothea Kuhar Ladd '51
Jean Baillargeon Egan '52
Anne O'Connell Lertora '55
Patricia Hanifin Nelen '55
Joan De Young Mulligan '57
Rosalie Dizek Loomis '60
Patricia Fogarty Nylin '60
Rosemary Kelly Marczewski '63
Mary Patterson Viamari '67
Susan Boyle-Glidden '82
Cindy-Lee Kirby Jenks '08
Gina Maggi Golash-trustee

Mother of:
Anna Frigo Spellacy '59
Patricia Thompson Burden '62
Julie Ferrero Nichols '62
Mary Burke Hallahan '65
Elaine Nawrocki Sakellis '65
Ann Gibbons Wyllie '65
Faith-Mary Swierzewski Alaimo '69
Jean Keating Wheeler '71
Elaine Pudlo Lampron '70
Linda Connolly Sullivan '72
Mary Daly '73
Kathleen Ennis Cassin '75
Darlene Kowal Fucci '81
Terrence Reagan '05
Jae Bergman-staff
Nanci Costanzo-faculty
William Wagner-former trustee

Mother-in-law of:
Clare Reynolds Frigo '65
Kathleen Butler Baczynski '73
Anne Marie Corrieri '80

Father of:
Marianne Fratamico '75
Denise LaRiviere Rourke '75
Elizabeth Dineen '77
Patricia Broderick '83
Patricia Devine '83
Carolyn Molloy '88
Brigetann Reilly '99
Tiffany Williams '10
Sandi Finley '11
Kathleen Curry-staff
John Czajkowski-faculty
Kristine Gregory-staff
Corey Soutra-staff
Kathleen Szczur-staff

Daughter of:
Barbara Shevlin Kiely '55
Judith Gallagher Kelly '65

Son of:
Mary Nelen Napolitan '48

Sister of:
Lois Salome '59
Patricia Krzelest '66
Lucille Kolish-former trustee

Sister-in-law of:
Ann Martin Gibbons '48
Helen Partyka Dzialo '59

Brother of:
Rita Rodden '44
Lois Boland Quinn '46
Katherine Moriarty '47
Mary Nelen Napolitan '48
Sr. Kathleen Keating '52
Rosemarie Flanagan Cronin '54
Claire Pion Ryan '55
Rosemary Broderick O'Connor '60
Annie Emanuelli '10
Janice Mahon-staff

Brother-in-law of:
Helene Brady Brennan '51

Grandmother of:
Lisa Frigo '82
Elizabeth Spellacy '88
Francesca Frigo Pelligrino '91
Deana Frigo Palotta '92
Janice Mahon-staff

Step-Grandmother of:
Dianna Pisano-staff

Granddaughter of:
Paul McKenna-former trustee

Aunt:
Carolyn Knight Trudeau '02
Jeffrey and Lisa Knight-friends

Uncle of:
Ellyn Moriarty '86
Jessica Martinez '06

Former Faculty:
Joseph Auth
Theodore Krastin
Sr. Catherine Laboure

Former Staff:
Lisa Godin
Sr. Muriel Lusignan
Msgr. Leo Leclerc

Former Trustee:
Edwin Love
Patricia Tetrault Morgan

Sisters of St. Joseph:
Sr. Mathilde Joseph Bessette
Sr. Bertha LeBlanc
Sr. Marie Joseph LeBlanc
Sr. Regina Marie Vice

Individual/Friend:
Gerald D'Amour-honorary degree '90
Peter Soja
Rita Tremble-honorary degree '90
Eileen Warwick

Mission Review



As the Elms community moves forward with its mission review process, we'd like to thank all faculty, staff, students, alumni, and members of the board of trustees who provided their thoughts on our mission statement. We have developed a draft mission statement, which continues to be refined. if you would like to give us your feed back on the mission statement, please log on to www.elms.edu/missionreview and complete the online form.

We would like to encourage everyone in the college community to participate in this process as we ask ourselves: who do we serve as an institution?; what is the distinctive character of Elms College?; how do we address the needs of society and those whom we serve?; and how does the mission statement reflect our traditions as well as our vision for the future?

If you'd like to discuss including Elms College in your estate plans, please call 413-265-2446.

To view planned giving options, visit www.elms.edu/plannedgiving.



"I think of it as a thank you rather than payback.

Elms College was a great place for me to go, and I felt that I could help its work continue. I can see my career path reflected in the aspirations of students who come here, and I want them to get the same great education. The development office helped me add the Elms to my will and make a lasting commitment to supporting its mission.

Even though I already give annually, I wanted to give a gift that could have a bigger impact wherever it was needed. Deep in the bottom of my heart, I know my gift will support many future students, and possibly some who choose working with disadvantaged students in urban school systems—like I did."

—Lois Lynch '62

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