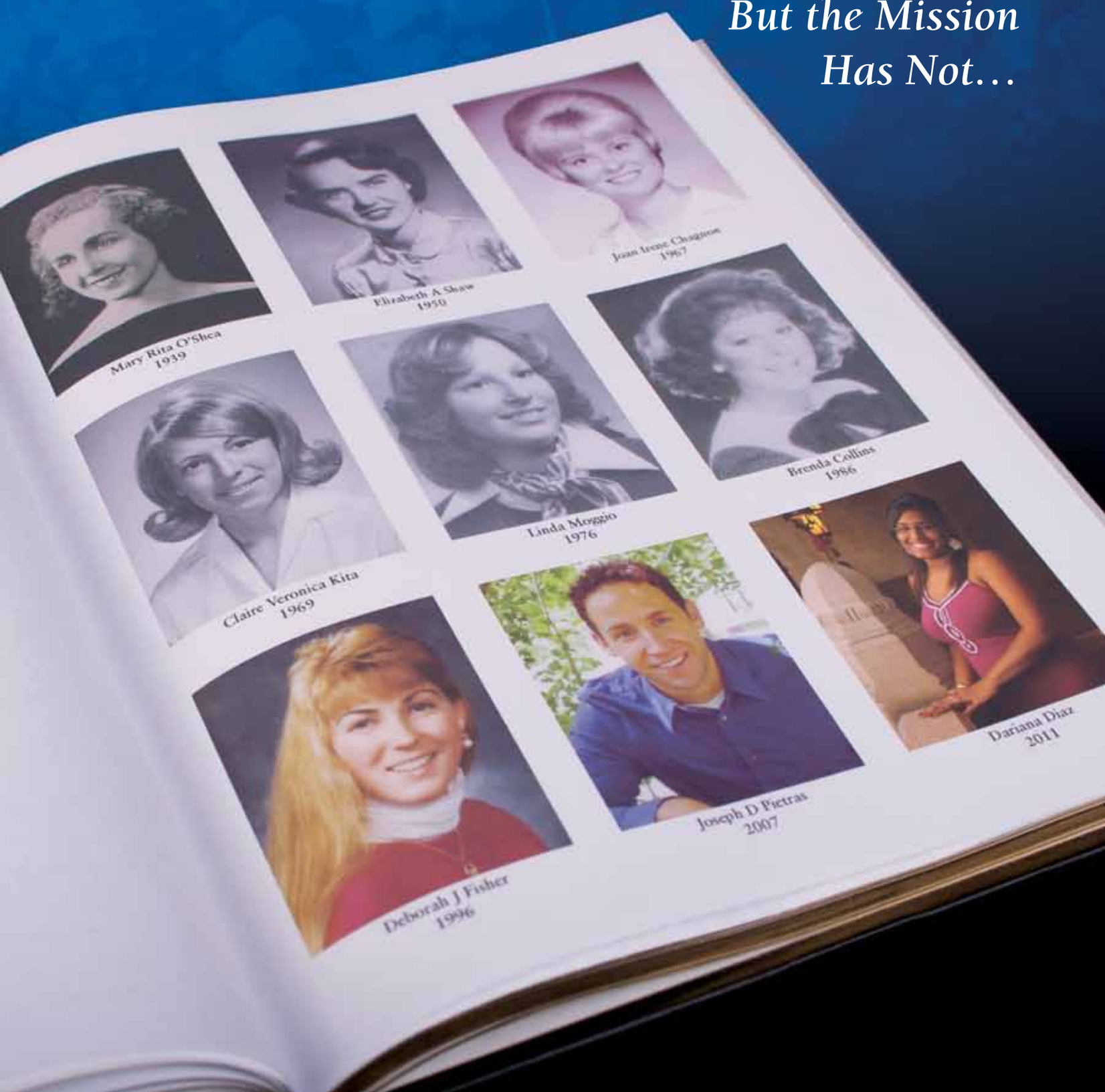
SUMMER 2011

ELMS COLLEGE
MAGAZINE

The Faces Have Changed, But the Mission Has Not…



"... although the names keep changing and the bodies keep changing, the larger pattern that holds us together goes on and on."

—Robert Pirsig, author of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*



A human being goes through many changes over the course of a lifetime. Still, there is a part in each of us that remains true no matter where we are, or when we stand in time. Any parent can tell you, they are able to sense their child's personality in her first years, seeing that personality develop fully as the child approaches maturity. What is true of our deepest selves does not change with age or circumstance.

In the 83 years since the founding of College of Our Lady of the Elms, this campus has seen many changes. It has added new buildings. It has seen times of peace, war, economic distress, and economic growth. It has been home to many generations of students who faced circumstances different from that of their predecessors.

Although College of Our Lady of the Elms has embraced these changes and adapted to an increasingly protean world, its mission and core values have remained the same.

What College of Our Lady of the Elms offers to a student today is what it offered to students 50 years ago: a values-based liberal arts education as the means to economic advancement, personal and spiritual growth, and the greatest tool for helping others. In that, the Elms experience is transcendent.

This issue of the College of Our Lady of the Elms magazine will give you an insight into the core of the Elms College experience and a deeper understanding of our identity. You will read about how we continue serving immigrant students and making them part of our American family by inviting them into the Elms family.

You will read about the changing traditions that have brought our students together over the years and new ones that seek to tighten the bonds among our newest students.

Our Catholic identity is the keystone to our foundation and you will read about the impact of our theology programs on students from very different backgrounds, and the lives they touch.

You will also read about four alumnae, one of whom pursues a career in science, and three who are links in a chain spanning generations in one family.

How College of Our Lady of the Elms looks can change depending on who is looking, and when. As you read these stories, use them like a prism, knowing that what you see changes with your vantage point, while the light shining through them remains the same.

Mary Reap, IHM

Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D.
President

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

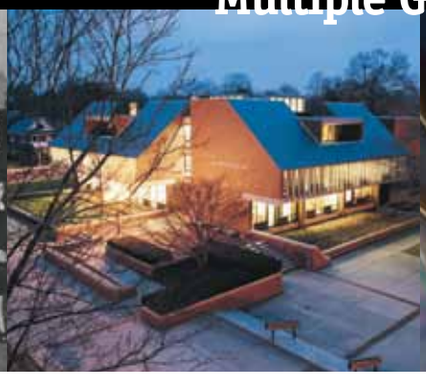
The editors invite your comments and questions at 413-265-2587 or marketing@elms.edu



1928 College of Our Lady of the Elms is founded. Beaven Hall, which housed the Academy of Our Lady of the Elms students, is now a dormitory.



1949 Norma gradutes alongside her friend Maureen Keating, sister of former president Sr. Kathleen Keating.



1973 Construction on the Alumnae Library is completed and is located where Beaven Hall used to be.



1977 Elms starts new Communication Sciences and Disorders program.

An Elms Legacy

Almost anyone who doesn't attend college right after high school, or complete a degree in four years, is classified as a nontraditional student. The meaning of tradition is very personal, and changes from family to family, and generation to generation, and Elms College has a rich history filled with its own traditions, few of which have lasted for all of its 83 years. One Springfield family made its own tradition of coming to the Elms as nontraditional students, and leaving no less part of our community.



The Elms campus ***Norma Savoit Ianello '49*** studied at daily was much smaller than today's campus. Berchmans Hall and O'Leary Hall were the flagship buildings. Beaven Hall, which no longer exists, was an additional dormitory. Surrounded by a vast expanse of green, in a neighborhood of charming Chicopee homes, many of which still stand today, the College of Our Lady of the Elms was a quiet peaceful enclave where young Catholic women came to get an education.

Norma came to Elms College hoping to become a teacher, following in the footsteps of older sister Dorothy '44. Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, the daughter of a French-Canadian father and Irish mother, Norma majored in French with a Spanish minor.

Norma was a constant campus presence. As a day student, she never lived in a dorm with her classmates, but her experience was very close to those who stayed at Elms each night. "Everything was obligatory and on-campus, and I was one of few day students with a car. With only a couple of buildings, there were not many places to hang out, but we kept very active," Norma said.

Norma, who also sang in the glee club, relished the opportunities to socialize. "I had an awful lot of prom dresses, and I never missed one dance," she said. The 1949 graduate was president of Le Cercle Francais, and, according to her yearbook, "humming with energy, bubbling with laughter, bustling with business."

Aside from her personality, having a car no doubt added to her popularity. At one time, she would regularly give rides to her classmate Maureen Keating, sister of then–future president of Elms College, Sr. Kathleen Keating. As it turned out, spending time with future Elms College presidents wasn't unusual for Norma. Sister Mary Dooley was her sister Dorothy's classmate.

Although she was a good student, graduating cum laude, she admits she would like to have done as well as her older sister, but could not resist sneaking off campus from time to time after meeting her future husband, Jimmy.

After getting married, the two quickly began working on a family. "The first four kids came pretty fast," said Norma, who became a mother of 11. Over the years while raising her family, Norma taught in various Catholic grammar schools, including House of Good Shepherd, St. Mary's, and Holy Name. Despite having no formal training, she found that she had a gift for children whom many teachers found challenging to work with and increasingly, she began working in special-needs classrooms. At one time, while living in Gloucester, Norma would sometimes balance working in two or three schools at a time, visiting with children with limited functioning.



For ***Debbie O'Brien '84***, the fifth of 11 Ianello children, affording college tuition following high school just wasn't possible. Although she hoped to follow in her mother's footsteps and become a teacher, after high school she went to work, got married, and started a family. When her then-husband decided he wasn't ready to be a parent, Debbie soon found herself divorced, living with her parents in New Jersey, and wondering about her next step.

With her college dreams still alive, Debbie



1984 *Debbie receives her degree and begins a long career in education.*



1994 *Construction on the Maguire Center is completed.*



2011 *Martha's class is the first to graduate at MassMutual Center.*

started taking classes at a community college. The extended family eventually moved back to Springfield, and Norma decided to take some time off from teaching and take care of her newborn granddaughter, Martha, enabling Debbie to continue her education.

The small class sizes and generous financial aid package encouraged her to choose her mother's alma mater. Debbie's college campus was bigger than her mother's. She could go to class or grab a snack at the Mary Dooley College Center, study in the Alumnae Library—built where Bevins Hall once stood—and watch full-time undergraduate students head to their rooms in Rose William Hall.

As a 28-year-old evening student and single mom, Debbie balanced her education with her other duties, regardless of whether the babysitter was available. Martha would sometimes accompany her mother to class, playing with Barbie dolls as Debbie took notes.

Debbie appreciated the community of nontraditional students who shared and understood her experiences. Many of the older students were married, some were parents, and most were not interested in hanging around with the young traditional students. They supported one another in study groups and didn't complain when a three-year-old would be joining them for class.

One of Debbie's favorite memories was a brief retreat at Mont Marie, where she and 12 other nontraditional students spent the night intended for study and prayer. The women found themselves running down the hallway, giggling, and making noise until three a.m. "It was the first time we got to feel like college students," Debbie said.

She completed her degree as an English major and education minor and, after graduating, began working as a teacher and continued the work of being a mother.



It would have been easy to assume that Debbie's daughter ***Martha Queiroga '11*** would choose the same path. "I have a vague memory of playing Barbies while my mom was in class," Martha recalled. "It's really great the Elms community helped her out as a single parent in getting an education. If they hadn't made those accommodations … it might not have ever happened. It's a huge feat to graduate as a single parent and I'm so proud of her," she said.

Despite her family history, Martha's college career began at the Massachusetts College of Liberal arts in Adams, Massachusetts. However, unsure of her direction, Martha left school after two years to work and explored the country. She moved to California, then Virginia, supporting herself as a waitress, hostess, secretary, data entry clerk, and receptionist among others jobs. In 2005 she returned to Massachusetts, more grown-up and determined to finish her education.

Martha worked and attended classes at Springfield Technical Community College (STCC), graduating with an associate's degree in 2008. Her job at a local rehabilitation hospital in the admissions department involved coordinating access to long-term acute care for patients with severe problems. Watching speech therapists work with patients to recover language piqued her curiosity. A friend had graduated from the communication sciences and disorders (CSD) program at Elms College and offered a glowing recommendation. With her associate's degree in hand, Martha decided to formally become part of the college family.

By the time Martha enrolled at Elms College, she was married to her college sweetheart from STCC, Joe Queiroga, and so continued her own family's tradition of full-time study without living on campus, which now included the Maguire Center, and turf athletic fields where both men and women compete.

Martha spent a full year doing practicum at Mill Tree School in Wilbraham, MA, even though CSD students typically work only one semester. Working with young children changed Martha's mind about what population she would like to work with, even though young clients come with their own challenges.

"It was hard at first. It's hard to set goals and keep them very specific. I have to come up with activities that keep the attention of a three-year-old for a half hour. Speech is an important part of achieving success in the world. If you're not well spoken, you are not really showing your best self out there," said Martha, who now lives in Springfield with her husband.

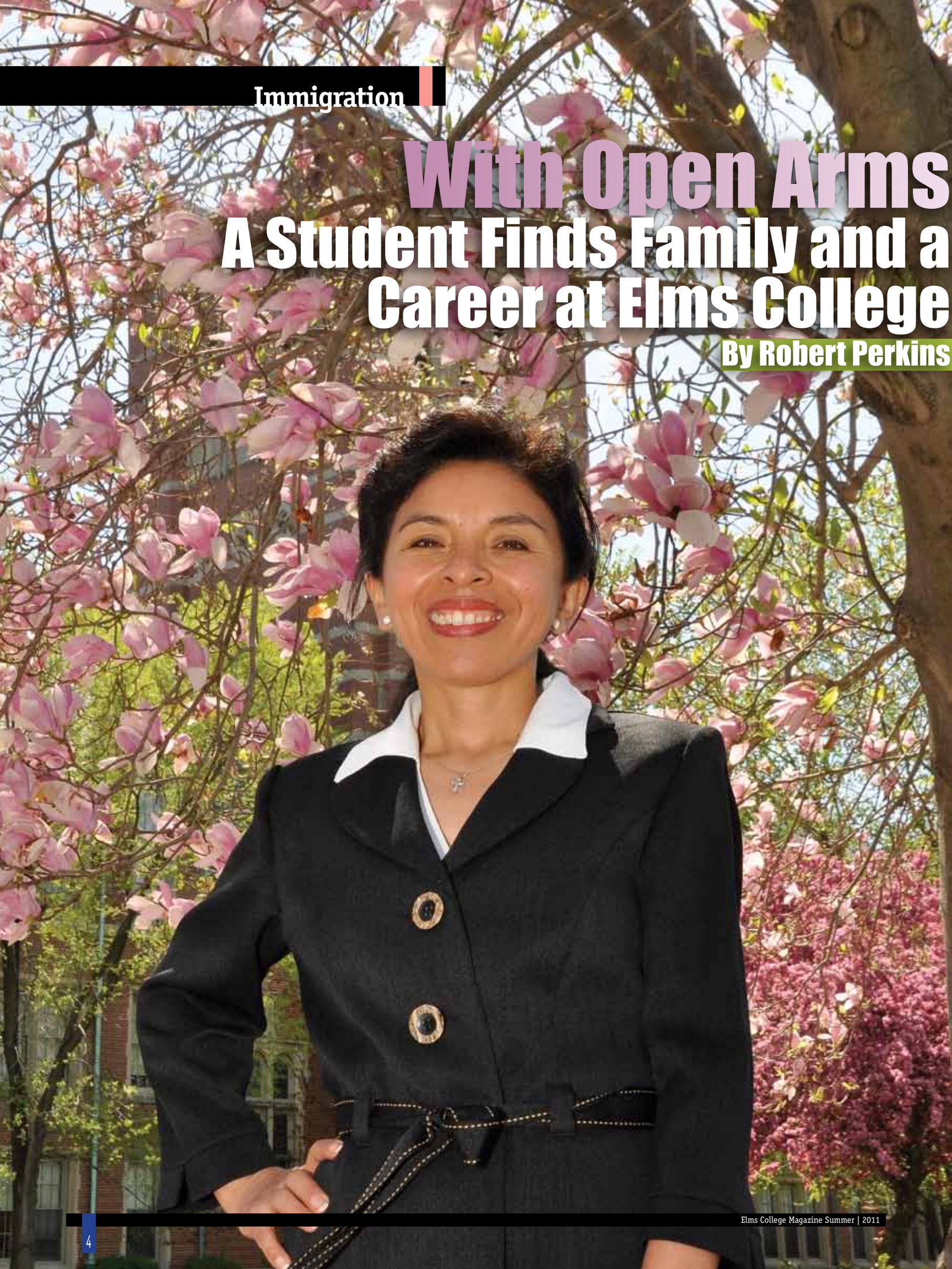
The three generations of alumnae each found Elms College to be the right fit for their lives at the time, somehow transforming into exactly the place they needed to be, regardless of the challenges they faced.

For all the changes Elms College has seen over the decades, it seems to have held on to its most important tradition: making an education affordable and accessible to those who most want it.

With Open Arms

A Student Finds Family and a Career at Elms College

By Robert Perkins



For Margarita Sejas de Paul, class of 2011, known as "Ita" to classmates and professors, graduating from Elms with a bachelor's degree in paralegal studies is a step toward her dream of becoming a lawyer. For Elms, it is a continuation of a mission that the college has fulfilled since its beginning – providing opportunities for higher education to immigrants and their families.

"Becoming a lawyer has always been a dream for me," Margarita said shortly before graduation this year.

Her first attempt came in her native Bolivia in Cochabamba, a city of 480,000.

In Bolivia, students go straight from high school to a six-year college law program and she labored for three years, going to class from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and then working in a clothing store from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. In the end, the grind was too hard and the finances weren't there. She gave up college and took a job as a legal secretary.

Then she met Philip Paul, an American from Rhode Island, who had gone to Cochabamba to study Spanish at the Maryknoll Language Institute. The couple were married in 2001 and returned to the United States in 2002. They moved to the Northampton area - hoping to start a business.

"Our plans didn't work out that way," she said.

Margarita learned how to speak English by taking classes at the Center for New Americans and the International Language Institute in Northampton and she taught herself to write English by using books and the internet. She attended Holyoke Community College – graduating with honors.

Meanwhile, her husband had become a teacher at Holyoke Catholic High School, close by the Elms College campus. It was he who first learned about the paralegal studies program at Elms.

Assistant Professor Caroline Murray of the Legal Studies Division outlined the difficulty that Margarita faced in entering the paralegal program.

She had to overcome not just the cultural and language differences, but the intricacies of law itself.

"Law is not just country specific, it is state specific," Murray said. American law is different from Bolivian law and federal law is different from the laws of the 50 states.

"Reading and writing is so critical in our law," Murray said. A mistake in a single word can substantially alter the meaning of a legal document. Because Margarita thinks in Spanish, she had to study each handout harder than other students.

"Ita is one of the hardest working students here," Murray said. She said whenever she saw Margarita outside of class, she would be in the library or computer lab studying.

In her Wills and Estates class, Margarita took part in Elms "Wills for Local Heroes" program, based on a national post-9/11 effort that came about when it was learned that many of the firefighters killed in the collapse of the World Trade Towers hadn't left wills. Students in the program interviewed two Chicopee firefighters and prepared wills for them.

Murray remembered how much pleasure Margarita took when she realized that what she was learning in class could be put to real world use.

"I can do this," she recalled Margarita saying.

Sejas was an A student, Murray said. And there was no mistaking the pride in Sejas's voice when she said, "I was on the Dean's List every semester."

As for her plans after graduation, Sejas said, "First I'm going to find a job." Then it will be on to law school.

Sejas's story is the classic one of immigrants in America seeking to become upwardly mobile through education. It is a story that Elms has been part of since its founding in 1899 as Our Lady of the Elms, an academy for girls. By the time the academy was founded, some Irish-American parents had reached a level of affluence where they could afford a private education for their daughters. Both teachers and students at the academy were overwhelmingly of Irish descent.

So in 1928, Our Lady of the Elms College was founded with the specific purpose of "offering a college education to the children of families of average means," according to Sr. Kathleen Keating who served as president of Elms from 1994-2001.

Perhaps no one better exemplifies the connection between Elms and the Irish-immigrant community than Keating, who had three grandparents born in Ireland. She grew up in the Irish section of Springfield known as Hungry Hill, just a couple of miles from the Elms campus.

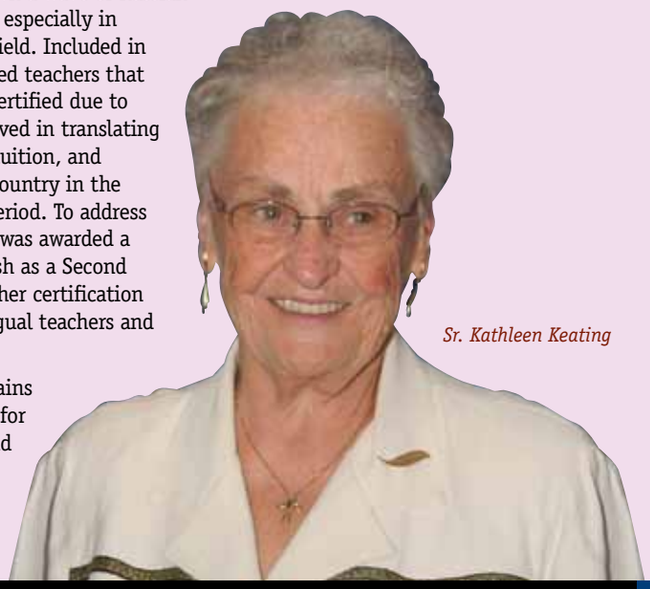
Keating graduated from Elms in 1952 and in the fall of that year joined the Sisters of St. Joseph. Among her many ministries, two brought her back to the school. One was a stint teaching at Elms and the second was her term as president.

A new wave of immigration began in the 1980s as the Hispanic population grew steadily, making the Springfield area a center of Latino culture and further diversifying the population at Elms College.

The last 20 years have shown a wave of Russian and Ukrainian immigrants, especially in Westfield and West Springfield. Included in that population are qualified teachers that have difficulty becoming certified due to the language barriers involved in translating college transcripts, costly tuition, and adjusting to life in a new country in the required three-year time period. To address this problem, Elms College was awarded a grant to provide free English as a Second Language courses and teacher certification courses to Westfield's bilingual teachers and para-professionals.

Today, Elms College maintains the Polish Cultural Center for Discovery and Learning and the Irish Cultural Center to celebrate the strong roots of our community.

The immigrants of today's student population look quite different than when the college was first founded. However, one part of the original mission has not changed as the story of Margarita Sejas demonstrates. The role of the college in providing higher education to the immigrant community continues to this day.

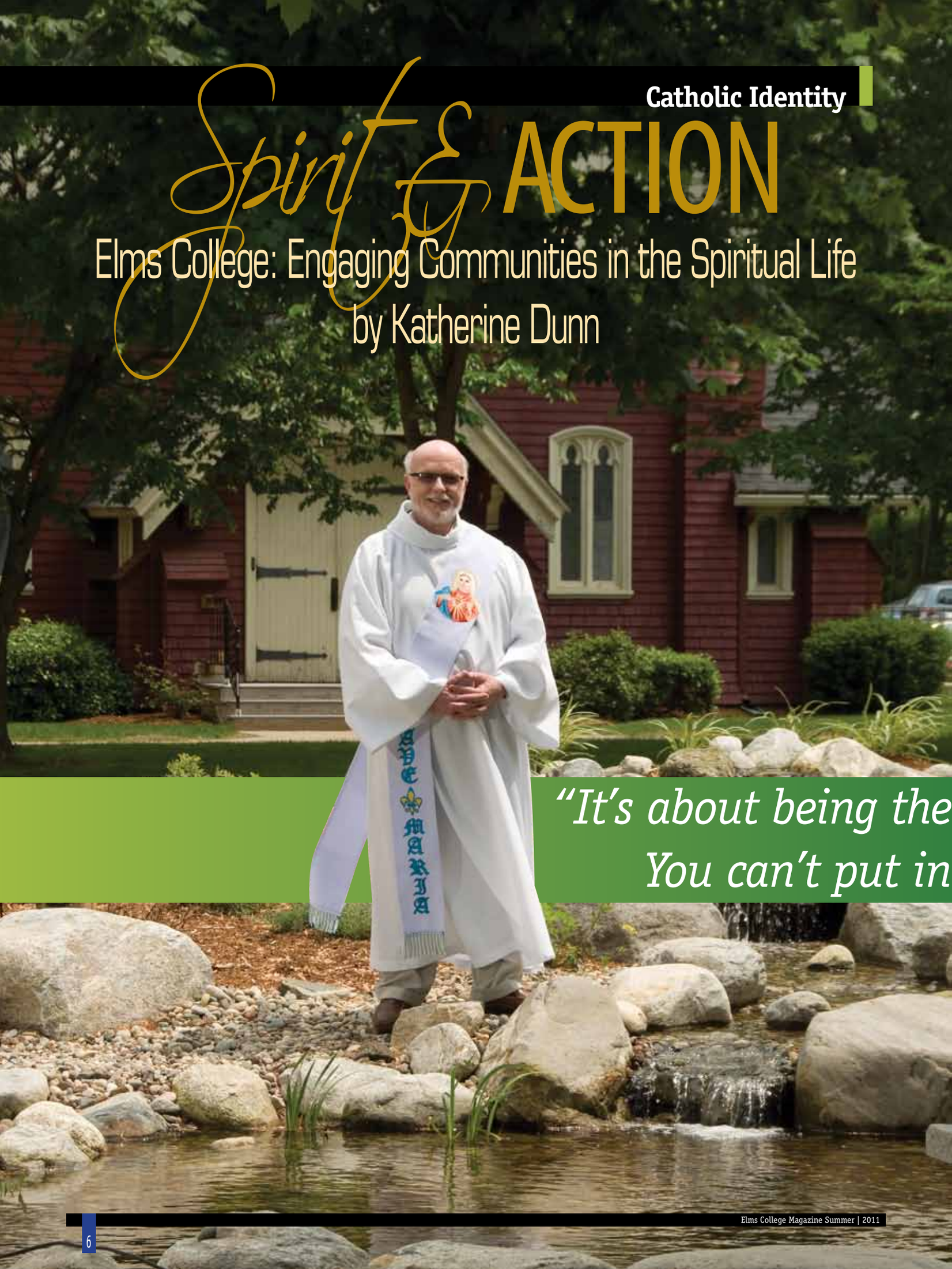


Sr. Kathleen Keating

Spirit & ACTION

Elms College: Engaging Communities in the Spiritual Life

by Katherine Dunn



"It's about being the
You can't put in

"What's it Like to Serve Your Community?"

In describing his first four months of service as a deacon in the Springfield Diocese, John Leary's answer came easily. "If you told me I could never be a deacon again, all that work—the four years of courses, the driving, the summer reading and retreats—would still be worth it."

Deacon Leo Coughlin echoes John's sentiment: "It's about being there to help people in the challenging moments. You can't put into words all the gifts you receive as a deacon." Leo and John are just two of the many men and women who turn to Elms College for the academic and ministerial training they need to more fully engage in the spiritual life of their communities.

Choosing Service, Finding Elms

Each year, Elms welcomes new students into a formal program of learning and discernment through the Elms College Institute for Theology and Pastoral Studies (ITPS). Established in 2002, the Institute supports spiritual growth at many levels throughout the community by offering a range of programs and academic degrees.

"We understood from the start that working closely with the Springfield Diocese was crucial." Institute Director Martin Pion, Ph.D., describes the two years that went into planning the Institute's Lay Ministry Certificate programs. "We established a Board for Lay Ministry, which included people from the Diocesan offices that coordinate the ministries. The Board outlined the skills, knowledge, and commitment that graduates would need in order to serve as lay ministers in their local parishes, and then we developed programs to meet those needs."

As a result of this work, the Institute now offers six Certificate Programs, including Theological, Pastoral, and Catechetical Studies, as well as Church Administration and Social Justice Ministry. The Institute also offers a master's degree in Applied Theology (M.A.A.T.); sponsors the Mary Dooley Lecture Series; and houses, and teaches courses in the diocesan Diaconate Formation Program.

Choosing a Deeper Commitment

Among the many programs offered through the Institute, the Diaconate Formation Program is perhaps the most rigorous. Program participants attend classes on campus two evenings a week for four years. Every two years, about a dozen men complete the formation program, and commit their lives to serving their parish communities as ordained deacons.

"From the earliest days, this Diocesan program has relied on Elms faculty, who teach the majority of courses required for ordination." Elms faculty member Reverend Mark Stelzer outlines the Elms role. "With the introduction of the Elms Master of Arts in Applied Theology (M.A.A.T.) program in the late 1980s, the diaconate candidates and M.A.A.T. students have taken a majority of courses jointly. This model of collaborative learning prepares M.A.A.T. candidates and diaconate candidates for the important ministry they will share."

"Choosing to become a deacon is a very serious decision," Martin Pion emphasizes. "Ordination is a sacrament." The road to ordination often begins quietly, with prayer and discernment. The application process itself takes about a year; once accepted, aspirants begin their courses. The training—which includes summer courses, summer reading, retreats, and workshops—serves to deepen and clarify each candidate's commitment.

Many candidates complete this four-year process while maintaining full-time jobs and attending to their families. They also volunteer time at their home parish, applying their growing abilities to serve by teaching religious education classes, engaging in social justice efforts, and assisting the Eucharistic ministers.

Good intent is only the start.

Recent graduate deacon James McElroy describes the depth and variety of the diaconate coursework: "We had excellent courses—including Hebrew and Christian scriptures; theology, pastoral counseling—it was a very thorough program. It brings us from being a committed Catholic to becoming a more knowledgeable Catholic as well."

Martin Pion underscores deacon McElroy's sentiment: "From the Catholic perspective, we have two sources: scripture and tradition. By 'tradition', we mean the lived experience of Christians across 2,000 years. We give students the background, the history, and the resources to understand what the scriptures say, and how the centuries of tradition inform the situations we meet every day."

Engaging Communities in the Spiritual Life

For 18 years, deacon Jim McElroy served as a judge in the Berkshires. When retirement came into sight, thoughts about what he might do after leaving the bench led him back to a time when he was eight years old, and had the first inkling that his vocation might be service. After high school, Jim had attended seminary. After five-and-a-half years of study, he felt that marriage and family were meant to be an important part of his life, so he left the seminary and pursued a career in law.

"But I always loved all the studies, and I stayed an active Catholic—always tried to be active in my parish." In 2007, while still working full time in the judiciary, Jim entered the Diaconate Formation Program. "It was like coming full circle," he explains. Where did his path lead after Elms? Jim now serves his home parish, along with two others. Among his top priorities are gaining a clear sense for the needs of his new community; and reaching out to members who have left over the past ten years: "We need to offer them an invitation to come home."

Prior to becoming a deacon, Bill Toller worked for many years at the Hampden County Jail 60 hours a week, administering all of the inmate programs—education, vocation, counseling, and others. He completed the Diaconate Formation Program in 2001, and retired from his position at the jail in 2004. He still consults to the jail two days a week. Does this tie in with his ministry? "Absolutely. It's amazing how the pieces now fit together—jail work and ministry—in ways that I could not have imagined before ordination as a deacon ten years ago. The 'Residents Encounter Christ' jail ministry has involved over 4,000 inmates and over 500 volunteers during the past twenty-nine years." Bill's work at the Jail currently involves leadership development, supervision of volunteer programs, and direct ministry—including ongoing support for inmates returning to the community.

Reverend Mark Stelzer reflects on the deep and lasting impact of the Diaconate Formation Program. "As I travel throughout the Diocese of Springfield, it is always a great pleasure to visit parishes to which my former students are assigned. It is a special joy to see these men so happy in their ministry and effective in the work they do among God's people. It is nice to know that Elms College played such an important role in their formation."

Martin Pion sums up the experience the Institute strives to offer: "The students who participate in the Elms programs enter a life-changing process. It's about helping people move from one spiritual perspective to another—to follow a spiritual path."

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to words all the gifts you receive as a deacon."







A Tradition of Unity

It's a rather quiet evening on the Elms campus—no athletic events, no evening classes and mostly vacant dormitories. One might wonder where all the students were if not for the raucous noise coming from Veritas Auditorium. Inside, students are cheering for their floor's representative strutting across the stage in a friendly competition for the prestigious title of Mr. or Mrs. Elms.

The event, now in its second year, started as a function planned by the Student Government Association to raise funds for senior week. Hoping to make it an annual gathering, S.G.A. continued the tradition this year. With the exception of three staff that serve as judges, the entire event is planned and run by students. For the planning process, however, the students needed a little help getting started. Initially, no students had signed up to compete, likely due to the entrance fee.

"So we asked SAAC (Student Athletic Advisory Council) to sponsor one person from every athletic team," explained S.G.A. Treasurer Sarah Donais '11, noting that Campus Activities Director Jose Tolson also volunteered to sponsor any non-athletic students that wanted to participate.

The idea worked and eventually eight brave and talented students signed up to compete. Mr. and Mrs. Elms puts a silly spin on the traditional pageant theme. Contestants vie for honors in four categories: casual wear, spirit, talent, and formal wear. The evening begins with contestants walking out to their handpicked songs in informal attire as the boisterous emcees—two alumni from last year's senior class who planned the original event—read a short description about each competing student and lighten the mood with friendly jokes. Students cheer when a contestant from their floor or sports team is on the stage but they really holler when the team spirit segment begins. Dressed in their favorite Elms apparel, the contestants are judged on their ability to pump up the crowd and showcase their Elms spirit. The crowd is then treated to the talent portion of the show. This year's group included juggling, poetry recitation, piano playing, and a choreographed dance routine that featured a reenactment of the "Time of Your Life" scene from Dirty Dancing—a crowd favorite.

The contestants enjoyed performing just as much as the crowd enjoyed watching. Even though it was only the second year of Mr. and Mrs. Elms, singing, dancing, and performing are nothing new to Elms College traditions. For many years, one of the most popular events at the Elms was the Soph Show. Each year the sophomores would develop a committee to plan an end-of-the-year performance for the seniors. The theme of the performance was very secretive and the sophomores often had to move off campus to rehearse due to the unrelenting junior class that frequently tried to get a sneak preview of the show.

The Soph Show began as a sign of appreciation from the sophomores to their big sisters. Each year, every freshman was assigned a "big sister" from the junior class and in 1937, the sophomores decided to put on a Halloween party in honor of their big sister seniors. By 1940, the sophomores added a show to the party and by 1952 it had turned into a yearlong project culminating in an end-of-the-year performance. Through the years, the Soph Show included original plays, song recitals, live music, and a bonding experience indicative of the Elms College experience. As the '75 sophomore class wrote in their Soph Show program: "As friends we became closer and as a class we became a whole… We now feel as an important part of the school—individual in our ways, united as a class."



Julia Lane



The Soph Show was a wonderful gesture of gratitude from students who remember how difficult it was adjusting their freshmen year. Their big sisters were there to welcome them and make them feel at home. While the Soph Show tradition has ended, the older sibling instincts of the Elms students have not. For the past five years, freshmen have been welcomed into campus life through the wild and zany world of ResLympics.

A New Tradition

On a crisp early autumn night, the music coming from Timothy J. Leary Field can be heard from blocks away as students, donned in matching team colors, become caught up in the spirit of competition. ResLympics, the brainchild of Assistant Director of Residence Life Elizabeth Fogarty, utilizes athletic ability, intellect, small motor skills, and courage to determine the best floor on campus and ultimate bragging rights. The Resident Assistants plan each stage of the event, following Elizabeth's blueprint that includes a relay race, a food eating challenge, and a *Minute to Win It* challenge.

ResLympics began this year with a three-part relay race: a wheelbarrow race, three-legged race, and potato sack race. Each floor had the opportunity to compete against all the other floors and the Resident Assistants, serving as referees, tracked the wins and losses. After the relay race came the *Minute to Win It* challenge, which involves small tasks that must be completed in under a minute, often with a twist. Sarah Donovan '12 recalls pulling all of the napkins out of a dispenser one at a time. Tracey Aloisio '14 was challenged with the task of using a long raw spaghetti strand to pick up pieces of penne and place them in a cup—using only her mouth.

Lastly, students move on to the food eating competition. Based on the television show "Fear Factor", each floor assigns four brave students to finish four trash bags filled with nausea-inducing combinations of food. Students often have trouble recalling some of the specific ingredients in each bag, or maybe they just don't want to remember. Christina Cuddy '14 groans as she describes one bag with feta cheese and prunes. Sarah Donovan remembers sweet and sour pickles in ketchup. Resident Assistant Hector Roche '11, however, remembers one freshman with an iron stomach.

"I remember one kid, Khris Perron '14, he just wanted to win. He didn't even know what he was eating and I just saw him dog it down. Then, somebody didn't finish their stuff so Khris just called him back over and finished it for him," Hector said with a laugh, noting that Khris' efforts were solely for bragging rights since each participant must finish their own portion.

"A lot of the freshmen don't know what to expect, but once they're there, they get competitive because they're like 'I want to win this,'" said Hector, adding that the Resident Assistants do a good job of promoting the event and encouraging many of the students to participate. "Some floors didn't know about it, but they got into it when they heard kids saying 'my floor's going to beat your floor.' So everybody at the last three days started signing up."

Taking place at the beginning of the semester, ResLympics creates an environment where upperclassmen can welcome the freshman who are still getting to know one another. Nicole Provost '11 noted that ResLympics gives residents the opportunity to interact with the people on their floor that they might not know. "It's more of a bonding activity—and that's what Elms is all about." Tracey believes that the events, derived from popular television shows, are what draw people to ResLympics. There is also a competitive spirit among Elms students as 45 percent of the population plays a sport.

And the Winner is ...

Back in Veritas Auditorium, the contestants are gearing up for the final portion of the Mr. and Mrs. Elms event. Dressed in their formal wear, judges ask them a typical Miss America-type question; "How would you change the world?" or "If you could give one gift to everyone, what would it be?" The contestants give their best answer but no one is being too serious. They know the event is about more than the $25 gift card prize—it's about raising money for senior week, making friends, uniting as a student body, and having fun.

After a brief deliberation, the judges make their decision and it could not be more appropriate. Arsenio Avant '11, senior and staring guard for the men's basketball team, is named Mr. Elms. He enjoys the lime light but looks to his counter part: Haley Zisk '14, freshman, promising basketball and softball player, and now Mrs. Elms. The upperclassman and underclasswoman share the stage at an event that both welcomes the Freshmen and unifies the student body, a long-standing tradition at Elms College.



Julia Lane and Jon Girard



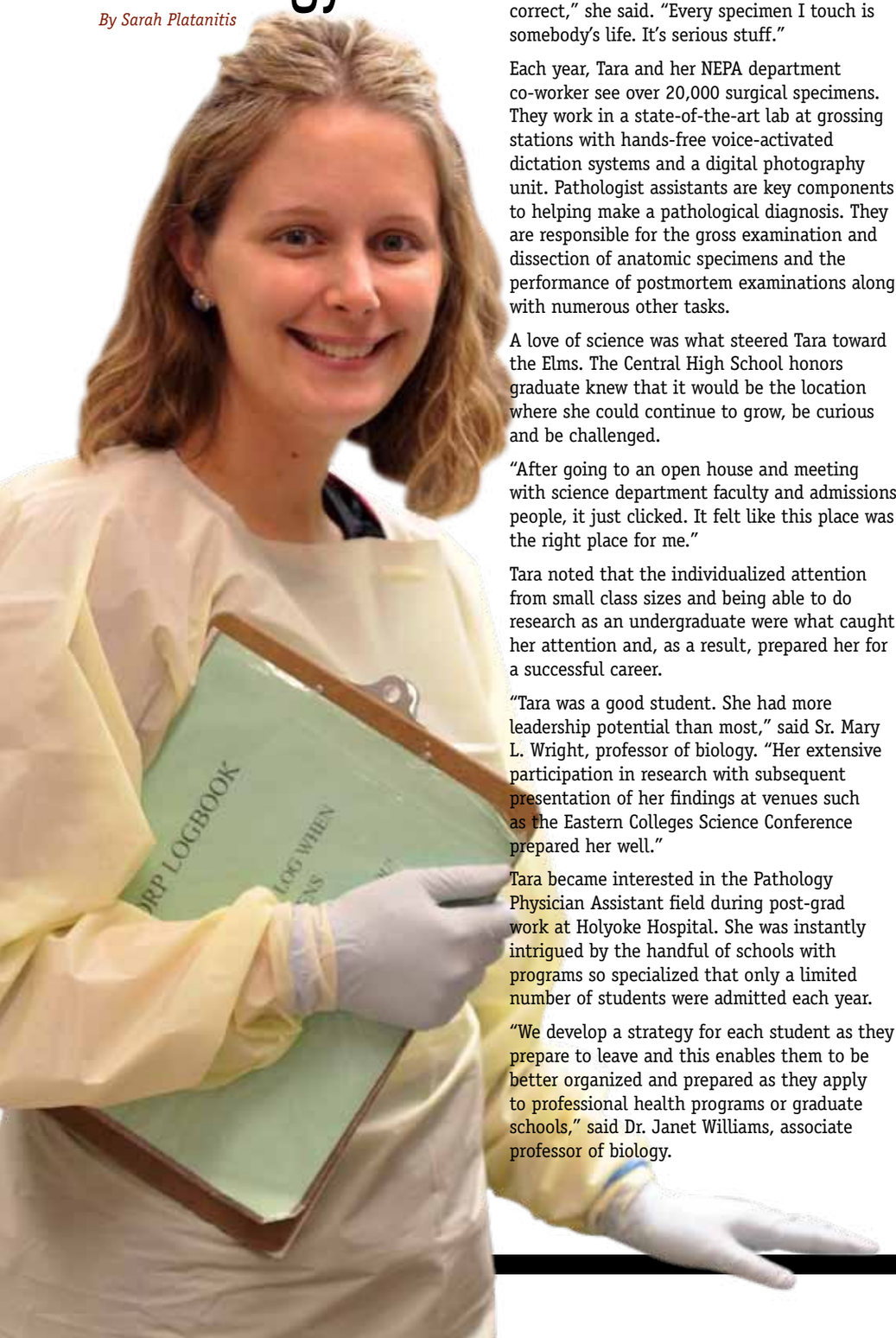
Carson Miller and Marlene DiRamio



left to right: Marlene DiRamio, Haley Zisk, Kelly Callahan, Cathy Duquette, and Josh Chagnon.

Elms Graduate Finds Her Calling in Pathology

By Sarah Platanitis



Tara Shea-Leandro '02 is no stranger to hard work. After graduating a semester early from the Elms in May 2002 with a degree in biology, she embarked on a journey that would guide her to a career and life full of opportunities.

Tara works behind the scenes at Mercy Medical Center's New England Pathology Associates as a pathology physician assistant. She equates it to being like the eyes of the pathologist because she generates the information that solves medical puzzles in the lives of patients and their families.

"There's lots of checks and balances, making sure patient history and measurements are correct," she said. "Every specimen I touch is somebody's life. It's serious stuff."

Each year, Tara and her NEPA department co-worker see over 20,000 surgical specimens. They work in a state-of-the-art lab at grossing stations with hands-free voice-activated dictation systems and a digital photography unit. Pathologist assistants are key components to helping make a pathological diagnosis. They are responsible for the gross examination and dissection of anatomic specimens and the performance of postmortem examinations along with numerous other tasks.

A love of science was what steered Tara toward the Elms. The Central High School honors graduate knew that it would be the location where she could continue to grow, be curious and be challenged.

"After going to an open house and meeting with science department faculty and admissions people, it just clicked. It felt like this place was the right place for me."

Tara noted that the individualized attention from small class sizes and being able to do research as an undergraduate were what caught her attention and, as a result, prepared her for a successful career.

"Tara was a good student. She had more leadership potential than most," said Sr. Mary L. Wright, professor of biology. "Her extensive participation in research with subsequent presentation of her findings at venues such as the Eastern Colleges Science Conference prepared her well."

Tara became interested in the Pathology Physician Assistant field during post-grad work at Holyoke Hospital. She was instantly intrigued by the handful of schools with programs so specialized that only a limited number of students were admitted each year.

"We develop a strategy for each student as they prepare to leave and this enables them to be better organized and prepared as they apply to professional health programs or graduate schools," said Dr. Janet Williams, associate professor of biology.

This assistance was what helped Tara gain admittance into Quinnipiac University's Master of Health Science Pathologists Assistant program. She graduated in 2005, completed her clinicals at Massachusetts General Hospital and was certified by the American Society for Clinical Pathology. She took a permanent staff position at the famed Boston hospital but ultimately made the move back home to work at NEPA, a group that Tara feels is like an extended family.

"I get feedback on cases from the doctors that I work for and am able to interact with other departments at conferences," said Tara. "You know everyone at a smaller hospital and it's nice to see full circle what goes on."

Tara also serves as the student liaison to the board of the American Association of Pathologists' Assistants and participates in the annual Elms Career Mentoring Day and Chicopee School System's Health Care Careers Program.

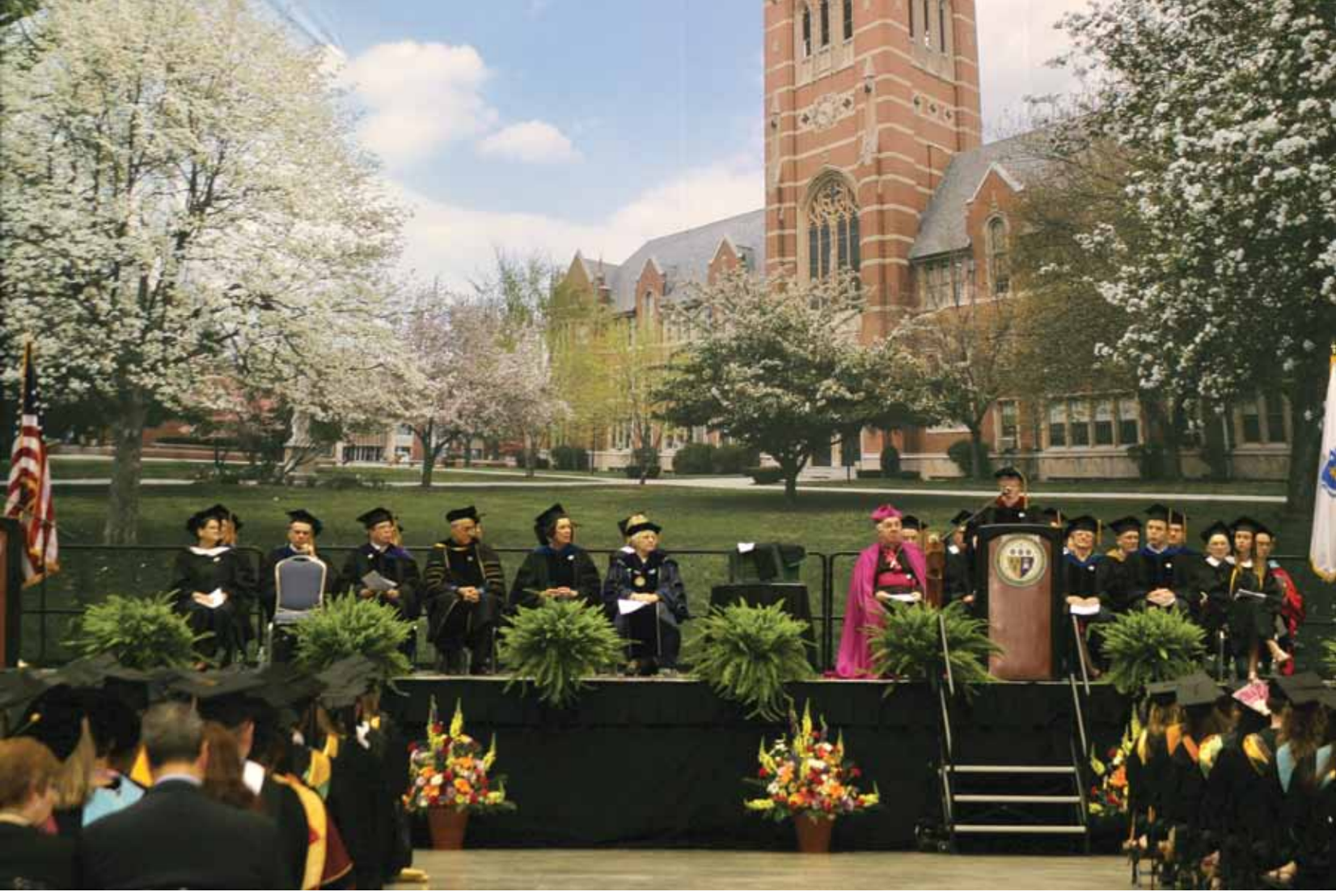
"I found it a really good experience to talk with students who are unsure of what they will do when they graduate," said Tara, who recently earned an educational program favorite speaker award from Mercy Medical Center. "For students interested in the sciences, it's great to tell them about the many avenues that someone can take with that major and about the new Elms science building."

When she was not studying, Tara served as a student representative on the Elms College Board of Trustees, as well as participating in student government and the presidential search committee for Dr. Froehlich. She also worked a job in retail, volunteered at Baystate Hospital and played lacrosse.

"If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it," she laughed, quoting Lucille Ball. The self-proclaimed go-getter currently acts as agent for her graduating class, connecting alumni and helping with the annual fund. She said that she does so because she likes being a part of different things and giving back in any way she can to her alma mater.

Elms College also introduced Tara to her husband, Jeffrey. The two shared the same major, were lab partners and graduated together. The couple, which will celebrate their four-year anniversary in June, lives in Ludlow with their five month-old daughter, Fiona, and are quite busy balancing full-time jobs with the needs of a new family. Tara hopes that their hard work, dedication and passion for life, careers and family will set a good example for their daughter.

"I can't say enough good things about the Elms and all the wonderful people that I've met and continue to meet," said Tara. "They've prepared me for a career and life that I'm very happy in and, thanks to them, I can only get better at what I do."




Justin Pearson


Katelyn Santerre


Daniel Fallon and Michelle Dupont


Wanda Rolon


Mary Misiaszek

Commencement

The need for peace doesn't take a day off and neither does John Paul Lederach, Ph.D. The 2011 commencement speaker arrived in Bradley Airport at 11:30 p.m. on Friday night. By 2 p.m. the next day, after commencement, he would be boarding a plane to return to his hometown of Denver. The following day he would be back in the Denver airport, this time headed for Nepal where he has been facilitating peace negotiations with the government for the past eight years.

Although his visit to the Pioneer Valley was brief, he managed to carefully craft an endearing and poignant address to the class of 2011. During his speech, Dr. Lederach reminded the graduates to hold onto their childhood belief in infinite possibilities and to grow into who they were called to be. As a professor of International Peace Building at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, Lederach reiterated his belief that, not only is peace possible, but it is around us everyday.

Behind Dr. Lederach hung a large backdrop featuring a gorgeous shot of Berchmans Hall that provided a sense of familiarity to the 343 students at Elms College's eightieth commencement in the MassMutual Center. The new venue provided ample seating, protection from the elements, and reverberating applause from the many proud family and friends in attendance.

In addition to their caps, gowns, hoods, and proud smiles, each student wore a pin with the initials CJB on it, honoring their classmate Christopher J. Burnham who passed away during his sophomore year. For their senior gift, the class of 2011 raised over $5,000 to start a scholarship in Christopher's name.

Eleanor Spring '63, SSJ, was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award for her work as the co-director of Weston Rehabilitation Associates. Mary T. Quinn '71, SSJ, and John M. Flynn were awarded Trustee Emerita and Trustee Emeritus, respectively. Sr. Mary Quinn stated that "our world needs dreamers and believers now more than ever before."



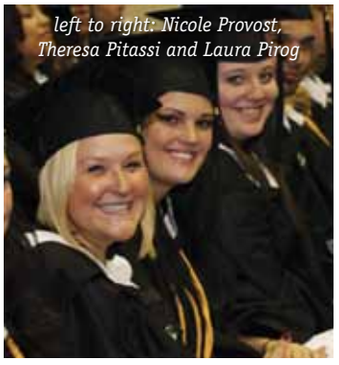
Stephanie Magalhaes



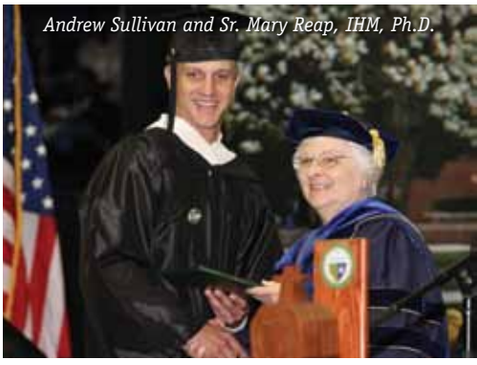
Nicholas Cordiero



Arsenio Avant



left to right: Nicole Provost, Theresa Pitassi and Laura Pirog



Andrew Sullivan and Sr. Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D.

Class of 2011

There were **343** graduates

Elms awarded **10** associate's degrees, **117** bachelor of arts degrees, and **145** bachelor of science degrees

Seventy-three students earned master's degrees in fields including education, teaching, autism spectrum disorders, nursing, and applied theology

Six students earned certificates of advanced graduate study

Students came from as near as Chicopee and as far as **Zambia**

This was the **first** commencement to take place in the MassMutual Center

View more commencement photos and listen to Dr. John Paul Lederach's speech at http://www.elms.edu/commencement2011

Faculty, Staff, and Campus News





Cheryl A. Sheils, Ed.D., R.N., assistant professor of Nursing; and ***Kathryn James, Ph.D.,*** Chair, division of Communication Sciences and Disorders, professor and director of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Programs and Autism Spectrum Disorders Programs, received the Distinguished Service Award this year. Distinguished Service Awards are granted to faculty in recognition of outstanding teaching and service to students, outstanding contributions to scholarship (research, written, creative, visual, and performing works) in their chosen discipline and outstanding contributions to promoting and advancing the development and objectives of Elms College.



After a three-day visit, ***Anthony Samuels, Ph.D.,*** from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, gave a presentation at the Management and Marketing Alumni Dinner in April. He spoke about the challenges in marketing fair trade products to consumers in the United Kingdom. The event attracted over 50 faculty, staff, students, and alumni.



Joyce Hampton, Ph.D., was 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.



Javier Venturi, M.A., lecturer in Spanish, is a doctoral candidate at the University of Massachusetts. Javier was invited to present his film analysis of "El gato montes/The Wildcat" at the "Cine-Lit VII," an international conference on Hispanic film and fiction in association with the Portland International Film Festival in Portland, OR. He chaired the panel discussion "Behind the Lens: Immigration and Globalization in Spanish Contemporary Film" at the Northeast Modern Language Association Convention 2011. Javier is one of the co-founders and curators for the film series "Screen and Memory" at UMass, Amherst. In addition, he has had several reviews for "Catholic Library World" published including 'The Circle Dance of Time" by John S. Dunne in the March edition and "Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality" by Maria Jaoudi in the June edition.



Chris Bakriges, Ph.D., lecturer in music, presented papers at the Jazz and Race, Past and Presen Conference at The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK, as well as the Conference Examining Race in the 21st Century at Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ. He also curated a concert series entitled *52nd Themes*, original compositions dedicated to the famous two-mile stretch in Midtown Manhattan. Chris will be performing in Boston later this month. May 26 "Teaching the Eye to Hear: Musical Reflections on Matisse's Jazz". Father and son Christopher and David Bakriges will present a musicological background to original compositions of visual artists Henri Matisse as well as perform tunes from the Great American Songbook that inspired the imagination of French jazz fans in the early years of the music. St. Paul's Episcopal Weekly Concert Series.



James Gallant, Ph.D., professor of English presented a talk on "Grief and Mourning in Post 9/11 America Drama" at the International Conference on Modern American Drama held at Kean University in New Jersey.



Jonathan Harvey, M.A., adjunct professor and director of the vocal arts ensemble, had an article published in the June/July 2010 issue of *Choral Journal*. The article, which examines a piece from the Renaissance period, is entitled "A Beginner's guide to Prophecy: Orlande de Lassus's Prophetiae Sybillarum."



Tom Cerasulo, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, wrote commissioned work for two recently published books. His essay "Modern Fiction in Hollywood" appeared in *The Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Fiction*, and he contributed a chapter on the Italian-American novelist/ bricklayer Pietro di Donato to the volume *American Writers: Supplement XX*. Reviews of Cerasulo's book *Authors Out Here*, appeared in *Twentieth Century Literature, Choice Reference & Research Book News, 3:am Magazine, ForeWord, The Post and Courier, Library Journal, Dagens Nyheter, Les Inrocks,* and *Satt*. In October 2010, he delivered the keynote address at *The Litchfield Review* Writers' Conference in Waterbury, CT. For the 2011 meeting of the Modern Language Association held in Los Angeles in January, he organized the panel "Recasting the Hollywood Novel" and presented a paper entitled "Just Making Pictures: Screenwriting Lessons in *What Makes Sammy Run?* and *The Last Tycoon*." In April 2011, he delivered "Listening to Lo-fi Lit: Authors Events and DIY Publishing" for he conference "Post45@The RockHall," held at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, OH. Post*45 is a collective of younger scholars working on books on American literature and culture since 1945. As the outgoing Shaughness Family Chair for the Study of the Humanities, Dr. Cerasulo directed the final season of the popular "Authors at Work" series, which brought acclaimed writers to campus to meet with students and give public readings. Tom was also promoted to associate professor and received the distinguished service award this year.

News continued...



Robert King, Ph.D., professor of English, is a contributing editor for *The North American Review*. His article "International" appeared in the Winter 2011 edition.



Nancy Costanzo, associate professor of art, recently exhibited her new work, *Legacy Series*, at the faculty and staff exhibit in the Borgia Gallery. This new work is a tribute to her mother who passed away this year. This summer she will be traveling to Europe to conduct genealogical research related to the series of paintings. Also this summer, she will be taking a water color course with the internationally known artist Ann K. Lindsay, who has been featured in *O, The Oprah Magazine*. Ms. Costanzo hopes to use this experience to bring a different approach to her watercolor students.



Clockwise from upper left: Kristi Guzzo '06, Kimberly Fontaine '03, Kelly O'Connell '95, and Lauren Stauch '06

Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2011 Announced

Elms College athletics director Louise McCleary recently announced that Kimberly Fontaine '03, Kristi Guzzo '06, Kelly O'Connell '95 and Lauren Stauch '06 will be formally inducted as the Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2011 on September 23, 2011 on the Elms College campus.

Kimberly was a three-sport athlete competing in women's basketball and women's lacrosse for all four seasons, and was a member of the women's soccer team for two years. On the basketball court, Fontaine averaged 13.5 points per game and is currently the program's third all-time leading scorer with 1,326 points; and is one of just six players in the program's history to reach the 1,000-point milestone. She was also the 1999-00 NAC Player of the Year and a First Team All-NAC honoree before being named captain in her senior season.

On the lacrosse field, Kimberly amassed 54 points, scoring 51 career goals with three assists. In her senior season in 2003, despite playing with a broken hand, she was named First Team All-New England Women's Lacrosse Alliance (NEWLA).

Kimberly played two seasons of soccer, primarily as a midfielder, and scored seven goals, notched three assists and totaled 17 points as Elms posted 14 wins during her two seasons on the pitch.

As a freshman in 2003 Kristi helped softball become the first program in school history to earn a NCAA Division III Championship berth in any sport. Kristi was a four-time First Team All-NAC member and finished her career with a 1.67 earned run average (ERA) in 117 games (722 innings). She amassed an astonishing 83-26 record in the circle which included 612 strikeouts and 38 shutout victories. At the plate, Kristi recorded 83 hits, scored 80 runs, drove in 41 runners and swiped 18 bases in 99 games. In 2006, she was named the athletic department's Froehlich Award winner.

Kelly was a four-year member of both the women's basketball and softball teams and played one year of field hockey during her time at Elms. She is ranked fifth all-time in scoring with 1,057 points and is one of six players to reach the 1,000-point mark. She is second all-time in free throws made (362) including 120 during the 1992-93 season which is third all-time for a single-season at Elms.

On the softball diamond, she is tied for fourth all-time in triples with five, is ranked fourth all-time in walks (43) and is fifth all-time in stolen bases with 34. A two-time team captain, Kelly registered a .390 batting average in 78 games and recorded 86 hits, scored 70 runs, notched 44 RBI and cranked two homers.

During the 1994 field hockey season, Kelly scored a goal and collected a pair of assists (four points) helping the Blazers to a 8-11-1 record.

Lauren was a four-year member of both the women's soccer and softball teams from 2002-06. She concluded her career with 328 saves which is third all-time at Elms.

As a freshman softball player, Lauren garnered NAC Rookie of the Year honors and was a four-time First Team All-NAC selection. She is still the program's all-time leader in five categories: at-bats (447), runs scored (121), hits (178), singles (149), steals (50) and is tied for first all-time in triples with nine. Lauren was the athletic department's Leary Award winner in 2006 and finished her career with an overall batting average of .398.



ELMS COLLEGE

EDUCATING REFLECTIVE, PRINCIPLED, AND CREATIVE LEARNERS

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Dear Fellow Alumna/us:

On behalf of the Alumni Association officers and board members, thank you for your votes and the confidence you place in us to support the development and growth of Elms College. As president, I will proudly continue to strengthen alumni bonds of fellowship, affiliation and professional association.

My ties to Elms are deep and strong. I am a proud member of the first coeducational class accepted at Elms College, and have been an active member of the Alumni Association since 2007. My wife, Kelly Pike Carpenter '01, and I met here as undergraduate students, and were wed in Our Lady's Chapel in 2002. After five years of employment in student affairs at The College of St. Rose in Albany, NY, I returned to Elms, currently serving as director of residence life.

When many current and former students describe Elms, they speak in terms of the family feel the college offers. While that "feel" has not changed, we have made tremendous strides addressing the needs of our infrastructure over the last two years and made significant additions to our curriculum in the form of the new degree offerings, as well as strengthening enrollment through off-campus outreach to Berkshire Medical Center, Holyoke Community College, and Springfield Technical Community College. I encourage you to come to campus for a visit, to attend a regularly scheduled liturgy during the academic year, participate as a guest speaker in a class, cheer on our athletes by attending athletic events and join us for homecoming, reunion and other special alumni gatherings. Please let me know when you're on campus so we can say hello.

I recently became aware that Elms College ranks twelfth in the country in terms of alumni donor participation at Catholic colleges and universities. This puts Elms College in very auspicious company, with the likes of such elite institutions as College of the Holy Cross, University of Notre Dame, and Boston College. Alumni participation influences college rankings, and can shape the perceptions of grant-making foundations and the greater academic community. The margin between being twelfth in the country and making our way into the top ten equates to less than one percent, or roughly forty additional donors. This year, please consider giving to Elms at a level you are comfortable with. The Alumni Association is committed to ensuring that Elms makes it into the top ten in alumni donor giving within the next two years to benefit the very students who attend our beloved college and to ensure Elms continues to live out its long standing commitment to educating reflective, principled and creative learners in the tradition of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

Sincerely,

Patrick Carpenter '02
President, Alumni Association

Alumni Calendar

Alumni monthly luncheon
Held at Munich Haus the first Wednesday of every month with the exception of July and January.

Evening of Reflection
Thursday July 21, 2011, 5:00-8:30 p.m.
Genesis Spiritual Life and Conference Center
53 Mill Street, Westfield, MA · 413-562-3627
www.genesiscenter.us

Afternoon at Tanglewood
Sunday July 31, 2011
Cork 'n Hearth
Route 20, Laurel Lake, Lee, MA · 413-243-0535
Tanglewood · 297 West Street · Lenox, MA

Cape Cod Chapter luncheon
Tuesday August 2, 2011
Popponessett Inn
252 Shore Drive, Mashpee, MA · 508-479-9400

Pioneer Valley Chapter Backyard BBQ
Thursday August 25, 2011
Home of Patty Kuralowicz '02, G '03
115 Nash Street, Chicopee, MA
413-534-7854

Save the Date
Homecoming and
Family Weekend
September 23 and 24



"Oh, what a wonderful feeling, oh, what a wonderful day."

On April 29, April 30, and May 1, nearly 300 Elms College alumni enjoyed a beautiful, fun filled weekend on campus. All classes ending in '1 and '6, and all Golden Blazers were invited to attend the weekend and participated in voting in the newest representatives of the Alumni Association. Being their fiftieth anniversary of their graduation from The College of Our Lady of the Elms, the spirited women (and one gentleman) of the class of 1961 were inducted into the Golden Blazers on Saturday afternoon at the annual alumni luncheon.

All enjoyed a convivial atmosphere reconnecting with old friends, making new friends, and coming to a familiar home here on campus. Whether chatting with our college president, Sr. Mary Reap, visiting with our students, attending a wine tasting, talking with a visiting professor from Ireland, Maitiú de Hal, one of our two Fulbright Scholars, or watching the fire show spectacular, every alumna and alumnus left with a positive feeling about their Elms experience, past and present.

We look forward to welcoming the classes of '2 and '7 for their reunion on June 1 and 2, 2012.











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.

Submissions to Class Notes may be edited for length and content.

Dr. Catherine Dower-Gold '45 is writing her seventh book and staying active in the community.

Leona Lachat Mangione '46 is doing well in spite of arthritis and controlled diabetes. She is able to drive to daily mass, appointments and grocery shopping. She lives alone (with LifeLine) and receives help from her sons who live in town. She also volunteers at her parish office and plays piano for communion services and masses at the local nursing home. Much of her time is spent making quilts for children in shelters.

Mary Jane Flood Pignatelli '46 received a master's degree in French from Middlebury College and taught languages (French, Spanish, and Latin) for 28 years. She married John Pignatelli in 1954 and has five children. She has two sons; one is a state representative in Massachusetts and the other runs an electrical construction company. She has three daughters; one teaches in Lenox, another is the mother of two children, and the other works in the executive office of President Obama.

Jeanne McDermott Ryan '47 is retired and very pleased that her grandson, Michael Ryan, graduated from the Elms College nursing program in May 2011.

Lorraine Molter Farrell '51 and her husband George are continuing to enjoy life in Las Vegas. They celebrated their fifty-seventh anniversary in August 2011. She regrets that she was not able to attend her sixtieth reunion as she had just returned from a cruise days before. She further commented that flying across the country is daunting, especially at 81! She sends her fond regards to all.

Sr. Joan Pollock '56 works as a payroll and benefits administrator at the Diocese of Worcester.

After retiring from teaching, ***Mary Lou Griffin Rubino '56***, is busy with six grandchildren and loving every minute.

Since her retirement, ***Marilyn McClernon Wilkins '56*** has served on the boards of directors of two land trusts. Among her successes was getting National Wild and Scenic status for her local Eight Mile River. Marilyn is also on the Board of Directors of the Lyme Public Hall, does volunteer gardening at the Florence Griswold House in Old Lyme and for Lymewood, a retirement village for the elderly in Old Lyme. She and her friends are active in the Lyme Garden Club and enjoy kayaking. Marilyn is also still active in A.A.U.W. and their book group. She and husband Dick will be celebrating their fiftieth anniversary this summer. Their daughter and son are still living on the west coast and the family enjoys get togethers.

Anne Marie Todaro Basso '59 retired September 1, 2010. She is studying to be a guide for school children at the local Wildlife Conservation Society Zoo. In addition to her bachelor's from the Elms, she has a master's in biology from St. John's University.

Dorothy Crowley Chekas '59 is a part-time docent and mentor at Squam Lakes Science Center, Holderness, NH. The center works with birds and animals native to New Hampshire.

Diane Cavallini Fontaine '60 has five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Pauline Borsari Angermann '62 would like all to pray for her mom, Marie Borsari, who departed this life in September 2010.

Noreen Boucher Allen '65 retired in 2007 after teaching high school math for 40 years. She and her husband are now enjoying their six grandchildren, three grand-dogs, and three children. They travel a lot and recently went to the Bahamas.

Sandra Markie Dumont '66 is currently retired. As president of the Catholic Women's Club for St. Lake parish and secretary of the Rangeley Lake snowmobile club, her days are filled with activities that she loves. Besides taking care of her son, Lee, she has three grandsons, five-year old twins and a one-year old, who she just adores babysitting.

Paulette Meunier Duquette '66 is a very happy grandparent (Memere) to four children. She is a quilter, traveler, church volunteer in many capacities, and a theater and concert enthusiast. Paulette has been happily married for 44 years.

Lucinda Rodrigues Gallela '66 retired from teaching special education in June 2009.

Dr. Cheryl Cahill Leary '66 has earned several degrees since Elms, including a certificate of graduate studies in school psychology, her doctorate in educational psychology, and a master's in special education. She is the program director for the master's of science in developmental education at Bay Path College, where she also spearheaded the community-based cooperative education program. Cheryl is a past president of the Enfield, CT, Rotary Club and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Jane McCaffrey '66 spends the summers doing yard work for older folks and spends the winter skiing and showshoeing in N.H. She says, "life is good when you are retired."

According to *The Warwick Advertiser*, ***Joan Poloniak Sullivan '66*** was named the Hudson Valley Polonaise Society 2010-2011 Citizen of the Year. She works diligently on all society projects and actively participates in the Pulaski Day Parade in New York City. Although Joan retired in 2003, she is currently a part-time ESL teacher for the Monroe-Woodbury School District. She enjoys the Pine Island community, working in her garden, and tending to her flowers. As often as possible, she walks several miles a day or bikes on the Heritage Trail.

Ruth Willemain '66 retired in 1999 after 45 years of teaching, and decided to become a hospice volunteer. She had been volunteering in nursing homes in connection with her church, and extended her work with the dying to patients in nursing homes. A few years ago, Ruth began working toward a dream of establishing a home, to be named Harmony House, in western Massachusetts to provide shelter with compassionate care for the terminally ill. She has made good progress to making this a reality with the help of good people.

Elaine Polek Gustafson '68 retired in June 2010 and is now enjoying "the good life."

Dr. Ann McCarthy Southworth '69 is now president of Cathedral High School, Springfield, MA. Ann earned her master's degree from the State University of New York-Stonybrook, a certificate of graduate studies from American International College in Springfield, and a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts. She served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent for the Springfield Public Schools. On March 5, 2011, Ann and her husband David Southworth were among eight recipients of the St. Joseph Medal Award, given by Cathedral High School every year to honor those who have excelled in their professional life and made an outstanding commitment to Cathedral.

After retiring after 25 years from Blessed Sacrement School where she taught first and second grade and was a principal, ***Roberta Kelly Cassidy '71*** was offered the position of director of religious education for the parish. It is now a total of 30 years at Blessed Sacrement in Holyoke. She says "I've loved it all!"

Jo Ann McDermott Holm '71 retired from the Berkshire Hills Regional School District after 34 years of teaching. Her principal said she "was the only person I knew that taught at the elementary level, middle school level, and the high school level."

Julie Kennedy MacKeil '71 switched jobs after 25 years in IT management with NYNEX to her "dream job" with Bose Corp. as a senior IT project manager for the past eight years. She is now semi-retired and spends 50 percent of her time as an independent project manager and consultant and the other 50% with her wonderful husband, John, as "snow birds" - traveling, playing golf and enjoying their great family. She says, "life is good!"

Anne O'Connell Truhart '71 reports that she is retired and looking forward to a new chapter of her life. She is planning on traveling and spending time with her grandchildren.

Catherine Kalmbach Arventos '81 has worked for the Department of Developmental Disabilities for almost 27 years. Her two children are in college and the youngest is a sophomore at Elms. She enjoys involvement with her parish's CCD program and currently teaches seventh grade.

Anne Marie Corrieri '81 received The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award from the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation during their banquet at the Log Cabin on May twelfth. She was nominated for the award by her colleagues in the Ludlow Public School District for her capacity as the Instructional Technology Specialist for the school system. This is the second time Anne Marie has been honored for her teaching skills. She previously won this award in 2005 when she was a Special Education Teacher at Central High School in Springfield, MA.

Dr. Maria Daversa '82's photo and testimonial can be found on the Elms website via this link: http://www.elms.edu/-Support-/Maria_Daversa.xml

Ruth-Elaine Howard Dodge '87 moved to Cape Cod seven years ago and is enjoying it every day. She and her husband are both retired and have four sons, four daughters-in-law and five grandchildren who live in New England. One daughter-in-law, Leslie Dodge '98, also graduated from the Elms. "What a great college!"

Linda Holian '87 graduated from Elms with a degree in communication sciences and disorders. She worked as a speech language pathologist in both the private and public school systems and is now working in the Berlin Public School system in Berlin, CT as a supervisor of special education.

Krystyna Paluch '88, chief executive officer of Phoenix Manufacturing, Inc., was recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership, and excellence in business management. Krystyna has 13 years of professional experience in manufacturing aerospace components. She became the CEO of her family business, Phoenix Manufacturing, in 2008. Krystyna is a member of her local Chamber of Commerce, the Connecticut Tooling and Machining Association, as well as the Women Presidents' Organization. She is also the owner of Lektech Industries, a manufacturing company.

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

Sandra Martinelli Reissour '91 earned an M.S.N. on May 2011 from the Elms.

Beverly Southmayd Rzewnicki '93 retired after 30 years in banking. She downsized and is loving it at the American Inn Retirement Community in Southwick. She enjoys the carefree living thanks to the benefits earned at the Elms.

Mary Jeanne Tash '95 created her own website in only six weeks. She asks, "If you have a chance, go to maryjeannetashphotography.com and view some of my photos. My son Tristan really pushed me to do this; for that I am thankful. I will update photos about every month or so."

Linda Kieras Kenny '96 married Patrick Kenny in 1998. They have three beautiful children, Leah, 7; Ryan, 4; and Lily, 2.

Urszula Remian Stetson '96 was in the first M.S.N. graduating class at Elms and is currently working as the nursing lab and simulation coordinator at Elms.

Michelle Perras-Slowick '99 is working at New England Uniform.

Janet Dewey '01 is enjoying her third year of teaching first grade at Saint Edward School in Stafford, CT.

Jennifer Feldman Hamel '01 has been an early childhood educator for ten years. She is currently a lead preschool teacher at Westfield Area Head Start. She plans to pursue EEC Director II certification. Jennifer lives in Blandford, MA with her husband and cat.

Engagements

Theresa Ohrenberger '03 to George Laham. Following Elms, Theresa earned master's degrees at Framingham State College and Emmanuel College. She is employed as a special education administrator. George is a CPA working at the Harvard Club of Boston. A May 2011 wedding at St. Bridget's Church in Framingham was planned.

Sarah Styckiewicz '07 to ***Matthew Kapinos '07***. Sarah is employed by Baystate Home Infusion and Respiratory Services. Matthew is employed by Ace Chimney Sweeps. They plan an October 9 wedding.

Ashley Jodray '09 is engaged to Ryan Hollister. She is a surgical registered nurse in Austin, TX, and is currently enrolled in the family nurse practitioner graduate program at Texas A & M University. Ryan graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and is employed as a web developer with Ad Revolution in Austin, TX. An August 27 wedding is planned at The Harding Allen Estate in Barre, MA.

Weddings



Erin Hepler '02 and Patrick Worrell Jr. were married July 24, 2010, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI. The bride's college roommate and friend, ***Lynda DeLaronde '03***, served as matron of honor. Erin, now a medical legal death investigator in Cleveland, OH, earned a post-baccalaureate certificate in forensic investigation from Wayne State University. Patrick earned a bachelor of arts degree in economics and management from Albion College and is a loan officer with Huntington Bank in Avon Lake, OH. They live in Middleburg Heights, OH.



Renée Lein '05 and Steven James Robinson, both of Pittsfield, were married November 13, 2010 at St. Joseph's Church in Pittsfield. Renee is the hospice aide coordinator for HospiceCare in the Berkshires in Pittsfield. Steven is an auto technician for Haddad Subaru in Pittsfield. He earned an associate's degree in auto technology from Hudson Valley Community College in 1999.

Births



Deb '93 and Mark Kennedy's children: Thomas Liam, 5, Sean Patrick, 3, and Ryan Shea, 9 months.



Lindsay McCarthy Pires '07 and her husband Michael, both of Ludlow, welcomed their first child, Isla Marie, on January 12, 2011.



Jeffrey '01 and ***Tara Shea-Leandro '02*** welcomed Fiona Eileen Leandro on November 21, 2010.

In Memoriam

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

Alumni:

Philomena Gagne Proctor '36 passed away on January 13, 2011. She was a resident of Pompano Beach, FL.

Mary Gully Tanona '40 passed away on Wednesday, April 20, 2011. A native of Worcester, she graduated from Ascension High School and College of Our Lady of the Elms. She worked for Worcester State Hospital as a social worker for 29 years before retiring in 1990. Mary was a long-time member of Our Lady of the Angels Church. Mary lived a very full, active and independent life up to the time of her death. Widow of Daniel F. Tanona, Jr., she is survived by three sons, Daniel, John, and Michael; daughter Karen; daughters-in-law and son-in-law, ten grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She was the sister of the late William, Paul and Edward Gully.

Catherine Joseph Drudi '41 passed away on Tuesday, April 19, 2011. A native of Winchendon, she was the owner of M. Joseph Fruit and Confectionary Store for many years. The store celebrated its 100th anniversary in the summer of 2010. She previously worked for the Department of Social Services in Connecticut and taught speech for 16 years at Murdock High School until her retirement in 1985. Catherine also worked at the former Gardner Manor Nursing Home helping patients with their speech. Following Elms, she received additional degrees from Catholic University of America. She spoke fluent Arabic. Widow of Dino Drudi, Catherine leaves behind her son, Dino J. Drudi Jr., of Washington D.C.

Elinor Somers Glynn '42 passed away on April 2, 2011. She taught in the Springfield School System for several years before beginning a twenty-year tenure teaching kindergarten at Wolf Swamp School in Longmeadow. She earned her master's degree in education from American International College. She was the wife of the late Thomas; mother of the late, Judy, Tommy, and John; and sister of the late Ernest Somers. Elinor is survived by her children, Jane Martel, Polly Kerrigan, Philip Glynn, M.D., and Amy Glynn along with their spouses; seven grandchildren, ten great grandchildren and her sister, Mary Ballard of Lexington, KY.

Joan McCaffrey Richards '47, of Huntington Beach, CA, passed away on December 26, 2010. She was a beloved grade school teacher and later an antiques dealer. Joan leaves her loving husband, Bob; her children, Paul, Ann, Lisa and Jim; daughter-in-law, Lisa, and grandchildren, Kristen and Kevin.

Frances Boratyn Bonaparte '48, of Riverside, CT, passed away on February 14, 2011. In addition to her Elms degree, she received her master's degree in social work from Fordham University. Fran worked as a social worker for many years at The Services (now the Greenwich Family Center), retired, then returned to work as a social worker for Greenwich Adult Day Care before retiring a second time. In addition to her husband of 56 years, Mario Bonaparte, Fran is survived by her five children, Paul, Ellen, Kate, Wilen, Michael, and David, and their spouses; her eight grandchildren, Mary, Kate, Kelsey, Phoebe, Will, Charlie, Claudia and Matthew; her cherished sister, Helen Deluca, her brothers and sister-in-law; and many nieces and nephews. She was the sister of the late Joseph and Frank. Fran enjoyed tennis and being a member of Old Greenwich Garden Club.

Louise Hanna Lord '49, of Salem, CT, passed away on Thursday, January 27, 2011. Born in Chicopee, she was vice president of her class at Elms College and received valedictorian honors. Louise taught for many years at the Salem and Bozrah public schools. She was a former treasurer for the Salem Green Cemetery and was a member of Our Lady of Lakes Catholic Church. Surviving her are sons, Robert, Stephen, Richard, David, Philip, and Douglas; daughter, Monica; daughters-in-law and son-in-law; brother, Edward Hanna; eight grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Ellen Ford Tremont '49 passed away January 29, 2011. She had been employed by Page Hilltop School in Ayer, MA. She is survived by her husband Joseph.

Marion Black Riley '50 passed away March 3, 2011 in Oak Bluffs, MA. She happily taught kindergarten for 20 years, nine years in Springfield public schools and 11 years at "Little School" in Wilbraham. She lived in Springfield, Wilbraham, and Longmeadow, before moving with her husband to Tucson, Arizona in 1980 and returning to Massachusetts in 1986. Finally, she moved to Martha's Vineyard in 2002 as a year-round resident, with her husband and dog, Izzie. Marion loved flowers and music, especially American jazz, theatrical plays and old movies, cooking and cookbooks. She is survived by her second husband of 41 years, Francis J. Riley, and eight children (Frank, Judith, Nancy, Mary Jane, Peter, Fern, Kenneth, and Sarah), seven grandchildren (Maggie, Booker, Alex, Dylan, Alessio, Griffin, and Liam); and two sisters, Elizabeth Ridenour and Carol Olbrych and brother, Robert Black. Her first husband, Lawson Little, died in 1967 and her sister, Rita Bielitz, in 2008.

Sr. Mary Agnes Shea '51 passed away February 22, 2011. She earned her M.A. from Fairfield University following her Elms graduation, and after one year of teaching in a Chicopee public school, she entered the Sisters of Notre Dame. After making her vows, she taught at Holy Name High School and then taught and served as an administrator at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in New Britain, CT. Her passion for education was evident during the time she spent at both schools. She also served on the leadership team of the Connecticut province of the Sisters of Notre Dame. After serving the sisters of her province for nine years, she studied gerontology at UMass, Boston after which she served the elderly at St. Mary Home, St. Christopher, and WestMass ElderCare. After retiring, she continued to work for her sisters in the province finance office. Wherever she served, she was known and loved as a woman of great faith, fine educational competence, determination and hard work, and unfailing kindness to all. At the time of her death, she had been a member of the Notre Dame community for 58 years. Predeceased by her parents and her brother James L. Shea, she leaves her sister-in-law Barbara Shea and her nephews John and Mary Ann Shea, Colin and Kathy Shea, her grandnieces and grandnephew Maura, Caitlin, Stephen, Theresa and Agnes and her Sisters in Notre Dame as well as her many friends, colleagues and former students.

Sr. Rita Morey (Francis Therese) '54, beloved member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, MA, passed away on December 31, 2010. A native of Milford, MA, she was the daughter of the late James F. and Delphine V. (Paradis) Morey. Sister received her early education in St. Mary Grammar School and was graduated from Milford High School in 1937. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Mary Parish, Milford, MA. Sister earned an A.B. Degree and an M.A. in history from College of Our Lady of the Elms and earned an M.A. in English literature at Boston College. She also studied library science at the Elms and Worcester State College. Sr. Rita was a teacher for 45 years in Diocesan schools administered by the Sisters of St. Joseph including St. Joseph School, Newport, RI; St. Stephen School, Worcester, MA; and St. Joseph School, Pittsfield, MA. In 1988, she became archivist for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, a position she held until her retirement in 1998. In addition to her sisters in community, she is survived by her sister, Ruth Ardini of Tampa, FL, eleven nieces and nephews, and many grand and great-grand nieces and nephews. She was the sister of the late Helen D. Connolly.

Elizabeth Graham '57, of Providence, RI, passed away March 5, 2011. Born in Pawtucket, she was a daughter of the late John A. and M. Frances (McDermott) Graham. Bidda, as she was known to her classmates, was a teacher in the Pawtucket School System for 35 years. She received her M.A. in education from Providence College. She is survived by a niece Holly Maturo, a nephew Graham Long and cousins Johanne P. Caparco, Marita Devine, Kathleen Ricci, Grace Barnett, Mary O'Reilly, Elizabeth Walsh, Harry Graham and Thomas Graham. She was the sister of the late Frances Maiden.

Lorraine Meunier Benoit '62, of South Hadley, passed away on April 19, 2011. Born in Chicopee, she was the daughter of the late Edward and Edna Meunier. She was a graduate

of Chicopee High School, Elms College, and Westfield State College, where she earned her master's degree. Lorraine was a teacher for the South Hadley public school system. She enjoyed quilting, painting, golfing and gardening. She also enjoyed traveling with her cousin and friend Rollie. She was a volunteer at the Gaylord Library in South Hadley. Lorraine was the wife of the late Ronald Benoit in 2006. She is survived by her brother-in-law Arthur Benoit and sister-in-law Cynthia Benoit and many nieces and nephews and cousins.

Maureen Haley Gallagher '68, of Wilbraham, passed away on Monday February 14, 2011. She was dearly loved by her family, especially her grandchildren. She graduated from Our Lady of the Elms College in Chicopee, Massachusetts. She was the chief financial officer for Samuel Plotkin and Associates, a firm for which she enjoyed working. She was a great sports fan, following UMass and Patriots football as well as UConn basketball. She leaves behind daughter Sheila Roberts and grandchildren Lily, Benjamin and Nathan; daughter Stacey Norton and, grandchildren Amy, Andrew, Joshua and Rachel; aunts Rita Zalucki, Kathleen Smith; brother Patrick Haley; sisters Karen Gallagher, Sheila Marchand; sister-in-law Lisa Tilum; and her longtime companion Larry Johnson. She also leaves behind many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. Besides her parents she was the sister of the late Richard and Mark Haley, and sister-in-law of the late John Gallagher.

Carol Waniewski LaBosco '90, passed away February, 6, 2011. Born in Springfield, daughter of the late Matthew and Elizabeth (McDonald) Waniewski, she was a graduate of Agawam High School and then received her master's degree in early childhood education from Elms College. She was a teacher at Bonita Springs Elementary School in Florida and lived in Bonita Springs and Naples, FL, before returning to Feeding Hills. She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills where she also taught in their religious education program. She leaves behind her husband, Nicholas J. LaBosco; brother, David M. Waniewski; sister, Geraldine Waniewski; a nephew, Brian D. Waniewski; and niece, Tricia A. Sur.

Irene Kreczko Coppola '91 passed away April 23, 2011. Born in Springfield, she lived in Agawam for 30 years. Irene was a registered nurse for Springfield Urology Group. She was a graduate of the former Providence Hospital School of Nursing and received her bachelor's of science in nursing degree from the College of Our Lady of the Elms. She worked as a nurse at Providence Hospital, Wesson Women's Hospital and Mercy Hospital. She had also worked for Package Machinery and Dexter's. She was a former member of the Polish Women's Alliance and enjoyed many outdoor activities. She was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church. She leaves her husband, James M. Coppola; her children, Kimberly Sweeney, twins Michael and Terry Shea, and Stanley Shea; a sister Theresa; and eight grandchildren, Dan McCarey, Erin Sweeney, Marykate Sweeney, Alexandra Shea, Kelly Shea, Virginia Shea, David Shea, and Madeline Shea.

Katherine Keator '01 passed away May 7, 2011. Born in Pittsfield, she was the daughter of George and Sheila Nesbit. A graduate of St. Joseph Central High School in Pittsfield, Katie earned her B.A. from Lemoyne College in Syracuse, NY, and received her M.A.A.T. at Elms College. Katie spent two years on the South Pacific island of Niue while volunteering for the Peace Corps. Her love of travel took her to New Zealand, Central America, the Fiji Islands, Alaska, and many other locations. She was a gifted athlete in both high school and college; a poet, musician, and dancer; and had an enthusiastic love of the outdoors. She had worked at Canyon Ranch for many years as an outdoor guide, hiking and boating the many beautiful trails and lakes throughout the Berkshires. Katherine also had a passion for acting, receiving a grant to craft her art at Shakespeare & Co. and also performed in regional theatre productions during her years living in Louisiana with her most recent performance off-Broadway. In addition to her parents, Katherine leaves seven siblings and their spouses, David, Mary, John, Frederick, Matthew, Bridget, and Timothy. She was the loving "Tia" to Mari, Sophia, Christopher, Cassidy, Madeleine, Alexandra, Michela, Daley, Ehan, Gabriela, Maximilian, Harrison, Charlie, Charlize, Colman, and Viggo.

Alice Murray '46 passed away May 10, 2011. She resided in Chicopee for her long life, attending Holy Name Grammar School, graduating from Holy Name High School, and majoring in French at Elms. She pursued graduate studies at Springfield College and Middlebury Language Schools and also studied in France. Her first teaching position was in Barre, MA, as there were no teaching positions available locally. To her death, Alice has remained in contact with former students from Barre. After returning to Chicopee, Alice taught French at Chicopee High School, Springfield Technical High School, and Springfield High School of Commerce before retiring. After retirement, Alice taught as a substitute at local high schools, including Cathedral High School. Alice was a kind, caring and thoughtful person, always genuinely concerned about others and their families. She was gifted with words, both written and spoken. Alice loved Elms College, where she tutored and, after retirement, volunteered in the Alumni Office. She lectured at the former Holy Name Church choir in Springfield. Alice is survived by her loving sister, Marguerite McCarthy; and three cousins, Dorothy Griffin, Marie Hassion, and James McKeon.

Debbie O'Connor '70, of Westerly, RI, died Sunday, May 15, 2011. Raised in Waterbury, CT, she attended local schools and was a graduate of Sacred Heart High School class of 1966. After receiving her B.A. from the College of Our Lady of the Elms, she received her master's degree in gerontology from St. Joseph's College in West Hartford. She went on to become licensed as a nursing home administrator in Connecticut and Rhode Island. In 1999, she moved to Rhode Island and retired in 2010. She enjoyed clamming and collecting sea glass, but most especially, she enjoyed her time with the light of her life, her grandson Jordan. She is survived by her daughter, Tara Puzacke; two brothers, Charles E. O'Connor and Kevin J. O'Connor; sister, Mary Anne McLean; grandson, Jordan Connor Jefferson; nieces and nephews, Carrie, Jeff, Michael and David; four great-nieces; two great-nephews and cousins.

Susan Sheehan-Pallatino '73 died May 16, 2011 with her husband by her side. Born in Providence, RI, Susan was a dedicated teacher for 36 years at Hillside School and Quarry Hill Community School in Monson, where she was an advocate for discovery based learning. Susan loved the ocean and to travel—especially to Maine, Chatham, MA and Newport, RI. She was a voracious reader and had a great sense of humor. Susan will be remembered as an independent, gentle woman whose warm dignity, open heart and quiet depth resonated with all who knew her. She endured her illness with enormous strength, dignity and compassion, with full support of her greatest caregiver, her husband David, by her side. Memories of Susan will be cherished by those who had the honor of knowing her. In addition to her husband, she leaves behind her sister Cynthia Sheehan Leal; brother-in-law Richard Falzone; nieces Mary Leal and Suzanne Leal Sinclair great-niece Emily Sheehan Sinclair. She was the daughter-in-law of the late Mary (Allison) Pallatino and Quito A. Pallatino, and sister-in-law of the late Gail Falzone.

Husband of:
Julie Maranville Shore '53
Anne O'Connell Lertora '55
Patricia Hanifin Nelen '55
Marguerite Mulvey Crawford '59

Daughter of:
Sheila Nesbit Keator '59 and George Keator '02

Son of:
Mary Nelen Napolitan '48

Mother of:
Faith-Mary Swierzewski Alaimo '69
Joan Keating Wheeler '71
Amy Wilson '75
Kathleen Ennis Cassin '76
Cheryl Rosa Pesto '77

Mother-in-law of:
Kathleen Butler Baczynski '73

Father of:
Debra Gomes '85
Jeannean Terlik, Elms staff member

Stepfather of:
William Frain, Elms trustee

Sister of:
Mary Keator '07

Sister-in-law of:
Helene Moriarty Brennan '51

Niece of:
Mary Jane Nesbit Gonia '42
Ann Nesbit '43
Margaret Nesbit Farley '49
Therese Quinlan Nesbit '52

Former Staff:
Lisa Godin, housemother
Sr. Marie Griffin, secretary

Cooligan Gift Restores Spaulding House

Interior and exterior renovation to our admissions building, Spaulding House, was made possible due to an estate gift from a community member who included Elms as a beneficiary of a trust many years ago. The thoughtfulness of Joseph J. Cooligan, a resident of the Forest Park area of Springfield, will allow Elms to offer a more welcoming and accessible building for prospective students.

Mr. Cooligan served as vice chairman of the Advisory Board of Springfield Technical Community College from 1967-1981 and as its chairman in 1979. Mr. Cooligan, known for warmth, caring, and community involvement, realized the importance of academic achievement and involvement in college activities, preparing those college students for active lives of engagement in their own communities.

The project selected by Elms for use of his unrestricted gift matches Mr. Cooligan's reputation of warmth and caring as well as his interest in academic achievement and involvement. We expect the "new" Spaulding House to welcome students and families for many years to come.







For information about how you might include Elms in your estate plans, visit www.elms.edu/plannedgiving or contact Debbie Baker, senior director of institutional advancement, at 413-265-2446 or bakerd@elms.edu.

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