SPRING 2012

# ELMS COLLEGE
MAGAZINE



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."* — Margaret Mead



I have always been fond of the expression "think globally, act locally." It is often used to promote environmental and sustainability efforts in various regions of our planet. I like it because it reminds us that we can have a lasting impact on the world but our work must begin in our local communities. Without strong ties to our communities, we have no foundation to stand upon as we go out into the world.

However, as each graduating class passes through the College of Our Lady of the Elms, I become more convinced that the phrase only tells half the story. Advances in technology—from social media to the wide availability of international programs—have allowed us to now "think locally, act globally." Our students spend semesters abroad to immerse themselves in a new language and culture. Their research projects become published in national journals. They travel to Tanzania, India, Jamaica, and Honduras to help those in need. They can bring the experiences that have shaped them here at the College of Our Lady of the Elms to the people they meet and the places they visit. The opportunities to step beyond the borders of western Massachusetts and excel in the global community are greater than ever.

In this issue, you will read about how the College of Our Lady of the Elms opens our doors to students from all continents and fosters a diverse campus life. We arrange study abroad opportunities for students to explore new and exciting regions on their educational journey. Our faculty serve on international boards and bring the most recent advances in their field to our students, leaving them with a broader view, ready to bring their values and unique skills into their chosen careers.

At the same time, we also continue to act locally. Responding to a need in the marketplace, we summoned regional professionals for input as we developed a new major that will prepare students with the necessary skills to succeed in their local communities. Our liberal arts core continues to build the competencies that employers crave. Our small class sizes and personal attention create intimate learning environments, leading to success for our students who often return to the Pioneer Valley for employment after graduation.

The values and experiences gained at the College of Our Lady of the Elms cannot be found anywhere else. We instill the importance of community and excellence that our students take with them out into the world. As technology makes the world a smaller place, we continue to educate students that go on to be leaders in whatever communities they decide to call home.

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*

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## *A Presidential Evening*

Despite an unexpected October snowstorm, more than 80 benefactors and guests attended the Presidential Evening of Appreciation at the Colony Club on October 29. Six honorees, all lifetime contributors of $1,000,000 or more, were recognized for their outstanding contributions to The College of Our Lady of the Elms and presented with the Elms College Presidential medallion.

President of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield and board of trustees member Maxyne Schneider, SSJ, accepted the medallion on behalf of the Sisters of St. Joseph for their leadership, foundation, and devotion to the College of Our Lady of the Elms. The Sisters of St. Joseph were recognized for their work to better the entire community, and for their sustained financial support that enables the college to continue integrating service to others with career preparation for both men and women.

A two-time board member of the College of Our Lady of the Elms, Mr. William Frain's passion and work ethic have brought astounding success to the college's already stellar reputation. Through his continued benevolence, planned giving, and endowed scholarship, Mr. Frain has ensured the success of the college and its students for years to come.

Sharing interests with the College of Our Lady of the Elms in the advancement of healthcare, William and Cynthia Lyons have demonstrated devoted service and commitment to the institution. Cynthia, a member of the board of trustees, and William have seen the college grow by leaps and bounds, in part through their stewardship and philanthropic gifts.

John and Sheila Flynn have long been supporters of the college. Both leaders at Hampden Engineering Company, with John serving as president and Sheila as treasurer, the company has been a consistent supporter of the College of Our Lady of the Elms through a multitude of donations and in-kind gifts. The building of the campus athletic fields would not have been possible without their support. ■



*The Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield*



*Maxyne Schneider, SSJ*



*William Frain with President Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D.*



*William and Cynthia Lyons with President Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D.*



*John and Sheila Flynn with President Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D.*

## A New Mission

After a lengthy review process, the College of Our Lady of the Elms is proud to present our new mission statement. The mission review committee designed a very inclusive process and engaged all segments of the community through several forums and dialogue opportunities. The final version of the statement is a tribute to their hard work and steadfastness in seeing this project to the end. Elms College would like to thank all who participated in this process.

*The College of Our Lady of the Elms, a Catholic college, educates a diverse group of women and men in a supportive, vibrant learning community. Combining a liberal arts education with professional studies, Elms College empowers students to effect positive changes in the community and in the world.*

*Affirming the founding tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College challenges students to embrace change without compromising principle, to respond creatively to the demands of their chosen careers, and to advocate for people in need. Elms College is a community rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, and responsive to civic and social obligations.* ■

## Softball Players Travel to Italy

Elms College softball players Sarah Buckley and Jenna Lipscomb were selected, along with assistant coach Allie Fox, to compete on Team American International Sports Travel (AIST) Softball in June 2012.



***Sarah Buckley '13***



***Jenna Lipscomb '13***

Coaches and players are invited to participate by AIST and rosters are comprised of NCAA Division I, II and III as well as NAIA and Junior College athletes and coaches and selection criteria is based on a player's statistical performance. Third baseman Rachel Butt was also selected to participate but cannot because of a season-ending knee injury.

Buckley, Lipscomb and Coach Fox will be traveling to Italy in early June and will visit such places as Rome, Florence, Vatican City and Tuscany, providing for a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience. ■

## Elms College Welcomes New Trustees

We are pleased to welcome six new trustees to the Elms community.

- ***Patrick D. Carpenter***, director of annual giving at Elms College and president of the alumni association
- ***Anthony Cignoli***, president of A. L. Cignoli Company
- ***Francis P. Kirley***, founder, president, and CEO of Nexion Health
- ***Virginia Maitland, SSJ***, former director of counseling services at Elms College
- ***Maxyne D. Schneider, SSJ,*** president of Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield and former academic dean at Elms College
- ***Kathy Tobin,*** director of development at Friends of the Homeless

## Fulbright Scholars

The Elms campus was once again proud to host two Fulbright foreign language teaching assistants this year: Ahmed Tonzalt of Morocco and Padraic Deiseach of the Republic of Ireland. Because they live in the campus dormitories, teach in the classrooms, and engage in student clubs, Fulbright Scholars bring a multi-cultural experience to the Elms community. Ahmed, who loves to share




about his country through food, gave a presentation during Homecoming and Family Weekend that featured exotic Moroccan dishes. He is teaching Arabic.



Padraic is the college's second consecutive Irish FLTA Fulbright Scholar. His Irish predecessor, Maitiu de Hal, shares more than just a heritage. They are, in fact, friends from the same school, University College Dublin. Padraic is teaching Irish. ■

"It was such a successful experience last year that people are really excited about being able to continue with an Irish Fulbright Scholar," stated Director of International Programs Joyce Hampton, Ed.D. ■

## New Office Brings Efficiency, Opportunity

Chul Lee, Ph.D., has been hired as director of the college's first-ever office of institutional assessment and research. Lee will provide data that will open Elms College to more grants, create balance in awarding financial aid, and assist in NEASC accreditation. This tremendous opportunity will provide significant improvements across campus and open many doors for the future of Elms College. Having an office of institutional assessment and research will prove valuable as Elms College continues to grow and provide a quality, affordable education to its students.



"The office of institutional assessment and research will allow us to make smart, data-driven decisions so that we control costs and operate as efficiently as possible," said Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D.

Coming from Wesley College in Dover, Delaware, where he was director of data analysis and institutional effectiveness, Lee will determine the strengths and future prospects of Elms College. "Now there is a central office to gather data, to bring more synergy and efficiency, and to generate ideas to improve decision-making," said Lee.

Elms College was able to secure partial funding for the new office through a grant. The grant was received from the Davis Educational Foundation, established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after Mr. Davis' retirement as chairman of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc. Davis Educational Foundation has been supportive of Elms College in the past, most recently with funding for Campus Café and Campus Web Services on SCAN.

Lee will also assess student learning so that the college will have data to strengthen the undergraduate curriculum and improve the academic environment, in addition to increasing its financial stability. ■

# Across a Cultural Divide: Students Find Leadership, Diversity, and Success at Elms.

*by Kathryn Dunn*

## Discovering Elms

"I was just a kid dreaming of basketball and trying to find my future." Juan Alverio grew up playing basketball in Puerto Rico. He'd had an opportunity to study and play ball in Florida during high school, and now he was thinking about college.

For international students, and those who, like Juan, are United States citizens from territories or commonwealths, the first experience of the Elms College community often takes place thousands of miles from campus. Elms faculty and staff offer advice, information and support to applicants and their families, long before the final decision to attend.

Ed Silva, faculty member and head coach of the men's basketball program at Elms College, talked with Juan by phone several times. Juan was very interested. Juan's mother was not so sure.

Sending a son or daughter off to study in another country is not an easy decision. Parents want to know where their son or daughter will live; and who will help them meet the challenges of academics in a new culture. Beyond that, where will they find the personal support and advice that a family would provide? The quality of education and the financial responsibilities also carry tremendous weight.

If the student is an athlete, faculty members will talk with candidates and their families about the academic opportunities at Elms. And, in Juan's case, Coach Silva asked his wife, Cecily, to join the conversation. Of Puerto Rican decent, Cecily spent her childhood summers in Puerto Rico with extended family. She also understood how a family might feel about sending





**Juan Alverio**
*Puerto Rico*
Double Major:
Accounting, Business Management

their son to school 2,000 miles away. Cecily spoke with Juan's mother by phone for an hour and a half. They talked about food, about family, about holidays — about ways Juan could connect, and succeed, at Elms. When the conversation ended, Juan's mother turned to Juan: "You're going to Elms."

## Cultures and Community

"I was surprised at how nice people are." Juan recalls his arrival on campus. "A simple thing like holding a door for somebody — saying 'thank you,' and 'you're welcome.' I told my mother, 'I can't believe how nice people are, here!' "

"Cultural competency is about understanding that other cultures are as valuable as your own," said Kent Alexander, director of diversity services at Elms College. He works with students, faculty, and staff to foster and sustain a diverse and culturally sensitive campus — and to build community and collaboration among diverse groups.

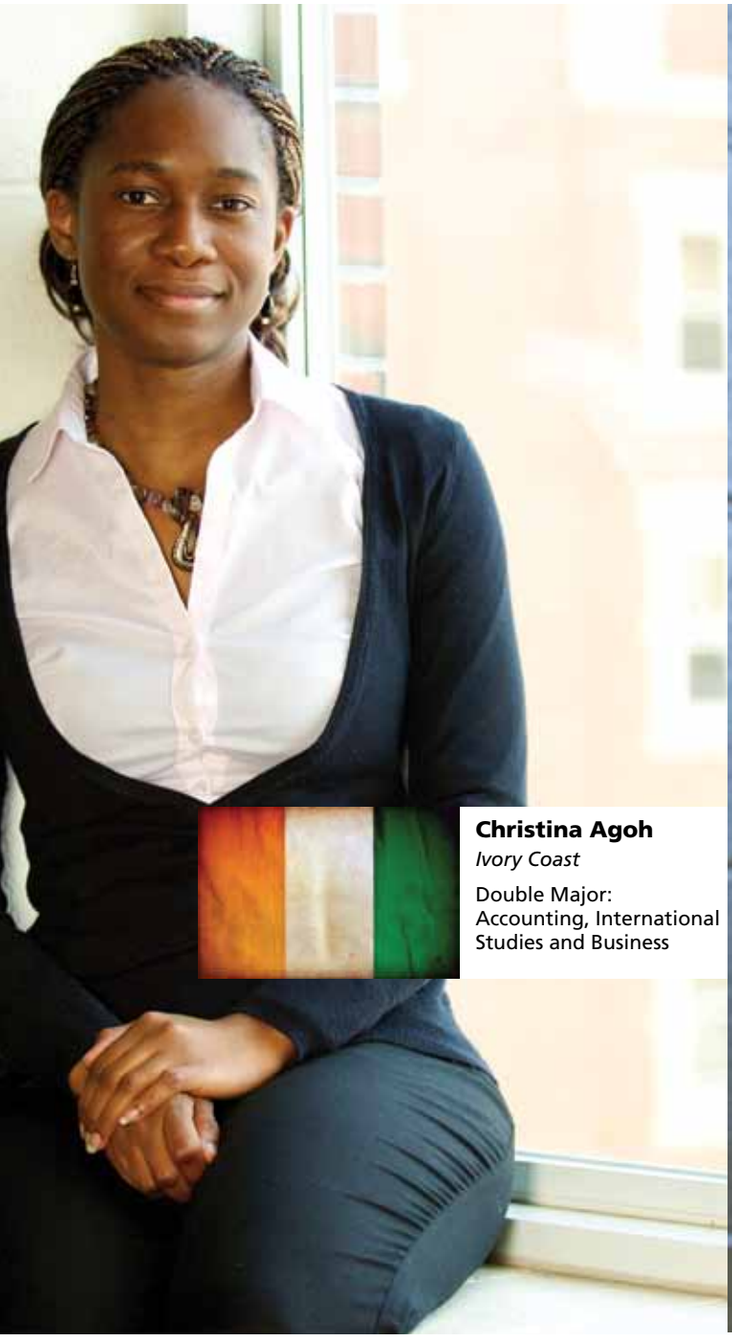
What might this look like in an everyday way? "If you're an international student, one of my first questions is: 'What would make you feel more comfortable?' International students are looking for connection and familiarity. Is there someone else that speaks their language? Is there a club they might like, or a professor that has been to their country? I help students make these connections."

It can be as simple and basic as food. Where can a student from Ireland find Irish butter? Is there a family who will share Three Kings Day with a student from Puerto Rico? Aspects of everyday life become a means for connecting students with the larger community.

If you are an international student interested in attending college in the United States, Elms is a particularly good choice. A glance at statistics shows how diverse the Elms student body is. On campus, you will find not only international students, but also African American, Latino, Asian American, and Native American students. To this cultural diversity add social diversity, religious and spiritual affiliation; income; rural and urban backgrounds; and first-generation college students.

With a campus-wide focus on mutual respect, curiosity, and a friendly, "hello," international students arrive to find a welcoming and vibrant community.

*continued on page 6*





**Christina Agoh**
*Ivory Coast*

Double Major:
Accounting, International Studies and Business





**Seweryn Kolysko**
*Poland*

Major:
Social Work

## The International Programs Office

"The more connections we can help students make — with faculty, students, staff, and the larger community — the better." Joyce Hampton, Ed.D., associate professor of English as a Second Language and director of international programs, plays a key role in the lives of international students. Throughout each student's career at Elms, Joyce and her staff provide academic advising, ongoing cultural support, and help with immigration procedures.

This means greeting an arriving student at the airport, at midnight. It means holding individual conferences on a regular basis to support academic progress. It also means mentoring students around ways to develop learning opportunities while maintaining their visa requirements.

Joyce offers students the bigger picture as she guides students through these processes. "I can share with them how strategically to use the internship and employment opportunities that immigration gives them for training, and work — while they're enrolled, or within their field of study for the year following graduation. We have a team approach in working with other faculty and Career Services to make possibilities become a reality." In Joyce's office, filling out a form becomes an opportunity for career development.

"I like to meet new people and discover new places, new food." Christina Agoh comes from Ivory Coast. She speaks French, English and Baoule — one of many tribal languages spoken in her country. This past December, she completed a double major at Elms, in accounting and international studies and business.

What makes Christina glad she chose Elms? The International Programs Office — and Joyce. "When I came, I didn't have any family. She made us feel at home; we can call her any time, and she's here for us every day."

Christina also appreciates the size of the school. "With 15 to 20 people in a class, students get more attention. This was especially helpful, coming into an academic system that is very different for me."

The third reason Christina's glad she chose Elms is the International Club. "With this club I have been able to make new friends. The International Club really gives students the chance to learn about one another, and the cultures they live in. There are always new events happening with our group, giving us the chance to be seen and heard on campus."

On a recent Friday in December, members of the club offered an African meal to the community. What was on the menu? "Food that's easy and fast to cook. Fried plantain, with chicken stew, okra and spinach soup." Where did they find plantains? "Stop & Shop!"

Christina worked as a student assistant in the International Programs office for three years. She assumed leadership roles in the office's orientation programs, and in the International Club. Joyce Hampton is looking forward to graduation. "I'll meet Christina's family for the first time. She has worked in this office for three years, and she's very near and dear to me."

## Academics and Internships

"International students are well prepared to succeed in the American academic system." Ed Silva reflects on his experience in the classroom, and on the court. "Most come from a more rigorous academic system than typical American students; their focus and understanding of the importance of education is very, very strong."

Elms meets the international students' capabilities with challenging academics and an engaged faculty. International student Seweryn Kolysko describes his experience: "The professors do a tremendous job; they know who the students are as people — who they really are — and what their expectations of the program are. If there is a problem, you can always go to them and talk about it. I found this very helpful."

Learning in the classroom is extended through internships, which provide hands-on experience in the larger community. Students new to their field gain feedback as they connect the learning and professional stages of career. Internships are particularly valuable to international students, as they allow for further learning while remaining within the limits of their visa.

Christina Agoh enlisted the help of the business and law division chair, Professor David Kimball Sc.D., to create an internship with the Chamber of Commerce in Chicopee. She met local business owners, attended a chamber event, and conducted a survey of area businesses. Already a fledgling business owner, Christina markets handmade jewelry incorporating beads from Ivory Coast.



**"The International Club really gives students the chance to learn about one another, and the cultures they live in. There are always new events happening with our group, giving us the chance to be seen and heard on campus."** — Christina Agoh





**"The faculty are connected with social service providers; it creates a unique social work community in Western Mass. This was very meaningful work, with tangible rewards."**

— Seweryn Kolysko



Seweryn Kolysko grew up in Poland. After completing bachelor's and master's degrees in his home country, his path led to study in the United States and Elms College.

In looking for social work programs, Seweryn wanted a smaller school that could offer a deep focus and close collaboration between students and professors. "The professors' interest and personal approach was absolutely fantastic. It was something I had not experienced before."

"Seweryn really challenged the professors, and has added a lot to the social work program." Mary Brainerd, Ph.D., professor and director of the social work program, describes how Seweryn mentored younger students, helping them rise to the standards of the program. He also assumed a leadership role as the student-elected President of the Student Social Work Organization.

"The faculty are connected with social service providers; it creates a unique social work community in Western Mass." Seweryn completed an internship at Peck Middle School in Holyoke. He served on a support team for a social work program providing in-class support to teachers and students. "There's definitely a lot of change, even short range," Seweryn notes. "This was very meaningful work, with tangible rewards."

Seweryn's internship led to opportunities for research. He conducted research on assessing and improving the program at his internship site, and later worked with Mary to compile data for the upcoming Elms accreditation cycle.

And thanks to the social work department's flexibility in scheduling, Seweryn was able to complete his coursework a semester early. He graduated this past December. Connecting his Elms community with his learning community in Poland, Seweryn is orchestrating a meeting between Elms faculty and social work professors in Poland.

## Athletics

"I knew this school was about social justice, about equality, and about creating opportunities. That's what I wanted my basketball program to be." Ed Silva had a vision for the men's basketball program. "It's not just about winning, but about using college as a springboard to help students go forward in their lives."

"What I want students to understand as a team — and we try to extend it to real life — is that if one person is not OK on this team — if they don't feel loved, don't feel supported, don't feel that this is a great place — that's going to impact every man on the team. There is interconnectedness between all of us. Every one of the international students understands this, because of their culture and their proximity to other countries and cultures. I want all my students to understand this."

"I learned so much from basketball. It influenced everything in my life." Juan Alverio reflects on his experiences as an Elms athlete. He talks about leadership, about working with different attitudes, and different cultures. "If I want something, I've got to work hard to get it. Nothing's going to be handed to me."

Ed Silva agrees. "There was strength in Juan that he didn't' know was there. Adversity revealed who he really was. He can use that experience as a tool the next time he faces a tough situation in life."

While playing ball and serving as a resident advisor in the dorms, Juan completed a double major in accounting and business management. He graduated in May 2011, and is currently working with special needs students at The Center School in Holyoke. "I love kids. When I grew up I had a lot of people helping me, and now I feel like giving back to the community. These kids have had tough times; they need help. When they see someone who's been through it, and see them succeed, they get a new hope for life."

## Beyond Elms

What's next for Juan Alverio? In March, he returned to Puerto Rico to play professional basketball. He plans to earn his M.B.A. and eventually become a C.P.A.

Christina Agoh completed her double major in accounting, and international studies and business, this past December. She plans to stay in the area, working in accounting or business. Beyond that, she has her sights set on an M.B.A.

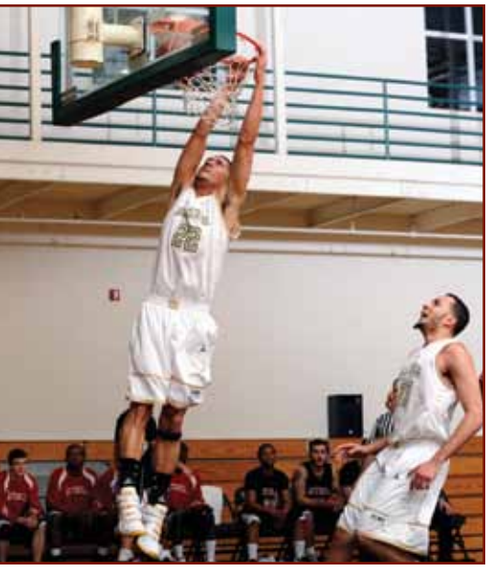
Seweryn Kolysko also graduated in December, and has been hired by Peck Middle School in Holyoke as an intensive behavioral support coordinator. He would like to begin graduate study this summer or next, in an M.S.W. program.

"I was very curious." Seweryn recalls spending time as a child with his grandfather, exploring different places and different cultures. He wanted to do something meaningful and interesting when he grew up. Is he doing that now? "Absolutely. I'm exactly where I want to be: doing meaningful work in a field that is broad and diverse."





**"I love kids. When I grew up I had a lot of people helping me, and now I feel like giving back to the community. These kids have had tough times; they need help. When they see someone who's been through it, and see them succeed, they get a new hope for life."** — Juan Alverio



# New Criminal Justice Major Shifts Focus from Criminals to Justice

By Robert Perkins

Assistant Professor Caroline M. Murray remembers the time when it was first driven home to her that Elms College, with its long history of socially conscious education and training in the professions, was the perfect institution to meet the crying need for increased human respect in the criminal justice system.



*Professor Katherine Currier, J.D.; Chicopee District Court Judge Ma*

She was attending a seminar on Women in Justice in the spring of 2011. In speaking with other attendees, she was struck by a recurrent theme — the need for increased humanity in criminal justice. She was told there was a strong need for professionals who treated those caught up in the system not as numbers but as human beings.

People in the field are faced with a difficult task, Murray said.

"They rarely see people at their best" when dealing with persons accused of, or convicted of, a crime. Their job is made more difficult because most of them lack a humanistic educational background or social work training. The result, she said, is often dehumanization of the interaction of the system.

What was needed, she was told, was a different way of thinking. Hampden County Sheriff Michael J. Ashe was cited as an example. Ashe, she said, has a master's degree in social work and sees his role as making sure those convicted of a crime serve their sentences but are put on a road so they will be less likely to return to jail after release.

"How great would it be," she said, if more professionals could think like Ashe.

She brought what she had heard to Professor Katherine A. Currier, director of paralegal and legal studies at Elms.

After research to further confirm what Murray had heard at the conference and determine whether the demand existed among prospective students, the college created the new major in criminal justice.

The new major fits well with Elms tradition of preparing students for both a career and their



*ry E. Hurley '72; and Assistant Professor Caroline Murray, J.D. '97.*

life, Currier said. While specific courses prepare students to find a job when they graduate, a broad-based humanistic curriculum gives them a foundation for their entire life.

The new major will be incorporated with the paralegal and legal studies department, drawing on the strength of that program as evidenced by the continuing success of past students.

Currier said that as the college explored the proposed new major, it brought together a focus group of 15 criminal justice professionals to be certain that the demand existed for the kind of unique education that Elms could provide. The group included judges, police officers, probation officers and former students who were now in criminal justice.

The focus group provided a big surprise. Currier said she was "taken aback by the strong support for Elms," not just for the proposed new major but for the work Elms was already doing.

Confirming what Murray had heard at the seminar, the focus group said there was a strong need to inject "respect and dignity" into the criminal justice system. The group said there was a need for professionals "who could be polite both to the lawyer in his suit and the drunken bum on the bench," Currier said.

What also emerged from the focus group was the need for another special strength provided within the paralegal and legal studies program — an emphasis on writing. An often overlooked but important part of criminal justice is the writing of reports that can be critical to the fate of an individual.

With the need in the community established, the admissions office provided some eye-opening information about demand from students. Criminal justice was the sixth most requested major by prospective students.

Currier said criminal justice education is not new at Elms. About 10 years ago, the college created a concentration in the field that focused on sociology and legal studies.

For the new major, the college will add courses in fields such as law enforcement and corrections, Currier said.

She said the new major will incorporate a number of successful components currently included in the paralegal and legal studies program.

One of those is off-campus activities, which would include visiting courtrooms and jails so students can get a look at the realities of their chosen professions. An even closer look at those realities would be through internships such as the ones the program has set up for legal students.

Foreign travel would be another aspect. Visits to places such as England and France would drive home to students how the right to a jury trial, the right to remain silent and being presumed innocent until proven guilty are not universal.

Students will also benefit from a mix of full-time academic faculty and instructors employed in the criminal justice field. The latter will give them an opportunity "to hear it from the horse's mouth," Currier said.

If past success in the paralegal and legal studies department is an indicator, the new criminal justice major will be a success.

"I would never have been as successful as I've been without the Elms program," Katie Crouss said.

Crouss is a senior at Western New England University law school and editor of the university's law journal who received her paralegal certificate from Elms.

When she received her undergraduate degree from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania in the early 1990s, she didn't know that law school would be in her future. But then after marriage and two children, she decided to give it a try.

Confirming what Murray had heard at the seminar, the focus group said there was a strong need to inject "respect and dignity" into the criminal justice system.

She decided to start slow, taking one course with Murray.

"I loved it," she said.

Now she balances a husband, a twelve-year-old son and an eleven-year-old daughter with a full-time job as a law clerk and her final semester of night classes at Western New England.

"Professor Murray and Professor Currier were absolutely amazing," according to Caitlin Childs, who graduated from Elms in 2008 and is a senior at WNEU law school.

She said her training at Elms gave her a leg up at WNEU. The paralegal work required at the beginning of law school in writing research papers and case briefs she had already learned at Elms.

# What Can You Do With a Degree in HUMAN

A liberal arts education combines natural sciences with the humanities, but it is often the latter that leaves the laymen questioning its value. The division of humanities and fine arts at Elms College includes courses in English, Spanish, history, philosophy, music, art, theology, and numerous other areas. But what does that mean when it comes time to look for a job and pay off those student loans?

During his commencement speech at Kenyon College, author David Foster Wallace lamented the fact that conventional wisdom touts the value of a liberal arts education as merely teaching one "how to think." Instead, he posited, it gives one the power to choose what to think about. We can choose to mindlessly go about our rote daily tasks, he said, or we can become cognizant of the larger issues surrounding us. We can increase our awareness, our empathy, and our minds. This type of metacognition has intrinsic value in today's society, but it's much more applicable to the job force than most people realize.

According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, graduates with degrees in the humanities earn a median figure compared with their colleagues' salaries, reversing the misconception that majoring in liberal arts means majoring in unemployment. So what types of jobs are these people working and how has their degree helped them find success? The following is a partial list of the ways the division of humanities and fine arts at Elms College has prepared excellent students for wonderful careers.

**Business meetings, presentations, and job interviews** require communication skills, speaking skills, and the ability to express one's self.

"It's crucial to convey to the student, whether through text or speech, approaches or methodologies to help simplify and streamline their research." Michael Smith '03, English major and current interim head of reference at Elms College.

For a **career in law,** one will need the ability to argue, speak, and the rhetorical skills acquired in humanities courses.

English and theology major Lauren Sparks '10 recently graduated from Yale Divinity School and will begin law school in the fall.

Becoming a **technical writer**, taking verbose language and making it understandable to a mass audience, requires the ability to interpret.

"Internal and external communications are the most critical aspect of running an effective business. The art of writing a good communication plan, how to take something very strategic and drive it down to a very practical level—that's a gift," English and business double major Libby Spellacy '88, adjunct professor at Elms College and former director of communications at Madison Square Garden.

Careers in communications, publishing, and **graphic design** are some of the options for majors in fine arts, where understanding harmonious colors, effective contrast, and proper layout are universal competencies.

Art major Heather Rush '99 is the lead graphic designer at Pioneer Valley Educational Press.

**Bioethics:** advances in the scientific community require a background in the humanities to determine the ethical implications of new technologies and practices.

Careers in **international aid:** working for large non-profits like Oxfam or CARE require an understanding of other countries' history, culture, and language.

Meg Donnelly '10, Spanish and English double major, is working in Arizona for AmeriCorps with Mexican children who have lost their parents while immigrating to America.

**Getting your résumé read:** It's difficult to obtain any job without a cover letter and résumé. The ability to express one's self through written word will help one stand out among the rest.

# ITIES



"I have been successful because of my ability to write, articulate and think critically and strategically in the workplace. Were it not for the my writing intensive courses, along with the intellectually challenging course content, I do not think I would have been prepared for the professional world or graduate level academic work." –Patrick Carpenter '02, English major and current director of annual giving at Elms College.

**Creativity:** the topics covered in philosophy class make it easier to approach other fields more creatively.

Speech and drama major, coupled with a minor in music and elementary education, Marie Chabot '79 is a grade school music teacher and the music director at Sacred Heart Church in Hopdale, MA, after spending several years performing musical acts from Nashville, TN to Japan.

**Preparation for graduate school.**
Philosophy, English, and history majors place among the top scorers on the GRE, GMAT, and LSAT tests.

History major Daniella Zarlengo '11 is pursuing her M.A. in museum studies at New York University. She currently interns at the 250-acre New York Botanical Garden, which draws more than 800,000 visitors a year.

**Preparing Reports:**
research and the ability to cull important information is necessary for almost any job in the business world.

History major Steven Chenard '06 is working at The Hartford as a plan manager.

"What impacted me most throughout my education here was the exposure to various cultures and ideas through literature. Learning how people from different places, with different backgrounds, live and think helped me to grow in ways I never knew I could."— Christopher Pelletier '05, English major and current technical support specialist at Elms College.

**Social Work and Spanish** double majors: having the ability to communicate with Spanish-speaking clients is becoming more important every year.

"I'll need to have that vocabulary, that language, and that ability to speak professionally to my client,"said Sarah Donovan '11, Spanish and psychology double major, who spent a semester in Spain to perfect the language as she plans to communicate effectively to her Spanish-speaking clients one day.

**Speak Spanish? China is hiring!** The emerging markets of countries like Chile, Ecuador, and Peru are requiring countries in the Pacific rim (China, Australia, and the United States) to hire people who know Spanish in order to tap into their growing economies.



Karissa Venne '12



Kaylee Hotchkiss '12

***Karissa Venne '12 and Kaylee Hotchkiss '12*** *share a major in humanities, tutoring responsibilities at the Academic Resource Center, and even a dorm room. As tutors, they had the opportunity to present at the New England Peer Tutor Association conference. This is just one opportunity at Elms College that, as aspiring teachers, will prepare them for their careers in a classroom setting that requires written and oratory skills.*

*English major Karissa helped revive the student-run literary magazine Bloom. As an editor of the magazine, she has already built up a number of marketable skills including proof reading, budget management, and collaborating with other team members. The editors meet each week to argue and interpret the art submitted to Bloom, all while overseeing the entire process of publishing a magazine.*

*Kaylee is well on her way to becoming a Spanish teacher. The Spanish and education double major found out how great the networking opportunities are at Elms College when alumna Cindy Kwajewski '98, chair of the Granby, Massachusetts high school's foreign language department, approached Education Division Chair Mary Janeczek, Ed.D., about filling a long-term substitute position. Cindy was looking for a recently graduated Spanish major but Mary recommended current-student Kaylee instead. Because she was a Spanish and education double major, paired with Mary's recommendation, Kaylee was able to land the position, bolster her résumé, and begin to network in a school system as she prepares for graduation this spring.*



By Jaclyn C. Stevenson

# EAST Meets WEST

## Elms Student Redefines Independent Study through Year-long Trip to China

There are two kinds of travelers: those who follow a road already laid out, and those who forge a new path, creating a trail of experiences, insights, and memories behind them.

David Peters, a senior at Elms College readying for graduation this spring, belongs to the latter group as well as those filled with adventure-seekers, innovative thinkers, and lifelong learners.

"I have never been a person with the next five years planned out," Peters said. "But I've always had intentions to live internationally, and to always be traveling."

An English major with a writing concentration, Peters exhibited a global flair early on when he chose to study and play Scottish bagpipes. He's of Irish and Polish descent, but something about the instrument called to him, he said, and he answered.

"I have no traditional connection — not in the sense that many people are seven and eighth generation bagpipers," he said. "But, in America, you can jump into whatever you want to do."

With that in mind, Peters chose to take a leap to the other side of the globe, studying in China for a year through an independently designed program in cooperation with Elms College.

"I knew I wanted to go abroad sophomore year," he said, noting that Elms was keen to work with him to achieve this goal from the start. "There weren't many study abroad programs available directly through the college, so I looked beyond to other colleges that welcome students from other schools, and found that most were very expensive. So, I arranged with Elms to get credits for studying Chinese while taking other courses online."

Elms Business professor William Donovan served as Peters' de facto advisor. He co-teaches the course "China and the Chinese People," a pre-cursor to a two-week study abroad opportunity for Elms students that also meets the college's global awareness requirement. Donovan had traveled to the same province for an extended stay years before, and as such, he offered not just academic guidance but solid advice and information that shaped his student's journey.

"My trip quickly became a shared experience with Bill Donovan," Peters explained. "When



I first approached him, he said he fell in love with Chinese culture even before he went there, and he wanted to be totally immersed. I kind of had something to prove to myself, and for that reason I wanted to participate in the culture fully, too. It was a good fit."

Donovan shared his insights on the study abroad experience. He warned, for instance, that the language barrier would prove to be a challenge, even a source of frustration at times. He also said a period of loneliness was common, especially during a months-long, academically fueled stay abroad. Through their conversations, Peters said he gained a comfort level with his decision — not to mention housing, with the same family that had hosted Donovan years before.

His plans in place, Peters left the U.S. in August of 2010, bound for the Yunnan Province of China and the city of Kunming, the southern province's largest city and a travel hub to several other Asian countries including Thailand, Burma, and Laos. He brought clothes, books, a laptop, and his bagpipes along for the ride.

## Course Adjustments

Once settled in China, Peters continued to create his own learning experience as he navigated the country and its people. He chronicles many of his findings on his personal blog, *Bagpipes in Hand*: *Chicopee Boy Meets the World*, including trips to Thailand, Bangkok, and a wedding on the Burmese border. He detailed the stressful times, too — everything from guarding his wallet on a city bus to searching relentlessly for cheese, which he described as "good as gold in China."

"The modest hero in me that had ventured into unknown Asian territory half a year before had all melted away," he wrote in March. "Stumbling through conversations and experiences as clumsily as I would on an out of place cobblestone. I didn't understand anymore."

In April, he recounted an uncomfortable exchange with a cab driver.

"You don't smoke?!?" he asked…Without thinking, I said something self-righteous about it being bad for health. The situation was awkward after that and I was ashamed of letting my ugly American strike. It's the same with the seat belts and air pollution, sometimes it's best to just put your health concerns in the backseat and go along for the ride."

"I have never been a person with the next five years planned out. But I've always had intentions to live internationally, and to always be traveling."

After three months of "traditional" living in a private home, Peters changed tack slightly and moved into an apartment with other westerners who hailed from Europe, Australia, and North America. He said he worried at first he might miss out on some of the authentic Chinese experiences he'd originally set out to find, but over time, he realized that in some ways it ingrained him even more into the Yunnan Provinces' unique demographics.

"When I was living on my own, I found I was much more involved in being a minority in China," he said. This is particularly notable in the city of Kunming, which serves as a focal point of Yunnan's minority culture. Twenty-five ethnic minorities live in Yunnan, nearly half of the total number of ethnic minorities in China. Suddenly, Peters realized he was one of them — and he had company.

"At first I wanted to blend in with the Chinese culture, but I realized as much as I try, I will always be a foreigner in China. Being with other westerners meant I had a group to learn with. In a way, we were promoting our own western ideas and traditions while we learned about eastern life," he said.

Some of Peters' favorite memories, for instance, are of the Sunday potluck dinners he and his roommates held every week in Kunming, filling their Chinese table with British, French, Italian, Australian, and American delicacies.

"Just hanging out with Brits, Aussies, French, Italians, and Americans all at once was probably one of the most fun aspects of the year. I made friendships, and in some ways, I'd even call the experience profound."

Some of those friends were there, in fact, when Peters played his bagpipes at a local talent show after months of receiving strange looks when he practiced outside.

"With my pipes in my hands I walked down Jian She Road, crossed the street between two double-decker city buses and entered the west gate…The audition room was crowded. I felt like I was back in Grade 4 Junior piping competitions waiting for my turn to play."

## New Frontiers

Upon returning to the states last year, Peters didn't slough off his international curiosity easily. His studies in China qualified him for a minor in Asian studies, and with this new accomplishment in hand, he's applied for a post-graduate fellowship in Taiwan, with hopes of continuing his language studies. As a writer, Peters also sees continued travel as an opportunity to add to his bank of stories to tell.

"I'm toying with the idea of an M.F.A. in creative writing, but I feel like I don't want to declare without more experiences," he said. "I'd like to see more things, study global law and religion, and work a little before I go to graduate school. I'd also like to teach at some point in my life."

Peters may not have everything figured out right now. But as the Scottish song goes, "You take the high road, and I'll take the low road." Whichever road he chooses, David Peters is expected to travel far and stop only long enough to play a tune on the pipes for whomever will listen.

# Strong Leadership Brings Elms College Nursing Into the Big Picture



When Kathleen Scoble, Ed.D., R.N., joined Elms College as the director and chair of the nursing division almost a decade ago, she had big plans for our nursing department. In addition to growing enrollment and developing new nursing programs at the bachelor's and master's levels, she strove to build a strong reputation for Elms Nursing and increase the college's presence throughout Massachusetts and the United States.

Her front-line nursing experience and executive roles, coupled with her research and educational focus, made her the ideal voice for Elms in the broader nursing field. Under her stewardship, the program has garnered much respect among students and healthcare institutions. Students learn from faculty who not only hold master's and doctorate degrees, but bring years of professional nursing administration, and clinical practice to the classroom.

## Thinking Locally

Dr. Scoble is participating as the Nursing Education representative for the Western Massachusetts Nursing Collaborative's Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Partner's Investing in Nursing grant (the Collaborative was awarded a $250,000 RWJ grant in Spring 2011). The project addresses a nationwide initiative for health care organizations to reduce preventable hospital readmissions, improve the quality of care, and reduce costs. "We know the majority of our graduating nurses remain in the region serving the citizens of Western Massachusetts in a variety of health care settings and nursing specialties," she says. "Through this grant, Elms nursing faculty will have the opportunity to participate in developing a care transitions educational program for implementation within our nursing curriculum. Our goal is to assure that Elms nursing graduates are not only competent, but leaders in facilitating the safe transition of patient from one level of care to another, including home or from one practitioner to another, confirming to our community that these nurses are excellently prepared to serve the public."

2012 marks the sixth year Dr. Scoble has served as a member of the Western Massachusetts Nursing Collaborative, which represents the region's education, service and work force development organizations working together to advance a shared goal of creating a seamless nursing education system and to ensure western Massachusetts has a sufficient supply of qualified nurses to deliver quality patient care in all settings.

"By being at the table, Elms is always on the forefront of our collaborative solution. Kathleen is taking everything back and infusing it into Elms' curriculum so that Elms College is producing top-notch baccalaureate-and-master's-prepared nurses who are meeting the demands of the health care industry," said Kelly Aiken, director of health care workforce initiatives for the Regional Employment board of Hampden County.

This year, Dr. Scoble also continues in her second term as President of Massachusetts Association of Colleges of Nursing. "MACN is the voice for baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs in the state," she explains, "Deans, directors, and chairpersons represent 25 colleges and universities, and more than 10,000 nursing students of all levels—baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral." In addition, Dr. Scoble co-chairs the Massachusetts Nursing Leadership Coalition, an advisory group to the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

The list of her professional affiliations continues with second term appointments on the Executive Development Educational Series for the American Association of Colleges of nursing, and the Cooley Dickinson Hospital board of trustees.

## Acting Globally

Internationally, Dr. Scoble served as a member of the nursing education team for Partner's Harvard Medical International (Boston), traveling to New Delhi, India in Summer 2011 to work with a health care organization developing a new school of nursing. Specifically, Dr. Scoble consulted on the development of a competency-based nursing curriculum using international nursing and healthcare education standards.

Actively participating at the state, national, and international level, Dr. Scoble keeps Elms Nursing at the forefront of current advances within the nursing profession in an ever evolving healthcare industry, advances that impact nursing curriculum and education. It is a positive reflection on the Elms nursing program, solidifying Elms reputation as one of the premier nursing education programs in the area. "She is a very caring and thoughtful leader. She really tries to balance perspectives and she is committed to making sure that our voice here in western Massachusetts is represented at the state level," Aiken said.

**396** students currently enrolled in nursing

more than **1,600** nursing alumni



***Jack Czajkowski*** joined seven science teachers from around the country and attended the Science Teacher and Leader Initiative (STanLI), on October 29-30, 2011, in Tiburon, California. They were looking for ways that the National Writing Project—and local Writing Projects such as the Western Massachusetts Writing Project—would be able to support the roll-out of new National Science Standards. Jack served as a chaperone during the March service trip to New Orleans.



***Janice Fedor*** was recently inducted into Delta Mu Delta, an international business honor society. Members must have achieved a GPA of 3.9 or higher during graduate work in the field of business to be eligible. Janice is currently All But Dissertation (ABD) status in a business administration doctoral program through Northcentral University. Additionally, Janice was recently nominated as an International Scholar Laureate by the Golden Key International Honor Society. The International Scholar Laureate program recognizes academic achievement and leadership in business professionals around the world.



***Mary Brainerd*** co-authored a paper titled "A Longitudinal Study of Assessing APA Writing Competence at a BSW Program". It will be published in *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*. Mary also served as a chaperone during a service trip to Baltimore in January. After 23 years of service to the college, Mary will be retiring at the end of the semester and will be greatly missed by the faculty, staff, alumni, and students.

# A Messege from the President of the Alumni Association

## ALUMNA/US NEWS



**Greetings, Fellow Alumni:**

One of my favorite things about my role is being able to spend so much time with Elms College graduates. I get to meet alumni who have become educators, leaders, scientists, and entrepreneurs. The work they do—the work we all do—leaves a mark on the world and changes it for the better. Recently the College of Our Lady of the Elms committed to building a $13.5 million Center for Health and Natural Sciences. Under the strategic leadership of our president, Mary Reap IHM, Ph.D., this long awaited project will finally reach fruition.

The new Center for Health and Natural Sciences will enable us to produce more students, and more graduates, who can extend our positive reach across the globe and far into the future.

I encourage you to attend the Alumni Association annual meeting, scheduled to take place during reunion weekend on Saturday, June 2. You can reconnect with fellow alumni and play an active role in planning our college's future.

My best to all of you for a wonderful summer! I hope to see many of you at the alumni events planned for this year.



**Patrick Carpenter '02**
*Alumni Association, President*




*Scarf Ceremony* *The Rumbleseat* *Borgia Gallery Opening with Rachel Ciecko '12* *Discussion with David Peters '12*

# Breaking Ground on a New Era



This year's annual reunion will be a truly extraordinary event as it marks the start of a new era at Elms College. Class years ending in 2s and 7s will enjoy a weekend of old friends, new memories, and plenty of nostalgia as they witness the presentation and groundbreaking of the new Elms College Center for Natural and Health Sciences.

The center, a 22,000 square foot facility adjacent to Berchmans Hall, will house all science programs on five levels with state-of-the-art laboratories and smart (hi-tech) classrooms designed to engage students with traditional and new methods of learning. With an exterior design complementing Elms classic architectural style and sited to fit seamlessly into the current campus layout, it will not interfere with student traffic or reduce green space at the college.

In addition to groundbreaking, student exhibits, campus tours and socials, alumni can join the president for a "State of the College" conversation, and the President's cocktail party and reception to round out the busy weekend. Don't forget the Friday night event at the Rumbleseat, Class of 1962 Golden Blazers induction ceremony, and Saturday afternoon Mass.

To make lodging arrangements more convenient, stay on campus. We will have dorm-style accommodations available in O'Leary Hall available for $30 per night, continental breakfast included.

Valerie Bonatakis '10
*Director of Constituent Relations*

If you cannot make it to reunion, join us at one of the following alumni events this summer and early fall

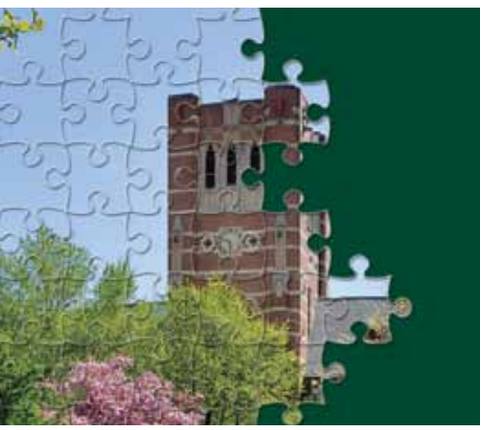
## Alumni Events 2012

- Watch the Boston Red Sox take on the Atlanta Braves, *Saturday June 23 and Sunday June 24* at Fenway Park. Look for the Red Sox postcard announcement.
- Join Patty Kuralowicz '02, '03, for a backyard barbecue on *July 31* in Chicopee, MA.
- Journey to the cape on *August 7*, for a luncheon at the Popponessett Inn.
- Gather on *August 26* for a beautiful Sunday afternoon at Tanglewood.
- Compete in the road race, sample a brew at the beer tasting, or just enjoy the music, food, and ice cream—it's all happening at *Homecoming and Family Weekend* September 28-29.

*For more information, visit our website at* **www.elms.edu/alumnievents**

To join the festivities on alumni weekend, or register for any alumni event, contact me at **413-265-2227 or alumni@elms.edu.**





To view more alumni events on your phone, download a QR reader app like Scan and scan this code.

*Center for Natural and Health Sciences Groundbreaking Ceremony*

THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGES.

# POST CARD

THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY.

PLACE STAMP HERE



*This spring, alumni experienced a weekend of fun in the sun as they joined President Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D., and the Elms College baseball and softball players as they traveled to Fort Myers, Florida for spring training. First, alumni watched the Tampa Bay Rays play the Boston Red Sox in the brand new jetBlue Park—designed to replicate many of the features of Fenway Park. The following evening, the Elms community enjoyed a sunset cruise aboard the Naples Princess, admiring the beautiful scenery while clinking wine glasses with old friends. Finally, alumni joined Sr. Mary Reap and the baseball and softball players, along with their parents, for a reception with fantastic food, drinks, and laughs.*

# 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.*

## Births

***Mary Young (Szatkowksi) '01*** welcomed her fraternal twins, Ava Ruth Young and Cael Edward Young, on November 24, 2010.



***Maria Cardaropoli '01*** welcomed Dominic Daniel Morrill on September 17, 2011.



Callie Hevey, daughter of ***Trista Hevey '05***, was recently baptized at the Our Lady's Chapel by Father Mark on October 15.



## Engagements

***Karalee Ann Desrosiers '07*** is engaged to Tyler Russell Yvon.



***Melissa Ann Michaels '07*** is engaged to Joshua Manuel Arruda.



***Olivia Renee Morin '10*** is engaged to Eric Alan Marko.

***Karen Anne Rapp '10*** is engaged to Jason Robert DuCharme.

***Jacinda Marie Miller '05*** is engaged to Andrew Edward Holmquist.

***Lori Kobos '08*** is engaged to David Sheridan. Lori is currently employed with Aramark as an office manager at American International College. An October 2012 wedding is planned.



## Weddings

***Melissa Stone '01*** married ***Paul Cooney '03.***

***Rebecca Rising '03*** married Joseph Platt on June 18, 2011.



***Ryan Roger Lavoie '08*** married Rina Maris Irizarry on May 7, 2011.

## Alumni Updates

***Annette Rafferty '52*** is still working at Abby's House Emergency Shelter, where there is an increased number of homeless and abused women and children. When she is not writing thank you notes to donors, Annette is working on a second book for the last 10 years of the shelter—a scrapbook memoir to be called *Still Wearing Smooth the Path—35 Years of our History*.

***Mrs. Barbara Maloney Kirby '53*** is on her fourth year as a volunteer tutor with Acts Action Centered tutor services. She is a tutor and mentor to the children of Springfield. Barbara volunteers at two sites, she also sponsors a child in Uganda, Africa through C.F.C.A. (Christian Foundation of Children Association). Also she sponsored a child in Guatemala for 12 years until she graduated. Barbara went to visit her five years ago; and plans to visit her African child also.

***Mrs. Alice Buxton Preece '55*** retired from teaching in 2000, from Notre Dame Catholic School. She now has five children and five grandchildren, three of whom are currently attending college. Her daughter, Frances is a speech pathologist at Woodstock Elementary School in Connecticut.

***Mrs. Natalie Mackie Straley '59*** and her family recently welcomed their first grandaughter into the world; Lilly was born on January 25, 2011 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Currently, Natalie is a volunteer in her grand niece's first grade class in Columbia, MD.

***Mrs. Judith Stagnaro McCarthy '60*** recently retired after ten years in professional development in the Boston Public Schools. Currently, Judith volunteers editing for

a magazine, as well as heading her town democratic party.

***Mrs. Anita Lussier Perry '60*** has been working for Assumption Parish in Chicopee since 1976; first as a school secretary for nine years, and then as parish secretary until 2008. Currently, she is working as a part-time cook at Holy Name Parish.

***Mrs. Mary Wynn Harney '61*** is retired from MIT's Lincoln Laboratory after 30 years of work. She continues to work at the Laboratory with flextime, and also participates widely in her community.

***Dr. Gail Furman '63*** is a retired principal of Leeds Elementary School in Northampton, MA. She is now associate superintendent of schools for the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Springfield, MA.

***Mrs. Maureen O'Shea Abbot '64*** is currently a substitute elementary teacher. For Maureen, visits to children and grandchildren are a big part of life with her husband of 47 years.

***Mrs. Carole Roj Lohmeyer '65*** and her husband are having the time of their lives traveling with their four children and their spouses to China, South Korea, the Philippines, Barcelona, London, and Hawaii.

***Mrs. Mary Ann Christofori Piffarerio '65*** is currently retired and volunteers for the USO at Fort Carson, Colorado.

***Sr. Maxyne Schneider SSJ '65*** was elected president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield and named to the board of trustees at College of Our Lady of the Elms.

***Frances Ziemba Hauck '65*** has recently been awarded the Cheverus Award by the Archdiocese of Boston. Currently, Frances is a Pastoral Accociate at Holy Name Church in West Roxbury.

***Nancy Goguen '66*** is the assistant director and lead flight director at the Challenger Center. She taught earth science, physical science, and life science at the middle school level, in addition to performing director and advisor duties for a number of science fairs. Her well-rounded educational experience also includes eight years teaching second, third, and fourth grades in Springfield, MA; three-and-a-half years working with autistic children in the Special Needs Collaborative; and a period as educational consultant to Boston Edison.

***Kathleen Austin Scherpa '66*** is currently retired after 36 years of work as a high school English teacher.

***Ann Lucey Corbeil '67*** recently spent six months in Arizona and six months traveling the country in her RV.

***Ellen Crouse Siddell '67*** is currently a volunteer facilator for a local bereavement group.

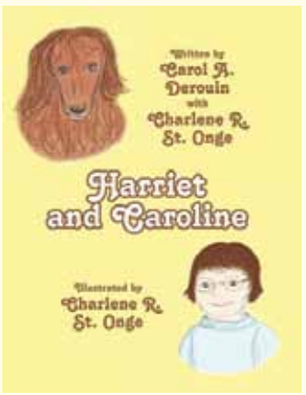
***Mrs. Susan Bocchino Behl '68*** is a grandmother of four (two sets of twins), volunteers at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Kettle Pond, and is taking piano lessons.

***Sr. Kathleen Imbruno '69*** (Sister Alfred Theresa) recently completed a term on the Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Joseph in June, and is now a site supervisor at the Homework House, Holyoke MA.

***Ms. Dorothy Goggins Lecours '69*** recently self published her first childrens book: *The S.T.A.R. Powered Twins - Discover the Secret of Words*. Previously, Dorothy taught first grade for 35 years.




***Mrs. Charlene Gamache St. Onge '69*** helped write and illustrate the children's book, *Harriet and Caroline*. The book was published by Publish America and is available online.




***Mrs. JoAnn DiRico Trautmann '70*** JoAnn has been a purser for Pan Am/Delta Airlines for 38 years, as well as the master gardener coordinator at the Cornell University Cooperative Extension for eight years.

***Ms. Marie Lococo '72*** retired from the Northampton Public Schools in 2006. Since then, she has been a very active member of the Pioneer Valley Ballet board of directors. She also has been the Archivist for PUB for three years. In addition, Marie participates on the Marketing and Auction Committees for the Educational Outreach Committee.

***Ms. Linda Shea-Harrington '72*** recently retired from Springfield Technical Community College, where she was an English professor for 34 years. She is now enjoying more time at her home on Cape Cod, and with her three grandchildren.

***Mrs. Susan Tetrault Sullivan '72*** will be retiring from teaching at the end of this school year after 25 years.

***Ms. Mary Creighton McDowell '74*** has been been hired as the academic dean at Holyoke Catholic High School, Chicopee, MA.

***Mrs. Deborah Merlin Craig '75*** published a one-act play in 2009, by Play Scripts, Inc., NY. To date, "Orphan Trains" has been performed in more than 30 schools and youth theaters throughout the nation.

***Mrs. Lorraine Hungerford Cosgrove '76*** renewed her project management professional (PMP) designation and will continue working at The Hartford as she has been for the last 28 years.

***Laurette Fox '82*** is currently 81 years old, and is working everyday with handicap children and adults, and also works 23 hours a week for Hulmes & Co. in Belchertown.

***Paula S. Fitzgerald '83*** was named principal at Quarry Hill Community School in Monson.

***Mrs. Diane Nawskon Brunelle '84*** is currently the VP of patient care services, chief nurse executive at Noble hospital in Westfield, MA. She has two grown children, Nicole and Lawrence, who is also an Elms graduate. Diane recently joined the governance committee of the alumni board.

***Ms. Nancy Reilly-Wohl '84*** has been working as a nurse practitioner specializing in diabetes for 20 years. She has spent the last five years in a solo practice providing care to U.S. Veterans, many of them pro bono due to lack of medical insurance. Nancy finds it very rewarding to care for this population that has given so much.

***Mrs. Barbara Collins Donahue '85*** is employed at both AIC and the Sheriff's Department.

***Mrs. Patricia Dowd Lutch '85*** is currently working as the director of health success at St. Sebastian in Needham, MA.

***Pauline Veiga-Guenthner '86*** a member of Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society and a 2011 March of Dimes Honoree for Nurse of the Year in Idaho, Pauline is a December 2011 graduate from Regis University in Denver, Colorado graduating with highest honors, receiving a Master of Science in Nursing with an emphasis in Leadership in Healthcare.

***Michele Fouche Hart '88*** will be celebrating her twentieth wedding anniversary on May 25, 2011! Michele will be the recipient of am Emily Bissell Award, May 11,2012 from the American Lung Association.

***Mrs. Darcy Dalrymple Janowski '89*** has received her post master's nurse practitioner certificate and is currently working as a family nurse practitioner. She is also mother of nine-year-old triplets.

***Ms. Theresa Nallett-Carmine '89*** currently is employed as a safety specialist, alternate regional emergency coordinator, and assistant regional tort officer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Safety Office, in Atlanta, GA.

***Ms. Jane Murray Heaps '90*** son Jay Heaps was named the new coach of the New England Revolution.

***Victorie Skower Doty '91*** currently teaches Literature and Language Arts at St. Gabriel School in Windsor CT.

***Ms. Virginia Mead Webb '98*** is presently the annual fund manager for Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society in Springfield and Leverett, MA. She is also an adjunct professor at Bay

Path College, teaching graduate studies in non-profit management and philanthropy programs.

***Mrs. Mary (Szatkowski) Young '02***, currently performs diabetes and obesity research at Baystate Medical Hospital

***Ms. Rebecca Rising Platt '03*** was recently married to Joseph Platt in Ashford CT and the two now reside in Manchester, CT. Rebecca currently works as a housekeeper at Heritage Hall in Agawam.

***Mrs. Carrie Hamilton Russo '04*** became a member of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society for education. She received her M.S. in Education (Literacy B-6) from Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY. She currently works at a public school in the Berkshires.

***Ms. Beth Murdock '04*** is in her second year teaching Pre-K at Mother Teresa Academy. From 2004 to 2008, she was the public relations/ education director for the Moscow Ballet. In 2010, she earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Sage Graduate School. She is also working on her certification in special education.

***Michael Fancisco '07*** is curretly working at Corando as a chemist, owns a condo, and has two dachshunds. In addition, Michael is starting up his own online bakery business, Babycakes Padaria, and he eventually is hoping to open up a storefront.

***Ms. Kathleen Niedzielski '07*** is working as a self-employed yoga instructor.

REMEMBRANCE

# In Memoriam

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

**Alumni:**
Kathleen O'Brien Smith '38
Therese Agnew '39
Jan Pelletier Clements '67
Mary Crane '52
Frances E. Fogarty '39
Muriel M. Hourihan '42
Katherine A. (Walsh) Duby '42
Irma Padilla Nevares '42
Elinor (White) O'Malley '43
Sr. Margaret James McGrath '44
Alice Murray '46
Rosemary Gallagher Curtin '47
Margaret "Pat" (Fehily) Bilodeau '48
Margaret Urbon Koelemij '48
Mary Nelen Napolitan '48
Beatrice Barrett '49
Mary Gloster '49
Marianne (Lynch) Griffin '51
Katherine Eberle Marlowe '51
Mrs. Irma Padilla Nevares '42
Sr. Rita Eagan '52
Barbara Brunet Hamdan '54

**Sister of:**
Margaret Anderson '63
Joan (Brunet) Barnett '56
Marilyn Brunet '61
Andrea Hickson '89
Constance (Brunet) Jabbar '56
Margaret Sullivan Morse '55
Anne Ferraro Samson '55
Sr. Richard Maria Allen '56
Sr. Miriam P. Brosnan '56
Marjorie Fitzpatrick '57
Helen St Denis '57
Cynthia J. Terault '57
Barbara Houghton Fenton '61
Cecile A. Meunier '61
Helene Holfelder Karle '62
Judith Lambert Drinkwater '62
Jeanne M. Joyal '62
Joanne Riley Laduzinski '62
Geraldine (Fennessey) Muldoon '64
Patricia Raymond Maiocco '65
Barbara Goddard '66
Kathleen Carmody '66
Janice Pelletier Clement '67
Sr. Mary Lucy Coutu '67
Sally A. Bell '69
Linda M. (Pluta) Koshivas '72
Susan I. Sheehan Pallatino '73
Jo-Ann Villano Bellantuono '82
Francine Kingsley '87
Kathy Sutton '91
Daniel F. Cronin '00
Nadine Cobb-Hall '00
Katherine Keator '02

**Staff:**
Helen Downey – Adjunct
Crete M. Kochanek – Former Staff

**Mother of:**
Lois Lynch '62
Amy Wilson '70
Annette Dzidek - Student
Geraldine Melaney Morgan '72
John Guimond – Elms Staff
Mariann Ingraham – Elms Staff
Janice Fedor – Elms Faculty
Mary Janeczek – Elms Faculty
Mrs. Mary Willemain Reed '83

**Father of:**
Karen Daniels '85
Margaret Kehoe '93
Ms. Cathy Machak '98
Dianna Watson Sliwa '05
Gregory Jones – Student
Rodican-Rose Bonn- Student
Cathy Machak – Elms Faculty
Mariann Ingraham – Elms Staff
Ms. Dianna Watson Sliwa '05

**Husband of:**
Lucille DesRochers Dufault '51
Mary Flaherty '60
Kathy Jackson's '64
Deborah A. Phillips '72
Lynn Powers Faerber '75
Frances Jensen – Former Elms Faculty

**Son of:**
Sheila Nesbit Keator '59

**Brother of:**
Marilyn Abare '55
Elaine (Hoar) Stover '55
Carol Haussaman '59
Gina Gilday '10
Sr. Judy Kappenman – Elms Staff

**Mother-in-Law of:**
Teresa Sergentanis '69

**Aunt of:**
Lynn Gamble – Elms Staff

**Grandmother of:**
Karalee Desrosiers '10—Elms Staff
Tiffany Lennon '01

**Grandfather of:**
Alison Jasinksi - Student
Rebecca Palmer - Student

**Friends of the College:**
Linda Gentile Aube
Viola Phelon
Frederick J. "Fred" Sirard Sr.
Frances (Conti) Fiorentino
Beatrice Skehan
Regan Genevieve




**Sr. Margaret James Memorial Dedication**
In honor of her service to the college, the class of 1944 dedicated an elm tree, planted next to the Alumnae Library, in memory or Sr. Margaret James McGrath. Sr. Margaret James blessed the Elms campus for more than 60 years as a member of the class of 1944, and returned to spend her teaching career with the Elms in the Biology Department. Sr. Margaret James taught many things, but her first love was plants. It is fitting then, that Elms chose to plant an American elm in her memory. To quote her students, "Tradition is an important element at the Elms, and Sister Margaret James is part of that tradition."



## The Key to Our Future

**The College of Our Lady of the Elms continues to grow—through enrollment, new programs, and increased opportunities for our students. Each year, more nontraditional students—international students, graduate students, and working professionals—discover the Elms difference. Facility renovations, technological upgrades, and the soon-to-be-built Center for Natural and Health Sciences serve to ensure high educational standards will be delivered to our current and future students.**

**As friends and alumni of the College, we hold the keys to its future and success. There are many ways to support the College, but perhaps none more important than with a planned gift. To that end, the Living Legacy Society was established to recognize alumni and friends of the College of Our Lady of the Elms who have provided for the future of the College in their plans. By creating a sound estate plan and including Elms, you can leave a significant legacy to the College and ensure that your estate will be distributed according to your wishes.**

## Make a Planned Gift Today

**If you would like more information about making a planned gift, contact Bernadette Nowakowski '89, '08,**
**director of development and legacy giving**
**413-265-2214**
**nowakowskib@elms.edu**

**"We need to consider the future, and to be part of it, if we can. A planned gift makes it possible to be part of the future in some small way, long after we're gone."** — **Patricia Burden, Member of the Class 1962**
**Former Director of Development at Elms College**
**Legacy Society Benefactor**

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