SUMMER 2015

ELMS

MAGAZINE

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Class of 1965



"Our true destiny...is a world built from the bottom up by competent citizens living in solid communities, engaged in and by their places." —David W. Orr

Dear friends,

A solid sense of community is a very real attribute of the College of Our Lady of the Elms. It is integral to our mission and our core values as an institution.

Our college community continues to embrace and foster the charism of The Sisters of St. Joseph of caring for the "dear neighbor" –connecting the external community to our college community, and to each other; it has been at the heart of our college since our founding in 1928.

Elms College students and graduates work hard to make a difference in the local and global community. In these pages, you'll meet students, alumni and leaders who demonstrate this sense of community building through their hard work, service and accomplishments.

We are proud to share with you some of their important work: serving our country, bringing fresh water and medical care directly into rural areas of economically depressed countries, and becoming leaders and advocates within their chosen professions, just to name a few.

In the busy course of this past year, Elms had the distinct privilege of hosting art exhibits, lectures, performances, film screenings and other events for our community at-large.

We were honored to collaborate with local organizations and host the "Forbidden Art" exhibit of works by Auschwitz prisoners. These experiences connect us to the world, help us understand our place in history, and remind us how powerful our contributions can be.

When we live and work within a strong and vibrant community, the possibilities are endless.

Sister Mary Reap, IHM

Mary Reap,

IHM, Ph.D.

Elms college nursing student **Corinne Guidi '16** of Holyoke makes a new friend in Nicaragua. Corinne was one of 10 Elms volunteers who joined others with Amigos for Christ in March to dig trenches for a new water system.

"What I personally got from participating in this service trip is that there are many parts to our journey, which leads us in many directions. I became more self-aware and gained strength within myself I never thought I had," she said of the experience.

See more examples of how Elms students and Campus Ministry serve the world on page 17.



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We are a Catholic liberal arts college founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, Massachusetts.

The editors invite your comments and questions at **413-265-2589** or marketing@elms.edu.



U.S. Congressman John Lewis, D-GHa., second from left, accepts an honorary degree from Board of Trustees Chair Cynthia A. Lyons, left, and President Mary Reap at the College of Our Lady of the Elms' 84th Commencement Exercises at the MassMutual Center on May 16, 2015. At right is Carla Oleska, vice president of institutional advancement. (Photo by Michael S. Gordon, courtesy of The Republican).

FEATURES



Community Profiles

Meet a diverse and very special selection of our college community—students, alumni, leaders—embodying the spirit of Elms through hard work, commitment and service.



Bringing Campus to Community

Completing an Elms College degree becomes a reality for adults returning to the classroom. Our off-campus programs not only improve future career prospects for our graduates, but improve the larger community as a whole.



Bringing Community to Campus

A packed calendar year of events—including lectures, discussions, gallery exhibits, performing arts, multicultural celebrations, film screenings and live performances—enriched intellectual and cultural experiences for the campus and the community.



Commencement 2015

We proudly congratulate our newest alumni—our largest graduating class ever—as they set out to make their mark on the world.



Reunion 2015

Alumni return to campus for a sunshine-filled weekend of fun, food and familiar faces.

IN EVERY ISSUE

22, 23 Class Notes, In Memoriam

SULLIVANS IN SERVICE



The Sullivans: (l-r) Meghan, MaryKate and Molly

The Mighty Sullivans

For the past year, campus visitors might have thought they were seeing double (or triple): Sullivan sisters Meghan, MaryKate and Molly have similar looks and similarly sweet temperaments. But each sister has carved her own successful path on campus.

Nursing major Meghan graduated in May and is the first from her class to enter the Elms Doctor of Nursing Practice program, where she will follow the family practitioner tract. Meghan will also be the first nurse in her family, fulfilling a longtime wish of her mother, Nancy.

"Her dad was sick when she was pretty young, and I think— just watching what her family went through— she always wished there was a nurse to be there for them," Meghan said.

Meghan's lifelong calling to be a nurse was reinforced when her entire family was in a car accident, broadsided by a drunken driver who ran a red light just minutes from their Springfield home.

"I think it's an experience that's stuck with us and made us all realize that you should live life to the fullest," Meghan said. The accident occurred when she was 13, MaryKate was 11 and Molly 10. "One of the nurses I had, I can just remember her taking my hand and telling me everything was going to be OK. And that made all the difference."

Rising junior MaryKate also chose her career very early, but her passion is teaching. She is majoring in special education for children with moderate disabilities. "I never wanted to leave the classroom," she said. "I just always loved the atmosphere."

MaryKate worked in the after-school program at Alice B. Beal Elementary School in Springfield as the educational coordinator for first through fifth graders. She spent this spring substitute teaching in Springfield public schools.

Youngest sister Molly, a rising sophomore, did apply to a few other schools. But "I knew I would end up at the Elms, with both of my sisters being there already," she said.

Molly is a nursing major, like Meghan, and ultimately plans to become a nurse practitioner specializing in family medicine. Working in the same building at Baystate, even on different floors and in different units, has led to some confusion during run-ins with other staff members.

"A lot of people ask me if I switched floors or I switched jobs," Molly said. "It's really funny that people see us and think we're the same person."

"Molly and I have history together this semester, and the first day we were wearing the same color sweater, not meaning to do it," MaryKate chimed in, laughing. "Poor Professor Damian Murray: His mind was blown."

Another thing all three sisters share is the title of Springfield colleen, a huge honor for this proudly Irish family. "We always hoped one of us, one day, would be the colleen," Meghan said, who earned the honor during her freshman year at Elms.

"I never would have thought that all of us would have that opportunity," Molly said. ■

Sullivans in Service

Future Teacher's Club (MaryKate)

Campus Ministry Club (MaryKate, Molly)

Student Nurses Association (Meghan, Molly)

Bone Marrow Drive (Meghan, Molly)

Sophomore Leadership Program (MaryKate)

Blood Drives (Meghan, Molly)

RItes of Christian Initiation of Adults Sponsor (Meghan)

ANTWI FAMILY

From Ghana, with Love

The Antwi family of the Republic of Ghana in Africa has begun a nursing dynasty of sorts at Elms College. It began with Victoria Antwi-Boasiako '10 and includes her sister, Grace, who graduated this May with a B.S. in nursing. Their nephew, David Antwi '17, is a rising-junior nursing major, and Victoria's husband, Yao Agbemordzi, was one of the first graduates of the Elms Accelerated Second Degree in Nursing Program in 2013.

"She made David come here; she made her husband come here; she made me," said Grace, laughing. "Every Ghanan here is probably here because of her."

Victoria earned her R.N. at Holyoke Community College in 2004 and her bachelor's through the Elms R.N.-to-B.S. on-campus program in 2010. She's a critical-care flex-team nurse at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield; her husband works at Wingate Nursing Home in Springfield.

She chose Elms because "it was affordable, it was close to home and it is very family oriented," she said. "And the fact that it was just once a week, and I could still do it and take care of my family's needs."

"Every Ghanan here is probably here because of Victoria."

Grace took another path into Elms' nursing program: "I started as a social work major because I wasn't accepted into the nursing program initially," she said. "I took a course at STCC for my prerequisites; then I applied to the nursing program in my second year and was accepted."

She has big plans. "My overall plan is to go back to Africa and set up a maternity hospital and practice there," she said. Childbirth is relatively routine in the U.S., but in Ghana it is far more dangerous, she noted. "They lose the babies, or they lose their lives. But I feel like, with technology from here going to Ghana, it will help a lot."

Although he's a commuter, nephew David has immersed himself in campus life, serving as co-president of the International Club, volunteering for Campus Ministry service projects, serving as a "friendship partner" for Japanese exchange students and running on the men's cross country team.

He hopes to eventually become a nurse practitioner. The network at Elms encourages success both academically and personally, he said. "One thing I've realized about Elms is how you are easily identified and supported with resources, and exposed to opportunities that can push you to maximize your potential." ■

Nursing student David Antwi '17 with Elms nursing alumni (and family members) Yao Agbemordzi '13, Victoria Antwi-Boasiako '10 and Grace Antwi-Boasiako '15



Shirley Arriaga '15

Aiming for Leadership



U.S. Air Force airmen with the 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron and 337th Airlift Squadron prepare to load equipment onto a C-5 Galaxy Sept. 29, 2014, at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. The C-5 features nose and aft doors that open the full width and height of the cargo compartment to permit faster and easier loading. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Miguel Lara III/Released)

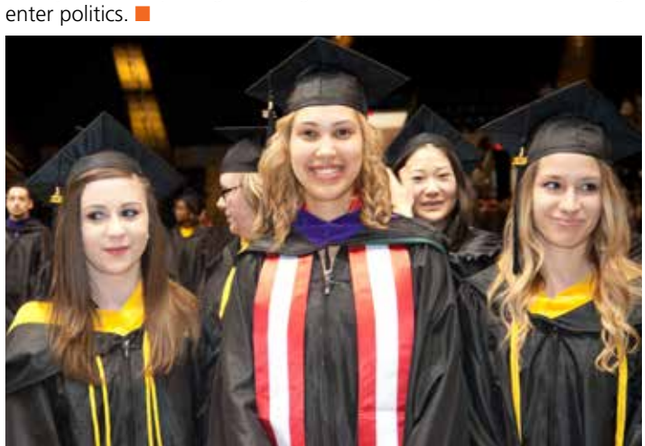
As a fourth grader, Shirley Arriaga '15 decided she wanted to fight for the greater good and pass laws to protect people and animals. Those feelings led her to enter the military five years ago, to earn her B.A. in legal studies from Elms College in May, and to take a job in Congressman Richard E. Neal's Springfield office as a congressional liaison.

"I wanted to defend our country and travel the world," Shirley said of her position as a loadmaster for cargo on C-5 military transport aircraft with the 337 Airlift Squadron at Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee. And she has certainly done that.

"I've traveled all around the world," Shirley said, relating such adventures as spending eight days in Alaska in 30-degrees-below-zero weather when her plane broke down.

She spent the 150-hour internship required for her major working in Neal's office as a case worker, helping constituents who had issues with housing, veteran's affairs and social security. Her experience included helping to expedite a Visa for the Lebanese wife of an American citizen and assisting a homeless family in getting an apartment.

Shirley is contemplating enrolling in law school, with her ultimate goal being to enter politics. ■





MAYOR KOS

Trustee Emeritus

Richard J. Kos

Mayor of Chicopee
1997-2004, 2014 – present

Elms College Board of Trustees
2004-2015

Attorney, Egan, Flanagan and Cohen, PC
January 2004 – present

Chicopee Mayor Richard Kos, an 11-year member of the Elms College Board of Trustees, has seen tremendous change at the college over his tenure, and he has had a profound impact on the institution.

"During his generous service, Mayor Kos has been a consistent advocate for the college and her students," said President Sister Mary Reap. "His contributions, especially during his years as chair of the finance committee of the board, cannot be overestimated.

"In May, the college Board of Trustees voted to bestow the title of trustee emeritus to Mayor Kos. They and our entire community are grateful that he will continue to be an important part of the Elms community."

As he steps down from the board, the Chicopee native shares his thoughts—in his own words—on how Elms has changed over the decade and what he thinks lies in store for the institution and its relationship with the City of Chicopee.

The Elms has always been a very important part of the community. As I've said often: The better the Elms looks, the better the city looks, and the better the city looks, the better the Elms looks. So there's really been that type of relationship. There's always been a relationship between the Elms and City Hall, and I think no mayor would want to do anything other than having a positive relationship, because both institutions benefit from each other's success.

Part of our responsibility as trustees is making sure we help shape the leadership of the college, and I don't think we could've done a better job in selecting Sister Mary to serve as president. When I was first involved [with Elms], there were challenges with the budgets; there were challenges with the college's future in terms of numbers. Sister Mary brought in a perspective that was based on accomplishment. We have to praise the existing talent that was at the college in terms of the leadership, but also to bring in new leadership as well, to blend that all in. She's been a great symphonic director.

It's been a great honor: to be a college trustee, to be involved, and especially to be so proud in a role that's been successful, and watching the college succeed and to grow. ■

The Hon. Richard J. Kos on the front steps of Chicopee City Hall.



ATHLETICS

Accolades Aplen

Not every team gets to the championships. It takes planning, sacrifice, hard work, heart and luck. It doesn't happen every day, or even every year – it's a big deal. And in the 2014-2015 season, Elms College sent several teams to compete for New England Collegiate Conference (NECC) Championship titles in different sports.

Cross Country

The Blazers put in a good showing at the Nov. 1 NECC Cross Country Championships: The women's team came in second by just six points, and the men's team finished fourth.

Elms freshman Sarah Tatgenhorst of Winterport, Maine, finished third, garnering the NECC Rookie of the Year award and a place on the NECC First Team All-Conference. Senior Rachel Lehouillier of Belchertown, Mass., earned ninth place and a slot on the NECC Second Team All-Conference.

Men's Soccer

The Blazers' season record finished at 9-8-3, advancing to their third straight NECC Championship battle.

Elms freshman midfielder C.J. Dabkowski of Bristol, Conn.; sophomore midfielder Scott Labrie of Southampton, Mass.; senior defender Anthony Nitri of Feeding Hills, Mass.; and junior forward Connor O'Grady of Somers, Conn., were named to the All-Tournament team. O'Grady also was named NECC men's Soccer Player of the Year.

The Blazers are already looking ahead to next season, drawing lessons from this one. "We are going out and playing some of the best teams in the nation, and we do so on the backs of our seniors, who leave a tremendous legacy behind," said Jared Sheikh, head coach of the men's soccer team.

Women's Soccer



The Elms women's soccer team played for the NECC Championship in early November, but ultimately succumbed to the top-seeded defending champions. The team completed their season with an 11-9-1 record.

Elms goalkeeper Alexa Rinaudo of Bellmore, N.Y., earned an All-Tournament team spot, along with senior midfielder Gina DiGiovanni of Springfield, Mass., and sophomore defender Kylen O'Hearn of Somers, Conn.

Field Hockey



Elms College Field Hockey fought their the way to the NECC championship game, playing through a second overtime before losing 1-0 in a five-shot stroke-off.

Elms' junior goalkeeper Samantha Alvino of Holtsville, N.Y., was the key to the near-shutout, with 10 saves, including a dramatic one after 94 minutes of play. She was selected for the All-Tournament team, along with senior defender Allie LaMonica of Salem, Mass.; senior forward Kayla Narey of South Hadley, Mass.; and senior defender Ashley Reid of Enfield, Conn.

Lacrosse



The Elms College women's lacrosse team led wire-to-wire in their NECC quarterfinal matchup. With the win, the Blazers advanced to their third straight NECC semifinal. The Blazers closed the season at 7-10 (4-4 NECC).

Elms College senior attacker Nora McDonough of South Hadley, Mass., and junior Jillian Pirog of Ludlow, Mass., were named to the 2015 NECC Women's Lacrosse All-Conference team. McDonough claimed back-to-back First Team selections, while Pirog took home her second conference award and her first First Team selection.

Golf



In the fall season, the men's golf team claimed second overall on the team leaderboard at the 2014 NECC Championships, held at the Stow (Mass.) Country Club in October. The Blazers finished with a combined team score of 638 over 36 holes of play. Sophomore Chris Miele of South Hadley, Mass., and freshman Mike Fleury of West Springfield, Mass., were named First Team All-Conference for their efforts during the tournament. This was the second consecutive First Team honor for Miele.

In the final event of the fall season—the 80th annual New England Intercollegiate Golf Association Championship—the Blazers posted another top-5 finish, placing fifth on the team leaderboard with a score of 322.

In the spring, the team claimed third place at the 2015 Western New England Invitational, carding a team score of 319, finishing 11 strokes off the top of the leaderboard. The team closed out the 2014-15 season with a second-place finish in the Blazers Spring Invitational.

Swimming



The Blazers women's and men's swim teams were named to the 2014 Fall College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) Scholar All-America Teams. The women's team finished with a combined GPA of 3.25 for the fall semester and was one of only seven New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Association (NEISDA) schools to receive the honor.

The men's team posted a combined GPA of 3.12 for the fall and were one of just three NEISDA teams to be recognized by the CSCAA, whose Scholar All-America Program is supported by Nike Swim.

ty for Athletics

The following swimmers all made the cut times in order to qualify for the New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Championships: Ashlee Connors of Springfield, Mass.; Abbey Will of Hopkinton, Mass.; Crystal Archibald of Portland, Maine; Nick Bergstrom of Derry, N.H.; Nick Cirillo of Gloversville, N.Y.; James Grippo of Longmeadow, Mass.; Niels Thomsen of Southington, Conn.; DJ Sherman of Winsted, Conn.; Misha Kuyuzov of Swampscott, Mass.; and Mike DiPasquale of Meriden, Conn.

At the GNAC championships, Cirillo was named All-Conference. He won both the 500 and 1650 freestyle events, setting a meet record in the 1650. He was also named All-New England, along with Grippo. Cirillo set school records in the 200, 500 and 1650 freestyle events this season. He was joined by Bergstrom, Grippo and Thomsen in setting a new school record in the 800 freestyle relay. Will was named to the GNAC all sportsmanship team.

Volleyball



In the NECC Women's Volleyball Awards, Elms College was given the Team Sportsmanship Award for 2014.

Elms senior outside hitter Christine Searles of Tolland, Mass., was chosen as an NECC Women's Volleyball All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team closed the season at 18-9 overall, advancing to the NECC semifinals.

Senior forward Denisha Parks of Fall River, Mass., was named the 2014-15 NECC Player of the Year. With that announcement, in March, she became the second player to win back-to-back Player of the Year accolades, and third to win the award twice.

She had a banner year as senior, passing the 2,000-point mark in January. Parks also earned an All-NECC First Team selection and was named to the 2014-15 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) New England Women's Basketball All-Star Third Team. Parks also was selected to participate in the 2015 New England Women's Basketball Association (NEWBA) Senior All-Star Classic in Northampton in March.

Senior forward JC Pickett of Chicopee, Mass., earned NECC Second Team honors, her third NECC All-Conference selection and first Second Team honor.

Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team headed to the first round of the NECC conference tournament in February as the No. 3 seed. The Blazers wrapped the 2014-15 season with an 11-14 record.

Elms College junior guard Jerry Buchanon of Windsor, Conn., and senior forward Kenny Lockett of Loganville, Ga. were selected to the 2014-15 NECC All-Conference team. Buchanon was voted to the First Team, while Lockett received a Second Team selection.

Softball

The Blazers captured their first-ever NECC Softball Championship this year, defeating Becker College by a 1-0 final in the title round. Elms, the second seed, went 4-0 in the championship to earn the program's fourth NCAA championship berth (and first since 2007).

Elms players named to the 2015 NECC All-Tournament Team were senior pitcher Bethany Grimes of Terryville, Conn., who was also named MVP; Kierstan Skinner of South Windsor, Conn.; and Meghan Shewchuk of Springfield, Mass. Three players received NECC All-Conference recognition: Grimes earned her second straight First Team All-NECC selection, while senior shortstop Gina DiGiovanni of Springfield, Mass., and Skinner took home All-NECC Honorable Mentions.

Head Coach Cheryl Condon was selected as the NECC Coach of the Year for the third time in her career.

"Our eight seniors, all of them, have been amazing leaders," Condon said. "This team believed in themselves all season. It feels so wonderful for them. When you can do this with your seniors, this is the best gift you can give them: to go out with a championship."

Baseball



In May, the second-seeded Elms College baseball team advanced to their first NECC title game since 2009, earning their spot with a 6-3 victory over the top-seeded Mitchell College at Mitchell's Alumni Field in New London, Conn.

The following Elms players were named to the 2015 NECC All-Tournament Team:

Tom Weldon of Springfield, Mass.; Andrew Sadowski of Northampton, Mass.; and Nolan Medeiros of Taunton, Mass.



Alumna Returns to Division III Roots

After spending more than two decades in the Midwest, Kristin Hughes '91 is happy to be returning to Western Massachusetts this summer—and to her Division III roots—as the new athletic director at Smith College in Northampton.

Kristin, a biology and secondary education major at Elms, was a four-year member of both the women's basketball and lacrosse teams. She was inducted into the Elms College Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.

At the time, her former basketball coach, Kate Mullen—who remains a close friend and confidante 24 years later—described her as the team's heart and soul who epitomized Blazer basketball.

After deciding to pursue coaching as a career during her senior year at Elms, Kristin entered the master's program for exercise physiology at Smith, graduating in 1993.

Since then, she has had a storied coaching career. During her 11-year stint as head women's basketball coach at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Kristin was the first women's basketball coach to be named NCAC Coach of the Year. In 2004, she went to Colgate University, a Division I school, and was head women's basketball coach there for three years. Since 2007, she has been director of athletics for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, a large urban public school system with more than 500 student athletes.

"It's been neat to be at these different types of schools, because it broadens your viewpoint and it broadens your perspective, which I think is always a healthy thing," Kristin said.



Joseph Coleman '15
Easthampton, Massachusetts
Men's Soccer

Navigating Toward Success

Joseph Coleman '15 of Easthampton didn't wait until he earned his sports management degree to start a career. He formed his own clothing brand, Finna Wear, last September and has already received an award for entrepreneurship for his efforts.

"The word 'finna' means 'going to,' and a lot of kids are saying it, mostly down South," explained Joseph, known as Jojo to his friends. His merchandise, which includes T-shirts, wristbands and buttons, is emblazoned with the company's slogan, "Navigate to the Future," and its logo, a compass.

In April, Jojo competed against students and alumni from 14 local colleges to win the Entrepreneurship Award at the 12th annual Grinspoon Entrepreneurship Initiative. The award came with a cash prize of $700, which he promptly invested in more merchandise and maintainance of the company's website, www.finnawearcompany.com.

His target demographic for customers is primarily skateboarders and extreme sports enthusiasts.

An athlete himself, Jojo says he came to Elms primarily because of the soccer program.

"I didn't plan to go to college, but my grandma pushed for me to do it," he said. Jojo is a striker and midfielder, and while the men's soccer team lost in the championship game this year, the team won the championship the previous two years.

"My first season, we had nine players when we should have had 11, because everyone was injured. So we lost in the semifinals," Jojo said. "And the next year, we actually won the championship for Elms and it's the best they've done in a long, long time, so it was great to see that and be a part of it."

The oldest of eight homeschooled siblings, Jojo said he appreciated the size of Elms and the quality of the sports management program.

"I think me coming from being homeschooled and switching into public for college—it was easy for me to adapt because of how helpful everybody is, and the classes are small here, so your teacher will know you your whole four years here," he said.



Kenneth Lockett Jr. '15
Loganville, Georgia
Men's Basketball

Big Man on Campus

Those who know or have seen Blazer basketball power forward Kenneth Lockett Jr. '15 on campus might be surprised to learn that, in high school, he didn't have that many friends. "I just kind of stuck with my little circle," the biology major said. "But then I came here and it's a smaller environment, and it's like a lot of people are embracing you. I don't want to use the term 'popular,' but I tend to know a lot of people, and a lot of people know me."

Coming from Grayson High School in Loganville, Georgia, with its population of over 3,000 students—there were 650 in his graduating class—Kenny thrived in the more intimate setting that Elms offered and immersed himself in college life. Kenny served as a resident advisor in Rose William dorm this year and, for the past three years, has been a member of the Elms College Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). He was team captain of the basketball team this year, was named male Student Athlete of the Year and received the Iron Man award.

He finished his basketball career at Elms by placing second in program history with rebounds (668) and sixth in points (1,069), accomplishments that are even more impressive given the fact that he played little during his freshman year, Kenny pointed out. In 2014, he was named to the New England Collegiate Conference (NECC) First Team All-Conference and this year made the NECC Second Team All-Conference.

"When I first got here, I was shy and timid, didn't really want to talk to anyone," Kenny said. "But I've noticed my growth—I've changed a little bit and become comfortable with talking with people and expressing myself."

Kenny received his B.A. in biology in May and plans to focus on exercise science in graduate school, with the ultimate goal of becoming a physical therapist or athletic trainer. But first he's going to take a shot this summer at making a basketball team in a semi-pro league in Sydney, Australia, where his cousin lives. "I'm going to try out for teams and see what happens," he said.

Kenny says he would recommend Elms to others from his school because "I feel like people work better under this smaller environment, because of the closer relationships with professors and students around you, and I think it helps build character." As for his own popularity with classmates, "that wasn't my goal, it just sort of happened. But I like having it—it's nice," he said, smiling.







Jackie Quetti '16
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Cross Country

Runner with Epilepsy Blazes Ahead

Jackie Quetti/Cross Country/Epilepsy Awareness/General Studies/Rising Senior

Jackie Quetti of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is a senior liberal arts major with a minor in theology. She's also the top fundraiser for the Springfield office of the Epilepsy Foundation of New England.

Earlier this year, Jackie rounded up the men's and women's cross country teams for a 100-mile relay to raise not only money but awareness of the condition. The Blazers covered the 100 miles in 14 hours 20 minutes by running continuously around campus and passing a baton from runner to runner, and raised $2,450. Of that total, Jackie herself raised $1,965, nearly doubling her initial goal of $1,000.

She was running for the estimated 3 million Americans and 65 million people around the world who live with epilepsy, a neurological disorder that causes seizures. But she originally got involved for a very personal reason: Jackie herself was diagnosed with epilepsy at age 5.

To most of us, competitive running might not sound like a top activity for someone with epilepsy, but Jackie joined her middle school's running club in eighth grade and loved it so much that she competed all through high school and now competes in track and cross country with the Blazers.

And her doctor told her that, although she can have (and has had) seizures while running, it's great for her. "It's really interesting," she said. "I see a neurologist at Boston Children's Hospital, and he says that long-distance running actually helps. It's basically a treatment for me, and it helps me have fewer seizures."

Cross country is a team sport, so most of the time, the whole team runs together as a group and does workouts together. "Sometimes when we go for our long runs, we separate a little bit, but I always make sure I'm with someone," Jackie said. It sounds scary, but she's matter-of-fact about it. "When they happen during a run, if they're long seizures, I stop for a minute. And when I come out of it, I just keep on going," she said.

That positive outlook has gotten her where she is today. That, and hard work, and religion. "My faith is very important to me. My faith is really what keeps me going every day," she said.



Denisha Parks '15
Fall River, Massachusetts
Women's Basketball

Basketball Star Enjoys Success on Court, in Classroom

Denisha Parks '15, record-setting basketball player

Denisha Parks '15 celebrated a few big milestones at Elms College. In her sophomore year, the basketball star scored her 1,000th career point, and in January 2015 she doubled that, surpassing 2,000 points.

"It was very emotional to finally reach the 2,000-point milestone," Denisha said. "I literally started to tear up when they made the announcement, because I never thought I'd see myself at this point in my life and basketball career. I never thought this day would come, but it proves that hard work really does pay off."

On May 16, she was all smiles as her hard work paid off in another kind of milestone—she graduated with her bachelor's degree in sports management.

The Fall River, Mass., native is now interviewing for jobs in the Boston area and waiting to hear back from grad schools. She plans to become an athletic director at a college or university someday. That's not surprising, given her athletic talents. The sports management program at Elms gave Denisha a complete picture of what it means to lead and inspire athletes.

"I always used to say that I wanted to be a coach, but I never knew what it took to be an actual coach," she said. "I thought, 'Oh, I know basketball, so it'll be easy to teach it.' But taking the Coaching Methods course this year really showed me when I have to go into more detail, or be a little more confident as a coach, or be assertive or firm with my players."

On the academic side, it was Elms' close-knit classroom environment that spoke to her. "I felt like I had the opportunity to excel," she said. "I was looking forward to being in a classroom where the professors would know my name."

"I wouldn't have gone anywhere else," Denisha added. "I really enjoyed my time at Elms. Would I change anything? No, because I feel like Elms—whether it was on the court, off the court, in the classroom—taught me a lot that I'll take on with me."

Congratulations, Coach Condon

Blazers Softball Head Coach Cheryl Condon is the most successful coach in the history of the Elms College Athletics Department, surpassing 400 career victories in the 2014-15 season and leading the team to capture its first-ever New England Collegiate Conference (NECC) Championship. Here are just a few of her other accomplishments:

- 2015 NECC Coach of the Year (her third time receiving the honor)
- Five North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Coach of the Year awards
- Four NCAA Division III Championship appearances
- Inducted into the Elms Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012







Stay-at-home Mom to **Honors Grad**

In 2000, Elizabeth Jones dropped out of Holyoke Community College (HCC), convinced college was "an impossible task." Fourteen years, one husband (Michael Fitzgerald) and six children (Elise, 11; Rachel, 9; Clairys, 5; Lillian, 4; Savannah, 3; and Autumn, 18 months) later, she graduated from Elms College's off-campus program at HCC with a perfect 4.0 GPA, and dual degrees in accounting and business management and marketing. During her senior year, Elizabeth also received a number of scholarships including the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship from the Zonta International Club of Quaboag Valley, the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship from Zonta International Club's District 1, the Women in Business Scholarship from *Western Mass Women Magazine*, and two scholarships from the Western Mass Community Foundation. At Honors Convocation on May 1, Elizabeth was inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma, Kappa Gamma Pi and Alpha Sigma Lambda honor societies. She will enter the Elms MBA program in July, even as she and Michael, who graduated in May from Westfield State University, both begin new careers. Here's Elizabeth, in her own words, explaining how both she and Michael were able to be full-time honor students while raising six children in Huntington, Massachusetts.

When I married my husband, I became an instant mother of his two daughters, and we made plans to continue to grow our family. In 2011, my husband was faced with either taking a 50 percent pay cut or being laid off from his factory job, with our fourth child on her way. We were at a point where, with the commitment of my parents, he could go back to school, and have something more promising and passionate than walking a production line for the rest of his life, so he went back to school.

I saw his dedication and commitment, and I couldn't be prouder of him. He showed me that I too could go back and be successful, and finish what I had started. In the fall of 2012, after giving birth to our fifth daughter, I picked up the pieces from 13 years ago, and sought to do my best and obtain my degree in accounting. This would allow me to get my CPA license and build a business from home so our children could have the presence of a parent in the home and still have the benefit of two incomes.

In the summer of 2013, my husband and I had the privilege of being able to graduate together—cap and gown, side by side—with our associate's degrees from HCC, with honors. And, that fall, we continued our educational journey together; he went to Westfield State and I began the Elms/HCC accelerated program on Friday nights and Saturdays.

Both of us have faced many struggles and sacrifices, but could not have gotten this far without the love we have for each other and our family, along with the support and dedication from my parents to see that we would become college graduates. Both my husband and I were the first children of our parents to graduate, and my husband is the first graduate in his family ever—and with not just one degree, but two. We both set the bar high among our peers by achieving academic recognition and have placed on the dean's list every semester we have been in school.

None of this would have been possible for me if Elms didn't offer the Friday night and Saturday program. Also, the staff is there with us every step of the way: Joyce Desorcy and Sr. Kay Reagan. There is a genuine interest in the growth and development of each student from our professors: letters of recommendation whenever we need, and celebrations when we succeed.

In January, I started an internship with Meyers Brothers Kalicka (MBK) for their tax season. I was actually connected with one of their senior managers, Melyssa Brown, via Professor Amanda Houston Garcia, at the Western Mass Woman's Magazine Top 25 Women in Business event. I had brought a few copies of my resume with me to the event, because I knew there would be networking opportunities. Little did I realize that was where my career path would start.

A couple weeks after the event, I received an offer for the internship. At the conclusion, I was given the opportunity to review my internship with the partner in charge and the director of operations as an interview for a permanent job. MBK was looking to hire three new audit and accounting associates, and a summer intern—and over 300 people had applied. I, the other individual who interned the same time as I did, and a recent Westfield State graduate each received offers for an A&A associate position.

In July, I begin my MBA in accounting with Elms and the hard road to my CPA license. I'm fully confident that I will stay with Meyers Brothers in the long term as my education and career continue to develop. My hope is to continue to succeed and shine at Elms as I pursue my master's, and find ways to shine at MBK and add value to the firm.

Now for my husband: His graduation from Westfield State was the same day as mine—same place, just different times. I couldn't be more proud of him; he has found something he is passionate about and is continuing to push himself. He finished his BA with two majors: criminal justice and political science. Last December, he started working with Clinical Support & Options as a therapeutic mentor/in-home therapist. This fall, he will further his studies by pursuing a master's in public administration. He has a heart for public service. Since his passion lies with mentoring youth and I will be able to handle the finance side of a small business, we would love to start our own group home for troubled teens. We want to get them before they get into the "system."

People ask me all the time, "How do you do it?" But, honestly, since I dropped out of school when I was young, single and kid-free, I couldn't have done this without them or the loving support that my husband provides to encourage me to do well. This last semester, while I was working 36 hours a week, he was doing both school and work full time, but he watched the kids Friday nights and all day Saturday so I could go to my classes—and then he did the same on Sundays so I could go to Worcester to visit my mom in the hospital, as she is battling cancer and has been there with my dad since January.

This is what family is all about: loving and supporting one another, and doing what it takes to provide that love and support. I am truly grateful for all that God has blessed me with.

I can't express enough my gratitude towards Elms and having this degree program available to me; otherwise I'd be a stay-at-home mom with no real career prospects to look forward to. ■

REBECCA BURGOS '15

Social Work Grad Following Her Heart to Help Others

Social work major Rebecca Burgos '15 of Springfield, MA, just graduated, but she isn't resting on her laurels. She doesn't have time: Grad school starts May 28. Higher education is important, especially in our society now. "I appreciate that Elms got me on the right path, and I feel like I need to continue, since the ball is already rolling," she said.

Rebecca, who just completed the 20-month bachelor's degree in social work offered through the Elms-Springfield Technical Community College partnership, was accepted into the full-time MSW program at Springfield College. And, thanks to the rigorous Elms program, she was given advanced standing, which means she'll graduate with her master's degree next summer.

"It was pretty strenuous, but I made it through," she said. She had good motivation: following her heart. "I see myself working with substance abuse. That's kind of my passion," Rebecca added. "That's what motivates me. I was raised in a broken family, so maybe that innate drive is what guides me in that direction."

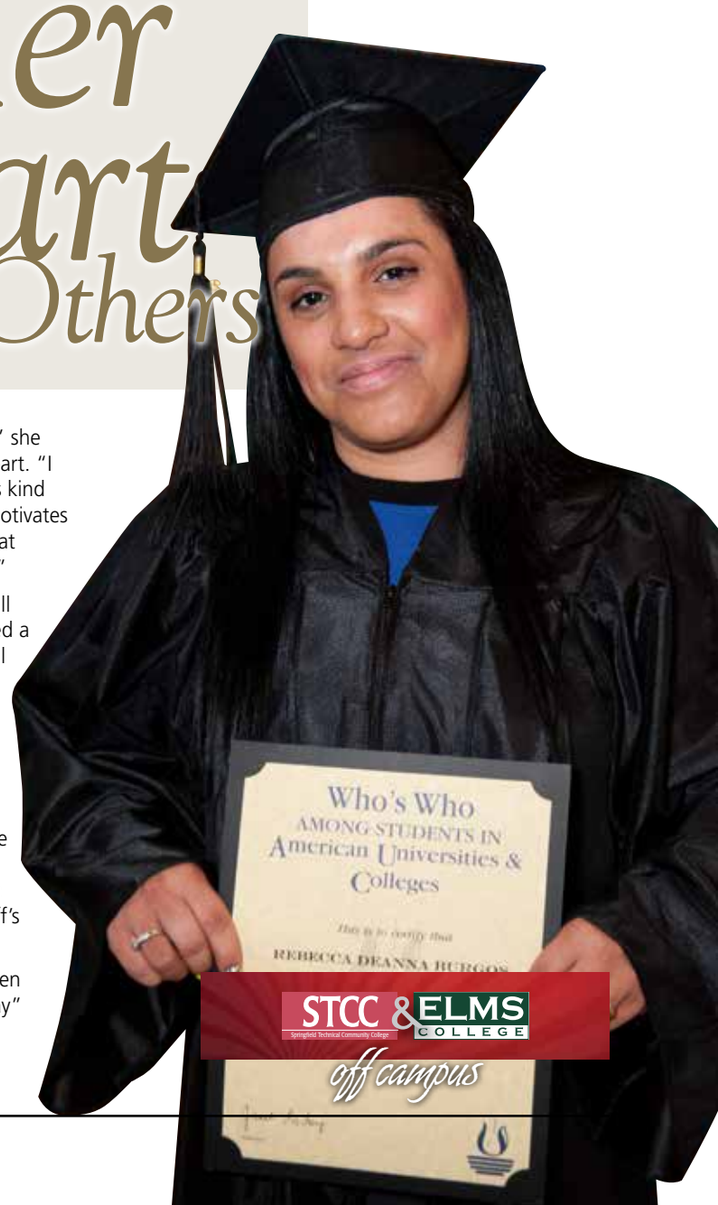
For her 400-hour field placement, required of all social work students at Elms, Rebecca shadowed a correctional case worker at Ludlow Correctional Facility from September through April. It was a good experience, she said. "My associate's degree was in criminal justice, and there's a criminal justice aspect in social work, so I see myself doing something like that," she added. "Perhaps not in the jail facility—I got a lot of recommendations to apply—but with that same population, maybe in the community. I want to work with people after incarceration, maybe somewhere in those programs within the sheriff's department, or within the court system."

Many of her classmates plan to work with children and families, but Rebecca is trying to "steer away" from that route to work with adults. "Maybe a probation officer, if not something with the substance-abuse aspect," she said. "I just take one step at a time. That's what's so beneficial about the social work degree: There are so many different directions that one can take," she said.

The work will likely impact families, however. "The benefits of working with children are great," she said, "but I see it more like: If we tackle the problem of substance abuse, then that in turn will create the reunification of the families. It's like a ripple effect. That's my passion."

Her own children, ages 16 and 3, are another motivating factor. "The 3-year-old is what motivated me to get back into school, because I had been out of school for some time," Rebecca said. "I had my hands pretty full with the 20-month program, and the placement, and my little one at home."

The Elms-STCC program's convenient structure was a huge draw for Rebecca, and she liked the professors, but she said her cohort made a big difference in her success. "You progress through the entire program with the same cohort," she said. "That's good, because it's kind of like your family outside of your family, and you're all experiencing the same struggles. I strived to help anyone who was lingering behind, and things like that." ■



MICHAEL LEWIS '15

'Learning is as essential as breathing'

Michael Lewis '15 graduated from Greenfield Community College in 2013, conveying to classmates as commencement speaker that, while the ceremony marks the end of their time at the college, he hopes it is just the beginning of their quest for knowledge.

Completing his liberal arts degree in health science from GCC, his own quest was far from over. He originally thought of becoming an occupational therapist, but then what he calls "divine intervention" happened.

A conversation with his GCC advisor made him realize that his advocacy work on behalf of veterans and his wealth of community outreach experience was a perfect fit for a career in social work. Michael entered the Elms College off-campus social work program at GCC to earn his bachelor's degree.

Michael graduated from East Longmeadow High School in 1977 and Wilbraham-Monson Academy in 1978. Personal circumstances derailed his plans to attend the University of Massachusetts on a football scholarship, and he ended up joining the Marine Corps instead.

It would be over 30 years before he would continue his formal education, but his wealth of life experiences over those decades included dark times such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), addiction and homelessness, but also positive ones such as being a counselor, a Sunday School teacher and a father.

Advocate for Fellow Veterans

Having experienced firsthand the difficulties in transitioning from military service to civilian life after he left the Marines in 1986, Michael has worked for years serving as a consultant and advocate for veterans in the Greenfield area.

"It's a big mountain to climb," Michael said of the transition back to civilian life. When the job market dried up, "I knew I'd have to get a degree to succeed, and even an associate's degree isn't enough anymore."

While at GCC, he took an active role on campus, teaching a fitness class at lunchtime, putting his experience as a restaurant chef to use at a work-study job in campus food service and participating in the gardening club, among other activities.

Also at GCC, he co-founded the Student-Veteran Network Club, VetNet, to help make the transition to academic life less stressful and more successful for those coming out of military service.

"Part of the reason I have worked and lived in different places is that I never want to stop learning," Michael said. "The day you think you know it all and don't need to learn any more, you might as well cover yourself with dirt. You should never stop growing, and you're never, ever, too old to learn." ■



Social work majors: Elizabeth Fielding, Barbara Broussard, Michael Lewis, Tanya Colby, Eric Waite, Jennifer Brzezinski



LAURIE ROBINSON '15

ELMS COLLEGE *in the Berkshires off campus*

Berkshire R.N.-B.S. Grad Attributes Success to Community of Nurses

Laurie Robinson of Pittsfield "enjoyed every minute" of her time in the R.N.-B.S. degree completion program for registered nurses within Berkshire Health Systems (BHS), graduating in May with a 4.0 GPA and a plan to pursue her master's degree in nursing education.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity that we were afforded," she said of the program, offered onsite at the Hillcrest Campus of Berkshire Medical Center (BMC) exclusively to advance the education levels of BHS registered nurses.

Laurie, a 20-year BMC veteran, works on the surgical floor (med/surg) as a staff nurse and also works in the education department, teaching the computer system to new nursing hires before they start working.

"I would like to get my master's so that I could continue to educate other nurses," she said.

At 2015 Honors Convocation, she was inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma, Alpha Sigma Lambda and Sigma Theta Tau honor societies. At the R.N.-B.S. pinning ceremony at the Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield in May, Laurie received enrollment in the Sr. Nora Harrington Nurse Scholar Program. The program, named after the founder of the Elms College nursing program, is designed to, among other things, nurture the development of future leaders and prepare gifted students for graduate studies. Laurie works in the surgical unit at Berkshire Medical Center and plans to pursue her master's in nursing education.



Laurie was also one of two Berkshire campus recipients of the Award of Distinction, given to a graduating R.N.-B.S. student who has shown significant personal growth and development, has made important contributions to classes, has supported others, and is recognized by classmates as having the potential to make a significant contribution to the nursing profession.

"Laurie is always prepared, strives for excellence, and her contributions to class are insightful and thoughtful," said Director of R.N. Studies Suzanne Barenski, Ph.D., R.N., in presenting the award.

Laurie insists her success was a team effort.

"I couldn't have done it without my classmates, truly," she said. "We started out as individuals, but by the end of this we were a team."

Her favorite part of her experience in the two-year program was her cohort, in that it was "a really good mix of people: some from med/surg, some from management, some new nurses, some old nurses," she said. "What a great way to put it together as a community." ■

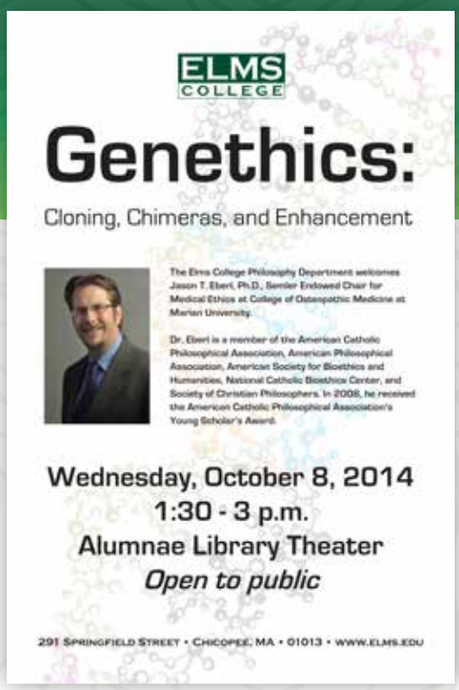
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

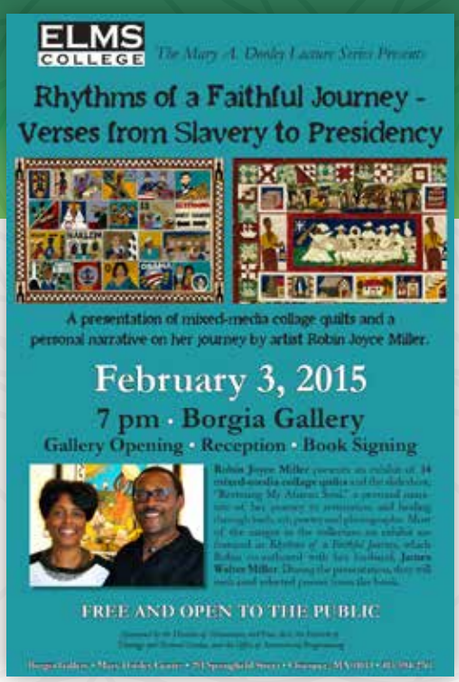
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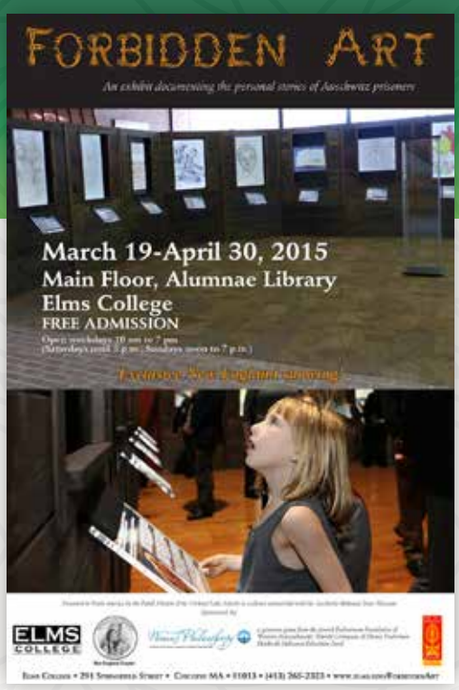
Elms College had the privilege of hosting a wide variety of educational and cultural events for the college community and also the general public throughout the year, including lectures, gallery exhibits, performing arts, multicultural celebrations, films and live performances.

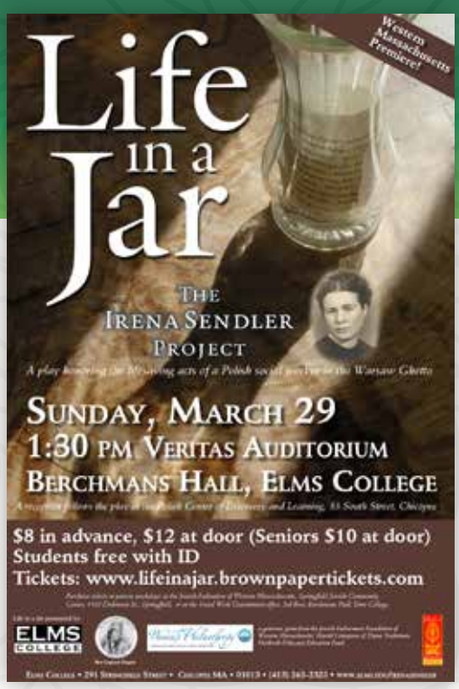
These events enrich the intellectual and cultural experiences for the campus and the community, while broadening the academic experience. Some of these events, such as the Sisters of Selma film showing and panel discussion, highlight social justice issues that are still relevant today.



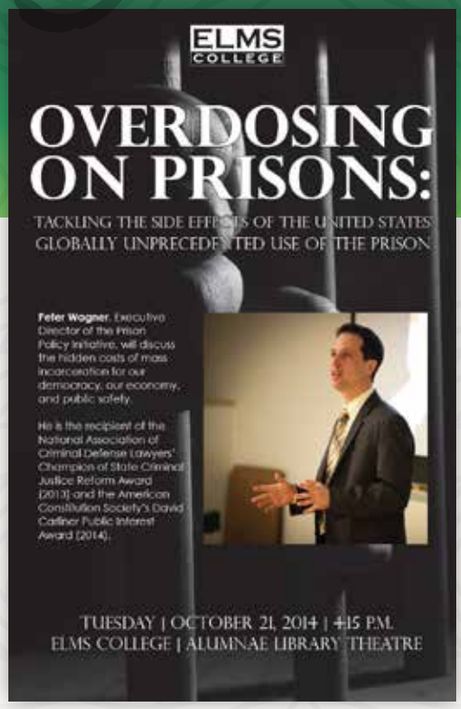


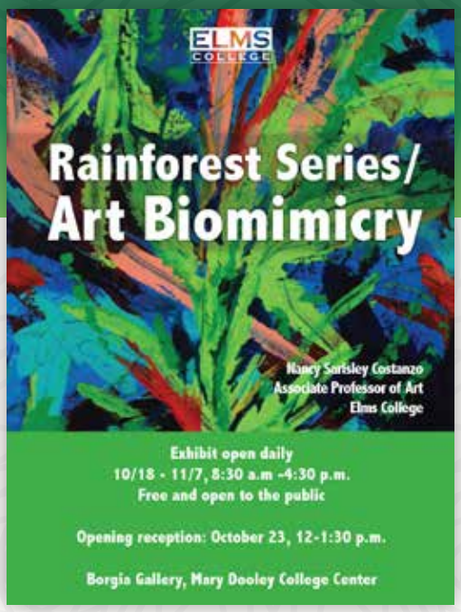


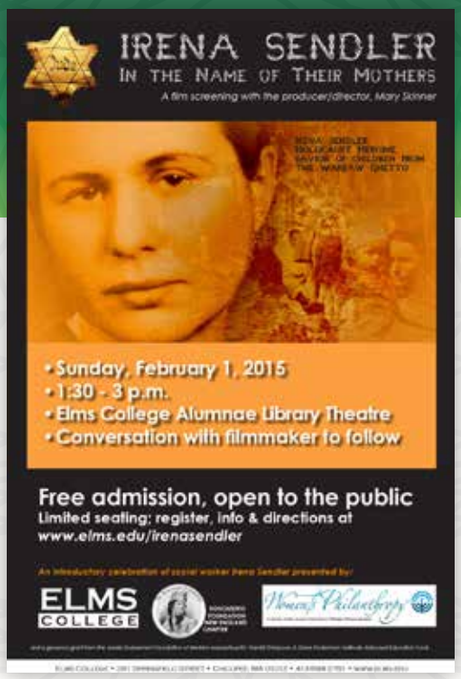


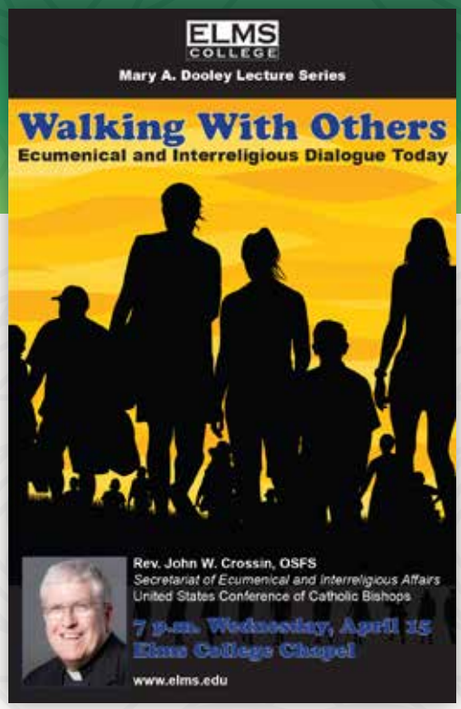


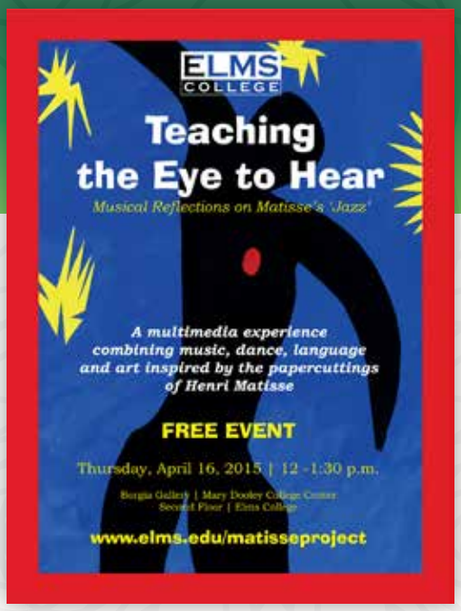
nity Connections













SMALL ACTS BIG IMPACT

Elms in Service to the Community

One of the principal foundations of Catholic social teachings is that people have a right and a duty to participate in society, especially to help the poor and vulnerable. Many groups on campus take this principle to heart and are very active each semester in a number of community service fundraisers and projects. Not the least of which are the student-athletes of Elms College, many of whom who are campus leaders not only because of their academic performances and prowess on the field, but because of their commitment to service and charitable giving.

Here are just a few of the contributions made during this school year by Elms student-athletes:

More than 60, including members of the lacrosse, field hockey, and men's and women's basketball teams, raised over $1,000 for Rays of Hope, a walk/run for a breast cancer cure.

The Elms College women's soccer team hosted a clinic with Springfield's Chestnut Accelerated Middle School's boys' and girls' soccer teams.

The cross country team did a 100-mile relay for Epilepsy awareness on Sunday, March 29. They completed the 100-mile relay around campus in 14 hours and 20 minutes, raising nearly $1,000 for the Epilepsy Foundation of New England.

The women's volleyball and field hockey teams sold "Pink Out" T-shirts and wristbands during Breast Cancer Awareness Month for the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer Research and the Play4theCure Foundation.

The SAAC (Student Athletic Advisory Committee) solicited donations for the Shriners Children's Hospital teddy bear drive and also conducted a coat drive. SAAC also held a food and clothing drive for the Gray House.

Other service projects held on campus include a holiday toy drive by the **Student Nurses' Association**, a drive to collect school supplies and toiletries by the **Future Teachers' Club** and **Campus Ministry**, a clothing drive for the Community Service Center in Indian Orchard and fundraising for the Dakin Humane Society by the **Sophomore Leadership Program**, a charity concert to raise money and awareness of childhood cancer research by the **Elms Dance Team**, a golf tournament at The Orchards to benefit the Chicopee Boys & Girls Club by students in the **Senior Capstone Course**, a partnership with Griffin's Kids to deliver Easter cards and eggs to children in an oncology center by **Leadership** students. Students in the **Leadership Program** also collected clothing for the Survival Center in Agawam and worked with Birthday Wishes to collect supplies for birthday parties for homeless children.





Nursing student Leilani Cardona swabs her cheek during a bone marrow drive.



The SAAC teddy bear drive benefited the Shriners Children's Hospital.

"It was an opportunity to perform community service, learn about our Catholic identity and our role of service in the world, and to bond as a team."

—Matt Dyer, head coach of men's and women's cross country, on his teams' three-day retreat at the Agape Community in Hardwick, MA.

"The idea of children not getting any presents for Christmas was absolutely heartbreaking to me. Social action does not have to go any further than your own community. There are endless ways to help people right here in Western Massachusetts that should not go unrecognized."

—nursing student Julia Engle '16







Serving

Elms in Service to the World

Every year, the Elms College Office of Campus Ministry offers a number of week-long service opportunities in destinations in the U.S. and around the world. These trips are a powerful bonding experience for students, and they instill the importance of cultural sensitivity and service to others. Students learn how to safely conduct themselves in new environments and cultures. The service trips also further the mission of the college and the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and bring to life the Catholic social teachings that form the base of the Elms experience.

This year, groups visited four locations. In Nicaragua, the approximately 1 mile of trenches Elms volunteers helped dig will be used to lay water pipes, giving the residents of the remote region near the Honduras border their first access to clean drinking water. An Elms group of 14 worked with Passionist Volunteers International in Jamaica to visit nursing homes and infirmaries, and hold free health clinics. Another nine from Elms spent their spring break helping rebuild a New Orleans home destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. In January, nine Elms volunteers spent a week helping the poor in Baltimore through Catholic Charities.

"Education is best utilized with an open mind, which the service trip provided on a daily basis. It allowed me to apply my learning to the community where I was volunteering, and served as an emblem of what I've learned regarding the core values and importance of service at Elms College."

—nursing major Regina DiGiovanni '15 of Springfield, MA

"These immersion/in-service experiences actualize the ethos: uniting neighbor to neighbor, and neighbor to God. They also allow students to experience (in that SSJ tradition) integrating service to others with career preparation."

—Brother Michael Duffy, DNP, ANP-BC, assistant professor and coordinator of the Accelerated Second-Degree in Nursing Program

"There are many parts to our journey, which lead us in many directions. I became more self-aware and gained strength within myself I never thought I had. Participation in service trips allows me to meet people from different cultures and witness the faith they have. The people I come across find reasons to smile even with being faced with the trials of life, and it is a rewarding and satisfying experience."

—nursing major Corinne Guidi '16 of Holyoke, MA







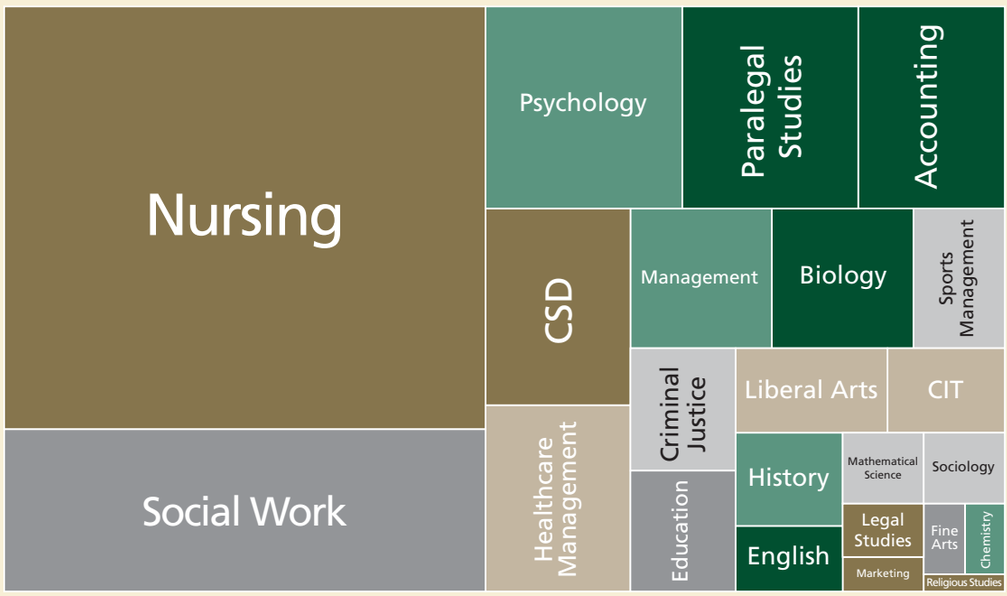


the World

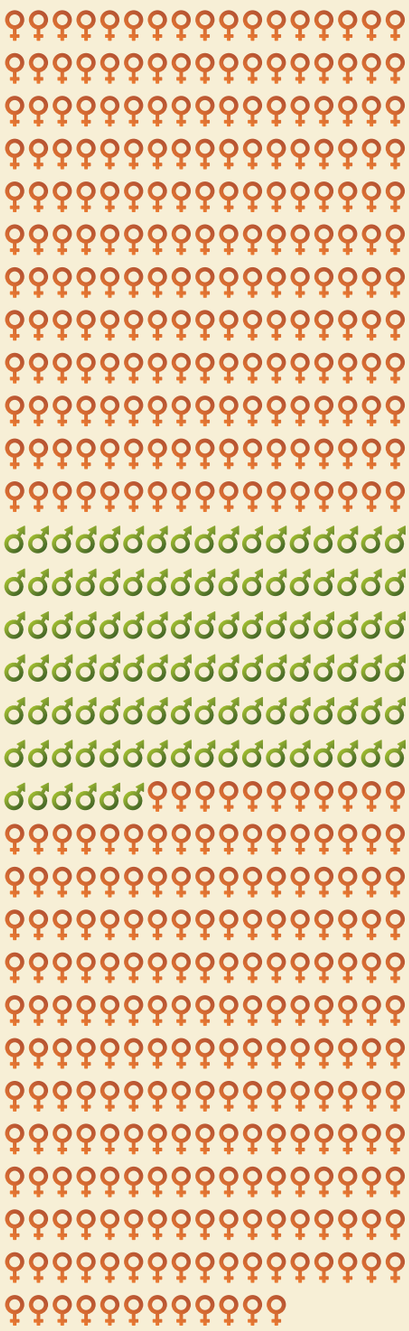
Class of 2015

"You must be bold, brave and courageous, and find a way to get in the way."
—U.S. Rep. John Lewis

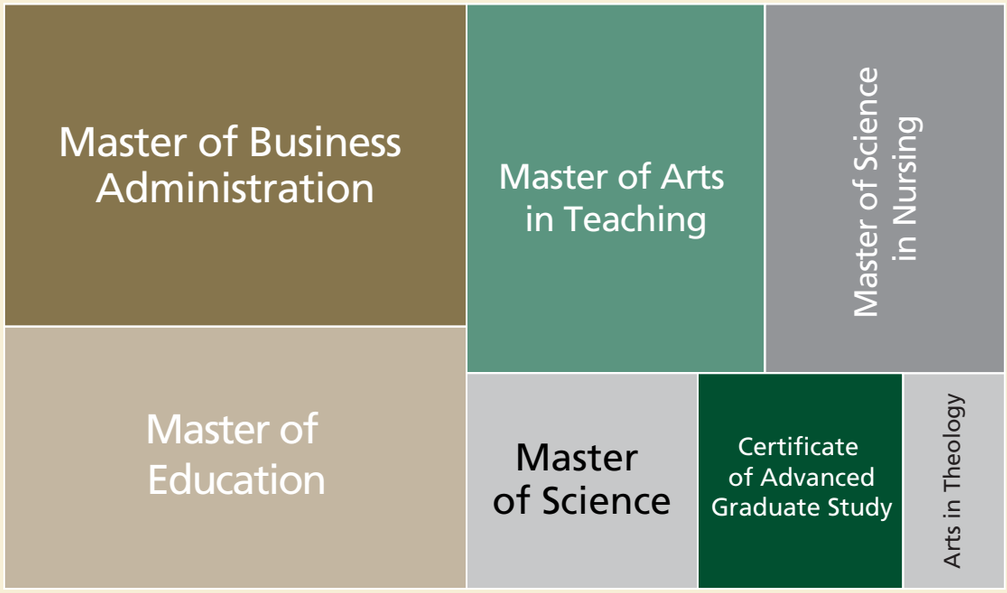
Undergraduate Degrees



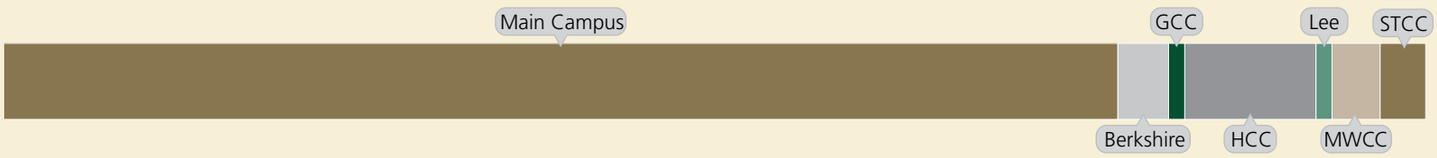
Gender

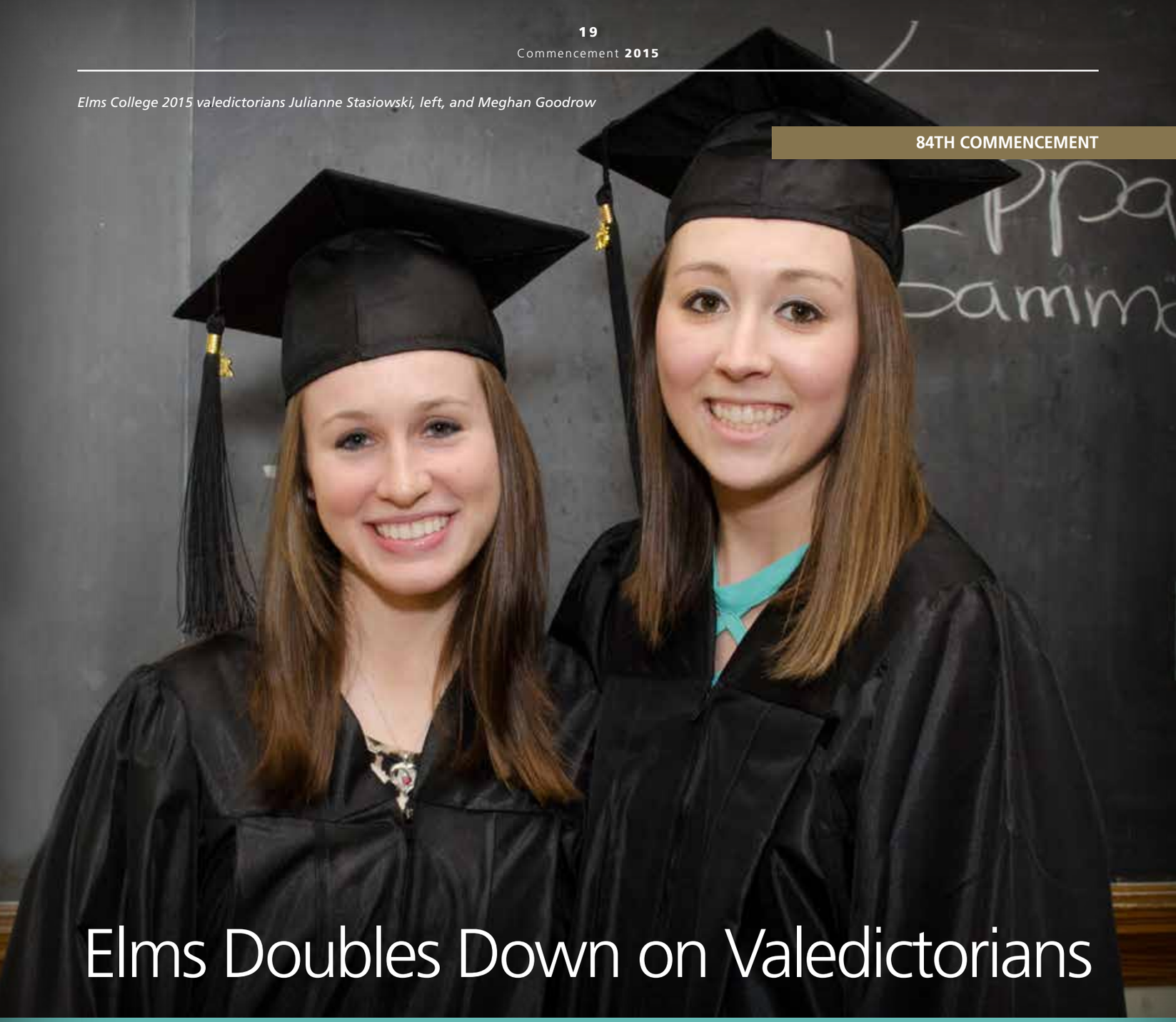


Graduate Degrees



Campus Attended





Elms College 2015 valedictorians Julianne Stasiowski, left, and Meghan Goodrow

84TH COMMENCEMENT

Elms Doubles Down on Valedictorians

Elms College was pleased to have not one, but two valedictorians this year. Meghan Goodrow of Sunderland, a communication sciences and disorders (CSD) major, and Julianne Stasiowski of Chicopee, a social work and psychology double major, both earned perfect 4.0 GPAs during their college careers. The fact that there are two recipients this year—even after examining both student's GPAs beyond several decimal places—is unprecedented.

This fall, Meghan will enter graduate school at the University of Massachusetts to pursue her master's in speech-language pathology. It was a life-changing meeting with an exceptional third-grader with cerebral palsy that put her on the CSD path when she was still in high school.

"This little boy who had numerous challenges to face every single day was the happiest, most genuine soul alive," Meghan said of the young child she called Gradie in her valedictory address. "This was what I wanted to do. I wanted to be inspired. I wanted to inspire people and children myself. I wanted to touch people's lives in deep and profound ways, just as Gradie had done for me."

Julianne will pursue her master's in social work at Springfield College—she has received advanced standing in the program there, so she will complete her MSW in a year—but said her degree in psychology will also come in handy.

"I'm leaning more toward social work for my degree and what jobs I'll be doing, but psychology always helps. They go together pretty well," she said.

Julianne flexed her psychology muscle this spring by presenting a paper at the Eastern Psychological Association Conference in Philadelphia with classmate Dan Teague, a fellow psychology and social work double major, on an experiment they had developed as part of their independent-study project for Associate Professor Jennifer Rivers, Ph.D. Their work studied the factors that can affect willingness to donate to charitable organizations.

"It was a great experience, being able to present our own research and share that research with colleagues," Julianne said. ■



Commencement speeches by U.S. Rep. John Lewis and College President Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D., at youtu.be/okv3FkBHH5g

U.S. Congressman John Lewis, D-GHa., second from left, accepts an honorary degree from Board of Trustees Chair Cynthia A. Lyons, left, and President Mary Reap at the College of Our Lady of the Elms' 84th Commencement Exercises at the MassMutual Center on May 16, 2015. At right is Carla Oleska, vice president of institutional advancement. (Photo by Michael S. Gordon, courtesy of The Republican).



















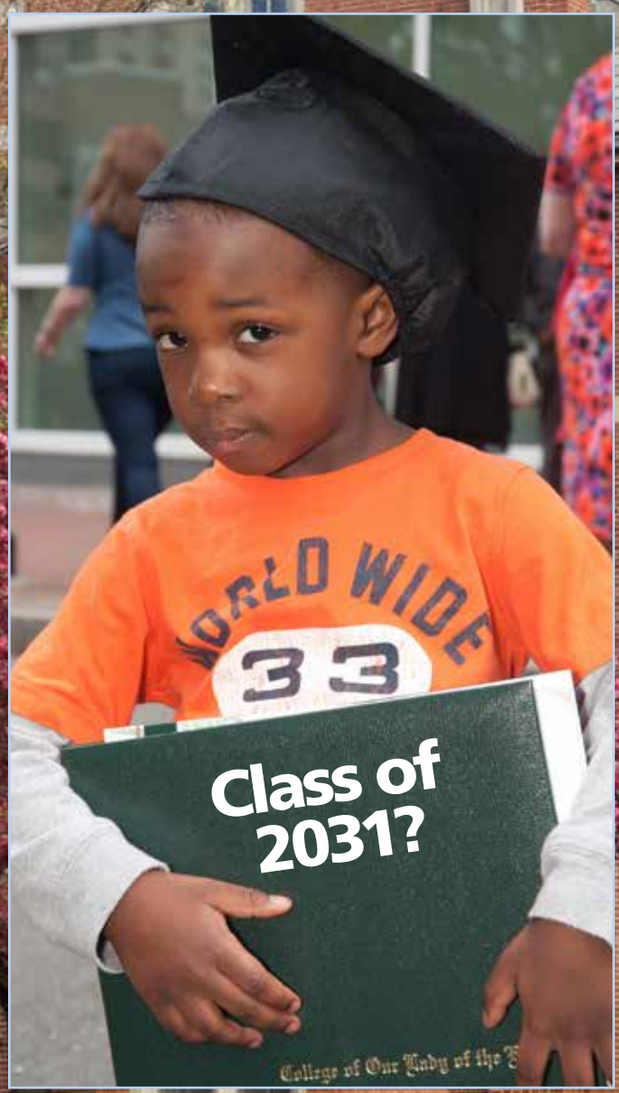
84TH COMMENCEMENT























FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS



Elizabeth Hukowicz, Ph.D., was appointed dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. She had served as the associate academic dean of the Division of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education since 2005. Under her leadership, the number, scope and complexity of programs in her department increased tremendously. In recognition of this growth, the division has been restructured into a school, with Hukowicz appointed its first dean.



Daniel Chelotti, M.F.A., was promoted to associate professor of English. He placed poems in *A Public Space*, *Pastelegram*, *Ocean State Review* and *Free State Review*. His second chapbook, *Compost*, will be released this fall from Greying Ghost Press. Chelotti was awarded sabbatical for the Spring 2016 semester, during which he plans to work on a creative nonfiction project.



Tom Cerasulo, **Ph.D.,** associate professor of English, was appointed chair of the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts. Cerasulo has been a full-time faculty member since 2005 and succeeds Dr. Cristina Canales, who retired. Cerasulo also served as a consultant for the upcoming 9th edition of *The Norton Anthology of American Literature* and as a manuscript reader for *PMLA*, the journal of the Modern Language Association. His review of Sarah Churchwell's *Careless People* appeared in the 2014-2015 issue of *The F. Scott Fitzgerald Review*.



Javier Venturi accepted a full-time faculty position as lecturer of Spanish. He also accepted the position of director of diversity and inclusion. This spring, Venturi participated in the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Conference in Toronto, where he chaired the panel "Recovering Historical Memory and National Reconciliation from Zapatero to Rajoy." In addition, he presented the conference paper "Memoria histórica y el perdón difícil en los filmes *Ispansi*, *Balada triste de trompeta*, y *Pa negre*" ("Historical Memory and the Difficult Forgiveness in the Movies *Ispansi*, *The Last Circus* and *Black Bread*").

Mark Chustz, Ph.D., is the new assistant director of healthcare management in the Division of Business. Chustz comes to Elms from Alabama State University, where he was an assistant professor of health information management.



Tynisha Henderson is the new director of disability services. She comes to Elms from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. She previously worked as program coordinator and case manager at the Western Mass Training Consortium.



Robert King, Ph.D., professor of English, is retiring in August after 54 years at Elms College.

College Honors Faculty for Distinguished Service

Two faculty were honored with the 2015 Distinguished Service Award at this year's Honors Convocation for outstanding teaching, service to students, contribution to scholarship, and advancement of the Elms College mission.



John Gould, Ph.D., assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders, specializing in speech-language pathology and geriatric care; academic coordinator and advisor for online SLPA programs, was praised for his dedication to serving students in and out of the classroom and providing assistance to students as they develop the skills and confidence to conduct assessments and treatment of children with a range of communication disorders, and to prepare for graduate study.

Dr. Gould has presented at the annual meetings of the Psychonomic Society and American Speech-Language Hearing Association, remaining professionally current in several areas, including speech disorders in children, evidenced-based treatments for dementia and autism spectrum disorders. He also is active with the Massachusetts Speech-Language Hearing Association as a licensed speech-language pathologist.

Additionally, he serves on the College Appeals Review board, and the Academic Restructuring and Learning Outcomes Assessment ad hoc committees; serves as the faculty advisor to the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association and faculty liaison to the women's softball team.



Maureen Holland, M.S.W., assistant professor and program director of social work, was recognized for leading the development of three new off-site social work programs in partnership with local community colleges, creating pathways for adult learners to pursue degree completion in human services.

With specialization in issues of child development, child abuse and family issues, and with extensive experience working with diverse, bilingual populations, Professor Holland serves as an advisor and role model, assisting social work students in making important decisions about coursework, field placements and graduate schools while they complete their undergraduate studies.

She is a member of the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors board of directors and a frequent conference presenter on topics such as shaken baby syndrome, compassion fatigue, listening to the voices of community leaders. She is a co-author of the 2015 article "Identifying Strengths in Poor Neighborhoods: First Steps in Community Interventions."

This past year, Professor Holland played an integral role in planning for the 60th Anniversary of the Elms College Social Work Program, and bringing *Forbidden Art* and *Life in a Jar: The Irene Sendler Project* to campus; not to mention serving as the faculty advisor to the Student Social Work Organization, and the Elms College Dance Team. ■



Teresa Kuta Reske, **M.P.A., RN**, was named director of the new Doctor of Nursing Practice program and an associate professor. Reske has held numerous professional roles in her career as a staff registered nurse, nurse leader and manager within acute care pediatric and pediatric critical care settings, nurse telephone triage care, nursing informatics, market research and patient satisfaction, and most recently, pediatric ambulatory administrator.

Kurt Ward, **M.B.A., J.D.,** is director of the criminal justice program and an assistant professor. Prior to joining Elms, he was director of criminal justice and legal studies at Newbury College. Before he entered academia, he held positions in banking, information technology, management consulting and litigation support. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the law and public policy program at Northeastern University.



Yvonne Patterson, M.S.W., Ph.D., is now an assistant professor of social work. Patterson previously worked as an adjunct professor in social work at Elms and is an adjunct professor of community organization at Eastern Connecticut State University.



Thomas Foley was named director of public safety. Foley began his career with the Massachusetts State Police in 1980 and retired in 2004 as a colonel and superintendent. Since then, he served as a governor's councilor and published a book on his experiences in the organized-crime investigation into Whitey Bulger. He has a B.S. in criminal justice from Westfield State and an M.A. in criminal justice from Anna Maria College.



Anthony Fonseca, **Ph.D.,** director of Alumnae Library, has co-authored the book *The Most Monstrous of Monsters: Masculinity and Monstrosity in Richard Matheson's Stories, Scripts, Novels, and Twilight Zone Episodes*. Fonseca co-authored the book—his sixth—with June Michele Pulliam of Louisiana State University's Department of English, and it will be released in the fall.

Christopher Bakriges, Ph.D., lecturer in music, has assumed the music directorship at the West Dover United Church of Christ in southern Vermont.



Jason Murphy, assistant professor of philosophy, had the essay "On Virtue, Irony and Glory: the Pitch and the People" published in the anthology *Football and the Boundaries of History*, edited by Brenda Elsey and Stanislao Pugliese and released by Palgrave Macmillan. The essay, inspired by watching soccer legend Pele, seeks to explain some of the power soccer can have over the viewer.



Ellen McEwen was named director of athletics. She brings more than 30 years of collegiate athletics administration, teaching and coaching experience to Elms, and has completed stints at all three NCAA division levels as well as the National Junior College Athletic Association.



Jennifer Ouellette was named head women's field hockey coach. She brings extensive Division III experience to Elms, including stints at Becker College and Rivier College, and two New England Collegiate Conference championships.



After years as an adjunct faculty member, **Tracey Cobb '14, MSN, RN**, joins the School of Nursing as an associate clinical professor and pediatric specialist. She has extensive experience in pediatric nursing, has practiced in a variety of settings and institutions, and is certified as an early intervention specialist.



Carolee Arsenault, MSN, RN, CCRN, has joined the School of Nursing as associate clinical professor. Arsenault has an extensive background in acute care nursing with more than 25 years in critical care. She is the recipient of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) Circle of Excellence Award in clinical practice.



Christine Ingalls '14, MSN, RN, joined the School of Nursing as associate clinical professor and coordinator of the nursing skills lab. Ingalls has 40 years of experience in healthcare, including perianesthesia, medical-surgical, intensive care, pulmonary and neonatal nursing. She holds certification in ambulatory perianesthesia nursing (CAPA) and is a member of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulations & Learning.



Nanci Costanzo, associate professor of art, was awarded a faculty development grant to attend the "Henri Matisse: Cut-Outs" exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York last fall.





Laura McNeil, Ph.D., associate professor of history, and **Damien Murray, Ph.D.**, associate professor of history, presented papers at the 2015 American Conference for Irish Studies in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in March. McNeil presented the paper "Oh, the Drama!: Teaching Easter 1916 Through Theatre." Murray's paper was "Padraic Colum: Patriot Propagandist for the Rising."



Fr. Warren Savage, lecturer in religious studies, is president of Project Reach Out, whose mission is "to eradicate racism and hatred in the new millennium." The organization seeks to minister to both churched and unchurched members of the black community.





Maureen Holland '85, M.S.W., director of social work, and **Scott Hartblay, M.S.W.**, associate professor of social work, presented the workshop "Irena Sendler: An Unknown Social Work Heroine" at the 33rd Regional Social Work Conference, held at Western New England University in May.



David Kimball, Ph.D., chair of the division of business and professor of business management, marked the publication of the third edition of a textbook on entrepreneurship. Kimball published the book with Robert N. Lussier and Joel Corman. Kimball and Lussier, of Springfield College, also published the second edition of the textbook *Applied Sport Management Skills* in 2014.

Laurie Downes, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor of nursing, was elected in March to the board of directors of Venture Community Services in Sturbridge, Mass. Venture provides services to developmentally disabled individuals in the central Massachusetts area.



Katherine Currier, J.D., professor in paralegal and legal studies, has been awarded lifetime membership in the American Association for Paralegal Education for outstanding service to the AAfPE.

REUNION 2015



Reunion 2015 was a spectacular weekend for the many Elms College alumni and friends who returned for the celebration! The festivities began with the Green and Gold Golf Tournament, which was enjoyed by a great field of players, all of whom enjoyed the day's perfect weather. Following the tournament, golfers and fellow alumni met on campus to enjoy a magnificent dinner to officially kick-off the weekend on campus. The night concluded with a reunion of the college's Computer Information and Technology alumni, who gathered together in the new Center for Natural and Health Sciences.

On Saturday morning, over 60 members from the 50th Reunion class became official "Golden Blazers" during a beautiful and memorable ceremony in Our Lady's Chapel. Throughout the rest of the day, alumni enjoyed a wide variety of events, including: President Sr. Mary Reap's "State of the College" address; a paint-and-sip party led by Elms alumna **Sheila Murphy Gould '06**; and a riveting lecture by the Elms College director of campus safety, Thomas Foley, who talked about his career in the Massachusetts State Police, and his role in the pursuit and capture of Whitey Bulger.



During the weekend, we also enjoyed two special events. The first was for the Education Division, who recognized Sr. Kathleen Kirley. Immediately following this event, the School of Nursing recognized alumna **Ruth Amador '13** for her many accomplishments.

What will be remembered most about Reunion 2015 are the smiles, laughter and stories that made this celebration so great! So mark your calendars for next year's Reunion, which will take place on **June 3 and 4, 2016**! ■


























Distinguished Nursing Awardee Advocates for Quality Healthcare in the Hispanic Community

For "leadership, practice, pursuit of education and significant contributions to the profession of nursing," for promoting the college's values, and for demonstrating commitment to outstanding nursing practice and patient care, Ruth Amador (RN-BSN-MSN '13) received the second Elms College School of Nursing Distinguished Nursing Alumni Award at Reunion 2015.

Ruth, a native of Puerto Rico, used to be a funeral director, and still maintains her funeral director and embalmer's license. She switched careers after earning her R.N. from Holyoke Community College in 2005. Today, she is a nurse at Hartford Hospital and on the Visiting Nurses Association hospice team for Wing Memorial Hospital in Palmer, and also works as a community public health nurse.

Ruth's graduate capstone project was an emergency-preparedness program for non-English-speaking Hispanic elders. "In 2013, Ruth was accepted as a faculty presenter for her project at the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) Conference in New Orleans," said Dr. Kathleen Scoble, Ed.D., R.N., dean of the School of Nursing. Inspired by the number of impressive Hispanic nurses at the conference, Ruth returned and founded the Western Massachusetts Chapter of NAHN.

"Proudly, Elms College School of Nursing became the chapter's sponsoring school," Scoble added.

NAHN Western Mass has locally implemented Muevete (Move), a NAHN initiative targeting childhood obesity; held health fairs with Baystate Medical Center, the YMCA and other organizations; and highlighted the need for minority organ donation in collaboration with LifeChoice. Through LifeChoice, Ruth became a living organ donor, donating part of her liver to save the life of a close friend in 2013.

"My hope is to be a voice for Hispanic nurses through leadership and mentorship to work collaboratively with schools of nursing for recruitment, give back to the community, promote and foster leadership and quality health care in the Hispanic community, and be agents of change," Ruth said.

Accepting her award, Ruth thanked Elms for providing the fundamentals of nursing leadership and enhancing her leadership capabilities. "I know that Elms College will continue to champion success in increasing diversity in the workplace, and continue to bring recognition to service that is delivered with extreme care, compassion and excellence."

NAHN Western Mass meets 7-9 p.m. every second Thursday of the month in the Irish Cultural Center in the Alumnae Library. Information: nahn.wmass@gmail.com. ■

Travel with the President

Italy 2016

Anticipated Schedule

Mon, June 13	Departure from Boston
Tue, June 14	Arrival in Naples, transfer to Maiori Amalfi Coast hotel
Wed, June 15	Full-day excursion to Capri
Thu, June 16	Excursion by private boat to Positano
Fri, June 17	Excursion to Sorrento and Amalfi
Sat, June 18	Excursion to Ravello and Villa Rufolo
Sun, June 19	Free day
Mon, June 20	Transfer from Maiori to Rome, stopping in Pompeii for a guided tour
	Vineyard lunch and wine tasting
	Rome hotel check-in
Tue, June 21	Full-day tour of Rome including admission to the Vatican
Wed, June 22	Audience with the Pope and farewell dinner
Thu, June 23	Return to Boston

Hotel in Maiori: http://www.hotel-sanfrancesco.it/

Hotel in Rome: http://savoy.it/

www.elms.edu/alumni

For more information, contact the Office of Constituent Relations at 413-265-2454 or alumni@elms.edu

Alumni Association Board of Directors 2015- 2016

Judith Zeh '77 - *President Elect*

Margaret (Benoit) Beturne '99, *Immediate Past President*

Jennifer (Rodrigue) Putnam '93, *Vice President*

Linda Kaczmarczyk '71, *Secretary*

Darius Griffin '13, *Treasurer*

Directors

James Angelos '05

Diane (Nawskon) Brunelle '84

David DiSabito '10

Patricia (McDonald) Humiston '05

Andrew Melendez '10

Janyce Prendergast '12

Theresa (Cabana) Stec '78

Tania Spear '99

Michelle Lancto '87

Jean Brigham '69

Ex-Officio Members

Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D., *President*

Carla Oleska, *Vice President, Institutional Advancement*

Valerie Bonatakis '10, *Director of Constituent, Community and Government Relations*

Edith McAlice '58, *SSJ Representative*

Judith O'Connell '59, *SSJ Representative*

Christine Fay, Ph.D., *Faculty Liaison*

Student Representative TBD



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, update your information online at www.elms.edu/classnotes, or mail to:

Marketing Editor
Elms College
291 Springfield Street
Chicopee, MA 01013

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

Births



Jessica Tudryn Wisniewski '02 and family recently welcomed a healthy, energetic boy. Wes William Wisniewski was born on Sept. 11, 2014. He was 7 lbs 13.75 oz and 21.5 inches long.



Tara Shea Leandro '02 and her husband Jeffrey are proud to announce the birth of their son, Liam, who was born on May 19, 2014.



Lindsay McCarthy Pires '07 and her husband, Michael, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Jack Michael Pires, on Sep. 21, 2014, in Greenville, S.C. Jack was also welcomed by big sister Isla.

Alumni Updates

Margaret "Nancy" Black Dooley '49 recently moved from Cape Cod to a senior living facility on Parker Street in East Longmeadow and would welcome visits from members of the Elms community.

Barbara Powers Hoppin '64 and her husband, Christopher, look forward to celebrating their 50th anniversary on July 10, 2015.

Sharon Leary Sullivan '64, an AVID District director for Worcester public schools, writes that she enjoyed Reunion 2014.

Karen Fitzgerald Loflin '69 regrets that business in South Carolina kept her away from reunion last year. She hopes to make it to her 50th reunion.



Jo-Ann De Maria Morgan '70 recently hosted a class of 1970 gathering at her summer home in Onset, Mass. The ladies reminisced about their time at the Elms and enjoyed visiting with one another. 2014 marks the ninth year of this annual reunion. Pictured, from left to right, are: Kathy Ruda Vallon, Phyllis Tomasiello Iadarola, Cathy Cavallo, Betty Fernandes Maresca, Jo-Ann DeMaria Morgan, Agnita Clark Knott, Carol Casullo Waddington and Carol Vachon Wing.

Alice Hood Cugell '73 is the proud grandmother to three granddaughters, with another on the way!



Helenclare Fenton Goddu '75 celebrated her son's wedding last September in Maine. Although she could not attend this year's Reunion, she wishes her classmates all the best!

Anne Axton-Jones '83, '91, '05 became principal of Dr. Franklin H. Mayberry Elementary School in East Hartford on July 1. Anne, of Chicopee, was unanimously chosen from more than 31 applicants, and most recently served as the director of curriculum, instruction and assessment for Lebanon Public Schools.

Diann H. Surovich Bailey '87 was ordained as a United Church of Christ minister on Oct. 5, 2014, and installed as associate minister at First Church of Christ Congregational in Suffield, Conn., on Nov. 16.

Ruthann Halpin Fitzgibbons '87 shares that she's proud to be teaching at a wonderful high school in Hadley, Mass., and has been happily married for the past 12 years and blessed with two terrific boys, Patrick V, 9, and James, 7.

Patricia Cerruto Noya '92 presently works in La Paz Bolivia in an non-governmental organization from Spain called Médicos del Mundo, as a country business manager.

Julie DiPasquale Jasper '92 married Robert Jasper at the Daversport Yacht Club in Danvers, Mass., on July 25.

Sean Patrick Crane '95 was named Outstanding U.S. History Teacher of the Year by the Daughters of the American Revolution of Connecticut. Cane teaches advanced placement U.S. history at Fermi and Enfield high schools, and was named Enfield Teacher of the Year in 2008-09.

Meredith Powers-Lupo '95 writes that she, Joe and Sara moved to Palm Beach County in south Florida almost three years ago. After almost two years as the West Palm Beach VA director of homeless programs, she left management to return to social work and is now working with veterans currently incarcerated in state and federal prisons, assisting them with community re-entry.

Blanca Tosado Burke '02 was recently honored for her work at the Supreme Judicial Court in Boston, where she works as the executive assistant to the executive director.

Jennifer Dube Dout '07 married Robert Dout on Oct. 11, 2014, in a ceremony at St. Rose de Lima Church in Chicopee. Her cousin and fellow Elms alum, Stefanie Donze '13, served as maid of honor. The couple honeymooned in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, and currently reside in Chicopee. In January 2015, after 7 1/2 years as a Compliance Specialist at MassMutual in Springfield, Jennifer started in her current position as a regulatory approval specialist at Aetna in Hartford, Conn.



Joanna M. Purtell '07 of East Hampton, Conn., was appointed to the advisory council of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CTCPA) for 2015-2016. The 107-year-old CTCPA has nearly 6,000 members and advocates on behalf of the accounting profession, and provides educational opportunities and a peer review program. Joanna is a financial reporting and technical accounting specialist with United Technologies in Farmington, Conn.

Kevin Reed '08 recently began work as executive director of the Montachusett Opportunity Council.

Cristina Carignan '09 is currently pursuing a doctorate in pharmacology at the University of Rhode Island.

Aurora D'Angelo '14 was recently awarded the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award. Aurora credits the guidance and support of the Education Department at the college for this success.

Tyler Cudnik '14 recently began work at the certified public accounting firm of Burkhart Pizzanelli, PC, in West Springfield, Mass.

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni:
Marion (Kennedy) Sweeney ’37
F. Aniceta (Decker) Manning ’40
Margaret (Riley) O’Day ’41
Catherine (Kelly) Salem ’42
Lillian (Morin) Dufault ’42
Elizabeth (Sheehan) Pope ’43
Elizabeth Huller ’44
Cecilia (Ogozalek) Kilfoil ’44
Winifred (O’Leary) Burns ’44
Patricia (Brophy) White ’46
Ellen (Martone) Jordan ’47
Clare (Fitzgerald) Langer ’48
Mary (Rynn) Sposato ’48
Elizabeth (Flynn) Shreenan ’49
Sr. Jeanne Brault ’50
Mary (Connelly) Kegelman ’50
Roberta (Nodurf) Savage ’50
Ann (Scannell) Carlstrom ’50
Sr. Veronica Brown ’51
Sr. Mary Durett ’51
Teresa (Lobley) Williamson ’51
Joan (McCarthy) Ryan ’51
Anne Marie (Donley) Toole ’52
Sr. Maria Edward Farr ’52
Sr. William Agnes Gillet ’52
Shirley (Bass) Pratt ’53
Julie (Maranville) Shore ’53
Dr. Mercedes S. Coulombe ’55
Catherine (McCarthy) O’Brien ’55
Sr. Maria Loudon ’56
Sr. Kathleen McGurk ’56
Sr. Eileen Ryan ’57
Sr. Mary Lou Wright ’57
Sr. Roberta Campbell ’58
Patricia (Doppmann) Klaes ’58
Katharine (Sullivan) Gallivan ’58
Patricia (Babineau) Lannaville ’61
Mary (Fitzgerald) Brown ’61
Sr. Irene Magnant ’61
Maureen (McDonald) Haller ’61
Beverlyan Pasternak ’61
Victoria Swistro ’61
Donna (DiSciullo) Ryan ’62
Dolores (Kapinos) Farrell ’63
Anna (Lonergan) Rymsza ’63
Marie O’Neill ’64
Barbara (Crowe) Willis ’65
Eleanor (Marsella) Scott ’65
Sheila (McCormick) Stanlonis’65
Carol (Tristany) Trela ’65
Xavier Lapolice ’66
Sr. Catherine Leary ’66
Marilyn (Louise) Lampron ’66
Mary Agnes Dowd ’67
Sr. Marie Gill Reilley ’70
Sr. Patricia Ritchie ’70
Sr. Madeline Tiberii ’70
Laurene Belisle ’71
Sharon (Gilchrist) Gazda ’72
Marie (Sherfield) Ospina ’74
Sr. Ann Keefe ’75
Mary Ellen (Smith) Lafferty ’77
Eileen (Quinlan) Cook ’80
Paula (Dubiel) Smith ’81
Chris Anne (Colletti) Feener ’82
Elizabeth (Dow) Atwater ’84
Lisa (Magri) Kemp ’86
Alice (Veach) Mitchell ’87
Catherine (Smith) Fitzpatrick ’87
K. Tracey Austin ’90
George Herrick ’90
Mary Reardon ’90
Carlene (Stefanski) Pierson ’90
Mary Ann (Lawler) Adams ’91
Elsie Salli ’92
Rebecca (Rushford) Dion ’97
William Clark ’99
Meghan (Hukowicz) Zoll ’00
Rammona Montaque ’11

Student:
Tayquan Goodman ’16

Mother of:
Lisa Hraba ’00
Jill (Golden) Gagne ’98 – Staff
Marie Ghareeb – Staff
Dr. John Lambdin – Faculty
Dr. Kathleen Scoble – Faculty

Father of:
Marjorie (Fiorentino) Van Houten ’62
Lydia (Bielski) Magill ’79
Terri Adams ’85
Elizabeth Pitoniak ’87
Joseph Esile ’09
Jennifer Killion ’12
Tatiana Frizzell ’15
Richard Bourgeois – Trustee
Br. Michael Duffy – Faculty
Gary Russett – Staff

Husband of:
Patricia White ’46
Anabel (Padilla) Casey ’54
Elizabeth (Fitzgerald) Foley ’59
Eileen (Sohay) Altobelli ’59
Kathleen (Murphy) Hem ’69
Mary (Rigazio) Ghidoni ’70
Mary (McCool) Bail ’72
Kathleen (Hoar) Leary ’78
Sheila (Broderick) Dean ’83
Olga (Delgado) Carney ’92
Martha (Redfield) Brunelle ’00
Dr. Beth Young – Former Faculty

Wife of:
Edward O’Leary – Friend of the College

Sister of:
Violette (Cartier) Sweeney ’50
Claire (Cartier) Daigneault ’52
Sr. Kathleen Reagan – Staff

Brother of:
Silvia Ready ’61
Margaret (Begley) Anderson ’63
Mary Ann (Leary) Boon ’63
Sr. Catherine Leary ’66
Therese (Leary) Thornock ’78
Eileen Kirk ’80 – Staff
Eileen Mahar ’89
Christine (Viecelli) Price ’98
Maureen Cotter ’05 – Faculty
Maryann Matrow ’11 – Staff
Lucille (Berthiaume) Kolish – Former Trustee
Kevin Edwards – Friend of the College
Sr. Mary Reap – Elms College President
Michael Sullivan – Friend of the College

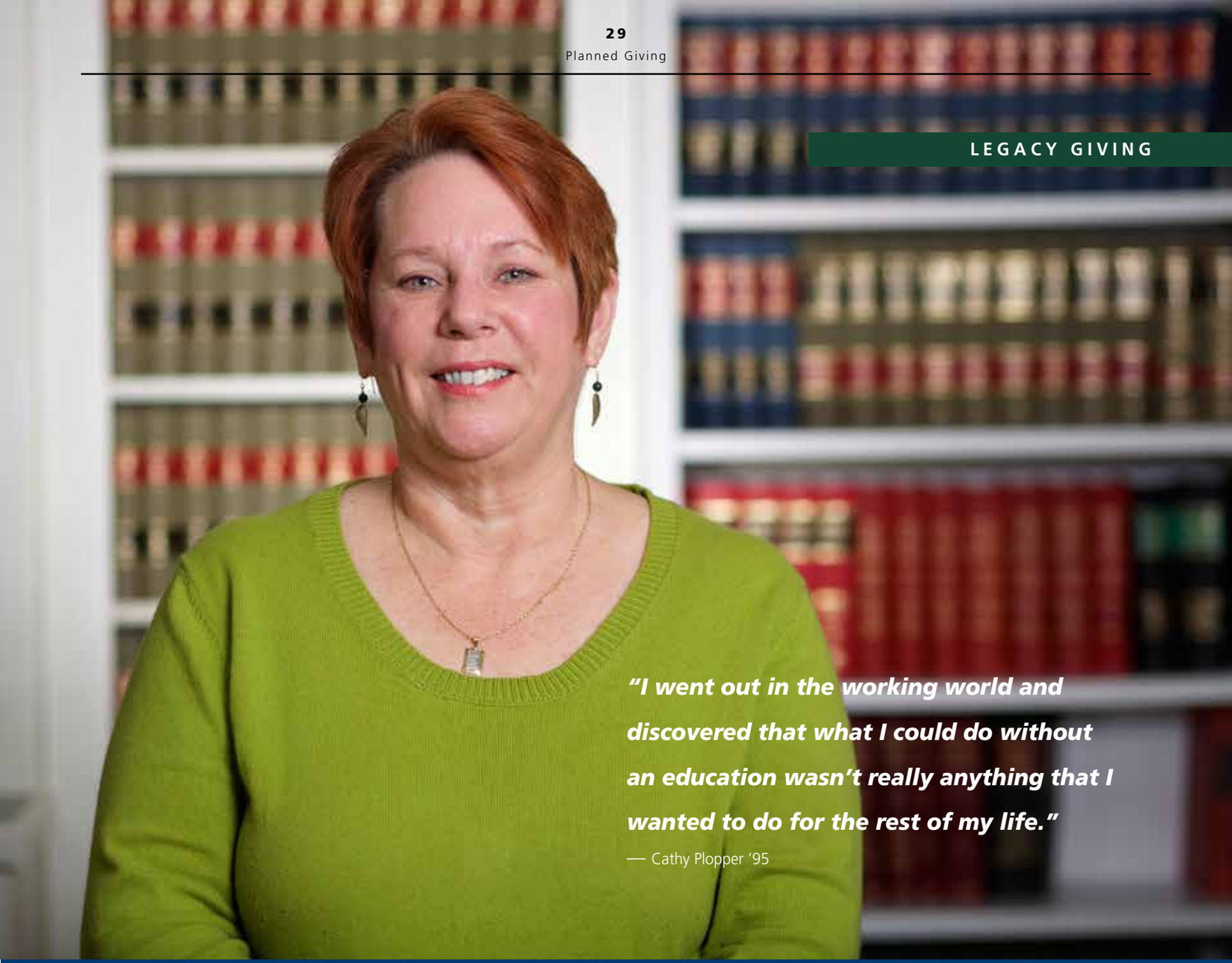
Son of:
Anne Marie Corrieri ’80

Daughter of:
Mary Lou (Liucci) Smith ’62
Olga (Sefanyszyn) Demoracski ’94

Aunt of:
Sr. Maureen Kervick ’68
Elizabeth (Cotter) Barsalou ’04

Grandfather of:
Corey Soutra – Elms College Staff

Friends of the College:
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Helen D’Amour – Former Trustee
Theresa Dygon
Susan Hartmann
Bishop Emeritus Joseph Maguire
Mary Reilly
Sr. Ann Ryan – Elms College Faculty
Sr. Dorothy Santarpia
Susan (Serafino) Finn
Catherine Shannon
Robert Stamant



LEGACY GIVING

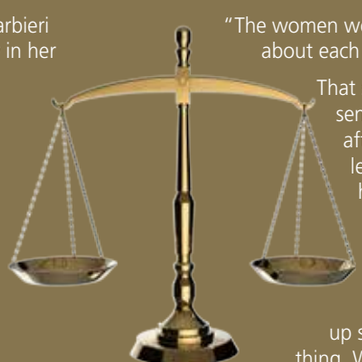
"I went out in the working world and discovered that what I could do without an education wasn't really anything that I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

— Cathy Plopper '95

Cathy Plopper '95, a paralegal in the law office of T. Mark Barbieri in Somers, Conn., has included Elms College as a beneficiary in her estate plans.

After a brief stint at a state college, Cathy decided to go directly into the working world. She returned to school in her 30s and graduated from Elms with an associate's degree in paralegal studies and a certificate of advanced paralegal studies.

"Paralegal studies was something I was always interested in, but there weren't a lot of programs around when I got out of high school," Cathy said. "My sister's friend said the Elms program was great, and I looked into it, liked what I saw and decided I would apply.



"The interactions I had with the attorneys who taught the paralegal classes were great," she said. "If someone [I knew] wanted to go to the Elms, I would tell them to go – I'll drive you there. It's a wonderful little community, and it's one of the best educational experiences that you'll ever have."

Following graduation, her connection to Elms grew through an active and very supportive alumnae group in Connecticut.

"The women were phenomenal; they were just so connected and so caring about each other. It was great," Cathy said.

That support group of alumnae helped her pursue a job prospect sent to her by the Career Services office at Elms a few years after graduation. Although the law firm originally wanted a legal secretary, Cathy says her skills impressed the lawyers into hiring a paralegal instead.

"They were very happy with my skills, and what I could do and what I knew," Cathy said. "I was on a little higher level than a couple of other people working there, because they were legal secretaries. They didn't know how to look up statutes; they didn't know how to brief cases – that sort of thing. What I learned [at Elms] helped me very much to get going in the field."

Because Cathy knows firsthand how hard it can be to pay for school while working full time, she hopes her gift will help ease the burden a little for other nontraditional students.

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, at 413-265-2214 or nowakowskib@elms.edu.

ELMS COLLEGE

291 Springfield Street
Chicopee, Massachusetts 01013-2839

SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming 2015

Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24



Blazer 5K



Beer Tasting



DJ Photo Booth



Women's Soccer Alumni Event



Men's Basketball Alumni Event



11:00 am
Field Hockey
vs. Daniel Webster College



4:30 pm
Women's Soccer
vs. Wheelock



1:30 pm
Men's Soccer
vs. Daniel Webster College



12:00 pm
Women's Volleyball
vs. Mitchell

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For more information, contact the Office of Constituent Relations at 413-265-2454 or alumni@elms.edu

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