SPRING 2016

ELMS

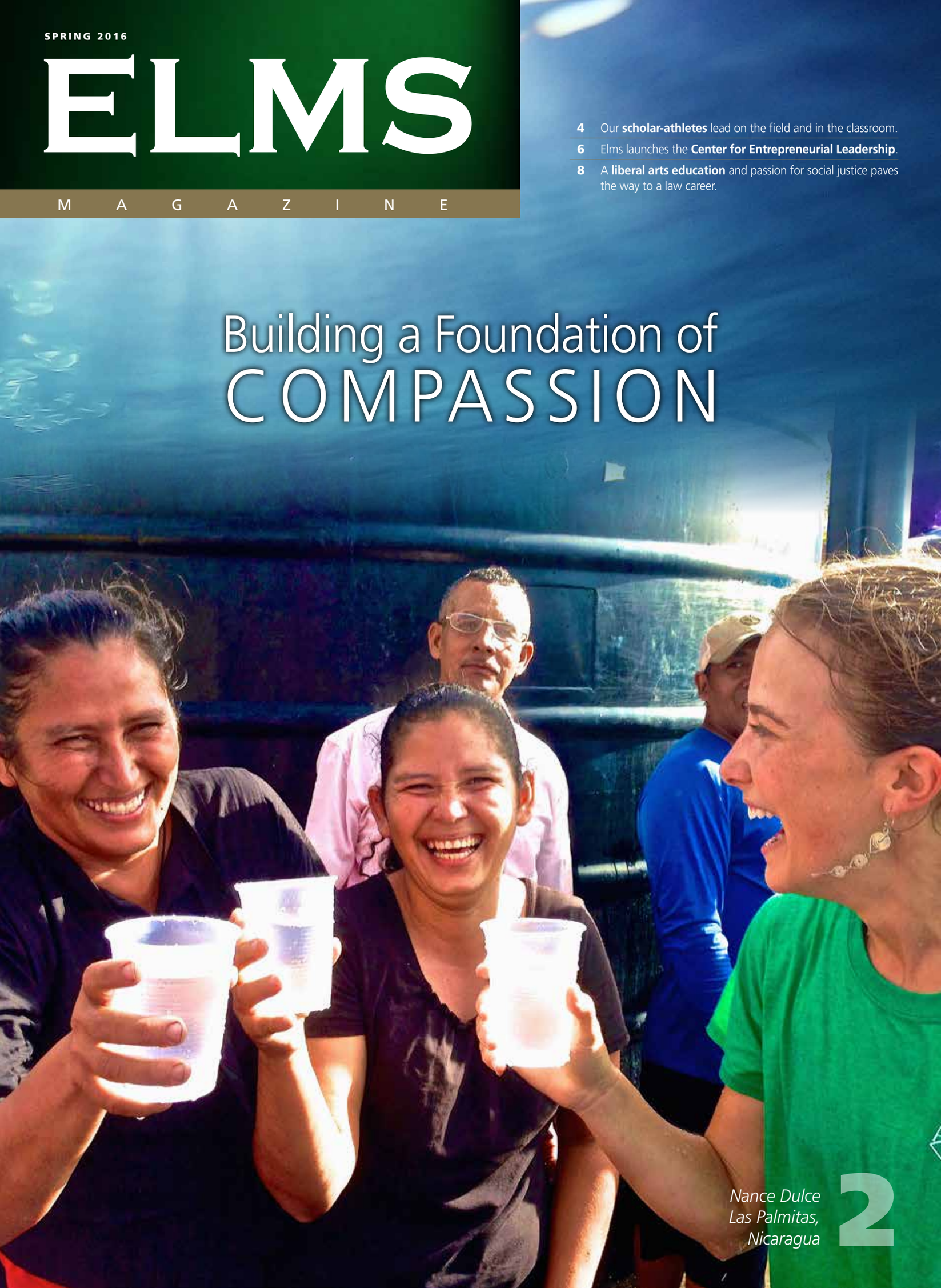
MAGAZINE

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Building a Foundation of COMPASSION



Nance Dulce
Las Palmitas,
Nicaragua



"Compassion is the keen awareness of the interdependence of all things."

—Thomas Merton

Dear friends,

As a Catholic college, the contribution we make through the education of our students continues to grow as they go out into the world, carrying the mission of the College into communities near and far.

Our featured story this month about the good work Elms students are doing on their mission trips is tangible proof of how one small merciful and compassionate act, requiring nothing but sweat and labor—digging ditches alongside Amigos for Christ—has positively changed the lives of an entire community for today and for the future. In this *Year of Mercy*, our students lead the way in teaching us about sharing the richness of God's mercy and love with all.

You will also be inspired, I think, reading about students who distinguish themselves in service, in the classroom, on the athletic field and in leadership roles. Whether through raising money, supporting the community, or teaching and advocating for others—our students and alumni are living the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

On the business front, we are excited to launch our new Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership. The Center will offer a variety of degree and non-degree certificate programs, workshops, and leadership training for students and for members of the community as they start a new business or learn to sustain an existing business.

And, finally, as you know, earlier this year we had to make the painful decision to close our Chapel. Printed below this letter you will find an invitation to join with the members of the reunion classes and all our alumni on June 4th to celebrate a liturgy of gratitude and to mark this significant change on our campus.

May this year of mercy renew in each of us the joy of the unconditional love and compassion of our loving Lord,

Sister Mary Reap, IHM

Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D.
President



Commemorative Liturgy

Please join your fellow Alumni, the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Elms Community for a Liturgy commemorating Our Lady's Chapel. This special Liturgy will be held on June 4, at 5 p.m. in Veritas Auditorium. Following the Liturgy, there will be the opportunity for picture-taking outside chapel.

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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**.



Every year, Elms students travel on semester breaks to areas both domestic and international to serve those in need. The experience is one of the deepest ways Campus Ministry instills a foundation of spirituality in Elms students. (Cover photo courtesy of Amigos For Christ)

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Building a Foundation of Compassion

NICARAGUA SERVICE MISSION TRIP



Andrew Mercado '16

Each January and March, Elms students spend their time and money during semester breaks to travel to areas both domestic and international to serve those in need. The service experience profoundly affects those involved and is one of the most personal ways that the Office of Campus Ministry instills in Elms students a foundation of spirituality, an awareness of the world as a community, and a lifelong commitment to social justice.

"When we got tired, God sent you to us to help with the work…and we will celebrate that our dreams have become a reality."

Perhaps no work done by Elms members will have more of a lasting impact on the community it serves than the work done over the past two years with Amigos for Christ in Nicaragua, the poorest country in Central America. Among its many good works, the nonprofit drills wells, and builds water and sanitation systems that provide the infrastructure to produce 100 gallons of clean water each day at every home.

"Water is the first step to changing lives," Amigos for Christ says. Improper sanitation causes intestinal parasites and diarrhea, two of the main causes of death in children under 5 in Nicaragua. Abundant water also prevents kidney disease, while access to a shower eliminates certain skin diseases.

In 2015, Amigos laid more than 154 football fields' worth of pipe (8.8 miles!), and Elms' contribution to that effort is significant: using shovels and pickaxes and a whole lot of youthful energy and elbow grease, our students dug one mile (over 5,000 feet) of trenches to enable a community water system in Nance Dulce Las Palmitas. The community celebrated their water system inauguration in February 2016.

Amigos for Christ received a letter from Darlin Isaguirres (cover photo, center) from the community Nance Dulce Las Palmitas, thanking everyone involved with Amigos for helping her community finish their water system. "When we got tired, God sent you to us to help with the work and energize us with games and dancing. Now, we see that all of the work of Amigos and our community was worth it, and we will celebrate with love and happiness that our dreams have become a reality."

On this year's service trip, the Elms group worked in Chinandega, helping to dig trenches to provide running water in La Chuscada and La Coyotera. They also did some home visits and helped with the construction of a school in La Chuscada.

"The experience in Nicaragua has opened my heart to the stories of the forgotten, living in the physical fringes of society," said Andrew Mercado '16. "Having the opportunity to walk along the route that women travel eight times a day to collect (mostly contaminated) water has challenged me to become personally aware of the calling we all share in keeping and protecting human dignity. Upon my return, I continue to ask myself, 'How is my life alleviating human suffering?' Serving alongside these people and sharing in their hopes and dreams has forever touched my life, and grounds me in humility and service."

Joining Andrew on the trip were Alexandra Chabot '17, Stefan Correira '17, Samantha Dibbern '17, Raisa Dirienzo '16, Devon LaFountain '17, Andrew Mercado '16, Maira Pantoja '16, Rosa Colon '17, Director of Campus Ministry Sr. Carol Allan and Social Work Director Maureen Holland '85.

View the 2016 Nicaragua Mission Service trip photo album: Elms College Facebook http://bit.ly/1Tjr601



A Helping Hand: Funds for Flint

Postbaccalaureate pre-health student Devin Donohoe '16 likes to listen to the news as he commutes from his home in Northfield, MA, to his job at Clinical & Support Options in Northampton. When he heard about the plight of people in Flint, Michigan — that their drinking water has been contaminated since April 2014 and as many as 12,000 children have been exposed to high lead levels — Devin made up his mind, that, as busy as he was, he needed to do something.

"The fact that the government of Michigan has failed these citizens, and now the citizens have to pay for that mistake — it's absurd," he said. "These people are without what I consider basic human needs and rights, especially in a developed country such as the United States."

"After seeing people who are suffering, I decided instead of thinking about it, I would put my thoughts into action."

"After seeing a lot of people who are suffering, I decided instead of thinking about it, I would put my thoughts into action," he said.

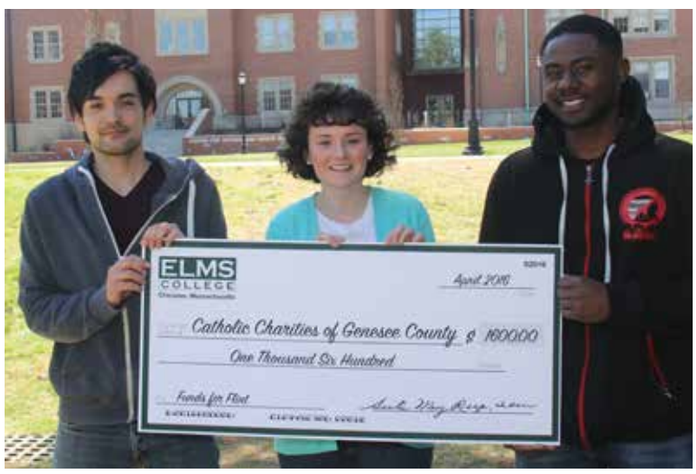
Devin has experience helping people in need: For nearly three years, he's been working fulltime for CSO's Hampshire County crisis team as a recovery advocate, making referrals and advocating for treatments. He also helps run the CARES (Community Addiction Recovery Education and Support) program created by the Opioid Task Force in Greenfield through a grant from the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership.

"I meet with clients in need to see what they think about their use, what they want to do with their habit, and I see what we can do to either reduce the use or help stop the use altogether," Devin said.

Devin took his plan to help Flint to Director Sr. Carol Allan and Assistant Director Eileen Kirk in the Office of Campus Ministry. Sr. Carol contacted Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties, which recommended that funds be collected and then sent in the form of a check. **From mid-February to Easter, Devin set a goal of raising $1,500. He solicited help from other postbac students and the Student Nurse Association** to help collect funds, and got a number of businesses throughout the Pioneer Valley to allow them to place donation cans in their establishments.

At the end of his deadline, **the project had exceeded his goal and raised $1,600**; Devin had also received inquiries from other schools interested in joining the effort, such as students of Bethany Theis at St. Michael's Catholic School in Brattleboro, VT, who to date have raised more than $500 for Flint.

"I was surprised by the number of people, both from Elms and the outside community, willing to participate in the fundraiser," Devin said. "It was so nice to see that our community is interested in uniting to show compassion for those who are in need of help. In addition, it was a great learning experience for me."



Postbac Devin Donohoe '16 (left) with incoming Student Nurse Association President Molly Sullivan '18 and fellow postbac Jim Albert '17.


Patrick Goonan '16 and Connor O'Grady '16


Madison Jung '18


Brian Benson '16

Blazers Rack Up Athletic, Academic Honors

TAKING THE LEAD



For marketing major **Dimitri Tessier '17**, his senior year will be about one thing: leadership, both on the basketball court, where he's been a Blazer guard for three years, and off, where he is now in his third year as a resident advisor.

The Athletics Department recognized his leadership qualities: Athletic Director Ellen McEwen suggested that he apply for a Division III ethnic minority grant [designed to help more minorities forge careers in Division III college athletics] to attend the NCAA Convention in San Antonio in January. Dimitri was selected to represent Elms at the convention, along with 40 other Division III students from across the country under the grant.

Brockton, MA, native Dimitri says he was struck by the common issues faced by students at the schools, no matter where they were from or how big their schools were.

"Even though Elms is not UMass or Amherst College, they go through the same issues we do," he said, such as how to address diversity and LGBT issues.

Another common theme, he says, was student activism. "It was just so consistent among every student I spoke to, how they're just trying to initiate things, because [college] is the best time to do that," he said.

Fall 2015 Necc All-Academic Team

Elms College led the New England Collegiate Conference (NECC) with 34 Elms College scholar-athletes named to the NECC Academic All-Conference team for the 2015 fall semester. To make the NECC Academic All-Conference, a student-athlete must be at least a sophomore and post a minimum grade-point average of 3.40 on a scale of 4.00. Continuing the scholastic honors, the U.S. Track & Field and Division III Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) ranked the Elms women's team 21st in the nation and the men's team 63rd in the country.

Athletic Honors

2015-16 New England Collegiate Conference (NECC) All-Conference team named **Jerry Buchanon '16** (Windsor, CT) Player of the Year and First Team All-Conference. **Symon Smith '17** (Oklahoma City, OK) and **Conny Ihearahu '17** (Largo, MD) received Third Team All-NECC awards.

Two members of the Elms College women's basketball team were selected to the 2015-16 New England Collegiate Conference (NECC) All-Conference team. **JC Pickett '16** (Chicopee, MA) and **Emily Burr '17** (East Hartford, CT) claimed Second Team All-NECC honors.

The Elms College men's and women's swimming teams wrapped up the 2015-16 season, setting new individual and relay school records at the 2016 New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Association (NEISDA) championship.

Nick Cirillo '17 (Gloversville, NY) qualified for the 2015-16 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championships.

Men's Volleyball players, **Gabriel Reis Levy '18**, First Team Award (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and **Daniel Bondarovsky '18**, Second Team Award (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) earned 2015-16 New England Collegiate Conference (NECC) All-Conference team honors.

Michelle Rossignol '16 (Manchester, CT), **Kathleen Tuechler '17** (Farmingdale, NY) and **Rachel Connell '17** (Easthampton, MA), **Brie Voight '18** (Springfield, MA) and **Jackie Soucia '18** (Belchertown, MA) were named 2015 New England Collegiate Conference (NECC) Women's Soccer All-Conference selections

Abby McNulty '16 (Bedford, MA) and **Marie Lafortune '17** (Southwick, MA) were selected to the 2015 New England Collegiate Conference (NECC) Field Hockey All-Conference teams.

FACULTY NEWS



Tom Cerasulo, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Humanities and Fine Arts, was promoted to full professor.



Sr. Ann Daly, S.N.D., Ed.D., has had a poem titled "The Swan" published in *Indus Streams*, an online journal sponsored by the School of Journalism & Mass Communication at Apeejay Stya University in Gurgaon, Haryana, India. She is also preparing a manuscript of poetry titled "Collage," which should be available this summer.



Síle Dolan, the Irish Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant for 2015-2016 has worked with her students and the International Club to organize Irish cultural events throughout the year: playing native sports Gaelic football and hurling, and also making Irish Christmas cards and Brigid's crosses for the feast of St. Brigid (pictured). Under her guidance, the Elms Choir even sang "Silent Night" in Irish for the annual tree-lighting ceremony before Christmas.



Janice Fedor, M.B.A., lecturer in business management, will graduate from American International College with her Ed.D in leadership and supervision in May. Her dissertation topic is "The Influence of Cohort Models of Education on Women's Learning Styles," and she conducted research on the Elms-HCC bachelor's degree completion program.



John K. Gould, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Division of Communication Sciences and Disorders, was granted tenure. He has been at Elms College since 2008.



Anthony Fonseca, Ph.D., has co-authored and co-edited, with June Pulliam of Louisiana State University, *Ghosts in Popular Culture and Legend*, which is due out from Greenwood Press in August of 2016. He is now working on a co-authored book for Scarecrow Press with Paige Willson of The University of Houston and Melissa U. D. Goldsmith of Westfield State: an encyclopedia of films about musicians and bands, with emphasis on film music and production design. In addition, his co-owned record label, Dapper Kitty Music of Northampton, released its first album/CD in August 2015 (Those Fabulous Hippies, "Bee Sides & Rarities") and another in February 2016 (Noizy Library, "Chimera"). The label specializes in indie, retro and dance music, plus spoken-word (poetry) works, with plans to release two new albums/CDs released by December 2016. Fonseca acts as guest musician, lyricist, licensing/copyright specialist, and one of two music engineers/mixers on the projects.



Maureen Holland '85, M.S.W., director of social work, received tenure this year and was also named an associate professor. She has appeared on local TV several times this academic year to comment on recent events in child welfare and DCF.



Dr. Jason Burke Murphy, assistant professor of philosophy, was featured in an article about Universal Basic Income in *Quartz*, a web magazine focused on a business and economics that is put out by the same publishers as *The Atlantic*. Also, his essay "On Virtue, Irony, and Glory: The Pitch and the People" will be published in an upcoming book on soccer. He also was interviewed by Pawel Strawinski for the February issue of the Polish internet magazine *Biznes Onet*.



Caroline Murray, J.D., associate professor of paralegal and legal studies, traveled to Ireland in march to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising 1916. Her great-aunt was honored for her involvement in the uprising.



Christine M. Schrauf, Ph.D., R.N., M.B.A., associate professor of nursing, was granted tenure.



Nina Theis, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, was awarded sabbatical for the spring 2017 semester and will spend the semester at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Jena, Germany, working with professor Jonathan Gershenzon in the department of Biochemistry. The title of her research project is "Inducing plant defenses to increase plant productivity: The next green revolution may come from the soil."

Elms Launches Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership: Hands-On, Real-World Business Education

Elms College is thrilled to announce the launch of its new Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (CEL), which will expand business education offerings at the college to serve both our student population and the greater business community, through a hands-on, real-world approach. The Center will be housed in newly renovated space in Berchmans Hall later this spring.

The Center was made possible by a generous donor gift. It was their vision that Elms become a school of choice for those seeking to learn cutting-edge business practices.

"In this time of a rapidly emerging entrepreneurial society," shared Elms College President Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D., "we need to create a flexible structure to accommodate not only degree work but also certificate programs, workshops, consulting services and other assistance needed to make sure that within our community and in our classrooms, entrepreneurs were equipped not only to start a business but, more importantly, to sustain it over time."

The Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership was developed with that goal in mind. President Reap and Elms faculty have worked closely with focus groups comprising area businesses and officials to assess the specific needs of the local business community.

The center has begun to develop a portfolio of programs– degree, workshops and offerings available in a flexible format, using approaches that forgo traditional methods of starting a business, such as having a comprehensive business plan, in favor of a design that allows entrepreneurs and start-ups to adjust quickly to changing market conditions.

Amanda Garcia, assistant professor of accounting, was appointed director of the CEL in January. "We have an opportunity to provide hands-on learning experience," Garcia said. "That was one of the major things that came out of the focus groups: 'We need it to be real, and we need it to be hands-on.' "

To that end, the CEL will incorporate Lean Launchpad, a startup methodology in which new businesses receive immediate feedback from customers in the marketplace during the business launch. "We know that the majority of businesses fail in the first five years, and a big cause of that is due to not understanding specific core business concepts or the marketplace needs," Garcia noted. The Lean Launchpad model allows startups owners to learn as they grow their businesses and react to market demands.

The CEL's academic offerings will include an interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in entrepreneurship, which will launch in the fall 2016 semester. Future plans include integrating it "into an entrepreneurship track in our MBA," Garcia said, "and we will explore the needs in the marketplace around business growth strategies and programming related to business growth, and mergers and acquisitions."

The entrepreneurship track will join existing accounting, healthcare leadership and management tracks in the Elms MBA program.



MEET THE DIRECTOR

AMANDA GARCIA, the director of the new CEL, is also an assistant professor of accounting at Elms College. She earned her her B.A. with a concentration in accounting from Elms, and a master of science in accounting (M.S.A.) from Western New England University. She holds a non-reporting license as a certified public accountant in the state of Massachusetts and is the sole proprietor of Huston LLC, a tax practice. She was recognized as BusinessWest magazine's "40 under 40" class of 2010, serves as an active member of the Young Professional Society of Greater Springfield, and volunteers regularly with Western Massachusetts Junior Achievement.

Kim Kenney Rockwal, MBA, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, director of the MBA program, agrees that the CEL and the MBA program will have tremendous synergy in the offerings they provide to students, both in college credit and non-credit programs.

The Elms MBA program was established in 2013 and recently became one of only eight schools in all of Massachusetts to be accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE).

"We can meet the needs in parallel and align with our programming to meet the needs of businesses, and workforce needs as well," Kenney-Rockwal said of the CEL and MBA.

"The leadership gap that exists out there is really where we can fill those voids, from both fronts, on the MBA side and the CEL side."

"Elms College also has a mission to give back to the community," Garcia said. "We know that economic development and entrepreneurship is a big part of making our community better, so we're planning to offer workshops and Lean Launchpad boot camps on weekends, to help people flesh out their ideas. We are also planning programming to help them learn what to do once they flesh out those ideas."

The CEL will also partner with the college's nursing and science programs.

"I see great opportunity in collaborating with the Elms Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership in the development of an interdisciplinary healthcare leadership program for master's-prepared and certified nurse practitioners, as well as master's-prepared clinical nurse leaders who seek the doctor of nursing practice," said Dr. Kathleen Scoble, dean of the School of Nursing. "We believe that the Lean Launchpad is an excellent methodology, well matched for nursing and healthcare, and an extraordinary learning opportunity for these advanced nursing students."

"For our biomedical technology program, we're looking to incorporate Lean Launchpad in bringing research to commercialization," Garcia said. "It's one thing to have research, and it's another thing to commercialize it and make money off of it. The National Science Foundation has partnered with Lean Launchpad on the national level to be the main method of bringing scientific research to the marketplace."

From Career Assistance to Business Development



After nearly five years as director of career development, Nancy Davis, M.B.A. '15, has accepted a new position as business development specialist for the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (CEL) at Elms College.

Prior to joining Elms, Nancy was a recruiter/manager for a firm specializing in technical recruitment for Fortune 500 companies. She is a MBTI certified practitioner and certified appreciative adviser, and a member of National Association of Colleges and Employers and the National Career Development Association.

In her new position, Nancy will "build recruitment, opportunities and connections for the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and the MBA program by developing, strengthening and creating relationships with the community, businesses and prospective students." she said. "I will look for and collaborate with people and organizations on new business opportunities."

She was drawn to the new position because it "is a way for me to challenge myself in a new role while assisting with the growth of current programs and the new Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership," she said. "As a recent graduate of our MBA program, I am excited to represent it and what it can offer to prospective students to further develop their careers."

Her years as director of career development will have value in her new role, Nancy said, because "I was continuously introducing people to other people and opportunities, helping students create their plans for a career and establishing new business relationships."

A Community Gathering Understanding of Workforce Needs

On April 1, 2016, President Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D. hosted an executive breakfast event for members of our local community, including legislators, elected officials, business owners and corporate CEOs.

At the event, the president introduced the new Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (CEL), established in part to provide community education opportunities centered around startups. The event also included smaller group discussions facilitated by faculty and staff to gain feedback and improve understanding of regional workforce needs through the voices of the executive attendees.







LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION

Pathway to a Legal Career

ELMS COLLEGE

Law might not seem like an obvious career path for someone with both undergraduate and graduate degrees in religion, but for Lauren Sparks '10 it makes perfect sense because of her passion for social justice causes, something "instilled in me at a young age and certainly fostered at Elms," she said.

A native of West Brookfield—a small town in Worcester County—Lauren majored in English and religious studies at Elms, where she graduated with a 4.0 GPA before heading to Yale University's Divinity School. She graduated from there in May 2012 with a master of arts in religion with a concentration in world Christianity and African missions. She also worked as a research assistant to former ambassador Dr. Sallama Shaker and as a community outreach coordinator, participating in a grassroots effort to solicit participants for drug and substance addiction treatment.

Yale Divinity School

It was while at Yale that Lauren, who has always considered herself a spiritual person, says her faith "was challenged tremendously" by her studies, but also enhanced by her exposure to a number of different faiths. As a result, "I think my faith has become stronger because of that experience," she said.



Although she applied to—and was accepted into—a Ph.D. program at the University of Massachusetts, she chose instead to pursue a degree at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., because "as rewarding as I found the academic pursuit of a master's degree, I wanted to be more proactive in living out my calling, which is to help people as a servant of the community," Lauren said.

She first gained experience in serving others at Elms, participating in two service trips to Jamaica, one to Honduras and one to Appalachia, as well as volunteering locally by tutoring and participating in the work of the Office of Campus Ministry.

That service continued at Georgetown, she said, which "is located next to the largest homeless shelter in the country." There she worked on the Job Squad, helping homeless people fill out job applications and write resumes.

GEORGETOWN LAW

During her time at Georgetown, Lauren also worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office in its homicide department and for the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. She also clerked for a federal magistrate judge and worked for a public interest law firm, assisting refugees, and published an article in a scholarly law journal addressing the racial injustice faced by asylum seekers.

The plight of refugees, particularly as expressed by some candidates in the current presidential race, "is very upsetting to me, professionally, personally and spiritually," said Lauren, whose mother, Maria, emigrated from Colombia. She added that "working with refugees grew and strengthened my faith more than any educational experience I've ever had. And their perseverance is the greatest testament to God's existence and his presence in everyday life that I've ever observed."

She received her juris doctorate degree in May 2015, and she earned the International Academy of Trial Lawyers Advocacy Award that same month. She took the Massachusetts bar exam in July and was sworn in as a practicing attorney in Massachusetts in November 2015.

After a very competitive selection process, Lauren is now completing a yearlong judicial clerkship at the Connecticut Appellate Court. That clerkship ends this summer, and then she'll be working as an assistant district attorney in Massachusetts beginning in the fall of 2016. "I thought it would be just invaluable for my future as a litigator," Lauren said of the clerkship.

Her career as a prosecutor will "enable [her] to empower the vulnerable, listen and respond to the voiceless, and learn from the people that society often forgets or chooses to ignore," she said, adding that the job of the DA's office "is to serve the community."

TEACHER, TEACHER!

Teacher(s) by the Dozen

Claire Howard, M.A.T. '16, got a job at Westfield's Highland Elementary School in November 2015—before she had even finished student teaching. At the time, she had no idea that she was entering a ready-made Elms alumni group, but she quickly learned that a dozen staff members are either graduates, certificate recipients or former adjunct faculty of the College of Our Lady of the Elms.

"It's nice that we can share our experiences," said Claire, who earned her M.A.T. in English as a second language (ESL) at Elms in December 2015. She appreciates the support of fellow Elms ESL teacher **Sheryl Yelle, M.A.T. '94, CAGS '04**. "We talk about the writing workshop that we took at Elms, how wonderful it is and how successful it's been for us in the classroom."

"I think it prepared me very well," said **Anna Antropova, M.A.T. '09**, who also teaches ESL at Highland. "What I really enjoyed about Elms was how personal it got: the conversations and discussions we had, and the sharing. It was not something just for a check mark or for the grade—it was a really, really meaningful experience for me."

"I think I'm a much better teacher for having gone to the Elms," said **Trish Wysocki**, who earned her certificate of advanced graduate study (CAGS) at Elms in 2003.

The Elms education program prepares future teachers by getting them out into real classrooms "from their first class, their first semester," said **Mary Claffey Janeczek, Ed.D.**, professor of education and chair of the Education Div.

The college's solid relationships with area schools help expose the first-year students to life in the classroom. As juniors, students do field work in classrooms for both semesters, and again for the first half of their senior year. In the last semester before graduation, students are expected to spend 12 weeks as full-time student teachers, job-shadowing established teachers.

"So student teaching [at Elms] is not like being plunged into cold water," Janeczek said. "They've been wading in for three and a half years."

The school's reputation for producing well-prepared teachers, and the fact that once a school has employed an Elms alumnus they often want another one, means that principals start calling Janeczek in August for recommendations to fill open positions, she said.

Of Elms education majors graduating in 2014 and 2015, every graduate who applied for a job got one, Janeczek said. "I think that says our grads are sought after, and they know that if they get through our program, they are going to be great first-year teachers," she said.



Elms alumnae on staff at Highland Elementary School in Westfield are, left to right: Claire Howard '16, Debra Horton '15, Blerina Ademi '10, Trish Wysocki '03, Sheryl Yelle '94 '04, and Sue Moore '98 '04.

Susan Moore, M.A.T. ’98, CAGS ’04, agrees. “We’ve noticed a difference in teachers who graduated from Elms and teachers who didn’t,” she said. Sue, an English language-learner coach, has been at Highland for 19 years.

Another important component to the success of the Elms education program, the Highland teachers all agreed, was its highly supportive faculty. This has often been a deciding factor when future teachers considered which program to attend. “When I met Mary Janeczek, that sealed the deal for me,” Claire said. “I met with her and I thought, ‘This is where I belong.’ ”

“She pushed me, she challenged me, and she gave me a lot of self-confidence that I didn’t have before that,” Trish said of Mary.

“She had such good constructive criticism,” added Sheryl Yelle. “She’s wonderful. I can’t say enough about her, either.”

“I felt very, very respected at the Elms—respected as an accomplished professional in my own right, and then inspired to learn and do new things,” said **Debra Horton, M.A.T. ’15**, who worked as a graduate assistant for Mary Janeczek. “And now I’m here at Highland and doing great work, and feeling extremely well prepared for what I do.”

Educating the Educators

Here is just a partial list of schools and colleges where Elms education graduates are employed:

- Academy Hill School, Springfield
- Berkshire School, Sheffield
- Coburn Elementary School, West Springfield
- Edward Bellamy Middle School, Chicopee
- Gill Elementary School
- Holyoke Catholic School
- Holyoke Community Charter School
- Lubavitcher Yeshiva Academy, Longmeadow
- Ludlow High School
- McMahon School, Holyoke
- Munger Hill Elementary, Westfield
- Palmer High School
- Randolph
- Rockland Public Schools
- Springfield Public Schools
- St. Agnes Academy, Houston, Texas
- St. Joan of Arc School, Chicopee
- Sullivan School, Holyoke
- South Hadley
- Southwick
- Bay Path University
- Medgar Evers College, City University of New York
- Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, MD



Elms at Highland

- Blerina Ademi ’10
- Yelena Alekseyevets
- Anna Antropova M.A.T. ’09
- Claire Howard M.A.T. ’16
- Debra Horton M.A.T. ’15
- Natalia Koffman
- Barb MacKenzie-Rodgers CAGS ’94
- Susan Moore M.A.T. ’98 CAGS ’04
- Luciana (Santaniello) Snow ’01, MEd ’06.
- Luciana Snow
- Nina Tarasyuk
- Trish Wysocki CAGS ’03
- Sheryl Yelle M.A.T. ’94, CAGS ’04

ALUMNI BOARD MEMBER

Accounting Grad Leverages Degree for Business Success

Network, network, network: That's what accounting and business management major Darius Griffin '13 says was the most important lesson he learned at Elms. "The biggest thing I got from college was networking. That's what all our business professors put on us, and networking at Elms gave me a lot of opportunities," Darius said.

He currently lives in Adams, Mass., and until recently worked as a finance manager for the Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center (aka Girls Inc. of the Berkshires) in Pittsfield. Now he is a program performance management analyst at General Dynamics Mission Systems, also in Pittsfield—a position he first discovered through his network of business contacts.

In this new job, he performs cost analysis and provides reports to program managers in the organization. "Elms prepared me for this position by giving me a solid foundation in business," Darius said. "Now I keep learning and using the things Elms gave me."

Originally from Winterhaven, Fla., where his parents still live, Darius moved north to Western Massachusetts because he was recruited to play basketball for the Blazers. He has proud memories of playing power forward on the team: "My freshman, sophomore and senior years, we won the conference championship. We went to NCAA tournaments two years I was here."

Before he met with the Elms coach, he was not familiar with the school. "But I came up for the visit and I just fell in love," he said. "I love the sense of community here: It felt like family. It wasn't like I was a number; I felt like it was a community, like you knew everybody.

"And being able to build a relationship with your professors, building a relationship with your friends—it's helped me, step by step, get where I am now."

Darius was active on campus, and not just on the basketball court. "My freshman, sophomore and junior years, I was treasurer of the Student Government Association. Senior year I moved up to vice president," he said. "And I worked with Junior Achievement and Homework House throughout those four years."

Even after graduation, he has remained active at Elms, serving as a member and now treasurer of the alumni board. "Being on this board has shown me that there are so many opportunities. I've been learning a lot from different people, different perspectives," Darius said. "It's a great networking opportunity, because there are people from all over the place."

And he's always looking for new challenges and opportunities. "I want to keep growing. I want to own my own business or be in upper management, senior management one day," he said. "That's one of my biggest goals; that's what my parents instilled in me. I get my drive from my parents—I tell everybody that."



President Reap with Alumni Board member Darius Griffin '13 at Reunion 2015.

LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Elms Alumni,

Summer is the perfect time for fun, laughter and relaxed conversation, preferably by the water.

Whether you want to cheer with excitement and sing *Sweet Caroline*, or relax in a lovely setting and enjoy a delicious meal with former classmates, the Alumni Office has planned two opportunities for your choosing.

On Sunday, June 19, 2016 Elms College Alumni will travel to America's Most Beloved Ballpark. That's right, the Boston Red Sox trip is back! Join us at Bertucci's in Kenmore Square for an all-you- can eat lunch at 11:00 a.m., then walk over to the park for first pitch at 1:35 p.m. Don't miss out on this opportunity to watch the Boston Red Sox take on the Seattle Mariners with other Elms College Alumni! Tickets are $60 for alumni and $70 for friends of Elms College. You may register online at elms.edu/BostonRedSox.

On Tuesday, July 27, 2016 Elms College alumni will once again gather on Cape Cod for a luncheon at Eastward Ho! Country Club in Chatham, MA. Enjoy a social hour by the beautiful golf course of Eastward Ho!, a delicious lunch and a *State of the College* update from Sr. Mary Reap, President. The cost of this luncheon is $40 for alumni and $55 for friends of Elms College. Online registration can be found at elms.edu/capecodluncheon

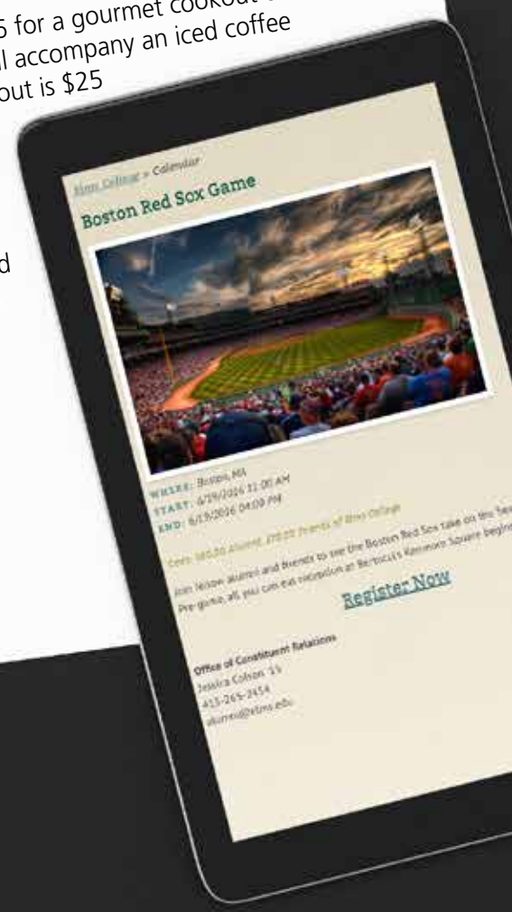
If you are interested in catching up with classmates closer to campus, join us on June 4, 2016 for a gourmet cookout on the Keating Quadrangle beginning at 6:00 p.m. An array of decadent burgers and salads will accompany an iced coffee bar and DJ as we dance the night away with old and new friends! Registration for the cookout is $25 per person, and can be completed online by visiting elms.edu/reunion2016bbq.

Whether you are a frequent attendee or you haven't attended an alumni event in a while, it is always a good time to participate! The Alumni Board is currently accepting applications for new board members, and all alumni are welcome to apply. The Alumni Board is a great way to make sure your voice is heard, share your ideas and stay involved with your alma mater. Please contact the office of alumni relations at alumni@elms.edu for more information on how to apply.

In this highly "connected" world, we Elms alumni know that nothing is better than gathering with old friends for catching up, laughter, cheering and sharing memories. Let's show people how Elms alumni stay connected! I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Judy Zeh
Alumni Association Board of Directors



Alumni Association Board Members

Executive Officers

Judith Zeh '77, *president*

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

Jean Brigham '69

Diane (Nawskon) Brunelle '84

Patricia (McDonald) Humiston '05

Michelle Lancto '87

Janyce Prendergast '12

Tania Spear '99

Theresa (Cabana) Stec '78

Ex-Officio Members

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

Carla Oleska, *Institutional Advancement*

Sr. Eileen Murphy, *SSJ representative*

Sr. Mary Pestice, *SSJ representative*

Christine Fay, Ph.D., *faculty liaison*

Kelan O'Brien '17, *student representative*

ALUMNI SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Friday, June 3 Green & Gold Club Golf Classic

Show your support for Elms athletics and spend a day on the links. The Green & Gold Club, the fundraising arm of the Elms College Department of Athletics, is hosting the 2016 Golf Classic at Chicopee Country Club. Event begins at 9 a.m., shotgun start at 10 a.m. All tournament players receive green fees and cart, tournament gift bag, lunch on the course, social hour and dinner at the course. Team and individual prizes will be awarded following dinner.

More at elms.edu/golfclassic

Register by May 20

$150/pp-$600/foursome GOLD ('06-'16) alumni $100/pp

For additional registration information please contact:
Scott Netkovick at 413-265-2433 or netkovicks@elms.edu



Thursday, June 9 Career Summit

Job hunting? Need to update your resume? Big interview coming up? Join us for an interview and resume workshop to improve your skills for the job search process. Hosted by the Elms College MBA program, includes light refreshments.

4:30-7:00 p.m.
Alumnae Library Well
Elms Alumni: $15

Register by May 31 at elms.edu/careersummit



Sunday, June 19 Red Sox vs. Mariners

Alumni and friends are heading to America's most beloved ballpark to watch the Boston Red Sox take on the Seattle Mariners. Although the game begins at 1:35 p.m., please join us for an all-you-can-eat reception at Bertucci's in Kenmore Square beginning at 11:00 a.m. Tickets are $60 for alumni and $70 for friends of Elms College.

To register, call 413-265-2454, or online at elms.edu/BostonRedSox



Sunday, June 19 Cape Cod Luncheon

Cape Cod Luncheon at Eastward Ho! Country Club, Chatham MA. The cost of the luncheon is $40 for alumni and $55 for friends of Elms College.

To register, call 413-265-2454 or online at elms.edu/capecodluncheon



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 1 Family Weekend

More information coming soon.



Grace Ann Van Deventer



Christine Tetreault '80



Christine Halloran '86 and her students in Cuba



Meghan's Light founders and supporters

Julie (Corcoran) Van Deventer '65 and her husband, Joseph, welcomed the birth of their first grandchild, Grace Ann Van Deventer, daughter of Timothy and Stephanie Van Deventer. Grace was born on January 2, 2016; she weighed 6 lbs and was 19 in. long.

Ann Di Maria-Haines,'74 and her husband Michael are the proud parents of two sets of twins. The older twins Annemarie and Peter will be 32 in June. The younger twins, Donon and Christina will be 27 in April. The older set are both married, and their daughter Annemarie and her wonderful husband Bryan will make them grandparents very soon. Ann's husband was ordained a deacon in the Archdiocese of Hartford in 2008. Ann retired from teaching several years ago and is now working as a private caregiver; she loves working with the elderly.

Christine Tetreault '80 has recently opened a new business: LOCUS Digital Forensic Solutions LLC preforms data extraction and analysis from electronic devices. Christine also continues her law practice, having been admitted to the Massachusetts bar after graduating from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1990.

Christine Halloran '86 accompanied the North Shore High School performance tour of Cuba during the February recess. The school was invited by the Cuban Ministry of Cultural Affairs shortly after President Obama's recent efforts to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba. North Shore's group of 71 students and 10 teachers was among the first American public schools to perform since the embargo in 1960. "While there, our orchestra, wind ensemble, and choral groups gave performances at the Teatro Nacional in Havana, the Teatro Tomas Terry in Cienfuegos, and La Caridad Teatro in Santa Clara," Christine said. "We were also treated to performances by Cuban choral groups at each location. The highlight of the trip was our exchange with the Guillermo Tomas Conservatory in Santa Clara. Students from North Shore and Cuba performed for each other and came together to learn a choral/dance piece that they performed together. Many students made connections and exchanged email addresses to continue communicating with their new Cuban friends. On our last night, we were treated to dinner and entertainment at the Hotel Nacional, complete with rides to the farewell event in antique convertible cars. Students and teachers alike said the experience of this trip was life-changing and they will treasure the memories until they can visit again."

Cheryl (Newman) Green '90 graduated from the nursing program in 1990. She is now a nursing professor at Southern Connecticut State University and completed her second doctorate, a DNP, in May 2015. Cheryl also teaches adjunct as online faculty for the RN-BSN program at the University of Bridgeport, and works as a nurse leader at Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut. She will be ever thankful to the faculty, the sisters, fellow classmates and Father Tim for having such a powerful impact on her life.

Diane Kieras-Ciolkos '92 and her sister, **Linda Kieras Kenny '96**, along with nine other dedicated board members (including her mom, Dr. Betty Hukowicz, dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies) launched Meghan's Light Inc. in 2015 to honor and remember the beautiful life of **Meghan Hukowicz Zoll '00**. The mission of Meghan's Light is to support finding a cure for cystic fibrosis, and to inspire hope and courage in patients, families and communities impacted by the disease. For more information, visit www.meghanslight.com.

Lisa Scarlet '93 is now in her 10th year as the theater arts director for Apple Tree Arts in Grafton. Apple Tree Arts initially started with programs for elementary kids grades 2 to 5, and now the programs serve children from grade 1 up to 12.

Emily (Armstrong) Biro '07 and her husband, **Jonathan Biro '06**, welcomed their first son, Charlie, on May 13, 2015.

Alyssa (Zmaczynski) Ryan '09 recently switched careers from early childhood/ESL education to higher education. She started working as a grants assistant at Hampshire College in January 2016.

Destinee Meeker '11, a teacher at McMahon School in Holyoke, is a recipient of a Valley Excellence in Teaching Award from the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation. This award celebrates successful teaching practices in the classroom, professional growth, good attendance and an enthusiasm for teaching and working with children.

Margaret Miller '11, a teacher at Holyoke's Sullivan School, is a recipient of a 2016 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award from the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation. Margaret earned her M.Ed. at Elms and has been teaching in Holyoke for the past 15 years. Margaret realizes the importance of student engagement, which is perhaps why her students are among the top performers in the district on standardized tests.

Madeleine Taylor '11 will receive her M.Ed. in rehabilitation counseling from Springfield College in May 2016.

Kristin Trznadel '12 and her husband welcomed twins, Ava and Peter, into the world in 2016. Mom, Dad and big sister Emily are all very excited.



IN MEMORIAM

Alumni:
Beverly Ann Gouvin
Marion (Haffke) McMahon ’41
Eileen (Shea) Walsh ’41
Katharine Shea ’43
Dorothy Caswell ’45
The Hon. Ann M. Gibbons ’48
Carol DiCicco Cook ’50
Margaret Cheney ’50
Evelyn Crevier ’50
Margaret (Jasper) Hebert ’50
Arlene Blake ’51
Theresa (Bourdeau) La Porte ’51
Arlene Lynch ’51
Elizabeth A. Schube ’51
Catherine T. Murphy ’52
Ann Levine ’53
Mary (Nai) Oster ’53
Claire (Bianco) Gamari ’54
Lucille Morin ’54
Joan Baker ’55
Sr. Joseph Anna Hines ’55
Sr. Norma MacDonald ’56
Sr. Grace Belforti ’58
Mary Spencer ’58
Patricia Salvon ’61
Jane G. Dunne ’63
Jeanne (Chick) Rose ’64
Judith (Donnelly) Bartlewski ’65
Susan J. Danton ’65
Phyllis (Stevens) Thomas ’67
Eleanor Hepburn ’69
Loretta Ferraro ’70
Margaret Harte-St.Peter ’70
Eddy Belle (Morris) Edwards ’85
Kellie (Gomeau) Oppenheimer ’92
Shannon K. Wilson ’95
Liana Ciaglo ’07
Tracy Cheatle ’13

Mother of:
Kathleen T. Warchol ’71
Jerry O’Connor-Fix ’75
Marybeth Boczon ’92
Beata Horvath ’98
Janyce Prendergast ’12
Amy Roque ’12
Cheryl Condon ’03

Father of:
Patricia (Warner) Vachon ’77
Marianne Netkovick ’93

Husband of:
Maureen Fritz ’52 (deceased)
Carolyn Connelly ’60
Aimee Morrison-Hefron ’95

Sister of:
Leslie Seander Hamilton ’80

Son of:
Gail Cicio Ireland ’59

Daughter of:
Joan (Vaughan) Seander ’51

Grandmother of:
Kimberly Phillips ’10
Carolyn Talmadge ’12
Elissa Merchant ’15

Grandfather of:
Jessica Colson ’15
Marianne Netkovick ’93

Friends of the College:
William Collins – Former Trustee
Rev. Hugh Crean – Former Trustee
William Putnam – Former Trustee
James F. Sullivan – Former Trustee
Morrison Ferrier – Former Adjunct Faculty
Suzanne O’Donnell – Former Staff
Walter Boguslawski
Ruth F. Collins
Robert F. Connelly
Ernest Fritz
Sylvia Merriman
Kathleen T. (Reid) O’Brien
Bertha Paquet
Mary Rivers
Barbara Weissbrod



Legacy Giving

Lorraine Kelly Young ’56 and Marilyn McClernon Wilkins ’56 have known each other a long time—more than 60 years. Both majored in biology at Elms; both married, became mothers, had long professional careers, and spent decades in service to their communities. And, when it came time for their 50th reunion in 2006, they both became members of the Living Legacy Society.

“The reason I gave the gift is that I was very appreciative of having my degree and having a career,” said Marilyn, who retired after a career as a junior high science teacher in Old Saybrook, CT, public schools. She has two children. Marilyn served on the boards of directors of Lyme and Salem land trusts, and is active in the Lyme garden club.

“I came from a very hard-working family, and coming here was really a privilege,” said Lorraine, who, after a successful career in the banking industry, went on to have an equally successful career in the arts, serving on the Connecticut State Commission on the Arts and as executive director of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. “I thought that my mother would really appreciate my doing this.” Lorraine, a mother of six, received the Distinguished Alumni Award at Elms in 2002. She currently serves on the board of finance in the town of Branford, CT.

Now in their early 80s, both women realize that it can be difficult to plan for future needs and know what you can comfortably give, but they both stress that you don’t have to win the lottery to make a lasting impact on the campus and in the lives of Elms students.

“I feel it’s an obligation,” Marilyn said. “The sacrifices that the nuns and everyone made — you feel like you owe a debt to the college.”

Both women encourage their classmates and others returning for Reunion 2016 to consider joining them as members of the Living Legacy Society.

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



Reunion 2016 | June 3-4

Golf Classic | Commerative Liturgy | Gourmet Cookout
President's Luncheon | Tours | Athletics Roundtable | More

Register by May 18 elms.edu/reunion2016
or call Jessica Colson at **413-265-2454**