SPRING 2018

ELMS

MAGAZINE

2 **Nursing students** expand their education and live Elms College values on mission trips to Jamaica.

6 **Meet a graduate** who's contributing to psychological research on racial identity.

10 Slip into the **student experience** with a look at study abroad in New Zealand and a 20-year international exchange program with the University of Kochi in Japan.

14 Meet the **Elms classmates and SSJs** who are tutors in the Center for Student Success.



8

Gaming the Social System

Psychological research explores the effects of gaming on empathy and ethical decision making.

Associate Professor of Psychology Jennifer Rivers, Ph.D., and Sarah Picard '18



"All genuine learning comes through experience."

— John Dewey

Dear friends,

The spring semester has been full of out-of-the classroom educational opportunities for our community of scholars. Thirty-eight students headed to Jamaica, Nicaragua, New Orleans, and Trenton on mission and service trips as an alternative spring break experience.

We inaugurated an annual Black Issues Summit on February 16. The Library Theater was packed with Elms College members as well as guests from nearby colleges listening to talks by four invited speakers. Through this annual event, we intend to bring the latest scholarship on African-American and Africana studies to the Greater Pioneer Valley region.

As a prelude to the Saint Patrick's Day weekend, Gerard F. Doherty, author of the book "They Were My Friends- Jack, Bob, and Ted: My Life in and out of Politics," kept the audience in Veritas Auditorium riveted to his stories about his career in politics and his work with the three Kennedy Brothers. On the same day, Sister Jane Morrissey read from her chapter in the book 'Unruly Nuns', astounding students with the account of her activism for the cause of peace.

On March 23, we also launched the Executive Leadership Series in which we invite former and current business executives to speak about aspects of their life, career, or industry. Regina Hitchery, alumna and trustee, former Vice President for Human Resources at Alcoa Inc., discussed the importance of a liberal arts education for success in the workplace.

You will read stories about these events in this edition of the Elms Magazine. In addition, you will encounter how experiential learning is preparing Elms students for success.

Learning happens not just in the classroom but also through campus activities such as the ones described above. It is also intentionally orchestrated through experiences. Internships are the most common forms of experiential learning. Another example is reported in our cover story: providing students high-level research opportunities with a faculty member. Yet one more form of experiential learning is illustrated in this issue: the cultural immersion that comes through both study-abroad and service activities.

Back in 1938, John Dewey emphasized the importance of experiential education. "There is an intimate and necessary relation between the processes of actual experience and education," he wrote.

Eighty years later, Elms College aims to give every student a chance to pursue at least one of the following activities: a structured internship in their chosen career area; a research opportunity with a faculty member; or a local, national, or international service/mission learning opportunity.

Thank you for your continued support in this effort.



Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA
President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ELMS COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Nancy Farrell
Director of Institutional Marketing

Melinda Rose
Assistant Director of Institutional Marketing, Publications & Creative Services

Andrew Barcomb
Web Manager

Laura Marshall
Communications and Public Relations Coordinator

Katherine Cardinale, Cardinale Design
Creative Director

Don Forest, Cardinale Design
Art Director

Contributing Writers

Melinda Rose

Laura Marshall

Photography

Wes Deshano

Don Forest, Cardinale Design

Annika Goodhue

Laura Marshall

Melinda Rose

Charley Rose

Elms College

291 Springfield Street

Chicopee, MA 01013

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**.



In the fall of 2017, the Elms men's and women's swim teams were recognized for having the highest GPAs in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference and the New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Association.

FEATURES



Clinical, Cultural Exchange in Jamaica

Annual mission trips to Maggotty, Jamaica, give faculty and accelerated second degree nursing students a chance to learn new skills, experience other cultures, and live the college's mission.



'Embracing and Embodying' the Elms Mission

Leanne P. Price '13, M.Ed., is using what she learned at Elms in a doctoral program in counseling psychology at Springfield College, where she's contributing to research on racial identity.



Gaming the Social System

Associate Professor of Psychology Jennifer Rivers and her students are researching the effects of gaming on empathy and ethical decision making.



Student Global Experience

Meet Elms student Onie Tumel '19, who studied abroad in New Zealand as part of her Elms degree.



A Front-row Seat to Success

Sisters of St. Joseph and Elms classmates Maxyne Schneider '65 and Marlene Mucha '65 are tutors in the Center for Student Success.



Campus Happenings

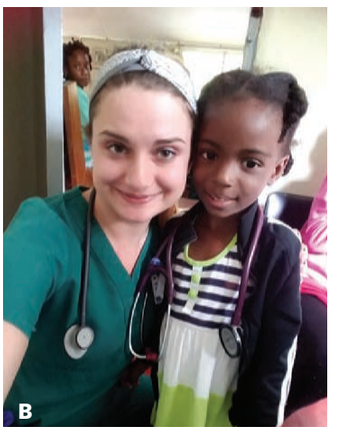
Details about happenings on our campus: February's Black Issues Summit, March's evening with author Gerard Doherty, and the first Executive Leadership Series event.



The Elms nursing team with patients at the Albion Gully bush clinic.

Jamaica Offers a Clinical, Cultural Exchange for Elms Nurses


A


B


C


D


F


E

A ***Elms students Marie Burtness, Yekaterina Ionkin, and Kelsey Lyons care for a patient.***

B ***Student Alani Iannoli with a new friend.***

C ***DNP clinical faculty member Jennifer Nugent, APRN, ANP-BC, with a patient.***

D ***Alani Iannoli checks a patient.***

E ***Jessenia Cabral and a friend.***

F ***Jeremy Kele '15 gets a hug at Manchester Infirmary.***

In January 2018, accelerated second degree program coordinator Brother Michael Duffy, DNP, ANP-BC, led a group of nursing faculty and students to Maggotty, Jamaica, on the sixth mission trip sponsored by the Elms College School of Nursing with support from Brother Michael's community of Conventual Franciscan friars. These clinical and cultural exchanges provide the students with 10 days of experience at established clinics run by Passionist Volunteers of the Diocese of Mandeville, as well as remote clinics, infirmaries, a boys' home, and a home for severely disabled children and adults.

Br. Michael started the January trips to Jamaica after serving as a missionary there for six years.

"I couldn't stay on being a missionary because of the numbers in my community," Br. Michael said. "But I can continue to offer that opportunity to young adults who might give a year down the road. That's the hope."

The Jamaican experience had that effect on Jeremy Kele '15 of South Hadley, MA, who participated first as an undergraduate and now three times — so far — as a graduate student in the Elms MSN/MBA program.

"Now that I've seen three groups of students experience Jamaica for the first time, it really is rewarding for me to help facilitate that process for them," Jeremy said. "Seeing them kind of come into their own and become more confident practitioners — seeing the holistic side of nursing come to life — is nice."

January is typically when foreign doctors working in Jamaica leave for vacation, so the Elms students play an important role in providing resources.

"It's a very rewarding experience to know that you're there helping to provide services to people who, especially at that time of year, don't have very many medical professionals around," Jeremy said.



G ***Kelsey Lyons in the pharmacy of the Santa Cruz Health Centre in St. Elizabeth Parish.***

H ***Kelsey Lyons hugs a resident of Mustard Seed Communities, a home for children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities.***



G

H

These trips allow students to live the mission of the college, and bring to life the Catholic social teachings that form the base of the Elms experience. The trips also enhance the educational experience by giving them an opportunity to put education into practice through community service, instilling cultural sensitivity and service, and teaching them how to conduct themselves appropriately in new environments and cultures.

One valuable lesson the students learn right away is to rely on their basic training. Another: "Work with what you have," Br. Michael said. "We've used that as a reflection theme: doing with what you have."

That can apply to everything from available medications to making their own sterile solutions.

"You can actually boil water for 12 minutes, put 1 teaspoon of salt in it to a liter and make yourself some decent saline solution," Br. Michael said.

Although students can initially be tentative about putting their training into practice, "their basic nursing skills eclipse most of the trained nurses on the island," Br. Michael said. "Their skill set is much greater than they realize."

Because of the lack of services in Jamaica, the mission trip participants don't have the "burden of clearance" by a governing medical organization or board, Br. Michael said. "Once we're at the clinic, the clinic director — the sister who is running it — she gives the permission."

As an example, he pointed to one Jamaica trip when a visiting OB-GYN doctor at a clinic was providing ultrasounds to women with difficult pregnancies. She offered to let Br. Michael's students observe.

"We never get to do this in the States, because there's so much red tape to go through," he said. "We get experiences that, in many ways, we would never get [in the U.S.]"

"I see patients there and can help out in a role that I am typically not in here in the States, as a registered nurse," Jeremy agreed. "It also helps with my confidence level, being a relatively new nurse."

The students gain a breadth of experiences, as they encounter "everything from kids with fevers to people who have end-stage prostate cancer," Br. Michael said.

"I could barely do a blood glucose and now, after two weeks in Jamaica, I can do them in my sleep," said Patricia Santos '18. "That was one of the things I felt really good about, just doing them over and over again."

"I'm so glad I went, because it made such a huge difference as to what I could do or what I was observing from the nursing perspective," said the mother of four sons from Stockbridge, Mass., who already has a bachelor's in sociology and a master's in international education.

"Usually there was one of us always with one of the nurse practitioners, so we could really learn," Patricia said. ■







Br. Michael and students prepare for patients.

caRe vaN 2.0

The 1988 vintage Elms College caRe vaN, with its leaky roof, iffy electrical system, and porous window seals, was replaced last spring with a new, fifth-wheel camper hitched to a Ford F250 pickup.

Since 2013, the Elms College caRe vaN, under the leadership of its creator, Br. Michael Duffy, DNP, ANP-BC, has served Chicopee by providing free healthcare services to the homeless and underserved. Br. Michael developed the caRe vaN as his DNP capstone project.



Alina Radinova '18, Chris Miele '18, Br. Michael Duffy, and Mohammad Mourad '18.

But Massachusetts winters took a toll on the van, and its roof needed to be replaced, a cost that would have exceeded the value of the van. Instead, Br. Michael was able to finance the purchase of a new camper and truck through a combination of resources. He had monies left from a grant from the Raskob Foundation; the Franciscan Ministries of Toronto contributed $5,100; and his community, Conventual Franciscan Friars, Our Lady of the Angels Province, paid for the truck. An additional $5,000 was donated by Dr. James O'Connell, president of Boston Health Care for the Homeless, who was Elms College's 2016 Commencement speaker.

"It has two permanent stations: a foot station and a blood pressure/blood sugar station, and it still has a full exam room," Br. Michael said of the new caRe vaN. "We have a full refrigerator that works, we have a microwave, and we have electricity to plug in the coffee pot and the crockpot. It's much bigger."

Br. Michael is the coordinator of the accelerated second degree nursing program. His students and undergraduate nursing students volunteer to provide services including blood-pressure checks and monitoring, blood-sugar checks, foot care, episodic first aid, minor wound care, and patient education. They can be found on Sundays in the parking lot of the Westfield Bank on Exchange Street and on Tuesday evenings at Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry.

The caRe vaN helps Elms students to prepare for their future nursing careers, Br. Michael said: "Long-range, healthcare is somewhat headed out of the typical hospital-based model we saw years ago. It's much more clinic-based and accessible."

Students with experience in this kind of setting will be more marketable upon graduation, too. "It's real hands-on work," he said. "They're working with folks in the community where they are. And it makes them think on their feet: The homeless are with us for a short period — it's a transient culture, so they're there for 5 to 10 minutes. How much can we get done? Can we encourage them to stay longer than just blood pressure and blood sugar?"

Working in the van also helps students to live the Elms College mission of empowering students to effect positive changes in the community and in the world. "It's about 'uniting neighbor to neighbor and neighbor to God without distinction,' like the Sisters of St. Joseph charism," Br. Michael pointed out. ■



Chris Miele '18 working on a patient.



When Leanne Price '13, a doctor of psychology student at Springfield College, heard about a research project in her program on STEM students and racial identity, she knew right away that she wanted to get involved.

"Honestly, I did not get too far into reading the study's abstract before I knew I wanted to be a part of this type of research," she said.

Leanne is now part of the Springfield College research team — led by Michael Cadaret, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology — studying how racial identity could influence confidence in completing a STEM degree and how students navigate barriers to degree goals, including imposter syndrome and stereotype threat, which is explained by the American Psychological Association as "negative stereotypes [that] raise inhibiting doubts" in academic settings.

"The concepts of stereotype threat and imposter syndrome are experiences that I know all too well, but I was interested in learning more about these barriers from a more theoretical position, and getting a better grasp on just how pervasive this phenomenon truly is," Leanne said. "I was also very interested in developing practical interventions and resources that would hopefully contribute to a growing body of work."

The study aims to understand how stereotype threat and other barriers affect the vocational development of African-American students in STEM, as well as factors that either support or inhibit persistence in STEM among these students.

"Students of color, particularly African-American students, are typically underrepresented among college graduates with STEM degrees," Leanne said. "Research on persistence, engagement, and performance of students in STEM education points to

"My experiences at Elms College helped to define my character and foster my self-confidence, and helped me learn to think critically about the impact I would like to make in the world." — Leanne Price '13



Making an Impact Through Psychological Research

2013 Grad Stands Up to 'Stereotype Threat'

certain environmental, social, and contextual barriers that affect confidence in completing a degree."

The researchers are currently gathering data through surveys and interviews.

For her dissertation, Leanne is researching an unrelated topic: barriers to seeking mental health services and treatment in older immigrant populations, particularly Caribbean immigrants. "I am currently collecting data and hope to be finished within the year," she said. She is on track to complete her degree in May 2019, following an internship.

Leanne is driven by her lifelong "curiosity about the world, and how we function as complex biological, social, and emotional beings," she said.

At Elms, that curiosity led her to a double major in psychology and biology, and she then went on to earn her master's degree in general psychology at Springfield College — where, in addition to being a Psy.D. student in counseling psychology, she also now teaches as an adjunct faculty member.

"It is so exciting to see how Leanne has combined her double major in biology and psychology," said Nina Theis, Ph.D.. associate professor of biology and director of the ElmSTEM grant from the National Science Foundation.

As an undergraduate, Leanne stood out in Theis's classes. "I still remember the experiment she did in Developmental Biology," Theis said. "She was so organized and really thought about the controls, clearly demonstrating her leadership skills. It was clear to me then that she would be capable of doing research."

Leanne's time at Elms prepared her to tackle social justice issues, she said: "My experiences at Elms College helped to define my character and foster my self-confidence, and helped me learn to think critically about the impact I would like to make in the world."

Some of those experiences included volunteering and community service. "The Dorothy Day program and the 'alternative spring break' mission trips not only brought me closer to a world that I had only ever experienced through a television screen, but helped to reaffirm my decision to enter a field where civic-mindedness, social justice, and social equality/ equity were embraced," Leanne said.

"I made a purpose of embracing and embodying the mission and core values of Elms College," she added. "I am very lucky to have found a career path that allows me to exercise those values every day, and in so many different ways." ■

GAMING THE S

Associate Professor of Psychology Jennifer Rivers, Ph.D., spent much of her summer and fall immersed in the role-playing video game *Fable III*. But it wasn't all fun and games — she was working on her fall sabbatical project: "Effects of video game play on cognitive, affective and behavioral measures."

"There's a lot of literature that says playing video games makes people aggressive," she said. "The research I'm looking at says that it really kind of depends on the kind of game you play."

Through a faculty development grant, Rivers set up a makeshift lab with computers and Xbox gaming consoles in the Social Sciences Division conference room. Students who volunteered were assigned to play the villain or the hero, or to be part of a control group that got to play the game freely.

"My original thought was the people who play the hero are going to be affected in positive ways, and the people who play the villain are going to be affected more negatively, " Rivers said. "I didn't find statistically significant findings, but I found marginal findings," she said, adding that the effect was especially noticeable in the moods of people forced to play the villain.

Psychology majors Tacai Dryden '18 of West Orange, N.J., and Sarah Picard '18 of Chicopee participated as co-investigators by helping Rivers collect and analyze data.

"It's an amazing experience," Sarah said of participating in the study. "I've never done anything close to this before."

Participating in this research and in a semester-long group project encouraged Sarah to pursue her own project. She presented a poster, "Mindfulness: The Key to Success? Effects of Mindfulness on Performance," in October at the New England Psychological Association conference at William James College in Newton, MA.

"Mindfulness is a kind of meditation," Sarah said. "It's a popular subject in psychology right now, but no one really knows how to quantify it."

Many institutions offer very limited opportunities for undergraduates to conduct research, but the experience gives students an increased level of confidence in themselves and in what's possible for their futures.

"Before the conference, Sarah told me, 'I'm not going to grad school. There's no way I can go to grad school; I don't feel competent that I can do this,'" Rivers said. "She came out of it saying, 'I can see that this could be possible for me.' Those are moments that I kind of cling to, because that's why we're here."

Sarah plans to take a year off before applying to master's programs.

"If she does go to grad school, I think she has a really good foundation for a thesis," Rivers said. "She has ideas of how to expand this idea, or what the next question would be. So I think that's a really good place to be."

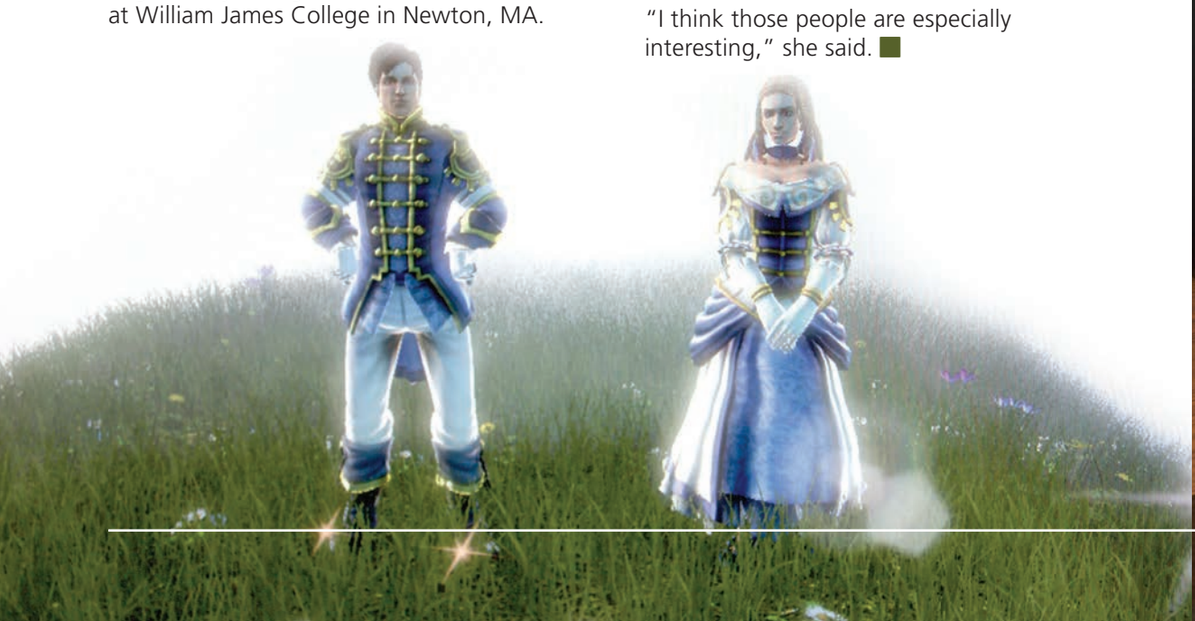
As for River's project, 62 students have participated so far. "That is not bad for the initial study, but I do need to collect more data," she said.

For the rest of the semester, she will encourage more gamers — people who say they play four or more hours of games per week — to take part.

"We'll see at the end of the semester how it goes," she said, adding that if she needs more participants, she may reach out to students at Elms' partner schools, such as Holyoke Community College, over the summer.

Eventually, she hopes to publish a paper on the work. She'd also like to study the eight percent of the population who, if given the choice, choose to play the villain.

"I think those people are especially interesting," she said. ■





OCIAL SYSTEM



Associate Professor of Psychology Jennifer Rivers, Ph.D., and Sarah Picard '18

The Impact of International Education

At the end of February, 10 students from the University of Kochi in Japan arrived on the Elms College campus as part of the two institutions' exchange program, which is celebrating its 20th year of expanding horizons for American and Japanese students. In November 2017, Elms and Kochi signed an extension of the official agreement in a ceremony here on campus.

Joyce Hampton, Ed.D., dean of student success at Elms, was involved with the creation of the partnership 20 years ago. "The overriding thing that shaped both the creation and sustainability of the program was the shared belief in the importance of opening up the world to our students," she said in a speech during a special ceremony at the University of Kochi in 2017.

"Research supports that international education is one of eight high-impact educational practices. For our students, it leads to higher graduation rates, stronger interest in their major, and higher grades," Hampton added.

Every year, visiting students from Kochi spend nearly two weeks exploring life at Elms. The Kochi students stay in residence halls at Elms, study English, attend classes related to their majors, and take in local sights and cuisine. They participate in special extracurricular activities that demonstrate the fun side of American college life, and they host a Japanese festival each year to share their culture with the Elms community.

During the visit, Elms students serve as Friendship Partners for the Japanese students. These Friendship Partners participate in a three-hour training course to act as roommates, classmates, and partners in language and cultural activities.

"Through this partnership, our faculty and students are challenged to understand the global dimensions of issues and need for collaboration. This is true in all areas, whether we are thinking about education, social welfare, business, or nursing," Hampton said.

The exchange experience leaves a lasting impression on our students — and can even change their lives. "We have had 61 Elms College students travel to Japan and take part in the short-term exchange program," Hampton said. "Five Elms College students have studied at Kochi long-term. Elms College has had 5 students accepted into the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) program, and a sixth teaching English at a private school."



A ceremonial samurai helmet gifted to Elms by the University of Kochi in recognition of 20 years of partnership in educational exchange.

It has also directly affected the curriculum at Elms College, which established an Asian studies minor in 2009 to allow Elms students to deepen their understanding through study of Asian history, language, and culture.

"An Asian studies minor, paired with any number of majors, allows for a more global vision in all fields of study and future professions. At Elms College, we aspire to develop global citizens, and this minor supports that mission," Hampton said.

In our global society, international education and exchange are more important than ever.

"Our students are entering a global workforce, and skills learned through international education prepare them to face the challenges collaboratively and with respect to international dimensions of issues," she added. ■



Momoe Nakatani, a nursing student at the University of Kochi, with one of her Elms Friendship Partners, biology and chemistry major Alyssa Barnes '19.



The Student Experience: Study Abroad

English major Raeanna Tumel '19 — "Onie" to her friends — calls her five-month experience studying at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand "life changing."

"When you're going someplace 25 hours away [by plane] and you don't know a single person, you definitely have to be more open to talking to people," she said. "You have to figure things out and be more independent."

The trip marked the first time the Stafford Springs, CT, native had flown internationally. She lived in Wellington with a New Zealander resident advisor and two flatmates, one from Indiana and one from Denmark.

She was in New Zealand from July through November 2017. Her classes at the university, in topics like Pacific history and writing for the media, provided a stark contrast to her Elms experience.

"Elms I like because it's so small and the teachers notice when you're not there," she said. "In Wellington, some of my classes would have 300 people, and a mandatory tutorial class to make sure you understood the material. My favorite class was Writing for the Media because it was a small class, 20 people in it compared to the 300, so it definitely felt a lot more intimate."

She chose New Zealand because it was a place that had fascinated her ever since seventh grade. Her study abroad program provided trips to learn more about culture in New Zealand, visiting the city of Rotorua in New Zealand's North Island, a Maori village and time for independent travel to the country's south island. While the sites and travel were amazing some of her favorite experiences were everyday life – going to the Sunday market with her flatmates and buying food from one of the vendors, and just sitting by the harbor and eating lunch.

She encourages other students to seek out international study. "It's going to be one of the best experiences of your time in college, to get out there and learn how much you're capable of and what you can excel in that you don't think you will," Onie said.

As for what her future holds, "I definitely want to travel now," she said. "The fact that I've gotten out of the country and I've seen this new culture, I definitely want to experience more. I used to think of myself as an open-minded person, but I think this shows you how far you can open your mind and how much you have to grow as a person."

Global Opportunities

42
Students studying abroad since Fall 2015

11
Countries visited

Africa
England
France
Ireland
Italy
Germany
Japan
New Zealand
Scotland
South Africa
Spain

Recent Study Abroad Student Majors

7

- Legal Studies
- Sports Management
- Psychology
- Graphic Design
- English
- Education Studies
- Biology

Blazers Receive National Recognition

The Elms field hockey team claimed its first NECC (New England Collegiate Conference) championship for the 2017 season. The team was honored as an NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) National Statistical Champion as the nation's leader in defensive saves. The Blazers turned away 29 shots to lead all 165 NCAA Division III field hockey teams.

The men's and women's swim teams were recognized for their work in the classroom, as each team was selected to the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America Scholar All-American team for the fall 2017 semester. Both teams posted the highest GPA in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) and the New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Association (NEISDA).

The women's volleyball team captured its first NECC Championship, and the men's and women's soccer teams each played in NECC championship matches.

In individual honors, freshman men's basketball player Greg Metelus of Palm Beach, FL, earned NECC Rookie of the Year honors after averaging 15.1 points per game.

Three men's swimmers — Nick Bergstrom of Derry, N.H.; Eddie Capoldo of Brunswick, ME; and Michael Grippo of Longmeadow, MA — earned All-New England recognition from the New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Association (NEISDA). To earn All-New England honors, a student-athlete must have recorded a top-8 individual or top-4 relay finish in the NEISDA Championships. ■



Elms Cross Country Among Division

The Elms College men's and women's cross country teams are among the top performing academically in all of NCAA Division III. Both Blazer squads earned a spot on the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) DIII Cross Country All-Academic list and rank in the top 10 nationally in team GPA.

The Elms men posted the second-highest team GPA in all of Division III, checking in with a 3.74, just shy of the 3.75 turned in by California Institute of Technology. On the women's side, Elms had a team GPA of 3.73, tied for the eighth-highest among Division III cross country programs.

To be eligible for the USTFCCCA All-Academic recognition, a team's roster must post a combined cumulative GPA of at least 3.1 following the fall term and meet the NCAA criteria for cross country sponsorship. Both the Elms men's and women's cross country teams are coached by Matt Dyer.

The Elms men and women represent half of the four honorees from the New England Collegiate Conference. There were 167 Division III men's teams and 222 Division III women's teams recognized in total. ■

Jeremy Torres: National Player of the Week



Men's volleyball outside hitter Jeremy Torres '21 has received a number of accolades in his first semester at Elms College. The Juncos, Puerto Rico, native was selected as the Sports Imports/ AVCA Division III National Player of the Week and also earned American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Division III Player of the Week and New England Collegiate Conference Player of the Week and Rookie of the Week honors.

Jeremy is the first Elms player to be singled out by the AVCA.

"We've had a bunch of really great players, but to finally get a player get that national recognition is really kind of exciting," said men's volleyball head coach Sheila Gisbrecht. "The fact that he has the skill set and the athleticism at such an early time in his career is very impressive."

A biology major, Jeremy's career goal is to become a pharmacist. He and one of his best friends, Jovanny Torres, left Junco after Hurricane Maria struck the island on September 20. Although their houses were flooded, they were not totally destroyed and got power back within a month or so. The same couldn't be said for other buildings in the area, however.

The hurricane ended up being the major reason Jeremy, Jovanny and fellow Puerto Rican Martin Acevedo left Puerto Rico and came to Elms, Gisbrecht said.

"If it hadn't been for the hurricane, they probably wouldn't have looked at us," she said, adding that Jovanny had already started attending a local college "and a week after school started, the school was done."

Jeremy's mother, two sisters and nephew are now living in Hartford, CT, and he has two older brothers in Puerto Rico.

Jeremy's enjoying his first season as a Blazer, and the team had a record of 8-3 as of mid-February.

"We have a nice team. Everyone has talent," he said. "If we stick together as a team we can win the conference and we can make the NCAA." ■

III's Elite In Academic Performance



3.74 GPA



A FRONT-ROW SEAT TO SUCCESS

Sisters of St. Joseph and Elms classmates Maxyne Schneider ’65 and Marlene Mucha ’65 are impressed with the substantial investment Elms College has made in helping students academically, most visible in the new Center for Student Success. And they have a front-row seat to the impact the center is having, as both can be found at various times of the week tutoring students on Alumnae Library’s second floor.

“This is just like a jewel of the campus. I feel really proud,” Sr. Maxyne said. “The Elms always has stood for: How do we help people to succeed? Not for the sake of the Elms, but for the sake of themselves.”

Sr. Marlene has been tutoring in writing since November 2016, following a 51-year career as a teacher. She specializes in helping students organize and write research papers, and has tutored a wide variety of students.

“I’ve had a master’s student in business, a psychology student, a financial student,” she said. “It’s a challenge, and yet totally delightful.”

For Sr. Maxyne, who started tutoring in chemistry this semester, it’s a return to familiar territory: She taught in the Elms chemistry department for 10 years and spent another four as academic dean. She is now trustee emerita, after recently finishing a six-year term of the college’s board of trustees.

But why tutor? “Education is where my heart always is,” Sr. Maxyne said. “When I was dean, one of the things that really was a passion for me was student success.”

“Even back then, people said of Elms students that someone who might have been an ordinary student in high school could really excel here,” she added. “And I don’t mean that in any watered-down way. I mean grow and really find depth and strength and do very well.”

Sometimes the only limits are set by the students themselves, such as those who think they don’t need to be able to write because of the career path they’ve chosen.

“You’re being educated as a professional, and professionals need to be skilled in communication, whether it’s written or spoken,” Sr. Maxyne said.

“I’ve always told students there are very few jobs where you don’t have to speak or write,” Sr. Marlene added.

As first-generation college students themselves, the sisters understand the challenges facing current students, many of whom are the first in their families to pursue post-secondary educations. They understand that learning is affected by ethnic background, linguistic background, and economic circumstances, among other factors.

“When you change the circumstance for that one person, that one student, you change the family story,” Sr. Maxyne said. “And that has tremendous ramifications.”

“The ripple effect,” Sr. Marlene added.

“It’s the pride that Elms is still on its mission to help transform people’s lives: faith, excellence, community, justice — always,” Sr. Maxyne said. “It feels good to be here.” ■



President Harry E Dumay, Ph.D., MBA has been appointed to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) Student Aid Policy Committee. He traveled to Washington, D.C., on February 5, 2018, to represent Elms College at the NAICU and Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) 2018 annual meetings.

Dr. Dumay presented at the ACCU Annual Meeting Sunday session, "Transformative Leadership for Catholic Higher Education," on a panel titled "New Financial Models for New Times," alongside Lucie Lapovsky of Lapovsky Consulting, former president of Mercy College and moderator Paula Buley, IHM, president of Rivier University.

Dr. Dumay facilitated a panel" Financial Capacity to Serve" at the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) annual meeting in December 2017 with presenters Ken Cody, Vice President for Administration and Finance, Treasurer, CFO, Bentley University; Edith F. Behr, Vice President/Senior Credit Officer, Moody's Investors Services, and Catherine Provencher, CPA, Vice Chancellor for Financial Affairs and Treasurer, University System of New Hampshire. Dr. Dumay currently serves as a commissioner on the NEASC Commission on Institutions of Higher Education(CIHE).



Christopher Bakriges, Ph.D., lecturer in music and accomplished musician, has several performances scheduled for this spring, including a TED Talk and performances at Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT, and the interfaith Awakenings Conference hosted by the United Congregational Church of Holyoke on April 26.



Peter A. DePergola II, Ph.D., MTS, assistant professor of medical humanities, has authored the book *Forget Me Not: The Neuroethical Case Against Memory Manipulation*, published by Vernon Press and released in March 2018. In *Forget Me Not*, he contends that any attempt to directly and intentionally erase episodic memories poses a grave threat to the human condition that cannot be justified within a normative moral calculus. This is the first book of its kind: the first single-volume philosophical text ever written on the ethics of memory editing.

DePergola also authored the paper "Patient-Centered Care and Autonomy: Shared Decision Making in Practice and a Suggestion for Practical Application in the Critically Ill" in the *American Journal of Medicine*, and is currently writing several manuscripts on the neurological metaphysics of hope and on the neurotheology miracles in contemporary biomedicine.



Elms College has appointed accomplished higher education finance executive **Katie Longley, CPA**, of Abilene, TX, the college's new vice president of finance and administration. Longley, who joined Elms College in March, is responsible for strategic oversight and management of the college's financial resources and operations. She came to Elms from Abilene Christian University in Texas, having served as associate vice president of finance, controller, tax director, and payroll manager, and senior accountant during her tenure with ACU. She holds a master's degree in accountancy and a bachelor's degree in business administration.



Autumn Mathias, Ph.D., LCSW, assistant professor of social work and advisor for the Elms off-campus social work program at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield, CT, graduated in December from Northeastern University with her Ph.D. in sociology. Her dissertation, "Responding to Violence in the Homeland: Identity and Transnational Activism within the Indian Christian Diaspora" explored Asian Indian Christians in the United States and Canada and how they described, understood, and responded to the persecution of Christians and other minorities in India. In particular, she was interested in how various aspects of participants' identities influenced these processes. She presented two chapters of her dissertation in August at the American Sociological Association and the Society for the Study of Social Problems' annual meetings in Montreal, Quebec.



Teresa Kuta Reske, DNP, MPA, RN, director of doctoral studies and program development for the doctor of nursing practice program, presented a case study on the DNP's new track in health systems innovation and leadership at the annual Next Generation Patient Experience Conference in San Diego, CA, in November 2017. At the conference for patient-experience innovators, Kuta Reske explained how the new DNP track concentrates on teaching practicing nurses to identify real problems in their workplace that impact patients, then build solutions that solve them.

Elms Events Explore Social Issues, Business Success and Politics

Elms College recently hosted three significant events: a discussion of current social and cultural issues, a forum for executives on key employment issues, and a peek into an iconic American political dynasty. Each event gave the Elms community a unique chance to explore American history. The Gerard Doherty event allowed us to explore the past, the Black Issues Summit shone a spotlight on the present, and the Executive Leadership Series lecture showed us how liberal arts can shape business in the future.

National Scholars Engage Elms Community in Dialogue About Race

Diversity is an integral component of the Elms College experience and represents one of its advantages. Guided by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the college hosts multicultural activities and events throughout the year. Each February, during Black History Month, the college celebrates contributions that members of the African-American community make to society.

This year, in celebration of Black History Month, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Elms College held its inaugural Black Issues Summit on Feb. 16 in the Alumnae Library Theater.

The Black Issues Summit brought national scholars specializing in a range of subjects to Elms for important dialogue with the college's students, faculty, and staff, as well as the general public, about issues affecting the Black community. The event featured a dynamic keynote address in addition to discussions, panels, and a conference debriefing session.

Elms College President Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA, kicked off the event with remarks that contextualized and explained the importance of a Black Issues Summit at Elms College. It is in keeping with our history, mission, and tradition. Studying the African diaspora deepens our knowledge and understanding of self and others in the context of a diverse and inclusive Elms College community, and a well-rounded liberal arts education, he said.

Christopher Doucot, founder of the Hartford Catholic Worker, adjunct faculty at University of Hartford and Central Connecticut State University, and author of the new book, No Innocent Bystanders: Becoming an Ally in the Struggle for Justice, gave a related talk that gave witness to a life in service to those most in need. He embodied a Christian mission of living among the poor and schooled the audience on white privilege with concrete examples from his own life. His point, which was deeply personal and moving, was that government oppression of persons of color has persisted into the modern era, benefiting whites in subsequent generations, while disadvantaging persons of color.







Joseph Cooper, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut, addressed the exploitation of college athletes of color to focus almost exclusively on their sport. He described his work with Collective Uplift, a project to help athletes of color develop holistically -- as scholars, citizens, leaders, and mentors. His message is that athletes need to be seen as more than just their sport or their athletic prowess, and he encourages us all to value the importance of the athletes' lives beyond and after college.

Bettye Gavin — a Joliet, Ill., councilwoman, executive director of the Forest Park Community Center, founder of Quality of Life Task Force, and executive director of the National Hook-Up of Black Women Inc. — spoke from the heart about service to those in need. Her remarks resonated with the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph to "unite neighbor with neighbor, and neighbor with God." She spoke to the women in the audience about the power of our voices. As an elder in the community, she reflected on how women in the '50s were silent and called on young women today to speak their minds and engage in activism to benefit our communities.

Algerian Hart, Ph.D., associate program coordinator of sport management at Western Illinois University, made a compelling case for how diversity will enrich our community, using an analogy of a diversified financial portfolio. He challenged the audience to engage in activism to shape a diverse and inclusive campus, noting that students have a lot of collective power when they organize. He also spoke of return on investment in terms of building inclusive campus wealth, where "inclusive" is defined as for the betterment of all individuals. He stressed that true leadership aligns with inclusive program design and resource allocation.

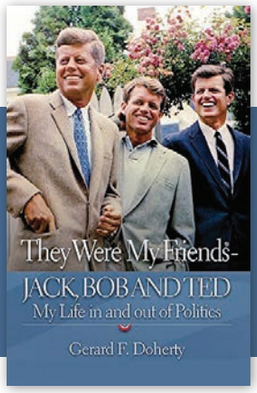
An Evening with **Gerard Doherty** Trusted Advisor to the Kennedys

Elms College hosted an evening with Gerard F. Doherty, author of *They Were My Friends – Jack, Bob and Ted: My Life in and out of Politics*, Thursday, March 15, in Veritas Auditorium. The book takes the reader through the history of Massachusetts politics and the golden age of the Kennedy political dynasty.

Doherty, an attorney, was a trusted political adviser to President Kennedy, Sen. Robert Kennedy, Sen. Edward Kennedy, President Johnson, and President Carter. The husband of the late Marilyn Doherty, who was a 1953 alumna of the college, Gerard served as chair of the Elms College board of trustees from 1988 to 1995.

Through a Q&A discussion moderated by Wayne E. Phaneuf, executive editor of the *Springfield Republican*, Gerard shared stories from his book providing a rare, firsthand account of the behind-the-scenes work that led to some of the most influential moments of the Kennedy brothers' political lives. He also touched upon his life experience as the son of a Boston firefighter, his education at Harvard, his first foray into politics and his unlikely rise to the top of Massachusetts political leadership. ■







Executive Leadership Series March 23, 2018



The Elms College Executive Leadership Series, an invitation-only event sponsored by the office of the president, provides area business and thought leaders with a forum for C-level discussion on key issues and trends impacting our region with faculty and students in the business and entrepreneurship programs. The series' inaugural lecture on the morning of March 23 offered an inside view — from a human resources perspective — on the importance of the liberal arts to the western Massachusetts business community and how businesses can leverage the unique skills liberal arts graduates bring to the workplace.

In August, *The Atlantic* published an article titled "The Unexpected Value of the Liberal Arts," about the ways in which first-generation students find fulfillment, both professionally and personally, by majoring in humanities and social sciences.

One prominent human resources executive who truly knows the power of a liberal arts education is Regina Noonan Hitchery '71, whose business career spanned 37 years and included stints at United Technologies Corp., Invensys plc, and Alcoa Inc., where she served as vice president for human resources, responsible for 97,000 employees in 34 countries. Throughout her career, Regina developed expertise in recruitment, industrial relations, compensation, and leadership development.

But she started off in the liberal arts. In addition to her bachelor's degree in English from Elms College and an Elms honorary doctorate of laws, Regina holds an M.A. in anglo-Irish studies from University College Dublin, an M.S. in management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and an M.A. in psychology from Connecticut College.

Regina's keynote address, "Shakespeare is Good for Your Workplace," focused on the underlying value graduates with a liberal arts background offer to employers. In her talk, she described how she translated the skills she had gained in her liberal arts education into a successful business career — and how businesses can invest in their own success by hiring liberal arts graduates. ■



Dear Alumna/us,

The coming months at Elms College will feature many fun and exciting new events, as well as some past favorites. In May, we will welcome our newest class into the Alumni Association: the Class of 2018. We'll head back to Fenway Park in June for a night out with the Red Sox, and spend a day on Cape Cod in August for our annual Cape Luncheon. The Alumni Association Board will also be spending the next few months working on our strategic plan for the coming years.

The Alumni Association Board is still actively seeking volunteers and committee members. Through a new partnership with the Office of Admission, alumni are invited to partake in our Alumni Ambassador program. The Office of Admission will provide training for those interested in representing Elms College at college fairs to recruit new students. If you would like to get involved, please contact Jessica Colson at alumni@elms.edu or 413-265-2454.

Elms College will continue to reduce its carbon footprint; therefore we strongly encourage alumni and friends to sign up for paperless communication. All correspondence will be digitized to reduce our impact on the environment. If you wish to opt into this program, please send an email to Jessica Colson at alumni@elms.edu to express your interest in paperless communication.

2018 is already proving to be an exciting year! I look forward to seeing you at an alumni event soon.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Putnam '93, *President Elms College Alumni Association*

REUNION PROFILE

Lauren Scibelli Mullin '88

From Biology to Braciole

Lauren Scibelli Mullin '88 has always loved science. She majored in biology and, with the encouragement of her mentor, Sr. Margaret James, she was certified as a histologist and worked in hospital and diagnostic labs for many years. Two years ago, she decided to combine her other passion — for cooking — with childhood memories of her family and their well-known Italian restaurant in Springfield. In late 2017, she released the part-memoir and part-cookbook *Memories of Ciro's*.

"The conception of the book had been on my mind for many years," Lauren said. "I actually had started writing a memoir and recording recipes after Ciro's had closed in the early 1990s."

Her father, Frank Scibelli, died suddenly in 1996; within a year, her grandparents, Ciro's founders Al and Rose Scibelli, followed. "That left me with not much to go on in terms of recording all the memories of growing up in our restaurant," she said, so she tucked the idea away and continued with her histology career.

"When I left the science world in early 2016, I decided I was going to pick it up," she said. "That's when I really put my head down, and put my heart and soul into it, and I started writing."

Lauren will host a signing of her book at Reunion on October 13. Her class is celebrating its 30th anniversary, and she is looking forward to seeing classmates in person, as well as the changes to campus in recent years.

"I'm excited to see the new chapel," Lauren said. "I actually got married in the old chapel back in 1996." ■



Shrimp a la Ciro's
A classic Ciro's appetizer

Dice and combine in a large bowl:

1 lb. cooked shrimp, deveined

3 celery ribs

1 8 oz. can black pitted olives

1 small red onion

3-4 ripe tomatoes

Toss with chopped parsley, extra virgin olive oil and the juice of 1 or 2 lemons. Add salt, pepper, and garlic powder to taste. Serve cold on a platter with lemon wedges.

Alumnae Reconnect Through Service

Director of Alumni Relations Jessica Colson '15, MBA '18, recently led the first group of Elms graduates on a service trip to New Orleans, LA, to work with the St. Bernard Project, a nonprofit disaster relief organization. The February 18-23 trip reintroduced alumni to the service work they did as undergraduates while helping them to reconnect with classmates and the college.



The location was chosen for its familiarity — a group of Elms undergraduates also worked in New Orleans with St. Bernard Project during spring break, March 3-10.

The St. Bernard Project rebuilds homes damaged or destroyed by disasters — such as Hurricane Katrina — for low-to-moderate income homeowners, placing a special focus on families with small children, the elderly, disabled persons, war veterans and the under- and uninsured. Under its opportunity housing program, the SBP rebuilds blighted and abandoned properties in an average of 61 days and at 40 percent of market contractor costs, making it heavily dependent on volunteer labor.

Despite occurring more than 12 years ago, much of the devastation left by Katrina remains, especially in the Lower Ninth Ward, a predominantly African-American neighborhood where the Elms project house was located.

"We were fortunate to be at the same site all the work days we were there," Colson said of the shotgun-style house that was their project. "So we could really see our progress."

The progress made by the group, which included Maria Rodriguez-Maleck '77, Cathy Gentile-Doyle '77, Katie Roberts '12, Chelsea Carroll '14, Delina deVillier '15, Ashley Lapierre '16, and Mariesa Negosanti, MBA '18, was to construct all interior and exterior trim, such as window sills; paint the exterior; and caulk the entire house.

The group also had time to connect with alumna Deborah Merlin Craig '75, who lives in Picayune, MS, near the Louisiana border. She and her husband gave them an eye-opening tour of locations in that part of Mississippi that were also affected by the hurricane but are much less widely known about, and Deborah shared stories with them about her time at Elms. ■





Alumni Relations is hoping to make the trip a biennial tradition, with the next one tentatively scheduled for 2020. For more information, contact **Jessica Colson** at **413-265-2454** or **alumni@elms.edu**.

BlazerBlitz
Lightning Round Fundraising

Blazer Blitz Is Back on April 26!

Elms College Blazer Blitz, a 24 hour day of giving will be held April 26, 2018. On this marathon day of giving all Blazers near and far can show your pride by participating and making a gift of any size in support. Your gift will make a profound impact on students and the services that support them giving them the assistance so needed to best help them complete their Elms College education. Mark your calendars and watch for Elms Blazer Blitz social media posts. ■

Elms College 87th Commencement May 19, 2018

Elms College will hold its 87th commencement ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 19, 2018, at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA. Eminent global health leader Dr. Louise Ivers, MB Bch, BAO, MD, MPH will deliver the commencement address and receive an honorary degree at the ceremony.



Louise C. Ivers, MB Bch, BAO, MD, MPH
Executive Director, MGH Global Health

Ivers is a longtime leader in global health, engaging in global policy and advocacy work to improve health equity. She currently serves as the executive director of the Center for Global Health at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and sits on the board of directors of the St. Boniface Haiti Foundation, which is dedicated to providing essential health services to the people of Southern Haiti, especially the most vulnerable.

Previously, she was an associate physician in the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), an associate professor of global health and social medicine, and associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. She also has served as a senior health and policy advisor to PIH as a member of the PIH executive leadership team, working to support the implementation of strategy across 10 countries. In addition to expanding access to healthcare for the poor, Ivers has contributed to published research articles on HIV/AIDS, food insecurity, and cholera treatment and prevention.

She has worked on healthcare delivery in India, Southeast Asia, and Africa. During her time as faculty at BWH, she was based in Haiti to serve as clinical director and then chief of mission for Partners In Health (PIH) Haiti. She also led responses to the major earthquake in Haiti in 2010 and the subsequent cholera epidemic.

ALUMNI EVENTS

In Memoriam tributes will appear in the fall 2018 issue.

April 26
Blazer Blitz Is Back!

Every dollar raised on our annual giving day will go directly to support our students through Elms institutional financial aid. Please remember to participate and keep a look out for our Blazer Blitz posts on social media!

June 8
Boston Red Sox Game

What goes together better than summertime and baseball? Sit back with a Fenway frank at "America's Most Beloved Ballpark" as the Boston Red Sox battle the Chicago White Sox in American League action. Elms College alumni will be seated in the right field roof box this year. Round-trip transportation will be provided from Elms College for an additional fee: The bus will leave Elms College at 4:30 p.m. Or just meet us in the city for game time at 7:10. Tickets are limited, so don't swing and miss on this sweet summer event!

For ticket prices and more information, visit: https://www.elms.edu/event/2018-red-sox-game/.

Tanglewood Trip - TBA!

Be on the lookout for more information regarding the Tanglewood summer trip in upcoming e-newsletters.

August 7
Cape Cod Luncheon - save the date!

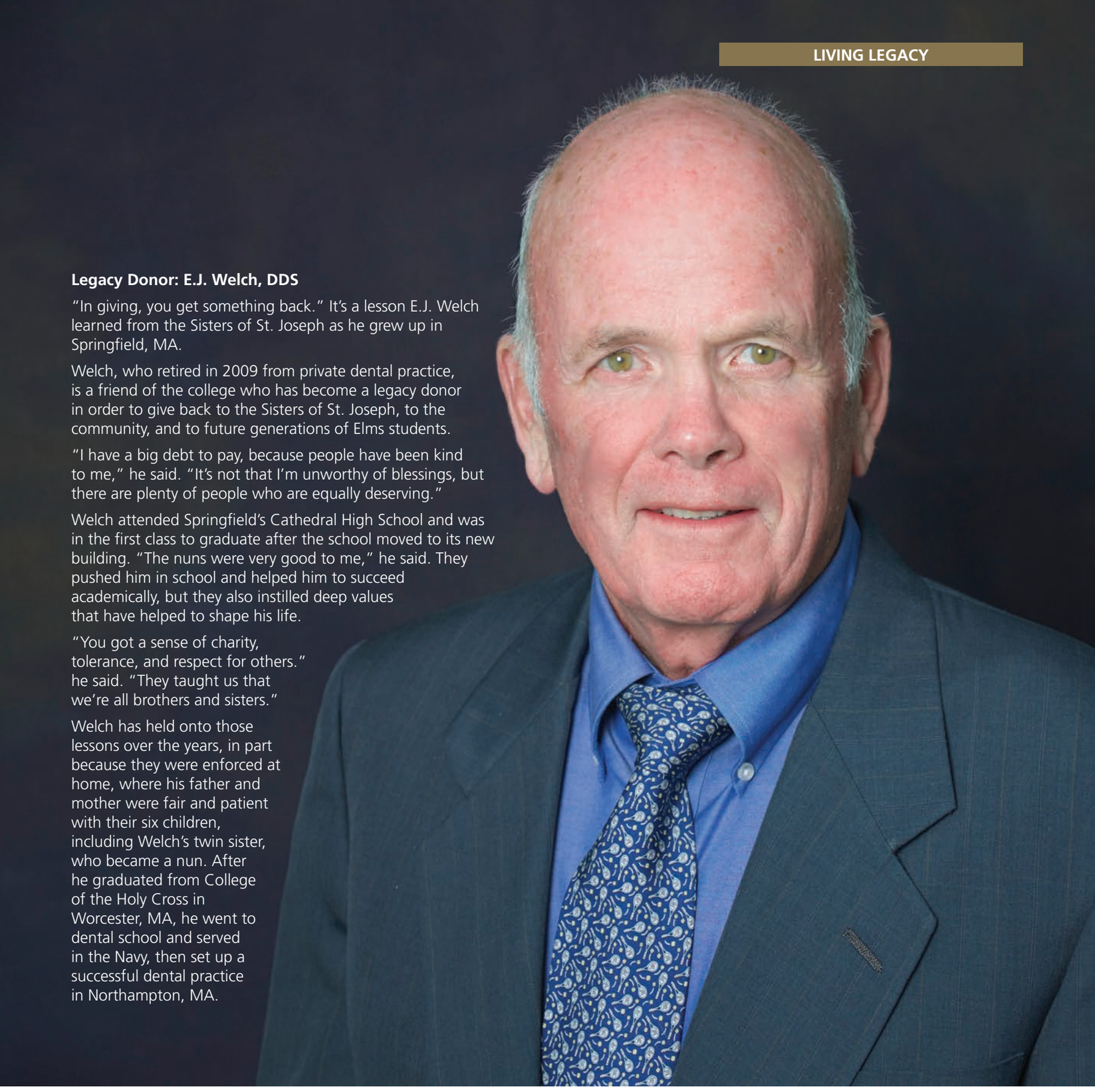
Join us on the Cape this summer for our annual luncheon. President Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA, will share college updates over lunch.

October 13
Reunion & Alumni Day - Save the date!

All alumni are welcome to join us to celebrate class reunions. We will honor classes ending in 3's and 8's this year, as 1968 celebrates their 50th, 1993 celebrates their 25th, and 2013 celebrates their 5th! A schedule of events will be available soon, so mark your calendars to join us in celebrating our past, present, and future.

Class of 1968 Golden Blazer Ceremony

Class of 1968, are you ready to kick off your reunion year festivities? Join us during Reunion and Alumni Day in Berchmans Hall for your Golden Blazer Ceremony. Here you'll receive the coveted Golden Blazer silk scarf to wear to any future Elms College event that you'd like! For information, please contact Jessica Colson '15, director of alumni relations, at 413-265-2454 or alumni@elms.edu.



Legacy Donor: E.J. Welch, DDS

"In giving, you get something back." It's a lesson E.J. Welch learned from the Sisters of St. Joseph as he grew up in Springfield, MA.

Welch, who retired in 2009 from private dental practice, is a friend of the college who has become a legacy donor in order to give back to the Sisters of St. Joseph, to the community, and to future generations of Elms students.

"I have a big debt to pay, because people have been kind to me," he said. "It's not that I'm unworthy of blessings, but there are plenty of people who are equally deserving."

Welch attended Springfield's Cathedral High School and was in the first class to graduate after the school moved to its new building. "The nuns were very good to me," he said. They pushed him in school and helped him to succeed academically, but they also instilled deep values that have helped to shape his life.

"You got a sense of charity, tolerance, and respect for others." he said. "They taught us that we're all brothers and sisters."

Welch has held onto those lessons over the years, in part because they were enforced at home, where his father and mother were fair and patient with their six children, including Welch's twin sister, who became a nun. After he graduated from College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, he went to dental school and served in the Navy, then set up a successful dental practice in Northampton, MA.

Throughout his life, Welch has worked to share his good fortune with others by supporting local organizations such as the Hampshire Regional YMCA in Northampton, where he served on the board for several years. He also has supported projects around the globe, volunteering on a Mercy Ship voyage to Indonesia, helping to establish a clinic in Nicaragua for amputees, raising money to start a school in an underserved Nicaraguan community, and assisting with other projects in Peru, Guatemala, and other areas.

These trips — and the people he has met — have taught him so much, Welch said: "Everyone has a story … and everyone has hardships."

"I've had a very nice life," he added. "I've had bumps — the sun didn't shine every day — but, in general, anytime in my life when I needed someone to help me find the strength to go on, someone has been there."

Welch has passed these lessons on to his two children and three grandchildren, who are the lights of his life, but he's not content to keep his legacy within the family: His gift to Elms College will help give future students a boost when they need it and will help carry on the legacy of kindness, charity, tolerance, and respect that he learned from the Sisters of St. Joseph.

"If everyone does a little, it makes a big difference," he said.

Join the Living Legacy Society

If you would like more information on joining the Living Legacy Society, contact **Bernadette Nowakowski '89, '08**, assistant vice president of institutional advancement, at **413-265-2214** or **nowakowskib@elms.edu**.

ELMS COLLEGE
291 Springfield Street
Chicopee, Massachusetts 01013-2839

BlazerBlitz

Lightning Round Fundraising



Mark Your Calendars
Blazer Blitz Is Back on April 26!

Elms College Blazer Blitz, a 24 hour day of giving on April 26, 2018, is an opportunity for all Blazers near and far to support the college and the financial aid needs of our students. With your gift you give a student the best chance to help them complete their Elms College education. Mark your calendars and watch for Elms Blazer Blitz social media posts.