SPRING 2020

ELMS

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Covid Crisis Care

Professor Peter DePergola II ‘07, Ph.D., MTS, and other thought leaders on the Commonwealth’s Crisis Standards of Care Advisory Committee crafted the state’s ethical guidelines for treating patients with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.



"You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope."

— Thomas Merton

Dear friends,

"The world turned upside down," one of the lyrical themes of the popular Broadway show "Hamilton" refers, of course, to the American Revolution. However, it might as well reference the times that we are living and the experiences that we have all gone through in recent months. The coronavirus pandemic will be a timestamp in our history – I have a feeling that we will mark the occurrence of events as either before the pandemic started or after.

In reading this issue of *Elms College Magazine*, it is easy to see the stories and articles that relate to the college's reality before and after mid-March 2020. As we got back from the Christmas holiday, Elms College was off to an exciting spring semester. In January, over 60 first-year honors students participated in the second annual Innovation Challenge and presented a variety of ideas to help combat homelessness. February marked two successful events: the dedication of the college's new Living-Learning Community and Cultural Center (formerly the Gaylord Mansion) and the third annual Black Issues Summit. That latter event brought the Elms community together to hear four professionals speak about housing, health, and education as basic human rights.

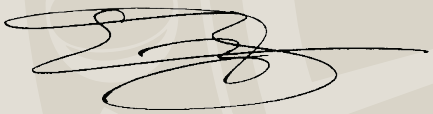
We were looking forward to two much anticipated events in April: an insightful Executive Leadership Breakfast, featuring Congressman Richard Neal as guest speaker, and the second annual Reverend Hugh Crean Endowed Distinguished Lecture, as part of the Diocese of Springfield's 150th anniversary year.

This was all prior to mid-March when we essentially closed the campus and moved to remote learning and working. To paraphrase the saying, it is in adversity that one recognizes the true spirit of a community. The Elms College family truly rose to the occasion. This issue of the *Elms Magazine* includes several of these stories:

- The cover story features Elms faculty member Peter DePergola II, Ph.D., MTS, who developed ethical pandemic guidelines for Baystate Health and was appointed to the Massachusetts Crisis Standards of Care Advisory Committee.
- "Our New Normal" showcases how faculty, staff, and students adapted with tremendous flexibility and resilience to the new environment and ensured that learning continued during the remaining weeks of the semester.
- "Elms Community of Heroes" highlights several members of the Elms family who have been on the frontline contributing to the health and welfare of the dear neighbor in these difficult times.

The overarching theme to this entire magazine — no matter when the stories or articles took place — relates to the Elms Plus, this holistic education that we aim to provide all students, in keeping with the extraordinary vision of our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph. They established Elms College with a clear mission: to educate a diverse group of people in a supportive, vibrant learning community and to empower them to make a difference in the lives of others.

I want to thank everyone for your contributions during this unprecedented time. Your support, prayer, and encouraging notes have all contributed to lift us up as we work to advance the mission in good, as well as challenging, times. I pray that you stay well and safe!



Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA

President

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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 **413-265-2588** or **marketing@elms.edu**.



Elms nurses (l-r) Marie Mathews RN-BS '10, Kendra Price RN, BS '10, MSN '19, and Rachael Robie RN-BS '17 are on the front line of the COVID-19 fight at Berkshire Medical Center.

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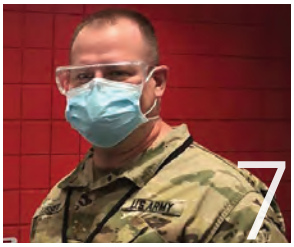
Center for Ethics, Religion and Culture

The proposed CERC would welcome engagement and dialogue on the most pressing and complex questions of ethics, faith, reason, and culture today.



Our New Normal

In less than four weeks, the college community was able to transition its academic program completely online and finish the Spring semester successfully.



Elms Heroes Fight Coronavirus

Elms community members share their experiences with COVID-19, from treating the afflicted to providing services remotely.



Former Mansion to Boost Holistic Experience

The former Emerson Gaylord Mansion reopened as the Elms College Living-Learning, Community and Cultural Center.



Professor Advances Research-Based Bioscience

Sudad Saman, Ph.D., is leading a scientific renaissance on campus through the creation of a new degree program that emphasizes research as an essential tool for learning critical skills in biotechnology.



Professor and Alumnus Helps Craft Ethical Guidelines for Treating COVID-19 Patients Across the Globe

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting shortage of key medical supplies and equipment throughout the nation's healthcare system has raised a multitude of ethical questions, among them: Who should receive priority for limited resources? How should the needs of vulnerable populations be addressed? How and when should information be provided to the public? What standards of care would be expected when staff, equipment and medications are insufficient to meet the demand and to provide the level of care that is expected during non-emergency times? What guidance should be made available to clinicians to assist them in making fair and responsible decisions under these circumstances?

These questions and more are addressed in the comprehensive ethical guidelines that Peter DePergola II '07, Ph.D., MTS, associate professor of Bioethics and Medical Humanities, developed for Baystate Health, where he serves concurrently as director of clinical ethics and chief of the Ethics Consultation Service.

> "Never in a million years did I think that the doctoral training I received in disaster bioethics would ever need to be applied in my personal life," DePergola said.

DePergola said the response of the medical community to the comprehensive guidelines that he developed for Baystate Health and published for the world to see "has been incredibly positive, and it has significantly helped my colleagues at the bedside, both locally and otherwise."

The most difficult ethical issues that are arising at the bedside, he said, "are the fear of providers going to work every day, not having the typical standards of care at work, rushing very delicate conversations about end-of-life care, not requiring the usual permission to change the code status (i.e., CPR and intubation status) of patients, de-escalating critical care treatment, and seeing much more death than usual."

Following a letter he co-authored in partnership with the Hastings Center — the nation's largest bioethics think tank — and sent to the White House to implore the U.S. government to immediately use its federal power and funds to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic as a matter of moral imperative, DePergola was contacted by

the commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and appointed to the Commonwealth's Crisis Standards of Care (CSC) Advisory Committee.

Composed of a 17-member group of high-octane experts — the majority of whom hailed from Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and Boston Children's Hospital — the CSC Advisory Committee formed the ethical guidelines for treating patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 throughout the state.

The meetings, held via the web meeting interface Zoom, "had vigorous debates about things such as who should receive limited resources in the event that not all can, and what clinicians should do in situations in which 'ties' arose in priority scoring between patients who were vying for the same scarce resource," DePergola said. "We talked about things such as the relevance of age, socioeconomic status, and contributions to society, as well as how (if at all) to adequately prioritize the care of healthcare workers."

The committee's document, titled "Crisis Standards of Care Planning for the COVID-19 Pandemic," was released in early April, and provides concrete guidance for the triage of critically ill patients in the event that the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic creates demand for critical care resources that outstrips the supply.

"It was an experience that I never imagined being a part of," DePergola said. "Most shocking, perhaps, was the fact that I was the most junior member of an extremely elite group by some 20-plus years. Yet, based on my experience and expertise, the group genuinely wanted to hear what I thought, and how I had formed such a comprehensive guideline for the western part of the state at Baystate Health."

Shortly after the release of the CSC document, DePergola published a revision of the clinical guidelines he developed for Baystate Health in a 59-page white paper, "Ethical Guidelines for the Treatment of Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)," in the *Online Journal of Health Ethics*. His reason for publishing the guidelines, DePergola said, was so that "clinicians' moral distress may be mitigated and lives can be saved in a fair, reasonable, and objective way."

"It gained traction rapidly both nationally and internationally," DePergola said of the bioethics community's response to his paper.

Although he was contacted by multiple peer-reviewed journals to publish (in revised form) the comprehensive ehtical guidelines he developed for Baystate Health, "In the spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph, I chose a humble, free, and globally-accessible journal to make sure that everyone — no matter their geographical location or ability to pay — would have access to the guidance contained therein," DePergola said, adding that "The mission of the SSJs — to provide a high-quality education to those least likely to access it — is forever emblazoned in my mind."

The experience of writing the guidelines, while extremely worthwhile and desperately needed, did take a toll.

"I really can't tell you the emotionally dark place you enter when you write these guidelines, talk about them nonstop, and think about them all day, every day, for an extended period of time. I have felt like I'm living in a movie. Waking up to a racing pulse in the middle of the night is a regular occurrence in my house. Never in a million years did I think that the doctoral training I received in disaster bioethics would ever need to be applied in my personal life," DePergola said. "To think that the richest nation in the history of the world found itself needing to race to manufacture tens of thousands of ventilators, basic personal protective equipment, and contingency planning is absolutely astounding to me. It is a dark stain on our history, and we have much work to do in the future to make sure that whatever happens, whenever it happens, wherever it happens, we are prepared to deal with it." ■

Elms Proposes Center for Ethics, Religion and Culture

As a Catholic college founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, Elms College has long served as a place where thoughtful discourse on topics of faith, reason, ethics, and culture is welcomed and encouraged. In that spirit, the college is planning to launch the Center for Ethics, Religion and Culture (CERC), which will welcome engagement and dialogue among all traditions, without distinction, on the most pressing and complex questions of ethics, faith, reason, and culture today.

CERC programming will advance research, scholarship, and education in ethics; examine religious and spiritual values and their compatibility with scientific and philosophical reasoning; and foster lives of cultural awareness, appreciation, and meaning.

Leading CERC's development is Peter DePergola II, Ph.D., MTS, associate professor of Bioethics and Medical Humanities. The CERC will facilitate the development of distinctive academic programs in Bioethics and Medical Humanities, in which the college currently offers a minor. Future master's and doctoral programs planned in this area "will make Elms College one of extremely few institutions – and, with the doctoral degree, the only institution – in the U.S. with such programs," DePergola said.

"The CERC connects us more deeply to our liberal arts core by challenging students to remain rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, and responsive to civic and social obligations; binds us faithfully to our core values of Faith, Community, Justice, and Excellence; and forwards our Elms+ strategic plan of Excellence, Ethics, Experiential Learning, Engagement, and Enrollment," said Elms College President Harry Dumay, Ph.D., MBA.

"The work of the Institute for Theology and Pastoral Studies (ITPS) and Campus Ministry will be complementary and synergistic to the work of the CERC, especially when it comes to programming and outreach that serves the Diocese of Springfield," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Walter C. Breau, Ph.D. "Current programs such as the Mary Dooley Lecture Series, the Rev. Hugh Crean Distinguished Lecture Series, and the Hispanic Lay Ministry Program are excellent examples of programs that would benefit through the cooperation of the CERC and ITPS."

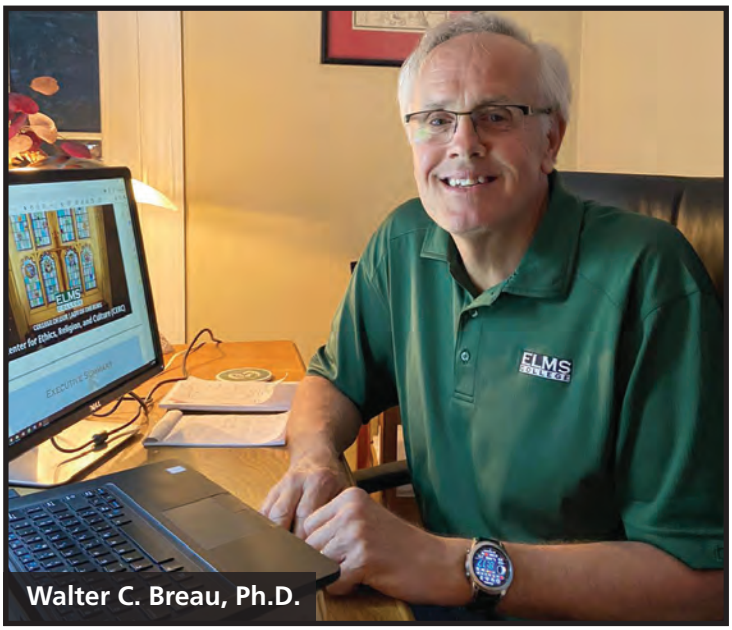


President Harry Dumay, Ph.D., MBA, records a message for the Elms community amid social distancing restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Our New Normal

Elms faculty and staff demonstrated flexibility, compassion and empathy in the rapid transition to online learning amid the coronavirus pandemic. They share their stories of navigating this unprecedented time to finish the academic year successfully.

The enormous undertaking started with President Harry Dumay, Ph.D., MBA, forming a strategic task force and instructing his Cabinet to assemble an operational emergency response team and develop an instructional continuity plan.



Walter C. Breau, Ph.D.


Nina Theis, Ph.D.

"It was like fixing the airplane while you were flying it." That's how Vice President of Academic Affairs Walter C. Breau, Ph.D., explains the Herculean effort the college undertook in February when it became clear that COVID-19 would impact not only the U.S. and the Commonwealth but Elms College as well. The college had to move 650 course sections completely online in less than four weeks.

"It really was a monumental group effort," Breau said. "Academic Affairs, Information Technology, Student Affairs, and Student Success all came together to develop resources and a cross-departmental Online Learning Support Team for students and instructors to help them not only transition to online learning, but be successful moving forward."

The IT team, under the leadership of Chief Information Officer Mary Kaselouskas, held training sessions for instructors during the week of March 12 on the online learning tools. With the approval of the U.S. Department of Education, the college officially began teaching all classes online as of Monday, March 23.

"We were in a better position than some because of a number of web-based training tools and technologies we already had in place," Breau said. Those tools include the Brainfuse online tutoring system, in use since 2013; the Beacon system that alerts faculty and advisors to students having difficulties, in use since 2017; and the Zoom site license for unlimited high-quality video for synchronous and asynchronous learning that the college purchased in 2019.

"A number of our faculty hadn't had experience with the technical aspects of online teaching, and our IT Department did a great job of guiding them through the process," Breau said. College staff, except for those deemed essential, also transitioned at that time to working remotely.

Prior to transitioning to remote learning, professor Nina Theis, Ph.D., co-chair of the Division of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Technology, worked closely with students in the biology program to analyze data for an ongoing study of floral fragrances. While they had to cancel their plans to present their research at a conference in Salt Lake City this year, the team has managed to stay connected virtually and continue advancing the study.

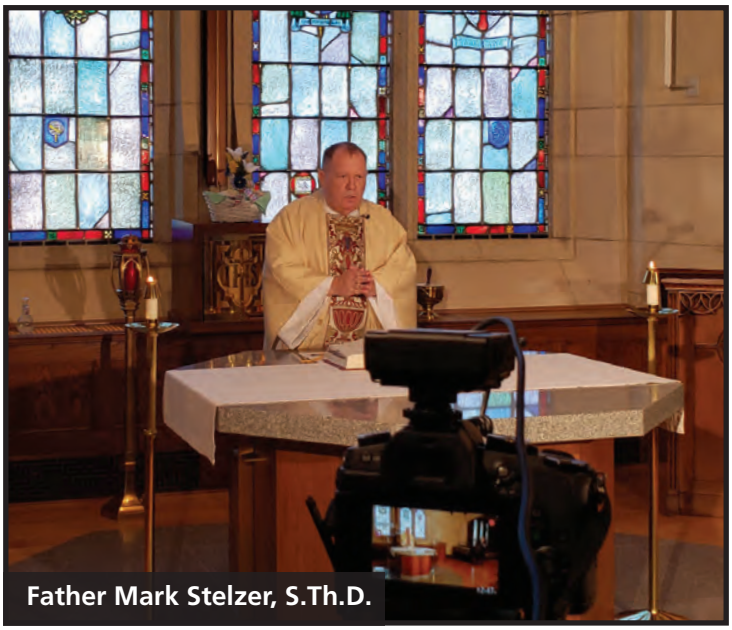
"The students have been amazing. In spite of the challenges of online classes, they have all managed to squeeze out the time to meet with me one-on-one over Zoom," Theis said. "I can share my screen and together we can run statistical analyses on their individual projects. The results are really exciting."


Goose Gosselin, Ed.D.

"While there is no substitute for face-to-face interactions, I was very impressed at how close we could mimic it through the Zoom platform, said Professor of Graphic Design Goose Gosselin, Ed.D.

(continued on page 6)

"For instance, the ability to control a student's computer through the platform does a pretty good job replicating the one-on-one interactions we all miss. It was a delight to be able to show them how to use a tool step by step."



Father Mark Stelzer, S.Th.D.

Since the transition to online learning and the closing of churches and other places of worship, Elms College has recorded the weekly Sunday Mass. Carol Allan, SSJ, director of Campus Ministry, Deirdre Griffin, SSJ, Esq., director of International Programs, and Fred Marion, director of the Elms student choir, join college chaplain Father Mark Stelzer each week to record Mass, which is then made available on social media. In addition, local parishes and religious congregations also share the recorded Elms Mass with their membership.

"As we navigate uncharted waters during the COVID-19 crisis, seeing the familiar faces and hearing the familiar voices of Elms faculty and staff brings great comfort to countless friends of the college," said Fr. Mark, Special Assistant to the President for Catholic Identity and associate professor of Humanities.

"Those who worship regularly in St. Joseph Chapel, along with our many alums and benefactors who view the weekly Mass, continue to comment in emails, cards, and letters on the deep peace they experience in seeing the familiar setting of Berchmans Hall and St. Joseph Chapel. An effort to share Sunday Mass with the many constituencies who are part of the Elms community is an important indicator of the college's commitment to its Catholic identity and mission," Stelzer said.

Because of the unprecedented disruption to the students' traditional learning process, an alternate grading option was approved that let students (except nursing and social work majors, who are subject to accreditation requirements) convert letter-graded courses to a satisfactory/unsatisfactory format.

A virtual ceremony broadcast on what would have been Commencement Day, May 16, recognized the milestone academic achievements of the Class of 2020. Dr. Breau and Dr. Dumay read the names of each graduate, and photos of members of the senior class were also shown during the celebration. An in-person Commencement is still planned to honor the Class of 2020 once it is safe to do so.



Devine Hall

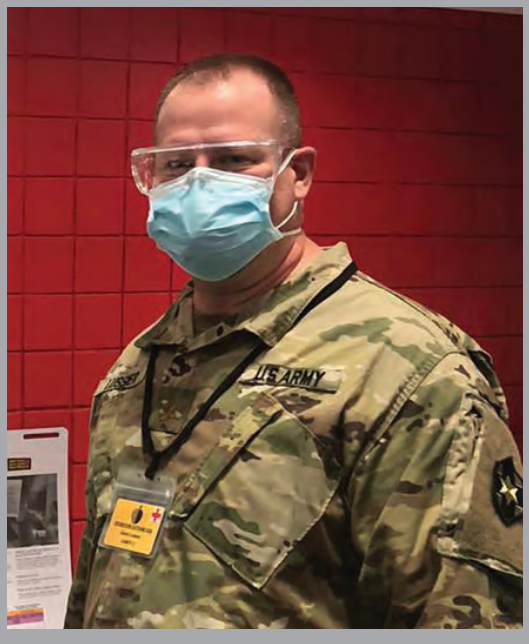
The college also announced that, to assist its local community during the COVID-19 pandemic, it signed an agreement with the City of Chicopee to house first responders — fire, police, and EMTs — in Devine Hall until July 31. The building will then be completely sanitized and cleaned by a professional company well ahead of time to reopen the campus.

While all Summer Session 2020 classes are being held online, the college announced in mid-May that it has formed a campus reopening task force to navigate myriad issues involved in getting the campus open for the Fall 2020 semester. ■

Elms Community of Heroes



We reached out to members of the Elms community who are on the frontlines of the pandemic fight from a variety of perspectives: nurses, law enforcement officers, speech-language pathologists, psychologists, and a biostatistician, among others. Here is what they said, in their own words, about their experiences.



Alumnus Combats Coronavirus in NYC

Nurse David Lussier '00
Chief nurse of the 405th Field Hospital, Worcester, MA

Nurse David Lussier '00 knows war. A 20-year Army Reserves veteran, he's seen it in Iraq as a hospital intelligence officer. He's seen it as an operating room supervisor at Baystate Medical Center (BMC) in Springfield. And, most recently, he's seen it in the heart of the COVID-19 outbreak in New York City as the leader of a team of 85 U.S. Army Reserve soldiers.

After earning his bachelor of science in nursing at Elms in 2000, he enlisted as a soldier in the Reserves. He completed a tour in Iraq in 2007, acting as the 325th Combat Support Hospital's intelligence officer. He steadily worked his way up and, in 2019, became chief nurse of the 405th Field Hospital based in Worcester, MA.

On March 25, Lussier got the call that his troops should be prepared to mobilize and assist with state responses to the coronavirus pandemic. Ten days later, he was named Commander of the Urban Augment Medical Task Force 804-2 (TF3) and headed to the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City, which had been transformed into a fully operational hospital with an ICU, pharmacy, labs, x-ray machines, and even patient showers.

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"There were a lot of heartfelt thanks and appreciation from a lot of the people of NYC. They were glad to see us and wished us well," Lussier said.

It was overwhelming walking into Javits and seeing the sheer number of beds, he added. The convention center ultimately treated 1,095 patients. Although it closed on May 1 due to a decline in new cases, medical equipment remains on-site in the event that personnel need to respond to a second wave of infections.

In addition to treating incoming patients, Lussier found ways to boost the morale of his team. After he learned of a Navy nurse making the extra effort to reunite two family members admitted to Javits, Lussier presented her with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. Presenting the internationally-recognized honor was something that "boosted the morale of the entire team," he said.

Lussier's experience as a nurse leader has taught him to appreciate the resiliency of the American public. His faith in God and his relationship with his wife provide him with the strength to get through the bad days and continue working for the good ones.

"I have been a nurse now for about 20 years and I have seen people make it through things that you would think would not be possible," Lussier said. "The human body is an amazing thing."



(Image courtesy of Mercy Medical Center)

Kelsey Methe '12
Trinity Healthcare

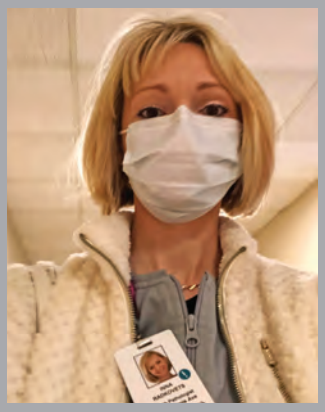
Mercy Medical Center ED nurse Kelsey Methe '12's lovely rendition of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* made the national news when it was picked up by CNN. Kelsey's performance was part of a weekly Facebook Live series in which the hospital showcases a "joyous voice" from within the hospital or surrounding community.



Hannah Liggett, ABA '21
Behavior Analyst

Hannah Liggett faced an unprecedented challenge as a behavior analyst once Massachusetts issued its stay-at-home advisory: the telehealth model for behavioral therapy simply doesn't exist. This change in circumstances ultimately prompted Hannah to get more creative with how she interacts with young children requiring therapy.

"It's been a roller coaster of 'trial and error.' But, the younger kids respond well to themed sessions, which has resulted in facilitating treatment dressed as the Lorax or Wolverine from X-Men. Some of the children have responded in savvy or entertaining ways we hadn't predicted. I found that the transition to working from home wasn't just my physical location; my work had drastically changed, too."



Inna Radkovets '03, CCC-SLP
Adjunct Faculty and Per Diem Inpatient Therapist Baystate Medical Center

Inna Radkovets is a board certified speech-language pathologist (SLP) and bilingual speech therapist who teaches communication sciences and disorders classes at Elms and in the online SLPA program.

"It is heartbreaking seeing patients without any family members to support them during their most vulnerable times. As a bilingual speech therapist, I especially look forward to serving patients whose primary language is Russian, so I can provide some comfort of familiarity by speaking to them in the language of their community."



Cheryl Smith '14, MSN/MBA '17, DNP-HSIL '19,
Manager of Patient Safety and Medical Home at Pediatric Physicians' Organization at Boston Children's Hospital (PPOC)

A career nurse leader, Cheryl Smith helped create a rapid-response Patient Safety Team for PPOC, an independent physician's association made up of more than 500 medical professionals practicing in over 100 locations across Massachusetts, all in partnership with Boston Children's Hospital. Cheryl's team provided critical support to nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals, including creating a COVID-19 resources website; providing communications plans related to patient care; and protocols for telehealth consultations.

"One of the biggest changes we faced was the rapid implementation of telehealth. Prior to COVID-19, we had a three-year staged implementation plan. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and urgent need, we successfully implemented telehealth within a week to all 80 member practices across Massachusetts."



Paul Johansen
Adjunct Faculty, Elms' off-campus program at Berkshire Community College

Paul Johansen is a biostatistician at Berkshire Medical Center, where his job is to support healthcare workers using data analytics. Paul also teaches statistics courses for social work majors as part of Elms' off-campus program at Berkshire Community College.

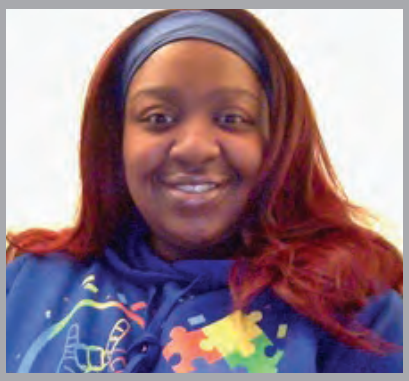
"My job is to support healthcare workers on the frontlines battling COVID-19. I do this by analyzing clinical data and by helping to design research studies aimed at understanding the virus better. I also track data posted online daily by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and by BMC. This information is critical in assisting physicians, nurses, hospitals, public health professionals, and elected officials treat people with COVID-19 and allocate resources throughout Berkshire County."



Lauren Bolduc '17
Patrol Officer on the Overnight Shift at Northampton Police Department

After graduating with a degree in criminal justice, Lauren Bolduc joined the Northampton PD as a patrol officer. She appreciates how the public in Massachusetts has responded to the pandemic, as it has helped make her job patrolling her community much safer.

"I'm happy to hear that Elms will be offering housing to first responders during this time. I am grateful for all of those who are donating masks, hand sanitizer, and other essential supplies. It is also good to see people taking social distancing seriously. COVID has presented many changes and challenges to the community. The public is doing their job staying home, which helps and makes my job safer to do. Remaining hopeful and positive is key."



Leanne Price '13, Psy.D.
Post Doctoral Psychology Resident at Clifford Beers Clinic

A typical day for Dr. Price involves sitting down with clients one-on-one, communicating about personal anxieties and hurdles, and providing treatment. When she made the transition to virtual consultations, she discovered an innate sense of strength in her patients.

" I admire the parents, guardians, and caregivers for being able to utilize the many tools we have discussed in session to help with this transition, as well the clients for remembering the skills that they have learned to handle the stress that comes with unexpected changes to their routines. While I miss the chances to visit and embrace family and close friends, enjoy a live sporting event, or go out for a meal, this effort to socially distance has provided me a chance to take a step back and take stock of what is essential."



Kaylee Hotchkiss '12, M.Ed. '20
Spanish Teacher at Palmer High School

Kaylee Hotchkiss is a Spanish teacher at Palmer High School, where she has taught beginner, intermediate, and advanced foreign language classes for eight years. Working from home has been challenging, she said, because educators have had to discover new tools for recreating the classroom environment. When social distancing recommendations are finally relaxed, Kaylee plans on hosting a "family brunch" for students so they can reconnect with one another.

"As teachers, we spend a lot of time monitoring students' feelings, and how that affects their ability to learn. The hardest part of remote learning has been not seeing my classes every day. I hope that from all of this, students garner a new appreciation for being in school. I personally can't wait to get back to my classroom. I'm even starting to miss aspects of it that I normally can't stand, like my messy desk!"


The new Elms College Living-Learning, Community and Cultural Center.


Officially opening the LLCCC are (l-r) VP of Finance Katie Longley, Trustee Chair Cynthia Lyons, President Harry Dumay, and Trustee and Building and Grounds Committee Chair Melissa Gillis.

New Center Boosts Holistic Elms Experience


A third-floor single bedroom.


The former library, one of the first-floor classroom/conference spaces.

Over the past 150 years the stately manor has been a private home, a residence hall, and a faculty center. But this winter the former Emerson Gaylord property received its most ambitious identity yet — as the Elms College Living-Learning Community and Cultural Center (LLCCC).

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on February 13 to dedicate the revitalized Second Empire architectural gem at 199 Springfield Street, which serves as a gateway into the Elms College campus. The event was not only a celebration of the "labor of love" restoration, but also a recognition of the "many, many hands and many contributions" that made the project possible, said Elms College President Harry Dumay, Ph.D., MBA. The college received multiple generous donations — over $1.3 million — in support of the $4 million renovation.

"Today represents the combination of strong leadership, vision, generosity, and faith in the future of this great institution, and supports our belief at Elms College that anything is possible," said Board of Trustees Chair Cindy Lyons.

Dr. Dumay described the concept of a living-learning community as "a place that brings together students with a common interest, a common purpose, to live, learn, and participate in the holistic experience that contributes to what Elms College offers in a unique way — what we call the Elms Plus."


Eileen O'Leary Sullivan

"The man who built this home was a successful businessman, a tireless civic leader, and a self-made millionaire," said Elms Trustee and project benefactor Eileen O'Leary Sullivan. "What more fitting use for this home than to house community and cultural events and living communities, and students who will change our future, as most Elms College students will."

O'Leary Sullivan spoke of her family's close connection to Elms and the Gaylord Mansion, forged when her aunt, Sr. Eileen O'Neill, SSJ, was a student in the 1950s.

"I'm grateful to Elms College for hosting us all those years back and hope that people experience the same kind of memories, and the same wonderful experiences that we had as a family and look to the future to what Elms gives all of us...the community, future students, and ourselves," O'Leary Sullivan said.

The timing of the opening meant that the LLCCC was able to be utilized during the college's initial response to the COVID-19 outbreak as housing for international students who remained on campus after the college transitioned to distance learning.

In October 2017, the Board of Trustees approved a plan to restore the exterior of the mansion to its prior glory. For the interior, the main floor serves as space for cultural activities and community group gatherings, while the upper floors become residence space for postbaccalaureate and graduate students. Construction on the mansion began in fall 2018 with the restoration of the slate roof.

The ambitious restoration plan also included the installation of accessibility features, such as an outside ramp on the side porch, accessible bathrooms on the first and second floor, and a wheelchair lift that provides access to the living spaces on the second floor. The historic manor also received upgraded electricity and plumbing, as well as wiring for Internet connectivity and a fire suppression system of sprinklers. Residents' rooms also include smart desks that can convert to standing desks for ergonomic support.

The mansion has been part of the Elms College campus since 1962, when it was purchased for $50,000. It was used as a residence hall in the 1950s and 1960s and later as faculty offices from 1991 to 2016. The building was deemed unsafe during that year and was closed. In October 2017, the Elms College Board of Trustees approved the ambitious plan to transform the upper floors into living space and its main floor into a welcoming space for cultural activities and community gatherings. ■



First-floor lounge.

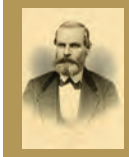




The former front parlor is now classroom/community event space.



Conference/meeting room.



1856 - Emerson Gaylord purchases a house at the corner of Springfield Street and Fairview Avenue from H.H. Phetteplace.

Thank You to All Our Founding Donors

The George I. Alden Trust
technology and academic furnishings

Chicopee Savings Charitable Foundation
An Affiliate of Westfield Bank
first floor meeting room

Francis and Marian Kirley
first floor meeting room and reception area

M. Eleanor Murphy '80 and Peter D. Crisci
first floor

Edward J. O'Leary and Family
first floor meeting room and third floor bedroom

Dr. Kathleen M. Riordan '67
first floor meeting room

The Roncari Family
second floor common area and third floor living room

Elizabeth and Robert Knight
in honor of the Knight Family

Anthony Kolish
in honor of Lucille T. Kolish and Judith Kennedy '59

Elaine Kolish
in honor of Lucille T. Kolish and Judith Kennedy '59

Theresa M. Kolish and Thomas Bergin
in honor of Lucille T. Kolish and Judith Kennedy '59

Professor Advances Research-Based Bioscience

In 2020-2021, Elms students can pursue a bachelor's degree with a concentration in biotechnology research.

"My role is to guide them, not to decide for them." This is how Sudad Saman, Ph.D., describes his approach to mentoring students interested in research.

A relatively new face on campus — he became lecturer of biomedical sciences in fall 2019 — Sudad is now at the forefront of the college's science innovation efforts. Along with Janet Williams, Ph.D., Sudad is leading a scientific renaissance on campus through the creation of a new degree program in biotechnology. The program will offer undergraduate and, in the future, graduate students a research-intensive introduction to some of the most pressing issues and challenges facing modern science.



Andrew Clifford, BMS '20, was involved in two biomedical research projects at Elms, including exploring new ways to rapidly analyze strains of infectious bacteria. "I'm learning this material in a very applicable, practical way," he said. "Going forward into medical school, I'll have a far better understanding than just (by reading) textbook definitions."

Top: Biomedical Sciences lecturer Sudad Suman, Ph.D., advises postbaccalaureate pre-medical program student Krunal Bombaywala '20 on his research.

Sudad brings 14 years of industry experience to the new curriculum. At the University of Massachusetts Lowell, he specialized in biomedical engineering and biotechnology, focusing on Alzheimer's disease and traumatic brain injuries. He also served as a lead scientist at Ultra Analysis, a medical diagnostic company. At Elms, Sudad injects this experience into lectures, class discussions, and research projects, which give students an unfiltered look at the events currently affecting biotechnology.

"Students learn how to run an experiment on their own, organize themselves in the lab, evaluate the results of experiments, and determine what must be done next," Sudad said. "Students leaving Elms will have been exposed to all of the methods and techniques that make them competitive when applying for jobs in this field."

While Elms already offers a graduate program in biomedical sciences (BMS), it is designed for students planning to enter professional healthcare, with a curriculum that resembles the first year of some medical school programs. The biotech program approaches science from a research perspective and is more technique and analysis based. It also explores other issues of importance to research, such as patent law.

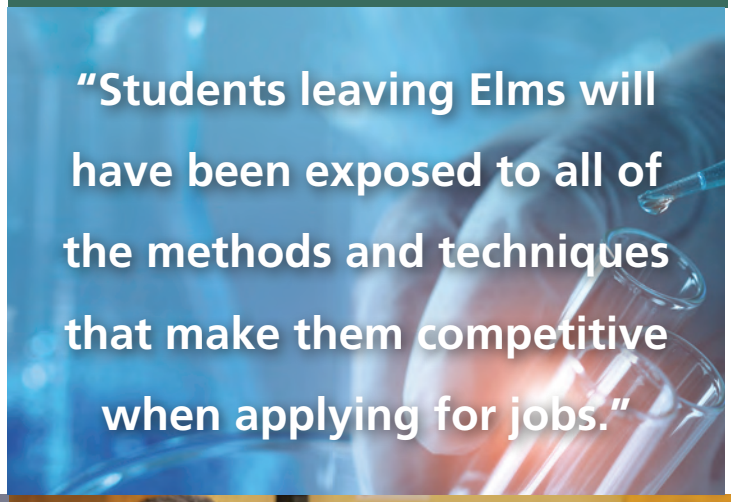
BMS student Kaleigh Gordon-Ross '20 notes that advanced training in research helps students bolster their resumes and establish professional reputations while still in school.

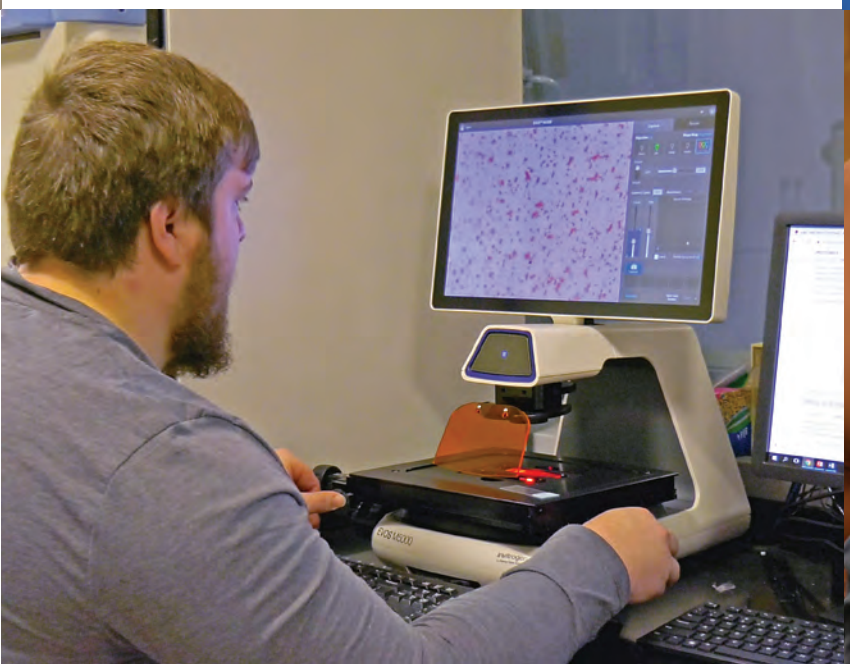
"It provides real experiences," Kaleigh said. "I think it's beneficial to have this background and knowledge, even just how to do basic techniques and computer programming, because they can apply to other environments." ■

Biotechnology 101

- **Bachelor's degree in four years**
- **Master's degree in 18 months *(beginning 2021-2022)***
- **Emphasis on lab work and applied research**
- **Co-author articles and see work published in peer-reviewed journals**

Research takes place in a fully-equipped cell culture lab that includes equipment used for DNA, RNA, and protein analysis, as well as tissue study instrumentation.





Cameron Ford '19 enrolled in the master's in biomedical sciences program intending to go into medicine. But the close faculty relationships he developed persuaded him to consider a career in academia. Ford is now an Elms adjunct professor, guiding students through the same transformational experience he had. "It brought out who I was, and who I wanted to be," he said of the BMS program. Here, Ford uses a computer in the cell culture lab to analyze data for an investigation into Alzheimer's markers.



Postbaccalaureate pre-medical program students (l-r) Krunal Bombaywala '20, Amari Powell '21, and Samuel Francois '21 collaborate in the Lyons Center research lab. Powell, who has her sights set on attending dental school, felt at home at Elms because the research opportunities aligned with her undergraduate experience. Working with professors Saman and Williams on her lab techniques was indispensable, Amari said. For Samuel, researching Alzheimer's disease in Saman's lab has been directly applicable to his career goal, which is to become a neurosurgeon.



Antoinette Bonnie Candia-Bailey, Ph.D., of Madison, WI, has been hired as the college's first vice president of student affairs and chief diversity officer. The position is a new one for the college; Candia-Bailey is responsible for providing leadership, management and supervision to the director of diversity and inclusion, the dean of students, the director of campus ministry, and the director of athletics. A 20-year higher education veteran, she will advise the president and other members of the executive leadership team on all student affairs and diversity matters. Candia-Bailey holds a doctoral degree in leadership studies from North Carolina A&T State University, a master's in rehabilitation counseling/disability studies at Michigan State University, and a bachelor's in sociology from Lincoln University in Missouri.



New Director of Diversity and Inclusion **Michael Crawford** has experience in diversity programming and academic support in higher education at Haverford College in Pennsylvania, the University of Connecticut, non-profit organizations, and as an independent consultant. Most recently, he was a research associate in a culture and mental health disparities lab at the University of Connecticut. Crawford holds a bachelor's in philosophy from Haverford College and a bachelor's in biological sciences from the University of Connecticut.



Tyra Good, Ph.D., has been hired as faculty director for the Center for Equity in Urban Education. Dr. Good, who will begin her tenure on July 1, joins Elms from Chatham University, where she was assistant professor of education. She is also the founder and chief academic consultant with GOOD Knowledge, a collective voice of K-12, Higher Education, and community educators strategically working across school district and community lines to support each other while ensuring the academic and personal success of African-American youth from underserved communities. Dr. Good received her bachelor's in business management from Howard University, a master of arts in teaching degree from Chatham University, and a doctorate in educational leadership and evaluation from Duquesne University.



Deirdre Griffin, SSJ, Esq., has been hired as director of international programs, and is responsible for growing traditional and faculty-led study abroad programs. During her 20-year career as an immigration attorney, she worked in private practice, managed interpreter services in the Massachusetts courts, and coordinated refugee resettlement services. She has also worked at Jewish Family Service and the Gray House in Springfield, providing a variety of transitional and support services to diverse, global populations. Sr. Deirdre is a graduate of Boston College Law School and Bowdoin College, where she earned her bachelor's in government and legal studies.



Andrea Holden has been hired as director of alumni relations. She has more than 20 years of experience in higher education, having served in a variety of roles within student affairs, including campus programs, campus center management, new student programs, leadership, and residential life. Most recently, she was student engagement specialist for the dean of students at the Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick, RI, and the director of student activities, involvement and leadership at Wheaton College in Norton, MA. She holds a bachelor's in urban studies from Worcester State College and a master's in marketing from Webster University.



Pablo Madera has joined the college as director of public safety. Madera is a 37-year veteran of the Ludlow Police Department, where he progressed from patrolman to sergeant to lieutenant and, for the past seven years, served as the department's chief of police. He was an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Western New England University (WNEU) for 23 years and also spent time consulting on multicultural awareness issues and policing. Madera earned his bachelor's in criminal justice from Westfield State University and his master's in criminal justice administration from WNEU. In addition, he graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA.



Beryl Hoffman, Ph.D., associate professor of computer science and co-chair of the Natural Science, Mathematics, and Technology Division, reports impressive results from the first phase of her Google-funded computer science research grant. Her research is designed to broaden high school students' participation in computer science and programming courses, especially among underrepresented populations in the field, such as women and minorities. The initial phase involved creating a curriculum called CSAwesome, which to date has had more than 9,600 users through more than 750 teachers. Professional development seminars for 60 teachers have also been held.



Janet Williams, Ph.D. reports a record number of acceptances across all areas of healthcare professional schools for Elms College premedical students in the 2019-2020 application cycle. Dr. Williams, who is professor of biology, premedical/prehealth advisor, and director of both the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Studies and Master of Biomedical Sciences programs, says 26 Elms premedical students will matriculate to professional health programs in 2020, including allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, physician assistant schools, dental schools, and veterinary school.



President Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA, has been elected to the board of trustees at Norwich University in Northfield, Vt. This appointment marks Dr. Dumay's first election to the board of a college or university. Norwich University is the oldest private military college in the U.S. and the birthplace of the ROTC. Dr. Dumay continues to serve as a commissioner, treasurer, member of the executive committee, and member of the annual report on finance and enrollment for the New England Commission for Higher Education (NECHE); as a member of the board of directors for the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (AICUM) and the student aid policy committee for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU); as a board member of Pope Francis Preparatory School in Springfield, and as treasurer on the Board of Trustees for the Boston Foundation's Haiti Development Institute.



Richard Meelia Appointed as Trustee

The Elms College Board of Trustees has appointed Richard J. Meelia, principal of Meelia Ventures LLC, as its newest member.

"I am delighted that Richard Meelia has accepted our invitation to serve," said President Harry E. Dumay, Ph.D., MBA. "I look forward to working with him and seeing how his business experience will contribute to our strategic thinking.

"In addition to his business experience, Rich has a true passion for student experiential learning," Dr. Dumay added. "He funded the Meelia Center for Student Engagement and Volunteerism at Saint Anselm College and has provided the support to establish the Srs. Kathleen Keating and Maxyne Schneider Experiential Learning Fund at Elms College."

From July 2007 until his retirement in July 2011, Meelia served as chairman, president and chief executive officer of Covidien plc, an $11 billion global healthcare products company, following its separation from Tyco International in June 2007. Prior to that separation, Meelia served in a variety of senior leadership roles, including CEO and president of Tyco Healthcare.

Meelia is the chairman of the board of Haemonetics, a global provider of blood and plasma supplies and services located in Braintree, MA. He is also a member of the board of directors of several organizations, including: St. Francis House in Boston, which is the largest day shelter in Massachusetts; Por Cristo, a Brighton, MA, nonprofit dedicated to improving the health of poor children and their families in Ecuador; and Conformis, a knee replacement manufacturer in Billerica, MA. He has served on the board of trustees of Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH.

IGNITE
Innovation and groundbreaking nucleus of ideas transforming experiences

Second Annual Innovation Challenge

At the heart of the Elms College mission is a desire to compassionately respond to "civic and social obligations." This year, students enrolled in the college's new Honors program did just that by participating in the second annual Innovation Challenge from January 18-21. The nonstop workshop sponsored by the Division of Business prompted approximately 60 students to band together and re-envision ways for society to alleviate homelessness.

Working in interdisciplinary teams, students spent the first three days of the challenge conducting research on causes and effects of homelessness, interviewing subject matter experts, and generating ideas to combat vagrancy. On the final day of the challenge, students presented their ideas to a jam-packed College Center audience, making the case for why their technology, service, or community program was the most feasible response to the issue.



Approximately 60 first-year honors students collaborated on new interventions for combating homelessness and supporting the displaced during the 2020 Innovation Challenge.

"Students learned valuable skills related to problem solving and team building in addition to handling criticism and managing feedback," said Amanda Garcia MSA, CPA, CFP, director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

The long-term value of these soft skills — especially empathy — isn't lost on students.

"Hopefully, as a future doctor, not only do I want to treat patients and address their problems, but I also want to empathize with them," said Victor Ivancev '23, a biology and biotechnology double major on a pre-med track. "I definitely learned how to do that over the course of this weekend." ■

Reflecting on Four Years of Service

Elieneth "Alyssa" Mercado '20, a criminal justice major, has participated in mission trips since her freshman year to places like Baltimore, MD; Trenton, NJ; and Nicaragua. She completed her undergraduate experience in Puerto Rico this year.

While all of the other trips have gone as planned, the visit to Puerto Rico made me realize the true reality of a mission trip: you just never know what is going to happen.

We worked for one day in Peñuelas, a small town west of Ponce. We worked with a group of students from the University of Colorado, creating what would become a small community center for the people around the area. The people around the neighborhood often came up and spoke to the group and shared amazing stories about the small town.

Unfortunately, that was our only day of work. The next morning, the area was hit with a 6.5 magnitude earthquake, which caused a power outage across the whole island. Once we packed our belongings, we traveled back to San Juan where a generous woman opened her home to us for the night. This was a nerve-racking moment for all of us. But this experience is what a mission trip is all about. We do not know how things are going to go, and we have to make the best of that moment — and we did.

This is what a mission trip is, and why students should participate. While we are working to better the lives of those we serve, we do it in a way that is fun. You'll grow closer to the people you serve along side, and you'll have plenty of memories to relive: the funny, the unfortunate, and the heartfelt.

You will remember the work you did and the impact you left on others, and you will know the work was worth it. Soon, you will start thinking about where your next service trip could be. ■



Eyes Open, Perspectives Broaden on Mission Trips

Mission trips are an integral part of what makes the Elms College experience a distinctive one. Whether traveling domestically or internationally, students who have the opportunity to step outside of their comfort zones, roll up their sleeves, and provide comfort or assistance to the underserved and the marginalized always say they are the better for it. Although some trips were unexpectedly cut short this year, the experiences proved to be just as powerful as ever.



Elms and Thomas More college students enjoy sunrise atop Mt. Cristo Rey in Scenic Drive Park in El Paso on March 10. The park overlooks the US/Mexico border.



Nursing student Richard Vanasse '20 checks a clinic patient's blood pressure in Mandeville, Jamaica.

Jamaica

Over the course of two weeks in December 2019 and January 2020, a small cohort of nursing students in the accelerated second degree program visited Mandeville, Jamaica, to conduct health assessments. For the first time ever, volunteers established a street-side clinic for residents, offering immediate access to free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings. In two hours, the group saw over 100 individuals.

Kyle O'Brien '20 was amazed to learn the lengths to which people had to go to receive medical care. "People walked miles to see us in the 'bush clinics'," he said. "It opened my eyes to how important these mission trips are to people in these countries."

Managing the sheer volume of patients at the street-side clinic was also a unique learning opportunity.

"This experience enhanced my understanding of what it means to take care of the patient holistically and how to look at all the factors (environmental, nutritional, education, economic) that contribute to their disorders" to provide the best care possible, Kyle said.



Elms nursing students work at a street-side clinic in Mandeville, Jamaica.



Peñuelas, Puerto Rico

In March 2020, eight students and two staff members traveled to Peñuelas, a small town west of Ponce. The group was able to spend one day helping the community rebuild part of its infrastructure devastated by Hurricane Maria in 2017. Although a 6.5 magnitude earthquake with its epicenter located near Ponce forced their trip to come to an abrupt and scary end, the group still managed to accomplish vital work in a short amount of time. In collaboration with students from the University of Colorado, the Elms team helped pour concrete, paint exterior walls, and construct shelves for a new community center.

For Megan Senecal ’20, a communication sciences and disorders major, the trip crystallized for her the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph. She listened as Hurricane Marie survivors shared their stories, only to have the area hit by yet another natural disaster days later. Even so, "they still comforted us and showed us compassion and care," Megan said. "(It) really showed me what helping your neighbor is all about."

Brooke Chisolm ’22, a nursing major, found solace in the way her classmates made the best of a nightmarish scenario.

"I definitely wouldn't have been able to go through this experience of a lifetime without the support of Campus Ministry," she said, adding that sharing traumatic events can lead to deeper connections. "We left as a family, bonded by many memories," Brooke said.



At Mt. Cristo Rey are (l-r) Eileen Kirk, Amari Powell ’21, Victoria Guay ’23, Emily Gay ’23, Brianna Belgrave-Sealy ’20, Reyna Bautista ’23, Alexandria Carmon ’23, Chynna Pacheco ’23, and Bill Gilbert.

El Paso, Texas

In early March, students traveled to El Paso to learn about cultural and political dynamics at the U.S.-Mexico border. The trip emphasized more witnessing and observing than manual labor and volunteerism. The group stayed at Casa Vides, a shelter that provides essential services for migrants, immigrants, and refugees in the spirit of Catholic social teaching.

Victoria Guay ’23, a nursing major, described it as a "once-in-a-lifetime border experience" that helped inform her own opinion about border politics.

"We had meals in the shelters, connected with immigrants and with the volunteers, and made amazing friends," Victoria said. "We got to step into the lives of immigrants. We learned so much over such a short period of time, and I value these lessons with my whole heart. I'll keep them with me forever." ■



(l-r) Helping to repair damage caused by Hurricane Maria in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico, are (l-r) Maria Graziano ’22, Autumn Pharmer ’21, Megan Senecal ’20, and Elieneth "Alyssa" Mercado ’20.



Photo of Heddal Stave Church: Courtesy of Micha L. Rieser

Making Art History Hands-On

For years, Goose Gosselin, Ed.D., professor of graphic design, thought that Minecraft was the perfect alternative environment for learning to take place. The videogame is a virtual "sandbox" where players can not only build structures that imitate real architectural styles but also affix labels and descriptions to their creations, demonstrating the art historical terms and concepts they have learned.

"How do you make history hands-on? By making it," Gosselin said. "Students learned the terminology and then had to build those structural elements themselves."

When he pitched the idea of co-teaching it to Cecily Hughes, MFA, lecturer in art history, he knew that he was onto something. The end result was the cross-disciplinary course "ART 2102: Minecrafting Architectural Wonders."

Gosselin and Hughes presented art history as a cultural signpost of sorts, a collection of artifacts waiting to be decoded. By intentionally steering the subject matter away from North America and Europe when possible, they also introduced students to histories that run counter to the Western canon.

"We wanted to capture diverse cultural perspectives," Hughes said, noting that she focused on art movements and concepts that could also be faithfully recreated within Minecraft. "We come from multi- religious, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, and we see all of these different elements reflected in the art and architecture around us, so it's important and often empowering to trace those interwoven histories."

The number of graphics and technology majors was intentionally limited to half of the class, reserving the remaining

seats for students from other disciplines. This made for a mutually beneficial team dynamic, where students applied their individual strengths and expertise to further the group's final project.

Students demonstrated their comprehension by labeling their creations and conducting research on how different structures were actually composed throughout history. This included making everything from Egyptian sarcophagi and Greek friezes to neoclassical fountains and Nordic altars.

For their final project, the students had to recreate the Heddal Stave Church, the largest wooden stave church built in Norway in the 12th century. The class utilized a range of resources to make their building as realistic as possible, including consulting Google Maps to obtain aerial frames of reference for the surrounding cemetery and studying online photos and videos of tourists exploring the inside of the space.

Julia Sarrazin '22, a math major earning a minor in accounting and management, laid the groundwork — quite literally — for the group to begin its final build. After contacting the church's staff, she obtained the actual building plans, including roof and wall heights.

"With these blueprints, I used a ruler to convert all of the lengths into numbers of Minecraft blocks and worked with my classmates to build the entire structure of the church," Julia said. To accentuate certain details, like the dragon's head ornaments, they decided to make the exterior roughly twice the size of the church in real life.

Ryan Shea '20, a double major in history and English, acted as the group's historian. He uncovered the history of the Holta monument, a towering obelisk located in the cemetery, and navigated a labyrinth of historical records by relying heavily on Google's translation function.

Nelson Morales '24, a senior at Chicopee Comprehensive High School and an incoming first-year student this fall, said that the class gave him a quality introduction to the graphic design program at Elms.

"The class gave me something to focus on while my high school was figuring out how to switch to online classes," he said. "It was a seamless transition. It made me excited for Elms in the fall because I really had the opportunity to feel out the campus and be comfortable with this next chapter in my life."

Working within the virtual environment of Minecraft proved to be the ideal way to learn about art history, said Mikayla Kenneson '23, a graphic design and marketing double major.

"Sure, you know what a pyramid or a Viking ship looks like, but being able to build it yourself and go through the steps to replicate it and label types of parts really helped me to understand more about these pieces of history," she said. ■





Minecrafting Architectural Wonders students' digital recreations of the exterior and interior of Heddal Stave Church.

Socioeconomic Factors on

BLACK ISSUES SUMMIT



Greenfield Community College President Yves Salomon-Fernández, Ph.D., went into the audience to deliver her talk.

The Elms community celebrated Black History Month on February 28 by hosting its third annual Black Issues Summit. Now a mainstay in the college's lineup of edifying academic lectures, this year's summit unpacked the theme of "Housing, Health, and Education: Basic Human Rights." Representatives from Senator Elizabeth Warren's office, Congressman Richard Neal's office, the Chicopee Health Department, and several area high schools and colleges were in attendance.

The interlocking socioeconomic factors of equal opportunity to healthcare, affordable housing, and educational opportunities are "part of the holistic education that we strive to provide to our students," said President Harry Dumay, Ph.D., MBA. "We encourage them not just to have knowledge for knowledge's sake, but to walk the walk."

First-year nursing major Brian Cintron '23 and other members of the Diversity Leadership Council met with the keynote speakers before the summit.

"I got to make a lot of connections that could be beneficial to my future and career goals," Cintron said of the experience. "The biggest takeaway was the new perspective I took on all the issues that were presented."

The summit's four keynote speakers were Denise R. Jordan, M.S., Executive Director, Springfield Housing Authority; Frank Robinson, Ph.D., Vice President, Baystate Health; Yves Salomon-Fernández, Ph.D., President, Greenfield Community College; and Savina J. Martin, M.S., D.H.L., Honoris Causa, Minister, Massachusetts coordinator, Poor People's Campaign: NCMR.



Savina J. Martin, M.S., D.H.L., Honoris Causa, Minister, Massachusetts coordinator, Poor People's Campaign: NCMR.

Martin's talk detailed how the Poor People's Campaign is fomenting grassroots resistance and demonstrations across the country, "waking the nation," as she put it, to the systemic injustices that oppress the poor, homeless, and dispossessed.

Human Rights Explored



Speakers and members of the Diversity and Inclusion Council met before the Black Issues Summit. Pictured are (l-r) Savina J. Martin, Summit host Alaina Macaulay, Caitlin Ratto '20, Brian Cintron '23, Dr. Frank Robinson, Elms President Dr. Harry Dumay, Denise R. Jordan, Joe Potter '23, Ryan Murray, Associate Professor of History Damien Murray, VP of Academic Affairs Walter C. Breau, and Director of Diversity and Inclusion Michael Crawford.

"We need to do whatever we can in our respective communities to mobilize, organize, register, and educate men and women who are suffering from systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism, and a distorted moral narrative," she said.

Jordan's lecture unpacked the link between cultural identity, feelings of belonging, and housing.

Drawing on oral histories and her personal memories of growing up in the Mason Square neighborhood of Springfield, she explained how black people form effortless connections with their neighbors by virtue of living in close proximity to one another. When black residents began to move into more affluent areas and suburbs in the 1970s, this "magical" cultural dynamic and sense of belonging was destabilized, Jordan said.

"For the majority of the black people I know, where they lived and how they grew up was a huge impact on who they are today," Jordan explained. "The relationships that existed between neighbors were very easy. They seemed sort of magical."

Jordan's message resonated with Joe Potter '23, a secondary education and English double major. "My favorite part was the importance of neighbors and conversation in safe spaces," he said. "It was something that has always been highlighted within my family, so I felt right at home."

Robinson explored the relationship between social determinants of health and "inner-city racial segregation." He noted how racist housing policies and mortgage practices of the 1930s had the dual effect of enabling white flight to the suburbs while simultaneously confining black people and other marginalized groups to "legally arranged, disadvantaged communities." These geographic divisions extend into the present, Robinson said, and have a major impact on health, since people living in disadvantaged areas lack access to resources and are regularly exposed to more risk factors than people living in affluent areas.

Salomon-Fernández took an interactive approach to her summit presentation, walking along the center aisle of Veritas Auditorium to engage with the audience "on the ground." She asked attendees to share the most pressing concerns on their minds, and responded with insights from the perspective of a college president and social justice advocate. She noted that she remains optimistic looking to the future, as Millennials, Gen Z, and even Gen Alpha are exercising their voices in new, bold ways. ■



Dear Elms College alumni and friends,

The Alumni Association Board of Elms College continues to support our beloved alma mater during these unprecedented times. This pandemic has changed how faculty and staff provide students with a quality educational experience as well as the day-to-day business and support operations of the college. Our lives as alumni and community members have also changed, but together we will get through this. I hope the arrival of the *Elms Magazine* finds you and your family well. As we continue to learn about this virus, both young and old face risk and social distancing has helped decrease the spread. Social distancing has required the cancellation and postponement of many traditional Elms events, including the Good Friday Fish and Chips Dinner, the Senior Toast (where we welcome our newest alumni), Commencement, and Reunion. Don't worry, we will find ways to celebrate just as soon as we can!

Elms alumni are leading our communities forward in their work in healthcare, education, social work, and public service and community engagement. Thank you to all those working to support our communities during the COVID-19 crisis. Please say a prayer and give thanks for all our alumni who are on the frontlines fighting for all of us.

We are learning from new collaborations, bringing our strengths together, utilizing historical perspectives, scientific data and innovative thinking in this new virtual world in which we live. The Alumni Association Board (AAB) jumped in and held their April meeting by Zoom. The intergenerational group conducted business with new technology, even holding some practice time for those new to Zoom. The AAB reviewed the organization by-laws, sought interest for new board leaders, discussed and voted on the senior class gift match, brainstormed ways to welcome our newest alumni to the Alumni Association, and checked in on committee updates. It was a successful meeting with business as usual but it was definitely not normal.

I wish to welcome Andrea Holden to our Elms family as the director of Alumni Relations. We share the goal of engaging our alumni with intergenerational events to connect and serve the needs of our entire alumni base. Please reach out to her if you have any ideas or if you wish to join a committee. Below are some of the current ways in which you can get involved as an alumna/us with Alumni Relations and the Alumni Association Board.

- Volunteer at a virtual or in-person event. You can choose to get involved in the planning or just help out at an event. This is a great way to learn more about what is offered for alumni and experience what's happening on and off campus for alumni.
- Get involved with the Alumni Association as a committee member, voting AAB member or run for a leadership position on the Alumni Association Board. There are so many opportunities and this is a great way to connect and network with other alumni on our professional board.
- Join the Reunion committee and work closely with Alumni Relations to help plan and execute reunion events and activities for all reunion year classes.
- Help out with our two annual awards! The Distinguished Alumni Award and Faculty Grants need to engage alumni in these processes in order to be successful.
- Support the Elms in its mission and values. There are many ways to get involved: be a class agent, help with Blazer Blitz, utilize your talent, time and treasure to support the Annual Fund.

I want to express my sincere thanks to the Elms College leadership, faculty, staff, and students who have adapted daily to the needs of our community. Although social distancing has required the postponement of Commencement, I want to congratulate all of our graduates in the class of 2020 and welcome them to the Alumni Association.

Sincerely yours,

Theresa (Terri) Stec '78

President, Elms College Alumni Association



Hello Elms College alumni,

Allow me to introduce myself, I am Andrea Holden, the director of Alumni Relations. I recently joined the College of Our Lady of the Elms community. (For more about me, please see Staff News on page 14) I am thrilled to be here and can't wait to get to know you. While my first few months have been unusual to say the least, I have felt nothing but a warm and genuine welcome from staff, faculty, students and, most importantly, alumni.

Although the COVID-19 crisis changed the way we work, my goal to develop initiatives that increase alumni engagement has not changed. But to do that I need to hear from and meet alumni so I can learn what you want and need from the college. Over the last few months I have continued and initiated several outreach projects which include:

- Continuing the monthly distribution of ElmsMail, the alumni newsletter;
- Developing a weekly Elms Notes email for increased communication during the COVID-19 crisis;
- Increasing social media engagement among alumni. (I hope you have joined the Elms Alumni Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn accounts);
- Surveying 2020 and 2021 reunion classes for feedback on their upcoming reunion planning;
- Hosting and supporting virtual alumni gatherings.(The Alumni Association Board and several classes have tried these out);
- Implementing an Alumni Engagement Survey for your comments and suggestions by email, text, phone, and mail;

I continue to work with the Alumni Association Board, class representatives, and my colleagues in Institutional Advancement and across campus towards the time when we can connect in person. Our plans need to be agile enough to shift from virtual engagement to smaller more intimate gatherings at first and then on to larger events. That is why we have been working so hard to connect with you this spring, so that as plans develop I can quickly keep you informed.

I welcome the opportunity to talk, email, or Zoom with you anytime. Feel free to write to me directly at alumni@elms.edu. I am looking for creative and new ideas to engage alumni and I suspect that those ideas live with you, the dedicated alumni of Elms College.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Andrea

413-265-2454

holdena@elms.edu

1928 Founders Appeal

Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1928, College of Our Lady of the Elms has been committed to providing an academically rich, fulfilling experience for all students. For years the Elms College Founders Fund has honored this legacy by supporting the financial aid needs of our students.

With these needs now greater than ever, we thank you for participating in the 1928 Founders Appeal.

No matter the gift size, your generous support and participation will help today's students achieve their goal of earning a college degree.



www.elms.edu/1928

As a special thank you, supporters who give a minimum gift of $75 or set up a $6.25 monthly recurring donation will receive a pair of special edition Elms College socks!





Hard Work, Diligence Pays Off for Alumnus

Real estate is a notoriously unpredictable market. Housing bubbles grow and eventually burst. Interest rates plummet and then skyrocket. Investors make a fortune — or lose everything.

Amidst all of this chaos, Damien Bradley '02 is a pillar of stability. He brings nearly two decades of accounting expertise to Blue Moon Capital Partners (BMCP), an advisory firm specializing in senior housing community investments. As the director of accounting and finance at BMCP, Damien oversees all financial reporting measures, ensuring that senior leadership is fully informed of the company's financial health, and that clients understand the trajectory of their investments.

"My career goals are never fully set and I am always setting new targets for myself. I enjoy the challenge of chasing those targets and learned a long time ago to never limit my own expectations."

Damien joined BMCP when the firm was still in its infancy – he was only the seventh employee added to its payroll. This proved to be a pivotal moment in his career, however, as he became the architect of BCMP's accounting department.

"I was attracted to the company's vision and was ready to take on the challenge of building up the accounting department from inception," he said. "The role has changed quite a bit over my four years now, but it is exactly that type of dynamic atmosphere that keeps you engaged."

When he isn't busy meeting with clients in his office off of Boylston Street, Damien hits the pavement, exploring the ins and outs of the city's vibrant restaurant scene.

"I've lived in Boston for about 15 years now, but I also enjoy getting back to western Massachusetts to visit family and friends on the weekends," he said.



"I felt I was very well prepared going to business school after graduating from Elms," Damien added. "I believe that that educational foundation has served me well."

Damien Bradley '02, who is enjoying a successful accounting career in Boston, continually sets new career goals for himself.

A Leap of Faith

While mathematics and numbers came naturally to Damien during high school, he never considered accounting to be a likely career path. He ended up taking "a leap of faith" into the field, he said, after a family member suggested it.

That leap of faith ended up paying dividends. At Elms, Damien mastered the fundamentals of business under the guidance of professor William Donovan, who always "set high expectations for his students."

"I felt I was very well prepared going to business school after graduating from Elms," Damien added. "I believe that that educational foundation has served me well."

Damien's experience with numbers wasn't purely academic, though. As a starting guard for the men's basketball team, he racked up 1,158 points over four years. This achievement led to his induction into the Elms Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008, where he was honored as the first male inductee.

After graduating from Elms, Damien earned his MBA degree, as well as his CPA certification. Despite the exam's notorious difficulty, Damien recommends that all accounting majors think about passing it as soon as possible.

"It really opens up future career prospects that would not be available otherwise," he said. "Young grads should remember that those universal traits of hard work, diligence, and approaching everything earnestly will go a long way." ■

IN MEMORIAM 2019-2020

Alumni
Mary Sheehan Kelly ‘45
Mary Donohue Shaughnessy ‘46
Margaret M. Swords ‘46
Ruth Murphy Burton ‘49
Mary Bresnahan Lavelle ‘51
Jeanne Daly Giardina ‘51
Mary Mahoney Erard-Zwicker ‘52
Mary Murphy ‘52
Ann Marie Smyth LeBel ‘54
Eileen Deitner Lincoln ‘54
Jeanne Fontaine Sarkis ‘54
Margaret Sullivan Ahearn ‘54
Mary Kiley Gorman ‘55
Patricia Hanifin Nelen ‘55
Imelda Maria Fallon SSJ ‘56
Mary Goonan, SSJ ‘56
Ann Butler SSJ ‘58
Mary Ellen Shea ‘59
Marjorie Coon Moraes ‘60
Mary O’Brien McMahon ‘60
Rosemary Broderick O’Connor ‘60
(Former Trustee)
Linda Lavallee Ulrick ‘60
Diane Newman Cote ‘60
Maryanne LaFond Noone ‘61
Regina Hart Gulliver ‘62
Julie Sittard Leonard ‘63
Margaret Begley Anderson ‘63
Jean McLaughlin ‘64
Virginia Callahan Jackson ‘64
Albina Szala Forys ‘65
Carolyn Tessier Pelletier ‘65
Judith McNamara ‘66
Rosemarie McMahon ‘67
Nancy Foote Watson ‘67
Douglas Wilkinson ‘67
M. Elizabeth LeBlanc Ed.D. ‘67
Nancy Nobert ‘69
Diane McGuigan Larkin ‘69
Marie Pelka Nicholls ‘69
Rosemarie Brodeur-Heihsel ‘70
Dianne Roncarati, SSJ ‘70
Mary Keenan ‘71
Ellen Smith Charest ‘75
Andi Palomba ‘75
Susan McCarthy Crawford ‘83
Rosemary Rossi ‘84
Adele Tanner ‘85
Margaret Ott, A.P.B. ‘87
Cynthia Mitchell Couture ‘92
Mary Mauri ‘92
Jaimie Martin ‘12
Robert Connell ‘16
Ann Connor
(non-graduated alumna)
Jean Dansereau Barbas
(non-graduated alumna)
Debra Moriarty
(non-graduated alumna)

Husband of
Marie Lawler Aquadro ‘49
Barbara Garde Garvey ‘51
Constance Brunet Jabbar ‘56
Patricia Dowd Wilkinson ‘59
Arlene Richards Kowal ‘67
Carol Swiatlowski Holden ‘68
Patricia Kulig Meade ‘75
Katherine LaCarruba ‘78
Marguerite Fournier Constant ‘92
Norma Mitchell McCain ‘92

Daughter of
Caroline Murray ‘97
(Faculty Member)

Son of
Helene Brady Brennan ‘51
Amy Bierwith Radon ‘08

Mother of
Marilyn Trela Lemanski ‘72
Susan Goldrick ‘78
Mary Lavelle McAndrew ‘85
Catherine Leonard ‘13
John D. Flynn (Trustee)
Dan Kelly (staff member)

Father of
Alison Aquardo Gleason ’ 75
Laura McCain Moyer ‘91
Melissa Holden Webber ‘93
Ellen Kirley Hennessey ‘99
Kathryn Meade Vooris ’ 07
Steven Marcus
(Friend of the College)

Sister of
Indira Lalchandani Broska ‘14
Winifred Butler SSJ ‘57

Brother of
Judith Kennedy ‘59
Sr. Kathleen Kirley, SSJ ‘66
Kathleen Corridan Culloo ‘68
Donna Corridan ‘73
Susan Mester Dickson ‘75
Joy Lockhart ‘83
Dr. Martin Pion Ph.D.
(Former Faculty)

Sister-in-law of
Joan Doyle Hart ‘56

Brother-in-law of
Joan Brunet Barnett ‘56

Aunt of
Patricia Broderick ‘83
Karyn Palomba ’ 08
Ellen O’Connor Borowski ‘71
Ellen “Betsy” O’Donnell Grenier ‘92

Uncle of
Ellen O’Connor Borowski ‘71
Marie Lococo ‘72
Anne Dickson Kelleher ‘07
Sarah Dickson Nelson ‘10
Kara Culloo ‘17

Niece of
Elizabeth Sicbaldi Ott ‘78

Cousin of
Kathleen Cowles ‘57
Sharon Sullivan O’Leary ‘64
Shelia Boyle Wilson ‘66

Mother-in-law of
Susan Forys ‘90
Alexandra Scibelli Anderson ‘97
Barry Wrisley
(Friend of the College)

Father-in-law of
David Kimball (Faculty Member)

Friends of Elms College
Charles Bowers
William Dean Jr.
Sheila Flynn
Dr. Paul McKenna DDS
Rev. Vincent O’Connor
Dorothy Fenton
Paul Cambo



Father Vincent O’Connor, founder of the social work program at Elms College and its longtime director, has died at the age of 97.

Father O’Connor, who recently celebrated 72 years in the priesthood, established the bachelor’s degree program in social work at Elms College in 1954. It was the first such bachelor’s degree available in the U.S.

He attended St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH, and studied for the priesthood at the Seminary of Philosophy and the Grand Seminary in Montreal, Canada. He received his master’s degree in social work from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Father O’Connor returned to the Elms College campus in the summer of 2014 for a special celebration marking the social work program’s 60th anniversary during Reunion.

“I never expected to be in the field of social work when I was ordained,” he said at the time. “It was an accidental thing, but a blessed thing.”

He chaired the social work department at Elms College from 1954 until 1971, the year his niece, Ellen O’Connor Borowski, graduated from the program. He received an honorary doctorate from Elms in 2000.



Before businesses had advanced computer technology to handle "big data," they had hardworking computer scientists like Ellen "War" Warriner. (While the connotation sounds fierce, her nickname has a rather innocuous origin story: it differentiated her from a college roommate, also named Ellen).

A resident of Westfield, MA, War was the central node of the Elms College IT department for 30 years, from 1987 until her retirement in 2017. Using her background in programming, she oversaw the college's databases for Admission, the Registrar, Student Accounts, and Alumni Development. Once per month, War would diligently backup the college's hard drives, using a VAX 11/750 computer — a "monstrosity" of a machine roughly the size of a mini refrigerator. She needed to pull an all-nighter in the computer lab to do so, since the process involved exporting the data using a reel-to-reel tape deck.

"One time, the disk crashed at the worst time possible, just before finals," War recalled. "There were three of us working to restore it, and it took each of us six hours of monitoring to restore everything in time for students to take their exams."

War's fondest memories of Elms stem from the holidays. In 1988, the IT department started the tradition of throwing a Halloween party. One year, War gave Sr. Mary Dooley a fright on her way into Berchmans Hall. War started to remove her mask, but remembers Sr. Mary saying, "War, put the mask back on and scare my sister [Eleanor]."

The camaraderie and good-natured fun at Elms influenced War's decision to leave a gift for the college in her will. "Elms gave me a chance to do what I was trained to do — nobody else did," she said. "It's something that I'll never forget."

A portion of her living legacy will be reserved for computer science education, which she holds close to her heart. "In order to keep students and continue the major, you need new technology," War said. "That's something that I want to help with."

Looking back on her time at Elms, War is nostalgic for the friendships, camaraderie, and loyalty felt between faculty, students, and staff.

"It was something that I needed," she said, noting that her friends and colleagues supported her in countless ways, both professional and personal. "Elms supported me for the past 30 years. I basically wanted to give something back."

Join the Living Legacy Society

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

ELMS COLLEGE

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