Worcester Statement

Spring 2008

From the Battlefield to the Classroom
Making the Community College Connection
Celebrating Music at WSC
Features

10 From the Battlefield to the Classroom
U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Craig Olszta, U.S. Army Reserve Sergeant Robert Tisdell, and U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant Danny Hamler have resumed their education after serving in the war in Iraq.

12 Music to the Ears—and Soul
As the Worcester State College Chorale prepares for its 20th anniversary, Professor Christie Nigro, Ph.D., reflects on the role of music in the curriculum.

14 Donors Honored at Several Events
The College expressed its appreciation to donors at the President’s Circle Society Holiday Party, the Tiffany Gates Society Dinner, and the Distinguished Donor Reception.

16 Alumna Takes Helm at Quinsigamond Community College
Gail (Smith) Carberry ’70, Ed.D., who was installed as the fifth president of QCC last September, says the school and WSC share a mission of transforming lives through education.

Departments

1 Perspective
2 Campus News
9 Graduate and Continuing Education
18 Alumni News
22 Sports Corner
24 Class Notes

Cover
Dear Alumni and Friends of Worcester State College,

This past year has made me particularly proud to serve as president of Worcester State College. Our students, faculty and staff have made significant contributions to scholarship—and to their community. The perfect capstone to this year of extraordinary service will be the 2008 commencement address from Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, an exemplary public servant and long-time supporter of public higher education.

In this issue of the Worcester Statement, we profile faculty, alumni, and students who embody active citizenship. For example, Dr. Christie Nigro, who directs our choral music programs, uses her position not only to enrich the lives of her students, but to share their beautiful music with organizations and communities both at home and abroad.

Angela Zapata of the Class of 1992 is a scientist and community volunteer, and Dr. Gail Carberry of the Class of 1970, president of Quinsigamond Community College, has dedicated her professional life to helping others through expanded educational opportunities. The recipients of our Distinguished Alumni Awards have also made significant contributions to their communities.

Dr. Margaret Kerr, one of three faculty members who have been honored as Fulbright Scholars, recently returned from a semester in Southeast Asia, where she promoted green chemistry education to help protect the environment. In 2003, Dr. Carlos Fontes, another Fulbright Scholar, taught media production and collaborated with colleagues to research alternative media in Portugal. And in 2001-2002, Dr. Barbara Zang, a Fulbright Scholar and former member of the Fulbright peer review board for Central Eurasia, taught journalism in Ukraine, an emerging democracy where press freedom is an issue of growing interest.

Our students, too, continue to reflect the Worcester State College traditions of dedicated scholarship, hard work, and active citizenship. The three young men featured on the cover of this magazine have all served their country during a time of war. They are among more than 130 of our current students with military service, all of whom have demonstrated extraordinary dedication while furthering their education. We thank them for their service.

How fitting that the culmination of our academic year will feature Lieutenant Governor Murray. Throughout his career, the former Worcester mayor has consistently worked for the common good, demonstrating vision, collaboration, and leadership in his endeavors to help improve the lives of his fellow citizens.

Finally, I want to thank all our alumni and friends who have committed time, energy, and financial support to the College. We are in the midst of a Major Gifts Initiative, with a goal of raising $10 million by 2010. Contributions to this campaign will support scholarships and academic initiatives and help build our endowment for the benefit of future generations. I invite all of you to consider making a gift to this initiative. Your support makes you vital partners in our ongoing mission to transform lives through the power of public higher education.

Sincerely,

Janelle C. Ashley
President
Scientific equipment from AstraZeneca and a grant from the Davis Education Foundation have pushed the three-year major gifts initiative, Opportunity for a Lifetime: A Campaign for the Future of Worcester State College, closer to its $10 million goal. In fact, both gifts are two reasons the campaign is almost halfway to this ambitious goal as its first anniversary approaches.

The $100,000 worth of lab equipment donated by AstraZeneca Pharmaceutical Products now allows chemistry students to work with two fully automated High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) instruments and 20 HPLC columns. The HPLC instruments replace the Chemistry Department’s 10-year-old system, according to Assistant Professor of Chemistry Jeffry Nichols, Ph.D. With this equipment, chemistry labs can run more efficiently, handle more comparative studies, and accommodate additional students. "The more columns we have, the more options for analysis we have," he explained.

This equipment also makes chemistry research more accessible to undergraduates, who typically prep samples and perform kinetic experiments. "The more state-of-the-art equipment I have available here, the more I can involve my students,” said Nichols, who currently includes his undergraduates in a collaborative research project, the kinetics of hemoglobin modules, with a UMass Medical School professor.

"Our chemistry students now have training on the kind of equipment that they may see in future jobs,” he said.

AstraZeneca also donated additional equipment, including a top-loading balance, an analytical balance, and a vacuum oven. Ziggy Waraszkiewicz, a member of the Chemistry Department’s advisory board and former AstraZeneca employee, worked with College officials to transfer the equipment, according to Nichols.

A three-year $248,000 grant awarded by the Davis Education Foundation, established by Stanton and Elizabeth Davis after Mr. Davis’ retirement as chairman of Shaw’s Supermarkets, Inc., gave a boost to faculty’s work to implement a new liberal arts and sciences curriculum (LASC). This is the first major change in the general education curriculum in 30 years and is very focused on student-centered learning.

"The more state-of-the-art equipment I have available here, the more I can involve my students.”

Grant funds will enable faculty to execute the changes, underwrite training necessary for course development, and devise a comprehensive assessment program and advising system.

The new curriculum aims to advance the goals of students’ liberal education. “It enables students to experience general education as a coherent and interdisciplinary whole,” explained Philosophy Professor and Department Chair Kristin Waters, Ph.D., interim coordinator of the LASC. “The structure of the curriculum promotes a greater number of shared experiences for students and requires progressively more challenging courses that address a broad range of student outcomes.”

Launched in June 2007, the Opportunity for a Lifetime campaign seeks to raise $4 million in scholarship aid, $3 million for academic development initiatives, and $3 million for the endowment. All campaign gifts qualify for the Massachusetts Endowment Incentive Program’s 50 percent match in place until June 30, 2010.
La Belle France

France has had a significant—and sometimes overlooked—impact on our nation’s development, according to Associate Professor of French Judy Jeon-Chapman, Ph.D. France’s influence, she said, is evident in our language, our literature, our history, and even in the philosophical underpinnings of our national Constitution.

So when she decided to take a group of students on a tour of Paris, the Loire Valley, Brittany, and the beaches of Normandy last summer, she wanted them to experience something beyond the gorgeous scenery and exquisite cuisine.

“For a full semester before the trip, students in my Independent Study class examined French literature and film from a cultural and historical perspective,” she said. “Our purpose was to increase our understanding of past events and social conditions so that the sites we visited would be more meaningful to all of the tour participants. Seeing a place, structure, or artifact is more memorable when you understand the historical and cultural context.”

The trip, a nine-day educational tour, included visits to Notre Dame Cathedral and the Louvre, the eighth-century monastery of Mont St. Michel, and Rouen, where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake in 1431.

For nursing major Brianne Flanders, observing street performers in Montmartre, Paris, was one of the highlights of the trip. “It was perfect to get some of the local taste of the country,” the sophomore observed.

English major Patrick Sargent, a senior, also enjoyed glimpses of everyday life, especially the small villages south of Paris. But he was most impressed by their visit to Mont St. Michel, which he described as “surely one of the most incredible places I have ever been in my life.”

The entire group was moved by the stop at Normandy, said Jeon-Chapman, where large craters made by artillery shells during WWII still scar the landscape. “There was a somber mood that day,” she recalled. “I think everyone was touched by the magnitude of what happened there.”

A confirmed Francophile, Jeon-Chapman teaches 12 French classes a week on a volunteer basis at Venerini Academy in Worcester, where 200 students know her as “Madame.” And she is already planning another educational trip to France for May 2009, this time to Paris, the Loire, the French Riviera, and Monaco.

The trip, through EF Tours, will be open to WSC students, alumni, professors, staff, and friends. To prepare participants for the tour, she will offer a special topics course next spring: FR 191: Paris, the Loire, and the Riviera in French Film and Literature.

“We benefit from how seriously the French take their own culture and how well they preserve things,” she said. “There is so much to see and experience in France that almost everyone who goes wants to go back again and again.”
Moon Rocks in the Classroom

Imagine the excitement of holding actual moon rocks in your hands. Thanks to a program organized by Associate Professor of Education Usha Rajdev, Ed.D., some current and prospective teachers can now give their students the opportunity to do just that.

Rajdev arranged for a NASA representative to conduct a lunar-certification program at the College last November. Those who completed the three-hour course became certified for three years to bring lunar rocks to their schools.

Thomas Estill, an aerospace education specialist from NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center near Washington, D.C., conducted the program. He explained that between 1969 and 1972, the 12 Apollo astronauts who walked on the moon brought over 800 pounds of lunar rocks back to earth. NASA loans some of those rocks to teachers who are trained in their proper care and use.

“We want students to get excited about space exploration,” he said. “In addition to making moon rocks available, NASA offers many educational games and activities on its website.”

Estill also recommended that teachers contact Solar System Ambassadors or local astronomical societies to request volunteers to conduct star watches and related activities. “There are many amateur astronomers who are eager to share their knowledge,” he said.

Rajdev, who spent 25 years as a classroom teacher, said she has always loved NASA. One of her fifth-grade classes sent an experiment on an Atlantis shuttle to the International Space Station to test the effects of microgravity on bean germination.

“Space-related projects can engage students and promote an interdisciplinary curriculum, including science, math, writing skills, and social studies,” she said. “Sixteen countries are represented on the Space Station.”

Estill added, “Learning about space goes beyond facts. It inspires a sense of awe. I think that’s what Buzz Aldrin was getting at when he described the moon as ‘magnificent desolation.’”

Teach-in Addresses Climate Change

More than 700 WSC students, faculty, and staff participated in “Focus the Nation,” an unprecedented national teach-in event, on January 30 and 31. The purpose of the event was to call attention to the issue of climate change and empower young people to work on solutions.

Spearheaded at WSC by Associate Professor of Geography Patricia Benjamin, Ph.D., the event opened with “The 2% Solution,” a webcast by Stephen Schneider of Stanford University. Schneider is one of this country’s leading scientific spokespersons on climate change.

The teach-in also included films, workshops, and discussions led by faculty, staff, and community advocates.

Environmental Safety Officer Robert Daniels explained how the College is reducing its environmental footprint. The college’s single stream recycling project, waste prevention, and installation of photovoltaic panels on the Learning Resource Center roof are just some of the projects currently underway.

Benjamin said that a film series on climate change is being organized to continue the discussion and encouraged participants to get involved by joining advocacy groups and contacting their legislators.
A Multi Cultural Taste of the Holidays

Sri Lankan chick peas, Russian latkes, and Bavarian chocolate cake were all on the menu at the College’s first multi-cultural holiday celebration last December. The free event, organized by the Student Center/Student Activities Department, provided traditional holiday fare and informational materials about holiday celebrations around the world.

Contributors included the Urban Intergenerational Institute, the Diversity Lecture Series, and Chartwells. More than 200 people attended the event.

Bisk, Lewis Are STEM Summit IV Panelists

The state’s Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math initiative (STEM) works to better prepare students in grades K-12 for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In October 2007, Mathematics Department Chair and Professor Richard Bisk, Ph.D., and Education Professor Raynold Lewis, Ph.D., were panelists at the STEM Summit IV in Sturbridge, Mass. The summit drew about 600 participants including educators, community and business leaders, and state and local-level policy makers.

STEM research reveals that Massachusetts is not graduating enough students to fill the open STEM workforce positions. In 1999, 26 percent of Massachusetts SAT test takers indicated an interest in a STEM field major. By 2006, this had dropped to 19.9 percent. To get back to 26 percent by 2010, Massachusetts needs to prepare 4,000 students over and above the 11,900 currently indicating the intention to major in STEM at the higher education level.

The summit explored ways to address the problem, with the stated goal of mobilizing “the Commonwealth’s STEM community to dramatically increase student interest in and preparation for careers in STEM, and increase the number of highly qualified teachers in STEM and provide them with timely professional development programs.”

Bisk participated in two panels: “Elementary School Mathematics is NOT Elementary,” and, along with Lewis, “Elementary Mathematics: The Symbiosis of Content and Pedagogy.”

The first invited educators and administrators to share their ideas on “how to navigate upcoming licensure changes and increase teachers’ knowledge of mathematics.” The second focused on ways to “enhance and integrate methods and content courses to produce a new generation of mathematically proficient and pedagogically adept elementary teachers.”

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Michael Winders, Ph.D., also attended. According to Bisk, “The STEM initiative is bringing about important changes that will better prepare students for the careers of the future. Worcester State College is playing a leading role in implementing the new mathematics requirements for elementary teachers. We are particularly effective because of the strong collaboration between our Education and Mathematics departments.”
Entering today’s highly competitive job market can be a challenging experience for many college graduates. With that in mind, the College’s Department of Career Services is expanding its efforts to help students and alumni acquire the skills they need to build the career they want.

According to Career Services Director Marcia Eagleson, one of the best ways for individuals to start developing job search skills is to take an honest assessment of themselves. “Over 50 percent of the students I’ve worked with over the years don’t know what they want to do after they graduate,” Eagleson said. “We often begin with counseling to help students figure out the kind of work they would find most satisfying.”

She explained, “It’s not enough to know what you’re good at. For work to be satisfying, it also has to be compatible with your interests, personality, and values.”

In addition to helping students and alumni explore possible career avenues, Career Services is expanding opportunities to connect with prospective employers. For example, last year the department introduced LancerLink, an online job posting site for employers and job seekers. The department also participates in the annual career fair sponsored by the Colleges of Worcester Consortium. And the introduction of an on-campus recruiting program is in the works.

“Career fairs are helpful,” Eagleson said, “because they give people a chance to get acquainted with different companies and do some networking. They’re a kind of screening process. On-campus recruiting is more directly related to specific openings. Recruiters come on campus to interview applicants for current positions. We’ve hired an employer relations coordinator—Jillian Anderson—to develop a recruiting program. She’ll be building relationships with employers to expand job and internship opportunities for our students and graduates.”

Eagleson believes that educating students and alumni about effective job-search strategies is one of the most valuable services her department offers. “I’m a big believer in the holistic process of career development and job hunting,” she said. “Looking at job postings online or in newspapers is not enough. Job seekers need to learn about various careers and how to research them accurately. They need to know how companies advertise because not all companies post job openings in the same way. They need to develop networking skills and know how to take advantage of professional associations, meetings, and conferences. And they need to know how to advocate for themselves during interviews.”

Career Services offers a number of workshops and programs designed to help students acquire these skills, including the highly popular “Dining Etiquette and the Job Interview” program. The department has also introduced drop-in resume critiquing services for students and alumni.

Eagleson said, “Our department’s mission goes beyond helping people find a job. We want to help them find careers they will love and in which they will thrive.”
Center Enhances Teaching and Learning

"The teaching and learning process is becoming more valued in higher education institutions around the country," according to Andrea Bilics, Ph.D., director of the College’s Center for Teaching and Learning.

With that in mind, the center was established in 1999 to support faculty and enhance instruction at the College. Associate Professor of Health Sciences Helena Semerjian and Associate Professor of Communication Julie Frechette, Ph.D., served as founding co-directors for five years.

Designed to promote meaningful discussions about teaching scholarship and instructional development, the center has become a thriving place where faculty regularly exchange ideas, gain support, and stay up-to-date on research related to teaching and learning.

The center offers a number of programs and resources designed to enhance teaching, including a faculty-led brown bag lunch series, a mentoring program that matches new and experienced faculty, and an ever-expanding library of teaching-related books and articles.

“The center is very much a faculty-driven entity,” explained Bilics, an associate professor in the Occupational Therapy Department who holds a doctorate in curriculum and instruction. “The advisory board is comprised of faculty members from across the College. Faculty members identify topics to explore and are invited to facilitate or lead discussions and workshops. The philosophy is that we all have knowledge to share.”

The center’s collaborative nature has been bolstered by significant support from the George I. Alden Foundation, which endowed the Alden Teaching Fellows Program and the Alden Excellence in Teaching Award.

“The center is constantly evolving as we strive to meet the broad needs of the faculty,” Bilics stated.

A Warm Response

Many residents of The Village, a Worcester homeless shelter for families, were a little warmer this winter, thanks to the efforts of Urban Studies major Katherine Kerr. Kerr organized a coat drive in response to a presentation in her Human Needs class by Ann Gibbons-Smith of the Central Mass Housing Alliance. The class is taught by Urban Studies Professor Maureen Power, Ph.D.

After learning about The Village, Kerr decided to take action. She distributed flyers and placed boxes at several local businesses, an elementary school, and WSC. In October and November, she collected and delivered dozens of coats and mittens. She also helped an elementary school organize its own coat drive.

The Urban Studies and Facilities departments assisted with logistics. Kerr noted, “The real credit for the success of the coat drive goes to local residents, who were very generous.”
News Briefs

**The WSC Mathematics Team Placed Second**

The WSC mathematics team placed second at the Northeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America’s collegiate mathematics competition last November. Assistant Professors Hansun To, Ph.D., and Stephen Kunec, Ph.D., organized and advised the team of mathematics majors Kenneth Sanderson, James Keenan, and Marsel Hako.

**Two WSC Students Were Recognized**

Two WSC students were recognized for their art work in the fourth annual Colleges of the Worcester Consortium Student Art Show, coordinated by Assistant Professor of Visual and Performing Arts Catherine Wilcox-Titus, Ph.D. Placing in the Honorable Mention category were Jamie Ivins for his photograph, John Tattoo Artist, and Mathew Angelis for his relief print Untitled. In all, WSC students submitted 64 works with 46 accepted into this competitive juried show. ARTSWorcester hosted the exhibit at its gallery at 660 Main Street, February 15 to March 14.

**The A. Barbara Pilon Seminar**

The A. Barbara Pilon Seminar Room, formerly Room 305 in the Sullivan Academic Center, was officially dedicated on October 25, 2007. The room was named in honor of the late English professor who inspired students and colleagues alike with her creativity, energy, and joy during her 22-year tenure at the College. The dedication was held on the same day as the annual Dr. A. Barbara Pilon Poetry Contest. Winners of the 2007 contest were Melanie Wilcox (first place), Wyatt Merrill (second place), Joyce Michaud (third place), and Christine Burlingame (honorable mention).

**The WSC Dance Company, a Student Organization**

The WSC Dance Company, a student organization with more than 60 members, presented its annual winter production in December. The program, titled “It’s about that Walk,” featured 19 solo and group performances choreographed by the students.

**Barbara Zang, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication**

Barbara Zang, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication, won second place in the investigative reporting category of the 2006 New Mexico Associated Press Managing Editors contest. Zang, who spent six weeks at The New Mexican newspaper in Santa Fe as an Institute for Journalism Excellence fellow, received the award for her series of stories entitled “The Disabled Divide.” The award was presented last year at the group’s annual meeting in Albuquerque.

**Assistant Professor of History and Political Science Steven Seegel, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of History and Political Science Steven Seegel, Ph.D., delivered the keynote speech at the “Political Controversies in Maps” conference in Leipzig, Germany, October 14-15, 2007. In addition, Seegel has been appointed administrative director for the 2008 Ukrainian Summer School for undergraduate and graduate students at Harvard University.

**Lisa Boehm, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Urban Studies**

Lisa Boehm, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Urban Studies, was named the 2007-2008 Baylor University Institute for Oral History fellow. She conducted research at the university’s campus in Waco, Texas, for her forthcoming book *Making a Way out of No Way: African American Women, Domestic Work, and the Second Great Migration*, 1940-1970, scheduled to be published by the University Press of Mississippi in 2009.

**Eighteen Seniors from South High Community School**

Eighteen seniors from South High Community School became the first students to graduate from the College’s new Junior Achievement Academy in November. The intensive 13-week program brought the students to the WSC campus two afternoons a week where they were introduced to college life and learned about free enterprise, money management, and career preparation. Along with a certificate of completion, students earned one college credit and four received a $2,000 scholarship for the college or university of their choice.

**The WSC Theatre Up Close**

The WSC Theatre Up Close production of Dylan Thomas’s *Under Milk Wood* in November included 14 student actors playing over 60 roles. It was directed by Adam Zahler, Assistant Professor of Visual and Performing Arts, with scenic design by Associate Professor John Howell Hood and costume design by Adjunct Professor Susan Johnson-Hood.
Author Institute Promotes Reading and Writing Excellence

Each year since its establishment in 2001, the Author Institute at Worcester State College has offered a full week of workshops and presentations by award-winning children’s books authors—including such well-known writers as Richard Peck, Mem Fox, Patricia Reilly Giff, Jack Prelutsky, Lois Lowry, Marc Brown, and many others.

Although participants for this year’s institute, slated for June 23 through June 27, are still being finalized, it will feature the same high quality of authors as in the past, according to Education Professor and Department Chair Dr. Elaine Tateronis, director of the institute, and Joan Trainor, coordinator. “To maintain the high quality of the institute, all invited authors must have published at least four books and won a significant award,” Tateronis explained.

She continued, “The institute provides a rare opportunity for Graduate and Continuing Education participants to meet leading authors and expand their knowledge of literature and the writing process. There are also lively discussions about strategies that are useful in the classroom.”

She added, “The knowledge and enthusiasm generated in this institute transfer to new and exciting lessons and programs. There is also overall an influx of quality literature in local classrooms each year,” she said.

The institute, which offers three graduate credits for successful completion, is designed for teachers in grades K-8. There is available housing on campus in Wasylean Hall. For more information, contact Carol Neylon at 508-939-8127 or cneylon@worcester.edu.

The Graduate School to Award its First Alumni Scholarships

The Graduate School will begin awarding its first alumni scholarships this spring. Recipients of the six $600 scholarships will be able to use their scholarship either toward their spring 2008 or summer 2008 courses. Students may also apply for fall 2008 scholarships.

Associate Vice President William White, Ed.D., Dean of Graduate Studies, said, “During the 30th anniversary year of The Graduate School in 2004, many of our alumni answered the call to establish the first Graduate School Alumni Scholarship Fund. Since then, alumni have continued to support the fund, making it possible to begin awarding the scholarships to deserving graduate students.”

He added, “We are all very pleased with the way alumni have supported the graduate scholarship program and look forward to their continued support.”

Graduate School Alumni Scholarships will be awarded on an annual basis to students matriculated and enrolled in one of the College’s graduate programs. The number of scholarships awarded will be based on the investment performance of the Graduate School Alumni Scholarship Fund.

In addition to the alumni scholarships, The Graduate School also offers 30 graduate assistantships to promising graduate students. Assistantships are awarded for a 20-month period and include up to nine credits per semester of tuition and fee remission. A stipend of up to $2400 per semester during the period of the assistantship is also provided. Recipients of a graduate assistantship are not eligible for the alumni graduate scholarship program.

The Graduate School offers 20 master’s degree programs, three post-baccalaureate teacher licensure programs, and three certificates of advanced graduate study.
Like many of their peers, Hamler, Olszta, and Tisdell joined the military as a stepping stone to a better life. Hamler, who grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, says he joined the Marines in 1997 to “escape my surroundings and because I had few other options.” Olszta, a graduate of Tantasqua High School in Sturbridge, enlisted in 1999 after working an “unrewarding” job as a machinist. Tisdell, whose grandfather served in the National Guard for 30 years and who was looking for a way to finance college, signed up in 2000 during his senior year at Auburn High School.

“Most people enlist with the idea of serving their four or five years and getting out,” Hamler explains. “But
sometimes something changes. It becomes a part of you. That’s what happened with Craig and me.”

Hamler, a Business Administration major, trained as an Arabic linguist in the Marines. He says that when the invasion from Kuwait began in March 2003, people in outlying areas seemed to welcome the prospect of change. “But the closer we got to Baghdad,” he recalls, “the more we encountered fear of an occupation.”

By the time the offensive ended in May, residents were protesting in the streets to demand the restoration of services. Hamler worked on a nuclear power plant, helped get medical facilities opened, and helped with the delivery of goods. He says he was motivated to do a good job and help the people he had learned to respect.

“The Iraqi people are warm, caring, and proud of their country and religion,” he says. “I was humbled at times because, if I struggled with the dialect, they’d start speaking English. They’re educated and capable.”

When he returned home in July 2003, calls for withdrawal of U.S. troops had already begun to creep into the protests, a foretaste of things to come. He is saddened by the events that followed. “People think of Iraq as nothing but chaos and desert,” he says, “but it is beautiful, with a wide horizon and a clear sky and nothing but stars at night.”

For Tisdell, a Communication major, the road to Iraq began when his Brockton-based Army Reserve unit was activated in March 2003. The 200 reservists spent two months in Fort Drum, New York, organizing the transport of equipment to Kuwait and preparing for combat. “No one had been activated before, and there were a lot of complications,” he recalls. “We were going through weapons training in cold weather gear, and people with families got frustrated because they couldn’t visit. We were told to be flexible.”

Once in Iraq, Tisdell’s unit lived in a tent city southeast of Baghdad along with twelve other units in what was called a “bag farm.” Their mission was to haul fuel to Baghdad International Airport, where it was downloaded into 50,000 gallon bladders. The fuel, a mixture of diesel and jet fuel, is used for everything from cargo planes and helicopters to trucks and humvees.

“It was about a five-hour drive each way on a road that was unpaved for 40 miles of the trip,” Tisdell says. “We’d form a convoy of 30-40 trucks going at most 40 miles per hour. After the delivery, we’d sleep on top of our trucks because it wasn’t safe to drive at night, then head back in the morning.”

He faced some small arms fire only once, but Tisdell says he doesn’t remember feeling afraid. “It was early in the war, and we’d been swamped with information. We felt prepared,” he explains.

Olszta, also a Communication major, spent most of 2003 at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, where he trained Marine reservists called up for the war. His initial task was to train machine gunners to provide close-area security for their unit, but his duties expanded to running the entire “school house.” He oversaw instructors in martial arts and infantry skills, including the use of mortar and being a forward observer.

“When you’re manning projectile weapons, you can’t see far enough ahead to tell how effective your positioning is,” Olszta explains. “So forward observers go ahead of the gun line and use radio transmissions to guide positioning adjustments.”

The work was extremely demanding, Olszta recalls, because the reservists had limited time to prepare for combat. “We drilled six days a week,” he says. “Everyone was motivated to learn these skills and I felt very responsible. When you have a lot of 18-year-olds coming through, you feel a lot of pressure to make sure they’re prepared for whatever comes.”

He also impressed upon the troops the Marine Corps values of honor, courage, and commitment. “Everyone, from the lowest rank to the highest, has an impact on this conflict,” he says. “Proper military conduct is an important part of the mission.”

Although the men’s military experiences distinguish them from their classmates in many ways, they say that adjusting to life as a WSC student was not hard. “The faculty and staff have been very positive and supportive,” says Hamler, a recipient of the Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan ’55, USMC Ret. Endowed Scholarship. “They genuinely care,” Olszta agrees. “They may have different opinions about the war, but they are always supportive of us as individuals.”

Another point on which the men agree is that support is especially important for military personnel in times of war. “We have just as many people deployed as before. We still have boots on the ground,” says Tisdell. “No matter what people think about the war or the way it has been conducted, it helps to know that people still support the troops.”
As a young classical musician, Visual and Performing Arts Professor Christie Nigro, Ph.D., did not foresee that she would become deeply involved with choral music. Yet since joining the WSC faculty in 1989, she has more than tripled the size of the Chorus, established an internationally respected Chorale, and conducted a performance of Carl Orff’s Carmina Burana—with more than 300 voices and a full professional orchestra—in Mechanics Hall. Now, she is making plans for the Chorale’s 20th anniversary reunion in 2009, an opportunity, she says, to celebrate the joy and transformative power of music.

How did your musical training prepare you to lead the College’s choral programs?
In college I was a cello major with a minor in vocal studies. Over the years I’ve played almost all the major works in various orchestras. In reality, I never foresaw myself getting so involved with choral music, but I found I have a knack for it. Working with the Chorus enables me to combine my orchestra training and choral training.

Describe the College’s choral music program.
We have a very vibrant program. Our Chorus, which has from 50 to 80 singers, performs several times a year, including a holiday concert, a concert at Senior Capping, and a concert of a large master work such as Mozart’s Requiem, Faure’s Requiem, or the Bach Magnificat. This year we did Robert Ray’s Gospel Mass, which was a lot of fun. Our Chorale, a small a cappella group, performs at many alumni events and throughout the region. We also work with our theater faculty to perform a musical every two or three years and tour internationally every other year.

How has the program changed over the years?
When I first came to the College, there was a small Chorus of around 20 students, so obviously that program has grown tremendously. Within the Chorus there was a group of students who wanted to do a cappella singing. That was the genesis of our Chorale, which is much more demanding of the students in terms of ability and commitment. Singing without accompaniment makes things more difficult. Students really have to know what they’re doing. The Chorale rehearses six hours a week in addition to having a heavy performance schedule. Most of them are full-time students and most have jobs, so this requires a significant commitment.

What is the appeal of being in the Chorale?
There’s a kind of intimacy about a cappella singing. We become almost like a family. We work hard on making every phrase meaningful and beautiful and musically precise. These students are not professional musicians and most of them never will be. They’re going into nursing or business or another profession. But they are having a professional musical experience that hopefully will stay with them forever. And of course, they have the opportunity to perform internationally. We even performed for Pope John Paul II in 1997.
Can any student join the Chorus or Choral?
There is a modest audition requirement for the Chorus, basically to see if the student can follow a tune. Not all students in the Chorus read music. It’s an applied music class in which students learn by doing. But most of the students in the Chorale have a musical background. They largely come from high schools that offer music programs. Forty people auditioned for the Chorale this year. We accepted 16. Two-thirds of the Chorale is new this year.

How do you maintain the Chorale’s quality with so many new people?
I don’t hold back. I expect the best. I’m tough on them, and it takes some of them a while to get used to me. I tell them don’t take it personally—but do it. For example, we were recently working on a song in French. It was difficult and they were moaning and groaning. But they did it, and did it beautifully. It takes me about a year to get new people up to the existing level.

How do you explain the commitment to music that you and your students share?
Music enriches our lives in so many ways. It allows us to express ourselves on a deep and meaningful level. In ancient Greece it was part of the university curriculum known as the quadrivium, along with arithmetic, geometry, and astronomy. In Europe, they raise musicians and music lovers because music is an important part of their curriculum. In this country, unfortunately, we’ve forgotten how important music is and many schools don’t include it at all. This is a real disservice to our children, because a well-rounded education should include music.

We work hard on making every phrase meaningful and beautiful and musically precise.

How is music included in the College’s curriculum?
I talk to students every day who say they wish they could major in the arts. Currently, they can earn a minor in music, theater, or visual arts. The College is developing an arts major that will combine all three, and we are hoping for approval from the Board of Higher Education. In addition, all students must complete three courses in Fine Arts as part of their distribution requirements. The College also offers private lessons on any musical instrument, including voice, for $150 a semester. That’s 13 hour-long lessons for about $12 an hour, an incredible opportunity.

How did the idea of a Chorale reunion come about?
The idea really came from David Bedard, who is an alumnus and a member of the Worcester State Foundation board. When he realized that our 20th anniversary is coming up, he suggested having a reunion.

What will the reunion entail?
We’re in the very early planning stages. But I want to bring back people who were there from the beginning with me. We may pick some music we can put together in a couple of rehearsals, maybe have a dinner concert with former Chorale members. The Chorale has always been a very close-knit group. It will be wonderful to be together again.

Anyone interested in attending the Chorale reunion should contact www.wschorale.com.
Recognition Events Honor

PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 8, 2007, President’s Circle Society members were the honored guests of President Ashley at a reception at the law offices of Bowditch & Dewey, hosted by Partner and Board of Trustees Chair George W. Tetler III. Nearly 100 alumni and friends then attended the annual Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert at Mechanics Hall, which featured the combined college choruses from the Worcester city colleges, including WSC.

“We are gathered here tonight to honor and celebrate your amazing leadership and generosity,” President Ashley said. “Since 2002, your financial support has grown 61 percent. This phenomenal increase is a direct result of your belief in and commitment to Worcester State.”

TIFFANY GATES SOCIETY DINNER

Members of the Alumni Tiffany Gates Society gathered on November 19, 2007, in the Blue Lounge of the Student Center for a festive dinner featuring the marvelous music of the WSC Chorale. Guests enjoyed dinner and a musical revue that included “Change the World” as recorded by Eric Clapton, “April Is in My Mistress’ Face” by Thomas Morley, and “Finlandia” by Sibelius.
The College’s annual donor recognition events kicked off on October 18, 2007, with the Distinguished Donors Reception at Mechanics Hall. With a theme of “The Orient,” the gala featured a Chinese dragon ice sculpture, Asian cuisine, and spectacular songs performed by the WSC Chorale.

President Ashley thanked the College’s alumni and friends for their generosity and volunteerism. “Each and every one of you lays the foundation for excellence here at Worcester State College,” she said. “Your gifts are so valuable to our students.”

Thomas M. McNamara ’94, vice president for Institutional Advancement, pointed out that the $436,000 awarded to 221 deserving students last year was 29 times the amount the College awarded to just 27 students nine years ago. “This is a tremendous accomplishment,” he said.
Cail E. Carberry ’70, Ed.D., who was installed as the fifth president of Quinsigamond Community College last September, keeps a pair of sparkling ruby slippers in her office. She bought them when she became a final candidate for the position, as symbols that it was time for her to come home.

Carberry’s connections to the Worcester area run deep. She grew up in Leicester and East Brookfield, met her husband, Donald, at Worcester State College, and taught in the Worcester Public Schools for a year before moving to Western Massachusetts. After 29 years in administrative positions at Springfield Technical Community College (STCC)—most recently as vice president of institutional advancement—she returned to Worcester determined to “fight for the things I believe in, that I think are good for Quinsigamond Community College and for the community.”

Moreover, she sees the future of the college and the community as inextricably linked. “Quinsigamond has become a significant player in the economic development arena,” she points out. “The economic health of our community depends on a skilled workforce and a vibrant small business presence.” To that end, she says, Quinsigamond has identified five priority program areas: manufacturing, the life sciences, health and nursing, finance careers, and entrepreneurship.

“Entrepreneurship is high on my radar screen because we have many career programs that lend themselves to business startups, such as restaurant management and graphic design,” explains Carberry. “But statistics show that two out of five businesses fail in their critical startup years. We want to create an educational pathway that gives every business that gets up and running in our community the potential to succeed.”
Carberry says the college continuously keeps its eyes on where the economy is going. For example, Quinsigamond currently offers a certificate in biotechnology, but it may soon add an associate's degree program to support the region's growing biotech industry. The college is also expanding its programs in construction management, finance, health care, and manufacturing engineering.

Although many QCC students focus primarily on career training, between 25 and 30 percent transfer to four-year institutions each year. For those students, WSC is the transfer college of choice. In 2007, nearly 40 percent of enrolled transfer students at WSC came from QCC, and in 2006 that figure was more than 50 percent.

“Worcester State and Quinsigamond are sort of sister institutions,” notes Carberry. “We have a strong interest in the life of the community, and our student bodies are largely comprised of Worcester area students. More importantly, we have a shared mission of changing lives, one person at a time.”

“Worcester State College and Quinsigamond Community College have a shared mission of changing lives, one person at a time.”

The two colleges are also partners in several initiatives, including Central Links (an educational collaborative), bulk-purchasing arrangements, and an agreement to provide campus security support in case of an emergency.

Furthermore, Carberry’s connection to WSC remains personal. “I not only met my husband there [he was drafted and later graduated from UMass-Amherst], but my sister Jane and I both graduated the same year,” she says. “We have fond memories of a welcoming environment, of hanging out with friends in the Student Center listening to Janis Joplin on the juke box. We’re both hoping to serve on class reunion committees in the future.”

One of Carberry’s strengths as a community college administrator is that she identifies so closely with the students. “A lot of community college students come in with difficult life situations, with self-esteem issues. A lot of them are people who haven’t found themselves yet,” she explains. “I can empathize because my life was a lot like theirs.”

Carberry has dyslexia, a condition that wasn’t diagnosed until she was in the fourth grade. “I was convinced I wasn’t bright because I had difficulty reading,” she recalls. “I can still remember breaking into a cold sweat when I was called to read Shakespeare out loud.”

Because the local schools were unable to provide adequate services, her mother tutored her in reading, “for which I am still extremely grateful,” Carberry says. Later, after earning a degree in early childhood education from WSC and completing a one-year teaching assignment, she and her husband moved to Springfield.

“The job market for teachers had shrunk. We lived in subsidized housing with two kids, and I was having difficulty finding a teaching job,” she says. “I thought I’d try something else, so I studied business at Springfield Technical Community College.”

The college hired her as an administrative assistant, and over the next 29 years she earned a master’s degree and a doctorate while assuming higher level positions in the academic affairs, public relations, and development offices. Over the course of her career with STCC, she raised more than $125 million for the college and forged numerous community partnerships.

She and her husband also built a rich and satisfying family life with their son and two daughters. Sadly, their eldest daughter, Amy, developed a progressive illness and passed away in 2003. The couple are raising Amy’s son, who is now seven.

Carberry’s inauguration day began with the dedication of the college’s front slope in memory of Amy. The monument reads, “Amy’s Slope: Dedicated to children and the parents who love them.” The Carberry family also pledged a $100,000 life insurance policy to name the hill and eventually fund the Amy Carberry Endowed Scholarship Fund.

“Three years before I applied for this job at Quinsigamond, I wouldn’t have, because of my daughter’s illness,” Carberry confides. “But with Amy’s passing, it felt right to return to our roots. We have a lot of extended family here. It’s good to be back.”

She is also passionate about her new job. “I love my work. Educators are pretty important people,” she says. “They transform lives. My life was transformed.”

A self-described feminist with a strong sense of social justice, Carberry adds, “I have some work to do, and I have the energy to do it. This is the niche I was born for.”
Distinguished Alumni to be Honored

The College takes great pride in the successes of its graduates and honors their achievements through the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards. The highest non-degree recognition WSC bestows on an alumnus or alumna, the 23rd Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented at a dinner ceremony on May 8. For further details, please contact the Office of Alumni Development at 1-888-WSC-ALUM or alumni@worcester.edu.

Ruth (Sadick) ’52 Rubin
Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community Award

Ruth (Sadick) Rubin’s volunteerism spans decades, going back to when her children were young. Volunteering as a Brownie leader, for various school programs, and to create the school library were but a few activities. As her family grew, Rubin, recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community Award, became more involved with organizational volunteerism, which continues to this day.

As a member of B’nai B’rith, Rubin has participated in several humanitarian missions, the most recent being to Cuba to deliver medical supplies. She also serves a variety of local organizations, including the Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish Healthcare Center, Hadassah, the Council of Jewish Women, and Temple Emanuel Sisterhood. Rubin helps her husband, Allen, provide services to the Jewish War Veterans Post 32.

Rubin supports many cultural and environmental organizations in central Massachusetts, including the Worcester Art Museum, Preservation Worcester, Ecotarium, and the Central Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra, and the Parents Television Council, which advocates for television writers and producers to create responsible programming for children.

At the College, Rubin is a volunteer class agent, a reunion committee member, and member of the Opportunity for a Lifetime campaign’s Endowment Committee. In 2002, she and Allen created an endowed student scholarship.

Dorothy Petralis ’63
Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Education Award

Inspired by the teaching of some excellent WSC professors, Dorothy Petralis, the recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Education Award, chose a profession in which she excelled. With a bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education from WSC and master’s degree from Clark University, Petralis became the City of Worcester’s first college intern, assigned to teach at Grafton Street Junior High School.

The following year, a full-time position at Burncoat Junior High awaited her. Ultimately, she moved to Forest Grove Middle School as a head counselor, where she continues to inspire others with her energy, expertise, and wisdom that she has garnered over the years. Petralis has come full circle and now does what those who inspired her most at WSC did for her. She is a true teacher of how to live life with class.

Using her extensive world travel—both domestic and foreign—and interest in languages, Petralis has an enlightened interest in working with English as a Second Language and English Language Learner students and families. She has also been an advocate for students at Chapter 766-approved private schools.

Craig Bovaird ’77
Distinguished Professional Achievement Award

Craig Bovaird’s presence in one of WSC’s first classes to graduate students with majors in Business Administration prepared him for the feat that earned him recognition as the U.S. Small Business Administration’s 2007 Massachusetts Small Business Person of the Year. The SBA’s Massachusetts office was most impressed that Bovaird grew a specialized plastics maker, Built-Rite Tool & Die and its Reliance Engineering Division, at a time
when local plastics companies were moving overseas. He was judged on seven criteria, including adding employees, increasing sales, and innovativeness of product.

The Distinguished Professional Achievement Award recipient, Bovaird is recognized for using his WSC education wisely, providing jobs for Central Massachusetts residents, and contributing to the region’s vitality. Built-Rite has experienced a 17 percent growth rate since 1999 and has grown from 10 employees to 35.

While at WSC, Bovaird also played football and met his mentor at Holden Plastics, which gave him a job upon graduation. He worked there for 20 years, ending his tenure as its general manager. The company was sold in 1999, a life-changing moment that led Bovaird to partner with the former owner of Built-Rite.

Rosanne (Sullivan) ‘65 and Vincent J. Matulaitis ‘66

Outstanding Service to Alma Mater Award

Rosanne (Sullivan) and Vincent J. Matulaitis are a team in the truest sense of the word. You cannot think of one without the other in relation to Worcester State College. Therefore, it is most fitting that they are this year’s recipients of the Outstanding Service to Alma Mater Award, the first couple ever to receive this accolade.

Rosanne and Vincent make an amazing couple. They have worked in various capacities on behalf of WSC. Following the 1981 death of Rosanne’s father, president emeritus Eugene A. Sullivan, Rosanne and Vincent chose to memorialize him by establishing an endowed student scholarship. Their commitment to students continues today through their work on the Opportunity for a Lifetime campaign’s Scholarship Committee.

Individually, each has made a difference. Rosanne is a vital member of the Scholarship Tea Committee and also serves as a class agent and a reunion committee member. Upon President Ashley’s appointment, Rosanne hosted a welcoming tea at their home. Vincent was a driving force in making his 40th reunion a success. Class members in attendance left “singing the praises of the College,” and many have become active supporters of alumni initiatives as a result.

Rosanne and Vincent are much more than generous benefactors. They are welcomed and familiar faces on campus. Whatever the role may be, they accept it with a great sense of pride, commitment, dedication, and always with a wonderful sense of humor.

Kimberly Harmon ’95

Outstanding Young Alumnus/Alumna Award

Kimberly Harmon, recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumnus/Alumna Award, fulfilled her dream of owning a home health agency in 2006. She did so with the mission to make Harmon Home Health Inc. a leading provider of “compassionate, private home health services by focusing on integrity and trust.” An ambitious, adept manager, Harmon is quickly becoming recognized as a nursing leader in central Massachusetts.

Harmon’s dedication to the nursing profession makes her a role model for her staff and inspires her to meet the myriad needs of her clients. Her lifelong desire to become a nurse also fuels her passion to educate others about the importance of utilizing home health care providers before a health crisis occurs.

Harmon embarked on her mission to become a nurse first at Becker College, where she earned a Medical Assisting degree in 1989, and then at Worcester State College, where she earned her B.S. in Nursing in 1995. She prepared to start her own company by enrolling in an entrepreneurial program at UMass Medical School. Today, Harmon also works as an adjunct faculty member in Becker College’s Nursing program and is a devoted mother of two young children.
For Angela Zapata '92, Ph.D., science has always been about the thrill of discovery. As a child in her native Bogota, Colombia, she liked to collect bugs and study them under a microscope. As a research scientist, currently at SRI International in California, her investigations have taken her from the planet's tiniest molecules to the farthest reaches of outer space.

Along the way, her accomplishments have mounted: She has two patents and 16 publications on her resume and top-secret clearance from the U.S. Department of Defense. She developed a four-year biotech program for students at The Rindge School of Technical Arts in Cambridge, Mass., only the second of its kind in the Commonwealth. And in 2007, High Tech: The Journal of New England Technology named her a “Woman to Watch.”

All this from a woman who once thought she wanted to go into marketing. “I had always loved science, but I didn’t have a clear idea of a career,” Zapata explains. “It wasn’t until my second year at Worcester State that I considered the chemistry major. It was the perfect choice for me. Chemistry lies between physics and biology. It combines the magic of things you can’t see with the real world of biology.”

She says she enjoyed all of her professors in the Chemistry Department, “particularly Dr. Ferguson [retired in 2006], who influenced my decision to go into analytical chemistry.” She capped her senior year with a research fellowship at the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in spring 1992 before going on to earn a doctorate in chemistry from Tufts University.

Her work has focused primarily on developing miniature sensors that detect and analyze samples for use in medical diagnosis, environmental monitoring, space exploration, and military and civilian defense systems. As a principal scientist at The Charles Stark Draper Laboratory in Cambridge, Mass., she led a multidisciplinary team of engineers on a number of projects including the development of point-of-care medical devices to detect infections pathogens in blood. She was also involved with several NASA-funded projects, including the development of sensors to analyze soil samples from other planets.

One of the more unusual aspects of her career with Draper came as a result of attending a forum on careers in engineering at a local high school. “I’ve always enjoyed doing community outreach and volunteering,” says Zapata. “After attending the forum, I decided I wanted to develop a biotechnology program for high school students.” The opportunity enabled Zapata to put into practice the Secondary Education degree she obtained from WSC.

She spent two years as a teacher while continuing to work as a consultant at Draper. Students in her biotechnology class won a NASA Student Involvement Program competition that allowed them to fly their team’s experiment aboard the Space Shuttle. The experiment measured changes in conductivity of electrolytic buffers as they were exposed to cosmic radiation during a Space Shuttle flight.

While teaching was rewarding, Zapata says, it was also “the hardest job I have ever had. I developed an even deeper respect for teachers.”

Now continuing her work on sensor platforms at SRI, Zapata’s career goals include “having a more influential or significant role in space exploration. Space is a frontier that’s very minimally explored,” she explains. “Getting a better understanding of our universe is very exciting and important to our scientific knowledge.”

And she has added another passion to her life: a baby girl. “Like most working mothers,” says Zapata, “I’m focusing on gaining a healthy balance between work and family.”

“The Right Chemistry combines the magic of things you can’t see with the real world of biology.”

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Alumni Return to the Basketball Court

A record number of men’s and women’s basketball alumni reunited at the College on two February Saturdays to light up the scoreboards and to reconnect with each other, coaches David Lindberg and Karen Tessmer, and their staffs. Camaraderie, many laughs, and intense competition carried the current and former players through to the final scores.

In the Alumni game, the Blue team narrowly beat the white team 93-89. Similarly, the “Oldies” trumped the “Newbies” 53-49 in the Alumnae game. This game also featured a special unveiling ceremony for the new Sharon Pike Passing Excellence Award. It will be given annually to the women’s varsity player who best exemplifies the late Sharon Pike’s intensity and unselfish team play. Sharon was a member of the 1980 National Championship team.

Scholarship Tea to Honor Dr. Leonard J. Morse

Since its rebirth more than a decade ago, the Scholarship Tea has recognized outstanding citizens whose work stimulates the vitality, health, and success of their communities. On Sunday, May 4, the College will pay tribute to the contributions Leonard J. Morse, M.D., has made to his city, state, and nation by featuring him as the guest of honor at the 2008 Scholarship Tea.

Morse has dedicated his life to improving the health of humankind, be it as a physician, a leader on the national, state, and local level, or an author, editor, or presenter. A renowned infectious disease expert, Morse is currently the City of Worcester’s commissioner of public health, a position he has held since 2002. He serves in many other roles, including professor of clinical medicine at UMass Medical School and affiliate faculty member of the UMass Graduate School of Nursing. His numerous accolades include two of the Massachusetts Medical Society’s most prestigious awards, the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Grant V. Rodkey Award.

For more information, or to register for this event, please contact the Office of Alumni Development at alumni@worcester.edu or 1-888-WSC-ALUM.

Alumni Calendar

Spring 2008

April
3 Alumni Association’s Advisory Board Meeting & Student/Board Social
5 Student Center’s 30th Anniversary Reception
8 Wine & Cheese Social for Nursing Alumni
9 Young Alumni Wine Tasting Event
17 New York Alumni Chapter Event
29 Foundation Board Meeting Class Agent Meeting

May
1 Academic Awards Ceremony
4 Scholarship Tea
8 Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner
16 Professors Emeriti Luncheon
18 Commencement
22 Alumni Association’s Advisory Board meeting & End-of-year Barbecue
30 Reunion Weekend begins
15th Annual Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament
31 Reunion Festivities

June
1 Golden Grad Luncheon

For the latest news on alumni events, visit the online alumni community at http://alumni.worcester.edu.
Soccer Teams Excel in Fall Season

Women’s Soccer (16-6)
The women’s soccer team, under third-year head coach Matt Kagan, enjoyed their most successful year in program history. They tied the school record for wins in a season and advanced to the NCAA tournament for the 4th consecutive year by winning the MASCAC postseason tournament. In the final coaches’ poll of the season, the team was ranked 21st in the country. The team earned the top seed in the tournament with a 5-1 MASCAC record and advanced past No. 5 Bridgewater State in the semi-final before topping 2nd seeded Salem State in the finals. During the MASCAC tournament the All-MASCAC team was announced. Seniors Lauren Cush and Kelsey Irish were joined by junior Mimi Astuccio and sophomore Steph Demake on the 1st team; juniors Tiffany Rotatori, Amanda Santos and Katelyn Bonetti were selected to the 2nd team. Cush was also selected as the MASCAC Player of the Year for the 2nd straight season. In the round of 32, the team defeated No. 16 Union College 2-1 and marched toward the Sweet 16. In their matchup against eventual sectional champion and Final Four team Western Connecticut, the Lancers pushed the Colonials to double overtime before falling less than 2 minutes short of going to a shootout. After the season, Cush was named d3kicks.com 3rd team All American as well as 1st team NSCAA All New England. Irish was named to the NSCAA All New England 4th team and d3kicks.com 3rd Team All New England.

Men’s Soccer (11-8-2)
Under head coach Christian Battaglia, the men’s soccer team posted a 5-1-1 MASCAC regular season record, earning the 2nd seed in the MASCAC postseason tournament but fell 2-1 in the semifinals to Salem State. The team was selected to participate in the ECAC postseason tournament, earning the 4th seed and advanced to the semifinals after defeating No. 5 Coast Guard 2-1 in double overtime at Coughlin Field. The team fell to Norwich University in the semifinal 1-0. Matt Brothers led the Lancers in scoring with 19 points (9 goals, 1 assist) followed by Brian Andrade with 15 points (7 goals 1 assist). After the season, Brothers and Andrade received 1st team All-MASCAC honors. Brothers also earned NSCAA 4th Team All New England honors and 3rd Team d3kicks.com New England accolades.

Football (4-6)
Head coach Brien Cullen’s football team’s 3-4 divisional record gave them a 3rd place finish in the NEFC Bogan Division. The team’s passing attack was paced by quarterback Pat Good, who threw for 1,652 yards and 16 touchdowns. On the ground, freshman Garrett Jones rushed for a team high 422 yards. Defensively, the Lancers were led by linebacker Tim Bartucca, who had a team high 86 tackles. Defensive end Mike Coppola also provided senior leadership. He earned ECAC and NEFC Defensive Player of the Week honors for his 15 tackle, 2 sack effort versus Framingham State. At the conclusion of the season,
Coppola and senior offensive tackle Jonathan Remkus received 1st Team Bogan Division honors. Bartucca and junior Matt Leeds earned 2nd Team honors. During homecoming, Coach Cullen was honored with a certificate from the College commemorating his 25th year as head coach of the WSC football program.

**Volleyball (10-22)**
Head coach Bernie Chase's volleyball team finished 2-3 in Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference action to earn the 4th seed in the MASCAC postseason tournament. The Lancers fell to the top seeded Westfield State Owls in their semifinal match up in straight sets. Sophomore Lauren Saylor and freshman Brianne Cobb earned All-Regis College tournament honors in their season opening tournament. Saylor earned MASCAC Player of the Week honors once and Field Hockey (9-11)
The field hockey team, under head coaches Renee LaValley and Abby Perham, was 4-7 in Little East action as they qualified for the LEC postseason tournament for the 2nd straight season. The team wrapped up their regular season with a must-win game versus Eastern Connecticut. They responded with a 4-0 victory despite playing with a field regular in goal. The team was eliminated by Keene State for the 2nd straight year in the LEC quarterfinals. Senior Kara Walker led the team in scoring, netting 9 goals on the season. Freshman Angela Johnson was second with 8 goals on the year. Juniors Kate Fisher and Ginelle Blais earned 2nd Team All-MASCAC honors after the season and Jill Tamburro was named to the Little East 2nd team.

**Women’s Tennis (1-9)**
The women's tennis team struggled under head coach Tammy Mailhot, with the team's lone victory coming in a late season 6-3 win over Mass. College of Liberal Arts. The team was guided by the leadership of the only senior on the squad Krystyna Kozakowski as well as top players Britney Cullen, Ashley Perkins, and Albana Xhemollari. The team will be looking to add more talent to the program next season.

**Golf**
The golf team enjoyed a strong fall season under head coach Rich Korzec, with strong showings at the prestigious Middlebury and Williams College Tournaments as well as a 15th place finish out of the 46 team New England Championship, a match featuring the top schools in all divisions around the region. The team placed 5th among Division III scoring. Top performers for the Lancers were Zach Camarra, Bob Bruso, and Nick Lombardi. Lombardi was the top finisher for the Lancers in the New Englands, with a 153 good for 18th place. Camarra followed right behind with a 154.

**Cross Country**
The men's and women's cross country teams enjoyed solid seasons under head coach Al Halper and first year women's coach Mat Lemaire. On the men's side, Forest Wilber was outstanding for the Lancers as he won 4 of the 7 meets he entered, including leading the men to a 2nd place finish at the MASCAC championship meet hosted by WSC at Moore State Park. In that meet, the Lancers took 3 of the top 6 spots. Adam Malek and Rob Lind finished 5th and 6th, respectively. On the women’s side the Lancers finished 4th with senior Lindsay Shields leading the way with a 6th place finish and All-MASCAC accolades. The men and women finished 4th and 6th, respectively, at the Alliance Championship meet the following week before wrapping up their season at the NCAA regional qualifier.

Saylor, along with Cobb and freshman Angel Clarke, received 2nd Team All-MASCAC honors at the conclusion of the season. Clarke was also named the MASCAC Rookie of the Year in a balloting of MASCAC coaches.
1949
Class Agents: Nancy (Curley) Miller, Paul Murray
Lee Bartlett Jr., M.Ed., received an In Hoc Signo Award at the College of the Holy Cross’ reunion banquet in June 2007.

1952
Class Agents: Rosemary Norton, Ruth (Sadick) Rubin, John Slattery, Phyllis (Stanikmas) Slattery
In the December issue of Central Mass Magazine, Stanley, M.Ed.’54, Ed.D., and Eleanor (Betley) ’54, M.Ed. ’56, Wołosz were featured in an article about local residents taking advantage of the Worcester area’s colleges. Not only did Stanley and Eleanor receive their undergraduate and graduate degrees from WSC, but four of their children attended WSC. (Their other four children attended College of the Holy Cross, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Anna Maria College.)

1953
Class Agents: Mary (Cahill) Grant, Elizabeth Mahan
Joan (Rindfleisch) Lane was a reading teacher in Southborough for 31 years. She is married to Richard and has four children and 12 grandchildren.

1954
Class Agents: Margaret Curran, Dorothy McLoughlin

1956
Class Agents: Ann (Holohan) O’Leary, Elizabeth (Looney) Ouellette
Marilyn (Kemp) Rothstein is the author of the new book Death of a Dutch Uncle (Hilliard & Harris) and short story “Murder in the Mill,” which appears in the Sisters in Crime Anthology, Murder New York Style.

1961
Edward C. Nelson, M.Ed. ’63, retired in 2004 from Burncoat High School after 40 years of teaching English.

1963
Class Agents: Dorothy Hargrove, Elaine (Sharستانian) Tateronis
Philip P. Halloran, Ph.D., a professor of mathematics at Central Connecticut State University, was honored in November with that institution’s 2007-2008 Excellence in Teaching Award.

1964
Class Agents: Jo-Anne Cronin, John Monfredo, Donald Packard
Eleanor McCrea retired from the Division of Marketing and Communications at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in March 2007. For the past 12 years, she served as production manager and print buyer for major university publications. She plans to pursue her hobbies of wood carving and miniatures as well as perfecting the gardens around her home.

1965
Class Agent: Rosanne (Sullivan) Matulaitis
Donna (Greene) Griffin, M.Ed. ’68, was one of 17 people recognized by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs at the Massachusetts Statehouse during a ceremony honoring family caregivers. Donna balances her job as a fifth-grade teacher with taking care of her mother.

Kevin D. Lyons, M.Ed. ’71, a former Lancer baseball captain, was featured in a Telegram & Gazette article about how his children, Kevin Jr., Sean, Chris, and Trisha, followed in his footsteps and became captains of their college sports teams at UMass-Dartmouth, Nichols College, and Endicott College.

At the Notre Dame Academy’s 2007 Knollwood Awards ceremony in October, Rosanne (Sullivan) Matulaitis received the Alumna Award, which is presented to an alumna who has distinguished herself in her work, her service to others, and her service to the academy.

1966
Class Agents: Janice (Hokanson) Baronski, Gerald Daley, Kathleen (Murray) Lyons
Donald Gosselin, M.Ed. ’74, is writing the manuscript Chronology of the Whitin Legacy based on his research about Whitin Machine Works and the impact it has had on the Blackstone Valley region, especially since 1948.

1968
Class Agent: Frances (Petralis) Bitteker
Frances (Petralis) Bitteker is the proud grandmother of Tyler Maddox Branco, who was born on October 10, 2007, in Boston.

Barbara (Doody) Mercier, M.Ed. ’74, retired in January after 32 years of teaching at Flagg Street School in Worcester. She also is the proud grandmother of twins Emily and Caitlin Chiester, who were born on October 17, 2007, and their big sister, Lauren.

1969
Class Agents: Michaela McGrath Finnegam, Deborah Ledoux Foster, Maryanne (Ballantine) Hammond, Margaret (Murray) Madaus,
Submit Your Statement Class Note
Share your latest personal milestone in the Class Notes section of the Worcester Statement. Please send submissions to alumni@worcester.edu, the online alumni community at http://alumni.worcester.edu or Class Notes, Alumni Relations, Worcester State College, 486 Chandler St., Worcester, MA 01602-2597. Please include your full name (including maiden), class year, home address, email address, and home phone.
Kathleen Zaterki Napoli, Paula (Protano) Police, Beth Sannella, Janice Moossa Sullivan

James Barkoskie is one of the new owners of Quabag Corporation in North Brookfield.

Mark Blazis, M.Ed. ’80, was featured in a Worcester Magazine article about his experiences studying birds on six continents.

Robert Israeli recently retired after 33 years of employment with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Most of his years were spent with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission as a senior vocational rehabilitation counselor.

Gary Ozias retired in 2001 after 32 years as a secondary English and Journalism teacher and 34 years as a girls’ track coach. A resident of Downs, Kansas, he is currently a full-time artist who displays his oil and pastel paintings in shows across the nation.

Marilyn (Balukonis) Willand, M.Ed. ’81, recently came out of retirement to become principal of Our Lady of the Valley Regional School in Uxbridge.

1971
Class Agent: Mary (O’Connel) Trainor

Susan (Donahue) Falzo, Susan (Sanders) DiLeo, M.Ed. ’87, and Joyce Perreault, M.Ed. ’92, were named grand marshals of the Spirit of Shrewsbury Festival Parade in honor of founding the festival.

1972
Class Agent: John Coleman

Janet (Staruk) Lee was recently appointed director of administration and finance at the Worcester Community Action Council.

Richard Rogers, Ph.D., professor of psychology at the University of North Texas, was awarded the 2007 Florence Halpenny award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Clinical Psychology.

1979
Karen Polinski, M.Ed. ’96, was one of seven Dana-Farber Cancer Institute nurses honored with a Partners in Excellence award during a ceremony at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

1980
Class Agent: Dora (Roseberry) Capite-Tkal

Stephanie Chalupka, Ed.D., received a Boston Globe’s 2007 “Salute to Nurses” faculty award. In the fall issue of the Statement, we noted only that Stephanie, a professor and director of the RN to BSN Program at UMass-Lowell, had been nominated for this award.

1982
Class Agent: Leo Nalivaika

Michael Allard-Madaus, a longtime local musician and lawyer, was featured in a Worcester Magazine article about his experiences in the Worcester music scene. He has played percussion for a variety of local bands for three decades.

Reza Namin ’82, M.Ed. ’85, C.A.G.S. ’88, Ph.D., superintendent of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District, was appointed by the state Board of Education to the Massachusetts Mathematics and Science Advisory Council. He was also named one of the top Iranian American Scholars and Athletes in the world by the Parstime magazine and Iranian.com in 2007.

1985

Brian Skerry presented his underwater photography at a lecture and exhibit at the Ecotarium in November as part of the annual meeting of the Greater Worcester Land Trust. The event was sponsored by WSC and Flagship Bank.

1987
Class Agent: Kenneth Brissette

Carolyn (Schmit) Finch, a registered nurse at Emerson Hospital and school nurse at Lunenburg High School, was featured in the Lunenburg Ledger about how she trains to be an endurance athlete and her status as a three-time Ironman competitor.

1988
Class Agent: Tina (Manoogian) Healey

Anthony Gansis, M.Ed., has been named interim principal of Gardner High School. Anthony served as its assistant principal since 2000.

Suzanne Mong and her family hosted the Second Annual David Mong Memorial Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament in October at the Dudley Gendron Hall in Sutton. As a tribute to David ’93, a portion of the proceeds benefited the Sutton and Millbury Fire Rescue squads.

1989

David Kennealey, a local, independent sales partner with Geiger, recently received three awards at the company’s Eastern Region Educational Conference in Tampa, Florida.
1990
Class Agent: Byron Deane III
Sheila Daly, M.S., president and CEO of Clinton Hospital, was recently appointed to the Mount Wachusett Community College Board of Trustees.
Byron Deane III is the program director of revenue recovery for Public Sector Partners in Worcester.
Kathleen Rentsch, M.Ed., was featured in a Telegram & Gazette article about a new grant that supports manufacturing education at Quinsigamond Community College.

1991
Class Agents: William Cahillane, Louis DiMuzio, Daniel Harrington, Catherine Foppiano McGrath, Jeffrey Turgeon
Sherryl (Picone) Hascall received her master’s degree in education from Plymouth State University in May 2007. She has been teaching for the Salem, N.H., School System for six years.
Francis LaPorte is co-owner of the Spruce Street Tavern in Clinton.
Robert and Donna Musilli announce the birth of their first child, Joey, in Scottsdale, Ariz.
Jeffrey Turgeon recently became the executive director of the Central Massachusetts Regional Employment Board.

1992
Class Agents: James Correia, Vincent Kotowski
Nancy Lucier, the municipal assistant in West Boylston, received one of four Thomas S. Green Awards, which are sponsored by The Research Bureau, at a ceremony at Assumption College in October.

1993
Class Agent: David Frederici
Denise (Moore) Carrier, M.S. ’06, the second instructor in Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School’s Office Technology Program, was among the new staff members who were welcomed by Pathfinder Superintendent Gerald L. Paist during the school’s annual teachers’ workday in September 2007.
Army National Guard Capt. James J. Herrick has been deployed overseas to a forward operating base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.
William B. Murphy recently started Fairway New England Mortgage.
Stacy Serwecki married Rabbi Martin William Shorr at Temple Hadar Israel in New Castle, Penn.

1994
Class Agent: Thomas McNamara
Stephen Kapulka and his wife, Stacie, announce the birth of their son, Lucas, on August 26, 2006.
Albert Tambolleo married Tara Lynne Diehl in Amalfi, Italy on September 27, 2007.

1995
Keith Ledoux recently joined Fallon Community Health Plan in Worcester as senior director of new business sales and broker relations.

1996
Class Agents: Pamela (Anderson) Walls, N. Wolf Winset
James Buckley married Sarah Gauthier at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, on April 17, 2007.

1997
Class Agents: Christie Cruz, Erin (Redfern) Wallace
Kevin J. Brennan was featured in a Telegram & Gazette article about the shortage of male teachers in U.S. elementary schools.
Lucilia (Mendes) Downer and Jeffrey Downer ’01 announce the birth of their second daughter, Sonia Anne, on September 9, 2007.
David A. Green, Ph.D., is teaching a media and crime graduate course at Oxford University. He recently received the Young Criminologist Award at the annual European Society of Criminology Conference in Bologna. He has also submitted the final manuscript of the book When Children Kill Children: Penal Populism and Political Culture to Oxford University Press.

1998
Kathryn (Negri) Burke and her husband, Tom, announce the birth of their first child, Norah, on May 4, 2007.

1999
Class Agent: Gregory Nikiforow
Derek Brindisi, acting director of Worcester’s Department of Health and Human Services, was named one of the “28 to Watch in 2008” by The Pulse Magazine.
Ari Herzog graduated from Suffolk University’s Sawyer School of Management in May 2007 with a master’s degree in Public Administration.

2000
Class Agents: Jennifer Minko, Chrissy Remian
Elizabeth Helenius, M.Ed., recently became assistant vice president of account management and senior plan sales at Fallon Community Health Plan.
Jeremy Wlosk, a teacher and actor, has written a theater adaptation of George A. Romero’s classic 1968 horror movie “Night of the Living Dead” of the same name that was recently performed at Stageloft in Sturbridge.
2001

Class Agents: Shawn Gersbach, Matthew Porter

John J. Barron completed a juris doctorate from Suffolk University Law School in 2005. He has formed the law firm of Cahn & Barron, LLC in West Boylston.

Richard A. Ellbeg has been named director of emergency services at Marlborough Hospital.

Brandy (Wafer) Whitney and her husband, Dylan, announce the adoption of Barry, 6, and Jay, 4, on November 16, 2007.

Tammy Houle recently became proposal services administrator in the Office of Research Administration at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Christine O’Neill married Randy Childs at Salem Covenant Church on September 8, 2007.


Amy Wilfong married David Peterson at St. Thomas the Apostle in Millis on September 22, 2007.

2002

Class Agents: John Brown III, Magdalena (Wielgorecki) Pater, Tamara Yurkenas

Glenda (Figueroa) Daou has been appointed director of counseling at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Kerri Kularski married Michael Wentworth at Hadwen Park Congregational Church in Worcester on September 8, 2007. Kerri is a corporate account manager at PC Connection. The couple reside in Worcester.

Tamara Yurkenas has been promoted to director of individual disability income benefits at Unum Group.

2003

Class Agents: Monica Labbe, Carrie Stewart

Nathan Butler married Jennifer Anger ’98 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Worcester.

Kimberly Freeman married Paul Sokol Jr. ’02 at the Beechwood Hotel in Worcester on September 8, 2007.

2004

Class Agents: David Archambault, Michael McCarthy


Lt. j.g. Benjamin Feldman was designated a naval aviator in a winging ceremony held at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, Fla., in March 2006. Ben is stationed at Naval Air Station North Island, in San Diego, Calif., and is assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Twenty One Blackjacks, the cornerstone for West Coast Fleet Logistics Support.

2005

Class Agents: Kerry Hurley, Larry Lopez, Barbara O’Leary

Allison Alaimo, director of finance and development for Massachusetts Veterans Inc., was named one of the “28 to Watch in 2008” by The Pulse Magazine.

Tina Brouillette married Joshua Smith at the Myriad Ballroom in Mendon on June 2, 2007.

Larry Lopez is the executive assistant to Congresswoman Niki Tsongas.

Barbara O’Leary is a benefits eligibility referral social worker for the Department of Transitional Assistance.

2006

Class Agent: Jamie Gwosch

Ernest Ansh was accepted to the master’s degree program at International Development at Cornell University.


Catherine L. Martin has been accepted to WSC’s Nonprofit Management master’s program. She teaches Anatomy and Physiology as an adjunct professor at the Salter College.

2007

Jyoti Datta, M.Ed., has been named the new head of the Lower School at Bancroft School in Worcester. She was also recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Worcester Public Library.

Anna Gazos is pursuing her master’s degree at the Florence Heller School of Social Welfare at Brandeis University.

Ethel Gustafson, Ann Klump ’07, Jeannette Perry ’07, Eileen Tefft ’07, and Emily Witkus ’07 were featured in a Fifty Plus article about WSC’s Elder Advocates program. The Elder Advocates are currently raising money for student scholarships.

Brittany Rheault is the Mass Shape Up and special projects coordinator with the Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation, Bay State Games.

Anthony Romeo, owner of Gym and Juice in Worcester, has been named one of the “28 to Watch in 2008” by The Pulse Magazine.

Alumni Elected to Leadership Positions

Public service is a career choice of many alumni. While some are employed in the public sector, others opt to seek election to part-time leadership positions (that often offer little pay) in their cities or towns. The following alumni won election or re-election in November 2007.

Dorothy Hargrove ’63: elected to the Worcester School Committee

John Monfredo ’64: re-elected to the Worcester School Committee

Paul P. Clancy Jr. ’72: elected to the District 3 seat on Worcester’s City Council

S. Gary Rosen, M.Ed. ’75: elected as counselor-at-large on Worcester’s City Council

William Eddy ’83: elected to the District 5 seat on Worcester’s City Council

Sarah Sbrogna married 1st Lt. Ryan Colton at the First Congregational Church in Shrewsbury.

Robert F. Ryan, llc

Worcester State

Spring 2008
In Memoriam

Alumni

Helen Palmer ’29
September 26, 2007

Ruth (Hofstra) Shimkus ’30
August 13, 2007

Lucy (Colaizzi) Winbury ’30
October 10, 2007

Lois (Jordan) Blakely ’35
November 6, 2007

Violet (Gronberg) Dombrosk ’36
August 9, 2007

Venise Withstandley ’44
January 4, 2008

Gerald Gowen ’52
November 4, 2007

Robert Greene ’52, Ph.D.
November 12, 2007

Mary (Maggi) Blanchette ’53
November 22, 2007

Jacqueline (Lupien) Buck ’54
September 13, 2007

Mary (Derderian) Tateosian ’55
January 17, 2008

Thomas Drummey ’56
August 8, 2007

Ann Sweeney ’56
November 16, 2007

Kenneth Kirby, M.Ed. ’57
January 28, 2008

Bernard Prusaczyk, M.Ed. ’57
December 18, 2007

Francis McDevitt ’58
August 15, 2007

Helen (Such) Sheerin ’58
December 9, 2007

Helen Murphy ’59
October 31, 2007

Pauline (Gniadek) Roche ’59
October 1, 2007

Ethel (Sack) Gladstone, M.Ed. ’60
January 12, 2008

Raymond Hamelin ’60
October 12, 2007

Edmund Krencisz, M.Ed. ’60
December 26, 2007

Richard McGrail, M.Ed. ’60
November 6, 2007

Ronald Schofield ’62
November 9, 2007

Alphonse Tamusiunas, M.Ed. ’62
August 25, 2007

Cornelia (O’Donoghue) Dillion ’63
October 4, 2007

Helen Mageau ’63
September 5, 2007

Geraldine (Lekstrom) Williamson ’64
November 9, 2007

Roger Kane Jr. ’65
September 21, 2007

Helen (Hunt) Calkins, M.Ed. ’69
November 9, 2007

Claire (Brunelle) Schmidt, M.Ed. ’69
November 28, 2007

Martha (O’Hagan) O’Sullivan, M.Ed. ’70
November 17, 2007

Robert Clough ’71
August 13, 2007

Mary (O’Neill) Gay, M.Ed. ’71
October 25, 2007

Audrey Kosky ’71
August 19, 2007

Joseph Kotomski ’71
October 22, 2007

Richard McGrath ’71
October 23, 2007

Grace Scola, M.Ed. ’73
November 18, 2007

Diane (Sampson) Kasputis ’74
December 13, 2007

Kathleen (Perry) Peloquin ’74
October 21, 2007

Paul Raffa ’75
November 6, 2007

Robert Skinner, M.Ed. ’75
September 13, 2007

Michael Palladino ’76
December 2, 2007

Mary Clifford, M.Ed. ’77
October 2, 2007

Edward Horgan, M.Ed. ’77
September 1, 2007

William Rousseau ’78
August 3, 2007

Helen Bonett ’80
July 11, 2007

Marlyn Reyes ’83
September 10, 2007

Morse Burack ’84
December 21, 2007

James Trinque Sr. ’85
October 5, 2007

Kristin (Ryan) Tessier ’89
October 20, 2007

Mary (Briscoe) Therrien ’94
January 13, 2008

Louise (Tremblay) Meltaus ’96
December 10, 2007

Friends, Faculty, & Staff

William E. Aubuchon Jr., recipient of an honorary doctorate in Business Administration in 1978, on November 26, 2007

Ronald Hurd ’59, M.Ed. ’63, professor emeritus of Physical and Earth Sciences, on September 18, 2007

Sharon Pike, member of the WSC Athletics Hall of Fame and of the 1980 women’s basketball team that won the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women Division III National Championship, on December 9, 2007

John T. Reynolds Jr., a member of the WSC campus grounds crew, on September 3, 2007
Planned Giving Changes Lives

Thomas Todd '52 attended Worcester State Teachers College "quite by accident." But he says that his years as a student here remain "a peak experience."

Tom had planned on going to the state teachers college in Salem, which was closer to his home in Lynn. When he learned that it was full, he turned to Worcester. "I soon found that the College was a friendly, welcoming place with exceptional faculty," he recalls. "The classes were small and you got to know everybody."

A serious student who spent a lot of time in the library on the top floor of the Administration Building (then the only building on a mostly wooded campus), Tom rented a room from a widow, Mrs. Kelleher, on Chandler Street. Classmates Gerald Gowen and Robert Sullivan, class president, also moved in. Vincent Mara, another classmate and future president of Fitchburg State College, lived nearby.

"Mrs. Kelleher played the piano beautifully. We liked to get together and sing, especially when Vinny was around. He had a wonderful voice," Tom says.

After graduation, Tom earned a master's degree from Harvard, served as a teacher supervisor at WSC, and spent 20 years teaching math in the Lexington Public Schools. Following retirement, he divided his time between Massachusetts and his home on Lake Winnipesaukee, where he had spent summers as a child. Today, he lives in a retirement community and keeps in touch with his alma mater where, he says, he enjoyed "some of the best years of my life."

Tom, seen here looking through his class yearbook, says, "When my financial advisor suggested that I create a charitable gift annuity, I thought of Worcester State College because of the tremendous impact it had on my life."

Since its founding in 1874, Worcester State College provides students with access to quality education funded through public funds and private philanthropy. The 1874 Pillar Society recognizes individuals who plan for the future - theirs and the College - with a bequest, a trust, insurance or charitable gift annuity.

For information, contact Thomas M. McNamara, Vice President of Institutional Advancement (508-929-8033; tmnamara@worcester.edu), or Donald Lightfoot, Director of Development (508-929-8786; dlightfoot@worcester.edu).
Parents:
If this issue of the Statement is addressed to your son or daughter who now lives at a separate permanent residence, please let us know. Call 508-929-8033 or email ltaylor1@worcester.edu.