THIS ISSUE

Meet the President
College Renews Focus on Academics
December Commencement
A Message From The President

Peter M. Gerhart, Interim President

An Empowering Education

What a scintillating year I am having!

You invited a stranger to campus to help prepare the College for new leadership; then you made him a friend and confidant – and a true Lake Erie College fan. What a gem we have in Lake Erie College – and it is ready to shine under new leadership.

Our new president, Brian Posler, will be pleased with what we have accomplished. As you will see when you read about him in this issue, he is the right person to build on what we have started. I enjoy working with him on the transition and will make sure he is the beneficiary of the energy, innovation and resourcefulness the faculty and staff have displayed this year. Posler inherits an institution that is ready to define what makes our particularized education distinctive and transformative, and he is the right person to help carry our noble story to the audiences we must influence.

To explore our identity, I asked deans and faculty this question: what is it that we teach when we teach biology, history or communication? What, in other words, is the “invisible curriculum” that gives our graduates the qualities of resourcefulness, creativity, effective leadership and productive teamwork that allow them to contribute so much to society? Any good school can teach content; I know from our learning communities and boundary-busting courses that we teach something more. And as I talked with graduates, I heard about how their Lake Erie College education made a difference in their lives and in the lives of the people they influence.

The more I talked to faculty, the more I realized that something distinctive and life-changing is happening for students at Lake Erie College. And when the faculty created a visioning task force to identify our singular educational philosophy, we saw that what we do is to teach life lessons and life skills that empower our graduates to lead lives of significance in whatever situation they find themselves. Our graduates know themselves, know how to work with others, know the wider world and know how to solve problems creatively.

The faculty and staff are now working hard to identify how and where we empower students to lead lives of significance. When that work is done, we will have a vision for Lake Erie College that allows us to define a unique, timeless and highly relevant education, to explain to students and employers why Lake Erie College adds value to incoming talent, and to convey what makes our version of a liberal arts education superior. We will also have a vision that will attract donors who want to support us in delivering an empowering education that plays such a significant social role. We can expect to attract many donors, large and small, who understand our vision and its importance.

It turns out that our dedication to empowering students is matched by our dedication to empowering our graduates. Our graduates love to be involved in the College by telling their life stories, acting as mentors to students, helping us recruit students and providing internships. And we would love to empower our graduates by creating networks within and across classes, and in various professions, that would empower them to look to each other for career advice, networking and social and business connections. Every graduate I meet reminds me of the expertise, connections and advice that we ought to draw on as we polish the gem that is Lake Erie College.

You, our readers, are the trustees of a splendid and important institution – one whose traditions are a springboard toward wonders unknown. Take responsibility for our future; treat the College as a gem to be shined and polished. Care for it, pray for it, and make it a part of your life and your legacy.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Gerhart, Interim President

EDITOR: Holly Menzie MBA ’06

DESIGN: Edwards Communications; Ruta Greiner

COPY EDITOR: Michelle Kolk

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Ryan Baker, Jamie Castle, Michael Demeter, Ruta Greiner

ON THE COVER: Dr. Brian Posler, 12th President of Lake Erie College

CONTRIBUTORS: Cami Blanchard ’90, MBA ’05; Dr. Bryan DePoy; Peter Gerhart; Michelle Kolk; Holly Menzie MBA ’06; Pam Palermo; Jeremy Smith MBA ’14

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT STAFF: Scott Evans, Senior Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Chief of the President’s Staff; Jamie Castle ’14, Graduate Assistant for Public Relations and Marketing; Ruta Greiner, Director of Public Relations, Marketing and Community Relations; Michelle Kolk, Associate Director of Public Relations and Marketing; Matthew Krotzer, Web Designer-Developer; Pam Palermo, Director of Development; Deb Remington ’74, Director of Alumni Relations; Eric Wiedenfeld ’14, Graduate Assistant for Alumni and Community Relations; Lynne Zele, Coordinator of Advancement Services
Enthusiastic, experienced, energized and eager to begin—these are a few of the qualities that characterize Lake Erie College’s new leader. Dr. Brian Posler will start his tenure as LEC’s twelfth president on June 15, 2016, and already he is making plans to guide the College to new directions in academics, enrollment, student life and community involvement.

Posler was selected by a search committee chaired by Dana Dennis, chairman of the Lake Erie College Board of Directors, and composed of board members, faculty, staff, students and alumni. At its regular meeting on Feb. 13, the full board accepted the search committee’s recommendation, and Posler was officially named the College’s new president.

“The Board of Directors is delighted to welcome a new visionary leader to Lake Erie College. Dr. Posler will add strength to our academic vision, program and brand,” Dennis said. “He brings a deep understanding of higher education as well as of our mission. His ability to articulate that mission in a meaningful and compassionate way, while honoring our 160 years of history, will position the College as a preferred choice in preparing students for meaningful lives, successful careers and responsible citizenship.”

Posler comes to LEC from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas, where he is provost and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences as well as the university’s chief academic officer. He previously led Baker’s School of Professional and Graduate Studies, the library, the registrar’s office and the institutional research office. He is a professor of political science and a member of the Corps of Consultant-Evaluators for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

Before joining Baker University, Posler served as assistant provost for undergraduate studies and later as associate provost for academic affairs at the University of Southern Indiana, and he held several faculty positions at Millikin University. He was one of four political scientists selected nationally to serve Congress as a congressional fellow with the American Political Science Association in 2000-2001.

Posler holds a B.A. in politics and history from Cornell College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Rice University. He has authored numerous articles for peer-reviewed publications and has presented extensively at conferences nationwide over the course of his career.

Posler considers his greatest challenge to be positioning Lake Erie College to stand out among the myriad of private colleges that exist in the U.S. today. “We have to name those things that are distinctive and use them to carve out our role,” he said in a phone interview conducted shortly after he was named president-elect. “We have to tell our story and show that there is great value in a Lake Erie College education.”

As a short-term goal, he plans first to spend a great deal of time getting to know as many people as possible—students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends. “I will listen and connect and use what I find out to help chart the course,” he said. “It is important that the president show up at College and community events. I will treasure these informal interactions.”

In the long-term, Posler wants to make sure the College will be thriving and less dependent on tuition revenue. He plans to develop new programs, especially in the liberal arts and graduate and pre-professional areas, and to grow the endowment.

He feels strongly that the College’s 160-year history is important in establishing its unique position in the higher education marketplace today. “Our place in history affects who we
are,” Posler said. “It is hard to separate the past from our identity. The past forms the identity!’

“The sense of history manifests itself in such things as the equestrian program, Tiberius and the Alma Mater. I am interested in how traditions, which are grounded in where we’ve been, play out for modern students.”

When asked about what word he hopes will define his presidency, Posler quickly replied, Community. “There is a lot of richness in that word. It says that all are welcome and their ideas are accepted in this place where students transform themselves and create lives of significance. I am excited about the opportunity to serve such a dynamic and respected college.”

Outside of academia, Posler defines himself as a “political junkie,” a person who loves U.S. national politics and collects political memorabilia. He is an avid sports fan and looks forward to supporting Lake Erie College athletics as well as the Cleveland professional teams. He likes spending time in the outdoors, and he and his son enjoy hiking and off-trail camping.

Posler’s wife, Christy, is a preschool teacher who her husband describes as being very inspirational and caring. “She is excited about embracing the community, to be connecting with people,” he said. The couple has a son who is in college and a daughter who will be completing her last year of high school.

The Poslers will live in the Victor Manor House, which will also be home to their son and daughter while they are on breaks from college and school. The couple plans to use the Victor Manor House as the setting for a number of College and community events. “The Rathskeller especially has great appeal as an informal gathering place,” Posler said.

The College community looks forward to welcoming Dr. Brian Posler and his family to campus and to beginning a new era of tradition and progress for Lake Erie College.
While we often speak of the wonderful historical architecture and historical grounds, the more modern buildings and the ways in which the community surrounding the College has grown, there is one indisputable fact: Lake Erie College is an academic institution. The academic programs and related activities are the single most important products we offer. Our great institution has a long history of progress, innovation and academic evolution, and that tradition continues in varied and unique ways.

As decades turned into centuries, the College’s definition of what constituted higher education evolved as the College opened itself to wider patterns of change in the society surrounding it. The sewing circles of the late nineteenth century became the science laboratories of the twentieth. Young ladies who had listened demurely to Abraham Lincoln and then returned to their dormitory rooms to stitch bandages for Civil War wounded were succeeded by young women who, having heard Franklin D. Roosevelt counsel preparedness, went on to learn how to pilot planes through the College’s aviation program in the 1930s and 40s.

Further innovation followed. In 1938-39 several members of the Lake Erie College faculty began offering extension classes that were open to local community residents in what was called the “Extension School.” During WWII, the Extension School provided teachers and space for training replacements for men in service. After the war, the Extension School became the Division of Community Education, which evolved into Garfield Senior College, a non-residential, upperclass, coeducational division of Lake Erie College. Garfield operated on the same campus with the female Lake Erie College until 1985, when men were admitted as residential students and Lake Erie College officially became coeducational.

In 1954 LEC became the first college in the United States to require that all of its graduates spend an academic term abroad. From the 1950s to 80s, Lake Erie College juniors studied and became immersed in the language and customs of a European country. A formal equestrian program began at the College in 1955, and majors in equine studies have been part of the academic curriculum ever since.

LEC created a master of education program in 1972 and a master of business administration program (now the Parker MBA) in 1981, both of which are still popular today. A master of physician assistant studies program began in summer 2015, with the first class graduating, the second class starting clinical rotations and the third class beginning classes.

Throughout its 160 years of history, Lake Erie College’s courses and majors have evolved to not only attract new students, but also to prepare them for successful careers and to lead lives of significance. The Honors Program, Learning Communities and division of academics into five schools are examples of changes that have diversified and strengthened the entire area of academics at the College.
Present and Future

Innovation and progress continue. Admissions material currently being used to encourage students to enroll at Lake Erie College uses the tagline, “Be Empowered!” This slogan touts the current philosophy of the College, which is to transform lives. The primary focus on academics continues as the College seeks to enroll highly motivated classes of scholars.

Interim President Peter Gerhart and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Bryan DePoy initiated an academic visioning task force, consisting of faculty and staff, that is working to identify the “invisible” curriculum – in other words, those very characteristics that define the highly-individualized experiences that make Lake Erie College so special. Most importantly, it is a means by which we can clearly articulate that which we value, and ensure that we can harness that unifying theme in how we promote the College.

Some examples of the changes that are making Lake Erie College stronger academically are described below:

Online Programs. Lake Erie College received full approval from the Higher Learning Commission, the institution’s accrediting body, to offer online degree programs. This is an important milestone in the history of the College. The College is planning to offer two fully online programs: 1) Post-baccalaureate courses through the School of Education and Professional Studies that lead to Mild to Moderate Intervention Specialist Licensure. These courses are designed for already licensed teachers, or those eligible for licensure, who plan to teach children in grades K-12 with mild to moderate disabilities. 2) A certificate in Laboratory Safety offered through the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. This program is designed to prepare students to transition into industrial or research environments or to complete or update their professional certificates.

Plans are being made for additional online courses and programs in the future.

Renovated Library. As the academic hub of campus, the renovated James F. Lincoln Library reopened on March 7, with a formal dedication ceremony taking place March 31. Renovations include 21st century climate control; brighter lighting throughout the building; new furniture, carpeting and colors; large areas for students to study and socialize; five group study rooms; and a presentation room, distance classroom and computer lab. Students can now look out over the College Green through a large expanse of windows that line the front of the building.

Technology Plans. Given the rapid pace of technological evolution, a Technology Master Plan Committee, co-chaired by Vice President DePoy and Director of Information Technology Brad Luhta has been meeting regularly to determine future technology investments, personnel resource allocation and process development for the College.

Partnerships. A number of partnerships are now in place, giving students seamless options for post-graduate study. These include transfer agreements in the field of healthcare with Cleveland State University School of Nursing, Mt. Carmel School of Nursing, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (medicine, dentistry and pharmacy) and the University of Findlay (pharmacy) and in the field of law with Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and Duquesne University School of Law.

On the undergraduate level, the College partners with Euclid City Schools and Fairport Harbor Public Schools, granting college credit to students in grades 10-12 for selected classes taught at the respective high schools by teachers there who are also certified as adjunct LEC instructors. Agreements are also being developed with Lakeland Community College, to include a degree in communication on Lakeland’s campus. An especially exciting venture is a consortia Bachelor of Science in Information Technology Management between LEC and Lakeland Community College.

New Academic Focuses. Reinventing the arts, strengthening health sciences and adding a major in environmental science – these and many other new programs are planned for the immediate future. The environmental science major is designed to prepare students for the rising number of careers that are available nationwide in this field, including wildlife management, fisheries management, environmental research, toxicology and other related areas. A large amount of fieldwork will be required for the major as well as classes in botany, zoology, ecotoxicology, environmental policy and regulation, general chemistry and more.

Lake Erie College continues to be forward-thinking, progressive and innovative, and continued greatness lies just around the corner. We know our alumni and friends will want to continue to invest in our mission, and we encourage all to give generously to Lake Erie College.
College directors, then and now

by Michelle Kolk and Holly Menzie MBA ’06

This is the third installment of our three-part walk down memory lane with alumni who are serving as members of the Lake Erie College Board of Directors. These men and women provide a firsthand knowledge of the past combined with a desire to see the College continue to move forward through the 21st century and beyond.

Janet Havener, MBA ’02

Janet Havener’s experience at Lake Erie College was a bit different from that of the other directors who are also alumni, because she attended as a graduate student in the master of business administration (MBA) program. Some of her classes were held away from the main campus, she and her fellow students were adults, and her contributions in class were based on real-world experiences.

Havener has over 30 years of experience in the wealth advisory business, providing estate, tax, charitable giving, financial and retirement planning advice to individuals and families. She currently is the Director of Wealth Advisory Services at Fairport Asset Management in Cleveland and previously worked as a relationship manager with several area companies.

She credits her MBA education at Lake Erie College with playing a major role in helping her advance her career. She learned, among other things, to put together business plans, think with a business mind, work through difficult situations and be proactive.

Havener holds an undergraduate degree in business from Myers University in Cleveland and initially began taking MBA classes at Cleveland State University. She was overwhelmed, however, by the large class sizes and lack of personal attention she found at Cleveland State and sought an alternative. Her niece was attending Lake Erie College at that time and encouraged her to try the LEC program.

Havener and her husband, Paul, started the program and took many classes together. She said, “Even though Paul finished a year later than I did, we encouraged and supported each other throughout. It was wonderful having an at-home partner for studying and completing group projects!”

The couple’s favorite instructor was Professor of Economics Dr. Rabi Hasan, who still teaches in the program. “Rabi not only wanted everyone to succeed, but he also helped us see how we could use the principles he taught in the business world. His classes were the highlight of the program for us,” she said.

Havener is active in many community organizations, including serving on the Board of Trustees for the Cleveland Intown Club and the Cleveland International Piano Competition. She joined the Lake Erie College Board of Directors in 2013 at the encouragement of President Michael Victor and is proud to give back to the college that helped her be so successful in her career.

For MBA students, Havener offers the following sage advice: “An MBA degree is an essential part of one’s graduate education. Whether one chooses to specialize in law, medicine or business, an MBA graduate has knowledge that is invaluable in any career that one chooses.”

Denise Molesch ’95

Denise Molesch enrolled as a nontraditional student at Lake Erie College after being impressed by the personal attention she received from the admissions counselors. As she began taking courses, she grew equally fond of the faculty and staff. “Egidio Lunardi was one of the most enthusiastic professors that I remember,” she said. “He made classes interesting and broadened my worldview.”

In her years at the College, she studied business administration with a concentration in managing information systems. “The curriculum I studied equipped me with the ability to think critically and to be confident,” she said. She credits her study abroad experience for further building her confidence. “The senior trip to Rome and Florence was phenomenal,” she said. “I remember it like it was yesterday.”
Gary Swanson ’79, MBA ’84

Like many of our students over the years, Gary Swanson came to Lake Erie College on an unconventional track. He was already married and working full-time in the area when he chose to take part in a two-plus-two program, completing two years at a community college before transferring to LEC. “My employer would actually reimburse double tuition for every “A” I received,” said Swanson. “It was the only time in my educational career that an “A” was important—or achieved!”

Swanson pursued a double major in marketing management and organizational development. In his classes, he encountered a number of professors who made an impression on him, particularly in the business department.

“Ram Shah taught a couple of small business and entrepreneurship classes that fall favorably to mind,” he said. “As events turned, my career has been in small business and I have been involved in a dozen start-ups, so the entrepreneurship discussions must have helped.”

Though he only spent time on campus for classes, one of Swanson’s best memories from his college years involved a marketing class on product positioning. The professor utilized a blind taste test of six different beer brands in the lesson, a teaching tool the class certainly enjoyed.

Though book knowledge is undoubtedly a goal of higher education, Swanson believes his most important takeaways from LEC were less formal. “Learning perseverance, goal-setting and how to work with others to achieve my goals were the best preparations I took away from Lake Erie,” he said.

Following graduation, Swanson earned his MBA from LEC as well and went on to spend 40 years in manufacturing at Thermotion Corp., from the plant floor up to the owner’s office. He’s spent his entire career in small businesses and has worked as a private pilot. He and his wife, Jackie, have also raised four sons.

Swanson joined the LEC Board of Directors after being asked by Art Holden to represent those students who also pursued a two-plus-two educational track. Since joining, the relationships he’s developed on the board have been a highlight for him.

“We are truly blessed by some outstanding folks with LEC’s best interests at heart,” he said. “I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know some of our faculty over the years, and it’s always great to see and hear our students in action. To watch how much a student matures from an incoming freshman to a graduating senior is fascinating.”

As for the greatest similarities between the College when he attended and now, Swanson believes that the students today have very similar goals. Thankfully, the biggest difference he sees is that the College now is on better financial footing than it was in the past. Swanson advises current students to make the most of their time at LEC and to always remember to give back.

Following graduation, Molesch went on to work as a software testing specialist with Progressive Insurance before becoming a programmer and finally a project manager with the company.

She later joined the Lake Erie College Board of Directors because she is a firm believer in the College and its mission. In this role, Molesch particularly enjoys seeing the success of the students in all areas of life. She is proud of the College’s evolution over the years. “Lake Erie has made significant upgrades to the curriculum, the grounds and the facilities. I am so delighted that the quality of instructors, student-to-teacher ratio and the personal interest shown to students has been maintained, if not increased,” she said. “It is admirable that LEC has maintained or reestablished meaningful traditions such as Tiberius and Mountain Day.”

As for advice for current LEC students, Molesch urges everyone to study hard, get involved, ask for help when needed and give help when asked. Above all, she hopes for everyone to finish their degrees. “Education and college experiences are invaluable to your personal and professional future,” she said.
Janeane Cappara ’95, MBA ’04

Janeane Cappara was first drawn to Lake Erie College by its worldly, unique opportunities and its close-knit atmosphere. As she pursued her bachelor’s degree with a major in business management, she encountered many engaging professors, including the late Dr. Richard Szorady.

“Dr. Szorady holds a special place in my heart,” she said. “He was the first professor I had in my undergraduate program and the last one I had in my MBA program. He taught me to question things, thoroughly research and analyze data, embrace being outside of my comfort zone and be open to change.”

Cappara’s peers in her classes are to thank for many of her best memories at LEC. “Whether we were studying all night, arguing about the correct answer to an exam question, exploring campus, cheering each other on or picking each other up—we were always there for each other.”

Along the way, the best tool Cappara took away from LEC was the drive to be bold. She believes that her years at Lake Erie provided her with the ability and confidence to learn, experience new things and think for herself.

After graduating from LEC and then law school, Cappara pursued a career as a business, commercial and probate litigator representing clients in federal, state and administrative proceedings. She also earned her master of business of administration degree from Lake Erie College in 2004.

Cappara became a trustee to the College after being invited to run for a position on the National Alumni Board. She attended several meetings and, thanks to the mentorship of a group of fellow alumnae, worked her way up to serve as a representative of the Alumni Association to the Board of Directors.

“The most rewarding part of being on the board is giving back to the Lake Erie College community,” she said. “It is an amazing experience to interact with a unique and accomplished group of individuals who sincerely have the best interests of the College at heart.”

As for the greatest similarities and differences between the College now and when she attended, Cappara notes that the administration, faculty and staff continue to genuinely care about the students. “When I was a student, Lake Erie was considered to be a reserved presence in the community,” she said. “Over the past few years, Lake Erie College has been active in the Painesville and Lake County communities.”

To current students, Cappara offers the following advice: “Meet as many people as you can and continue to seek opportunities to learn. Get involved on campus and stay involved. You have the unique opportunity to experience life at Lake Erie College. Embrace your time as a student and look forward to staying involved as a graduate!”

Ready, Set, Summer!
At LEC we love our dark green, but you can also show your pride with new items from the LEC Bookstore in lighter, brighter colors!

Stop sunburn with our stone-colored boonie hat or our lake-blue relaxed cap. Dress a little one in our electric pink toddler tee, or cover up on a crisp night with our chalky mint long-sleeve tee. For recreation time, we offer women’s vintage-style camp shorts, plush baseballs, and a Storm water bottle to keep you hydrated. All these LEC items plus more are available at https://bookstore.lec.edu.
New faculty members introduced
by Holly Menzie, MBA ’06

Three new full-time members joined the Lake Erie College faculty in fall 2015, and they have quickly become important parts of the institution. “We welcome these extremely talented individuals to Lake Erie College and look forward to the many contributions they will make to our academic program now and in the future,” said Dr. Bryan DePoy, vice president for academic affairs and chief academic officer.

Dale Turley, Problem-Based Learning Instructor and Assistant Clinical Coordinator, Physician Assistant Program

Dale Turley’s career, both in healthcare and law enforcement, has always been characterized by helping others. He brings a wealth of life experience and a strong academic background to his position as an instructor in the Lake Erie College Master of Physician Assistant Studies program, and he is excited about being here.

“This place is dynamic!” Turley said. “You can feel the enthusiasm of the students, who are like big sponges, wanting to experience and learn all they can.”

Turley comes to LEC from positions as an emergency medicine physician assistant in Naples, Fla. and at the Cleveland Clinic Department of Emergency Medicine (where he still works part-time). Previously, he was a detective in the Special Investigations Division/HIDTA for the City of Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) Police Department. He also worked as a police officer for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio, as Director of Operations for Physicians and Surgeons in Houston, Texas and as Associate Director and Clinical Coordinator of Paramedic Training for Akron General Medical Center.

He holds a bachelor’s degree and Master of Science degree in physician assistant studies from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he is currently working toward his Doctorate of Medical Science. He also graduated from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Law Enforcement Officer Academy and received emergency paramedic training at Akron General Medical Center in Akron, Ohio. He received an honorable discharge as a medical service specialist E-4 from the United States Air Force and holds a wide variety of professional certifications in law enforcement and healthcare.

This year Turley is teaching physiology to the first-year students in the classroom and supervising the clinical rotations of the second-year students. The rotations change every five weeks and cover everything from family medicine to general surgery. “I visit the students at their clinical sites and make sure they are learning all they can about that particular area of medicine,” he said.

“This job is about taking students to the next level of their dreams and aspirations,” he said. “As educators, we provide the tools for them to move on.”

Turley sees the physician assistant field as booming in the future. “The fire has been lit,” he said. “This is a noble profession that will only become bigger and bigger.”

He considers inequity in healthcare the greatest health problem in the U.S. today. “A lot of people don’t have access to healthcare or aren’t educated about what is available,” he said. “Often, the emergency room is used as a safety net, as a portal to providing care. The physician assistant profession is part of the plan to build equity in healthcare. It is a way of using funds better to provide healthcare for the masses.”

Turley considers his family the most important part of his life. “Raising three teenagers who are academically, emotionally and morally strong and who have a vision for what they want to do in life makes me happy,” he said. It’s all about family!”

His advice to Lake Erie College students? “Swim every day! Attend class, study hard and do the right thing always!”
Dr. Faria Huq, Assistant Professor of Quantitative Methods for Business

While growing up in Bangladesh, Dr. Faria Huq was strongly encouraged by her parents to earn her doctorate. “My father has his Ph.D., and his dream was that one of his three daughters earn her Ph.D., also. I was the one who made his dream come true,” she said.

Huq comes to Lake Erie from Georgia Southern University in Streetsboro, Ga., where she was a lecturer. Previously, she was a lecturer at BRAC University in Dhaka, Bangladesh and adjunct professor at Suffolk University in Boston. She has taught classes in macroeconomics, economic development, international trade, international finance, business statistics and applied statistics.

“I’ve always enjoyed teaching, and I love the interactions with students,” she said.

She made the decision to join the Lake Erie College faculty in part because she wanted to return to Ohio, which was where she first came in the U.S. from her home country. She also wished to teach at a college that was smaller in size than Georgia Southern, with its 20,000 students and large classes.

“I love the campus and small class sizes here,” Huq said. “The students have been involved, and the faculty has been extremely helpful.”

This year she is teaching undergraduate courses in Introduction to Economics and Applied Decision Models. The latter course deals with comprehensive applications of spreadsheet models, especially Excel. “This is a very essential course, as students will use spreadsheets often in their future careers,” she said.

Huq received her Ph.D. in economics from Suffolk University in Boston, her M.S. in economics from Baylor University in Waco, Texas and her B.A. in economics with a math minor from Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. She enjoys conducting research in the area of economics and has presented about her research at several international conferences. She also has several works in progress related to survey data she has collected in Bangladesh.

She is also involved with her family. Her husband is a college professor at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and her children are all attending school locally.

Huq presents an interesting perspective on the reasons why students in the U.S. lag behind students in other countries in their skills in mathematics. “In other countries, a lot of emphasis is placed on math, on the logical solving of problems” Huq said. “In the U.S., more emphasis is placed on personal achievements and creativity. Unless you do problems over and over again, you do not understand the process; math is almost like another language.”

She also points out that only the top students from other countries come to the U.S., and this is often where the comparisons are made.

Her advice to Lake Erie College students? “Attend class, listen and participate! Reach out to your professors. Stay focused on the long-term benefits of receiving a college education.”
Kathol is excited about being at LEC while a new president begins his tenure and feels that the College’s mission will be more important than ever in the years ahead. “I cannot help but imagine that the future will bring an expanded version of how we will prepare ‘responsible citizens in a contemporary world,’ a world which changes dramatically with the advent of new and emerging communication technologies. I consider it a privilege and honor to play even a small part of how Lake Erie College moves forward,” she said.

Kathol received her Ph.D. in communication studies from the University of Kansas, M.A. in communication studies from Miami University of Ohio and B.A. in speech communication from the University of Nebraska Omaha. She also earned a graduate certificate in women’s studies from the University of Kansas. She has presented in the fields of gender studies and communication at numerous conventions, authored several chapters and articles in journals, participated in numerous media interviews and contributed a great deal in the areas of campus and community service.

Even with all of her accomplishments, Kathol feels her greatest achievement is when a student comes to her and says, “What you did made a difference.”

Her advice to Lake Erie College students? “Get to know your professors and instructors. Don’t be afraid to ask questions!”

Annual giving provides the foundation to fund our vision

To give is to freely transfer the possession of something to someone, but not just for the act of giving. Annual fund gifts to Lake Erie College from alumni, friends, parents and trustees are the foundation on which our vision is constructed. And, just as important, the act of giving creates a bond between the donor and the College to remind us that our work is important and brings meaning to people who care about the well-being of our students.

Annual fund gifts are spent in the year they are received, which gives the College the flexibility to use those resources where we believe they will have the most impact. However, if your passion drives you to make a gift to a specific area, we can always put your contribution there to good use.

Through giving, we are reminded that our mission touches not only the lives of the people on campus but also the lives of those they will serve as they take their Lake Erie education out into the world. Annual support is a common effort in which many individuals join together to affirm the importance of decreasing the cost of a Lake Erie College education while helping our students lead lives of significance.

As you think about your gift, think about the rebirth of innovation and energy that Lake Erie College is experiencing. We have polished the gem that is our academic program and have begun the process to strengthen fine arts at the College. Through a visioning process, we have redefined our distinctive educational philosophy that will guide our curriculum planning, attract additional students, develop philanthropic partnerships and raise our profile as an academic institution that earns the respect of other academics and the community at-large.

This is an ideal time to invest in the rebirth of Lake Erie College by educating students to communicate effectively, think critically and creatively, make informed decisions and thrive in any context of life. As Lake Erie College graduates take their place in our evolving world, they go forward prepared to craft lives that will be fulfilling in the context of the communities they create and serve.

Lake Erie College alumni are a special group of people who have every reason to love and embrace their College. Our alumni-empowering program will call on all alumni to engage in the noble effort of supporting one another, recruiting new students, helping current students secure internships and jobs and acting as ambassadors for the College. Please show your support by helping us to achieve the vision we have for Lake Erie College.

If you are interested in making a gift to the annual fund, please contact Pam Palermo at 440-375-7225 or ppalermo@lec.edu. You may also make your gift to the annual fund online at www.lec.edu/giving or by using the remittance envelope enclosed.
A love of running and desire to help others were the two motivating factors in Gina Henley’s plan to run across the United States this summer.

Henley, currently a Lake Erie College sophomore, has been selected as a participant in the fourth annual 4K for Cancer Run to benefit the Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults. From June 19 through Aug. 6, she will be running with a group of approximately 30 college-aged students on a 49-day, 4,000-mile cross-country trek from San Francisco to Baltimore. The group’s route across America is pictured on the map shown above.

Runners will be required to run between six and 16 miles each day. Team members will be partnered up, running with the same teammate for their day’s miles, but with a different teammate each day. Running pairs will be dropped along the route in two-mile increments and, at the end of each runner’s segment, he or she will have time to rest in the support van. Rest days will be built in every three to six days of the trip.

Along the way, the group will work on community projects and visit cancer patients. They will sleep in churches, community centers, gyms and with families in private homes. Sponsoring groups will provide meals and/or team members will be responsible for purchasing their own.

“I am excited to be challenged, both physically and mentally, throughout this journey,” Henley said. “It is important for everyone to make a difference in the world and help others around them, and this is a great opportunity for me to do just that. Cancer affects almost everyone in one way or another, so I am proud to be a part of this amazing organization that supports those whose lives are impacted by cancer.”

At LEC, Henley is a Dean’s List student, majoring in business and human resource management and minoring in math. She serves as the sophomore class representative to the Student Government Association, is a College Ambassador and serves on the Student Athletic Association Advisory Committee. She is also captain of the cross country and track teams and is a successful long-distance runner; in fact, she holds the school record in the women’s 3,000-meter run with a time of 11 minutes, 12 seconds.

Last summer, Henley worked as a cart girl and waitress at a golf course near her hometown of Buffalo, N.Y. During the academic year, she is a student worker in the LEC institutional advancement office. She is eagerly anticipating her cross-country trek during the summer of 2016, although she admits that she is a little apprehensive about the experience.

“I’m excited, but nervous,” she said. “I’m looking forward to meeting the group I will be with and others I will meet along the way, but I also know that meeting cancer patients could be emotional.”

The mission of the Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults is to change lives by creating a community of support for young adults, and their loved ones, impacted by cancer. The organization operates with the following values: Be Human. Be Better. Be Courageous. Be Committed. “We envision a world in which no young adult faces cancer alone” is the group’s vision.

As a participant in the Run Across America, Henley is responsible for raising a minimum of $4,500. She, however, has a more ambitious goal of $6,000 and is more than halfway toward reaching this milestone. Those who wish to donate to her ride can do so online at the following address: www.4Kforcancer.org/profiles/gina-henley/

We extend our best wishes to Gina Henley as she embarks on this incredible experience and look forward to hearing about her run across America.
Football
The Lake Erie College football team earned a plethora of postseason honors following their 2015 season. In all, seven student-athletes earned All-GLIAC honors. Anthony Bilal was named to the First-Team while Shane Van Fleteren, Jeremy Durbin, Aaron Lindgren, Aaron Rojas, Anthony Kukwa and Maurice Hale earned Honorable Mention nods. In addition to his First-Team All-GLIAC honors, Bilal was named a D2Football.com Second-Team All-American and a CCA Second-Team All-Region selection. Twenty-two student-athletes earned All-GLIAC Academic honors.

Volleyball
Volleyball had one of their best seasons in Division-II under the tutelage of first-year head coach Kevin Foeman. The Storm picked up nine wins on the season. Their biggest win of the season came at home against GLIAC South Division-leading Ashland University in five sets. Freshman Crystal Kedroske was named an All-GLIAC Honorable Mention. Mallory Gustincic, Destiny Prusky, Jamie Riley, Sidney Fletcher and Madison Russel earned GLIAC All-Academic honors.

Men’s Soccer
The Lake Erie College men’s soccer team reached the GLIAC Championship game for the first time under first-year head coach Kevin Brenner. The Storm finished with a 7-6-1 record in GLIAC play, defeating Saginaw Valley State University in penalty kicks to reach the Championship. Four student-athletes earned All-GLIAC honors. Joseph Coombs was named Defender of the Year and earned a spot on the First-Team. Anthony Novak and Ryan Gibson were named to the Second-Team while Stuart Campbell was an Honorable Mention. Coombs and Novak also earned All-Region Second-Team honors. Eight student-athletes earned GLIAC All-Academic honors.

Women’s Soccer
The Lake Erie College women’s soccer team saw success on the field and in the classroom in 2015. Senior Marlena Lesniowski was named an All-GLIAC Honorable Mention for her play at the midfield. Ashley Pryce led the Storm with seven goals while Elizabeth Awuah had five. Ten student-athletes earned All-GLIAC Academic honors.

Cross Country
The Storm cross country teams saw some of their best finishes to date under first-year head coach Grant Lofdahl. At the GLIAC Championships, the Storm men finished eighth. Brandon Green finished in 22nd place with a time of 25:33. The time marked a program best in the 8K. Taylor Ritchie had the top finish for the Storm women, placing 89th at the GLIAC Championships. In the classroom, two men and five women earned All-GLIAC Academic honors.
Storm joins G-MAC conference

Storm Athletics will be joining the Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC) beginning with the 2017-18 academic year.

Of the Storm’s 19 varsity sports, 18 will continue to compete in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) through the end of the 2016-17 academic year. Men’s lacrosse will remain in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC).

In announcing the switch, Athletic Director Reid Guarnieri said, “We believe the migration to the G-MAC will not only provide greater access to conference and national postseason opportunities, but more importantly, will reduce missed class time and place us in concert with other institutions which share a similar vision and philosophy for higher education. The core philosophy of the Storm program is that our young adults are students first and athletes second; this transition will allow for that ideal to be achieved with even greater ease and certainty.”

Other G-MAC members against which Lake Erie College will compete are Alderson Broaddus University, Cedarville University, Davis & Elkins College, Hillsdale College, Kentucky Wesleyan University, Malone University, Ohio Dominican University, Ohio Valley University, Trevecca Nazarene University, University of Findlay, Ursuline College and Walsh University.

Tiberius Ceremony

As per tradition, the members of the Storm football team kicked off the football season with the annual Tiberius Ceremony on Sept. 3, 2015. Along with their coaches, the athletes gathered around the statue of Tiberius to hear an encouraging word from Interim President Gerhart, sing the College Fight Song and file past the statue, giving Tiberius a friendly pat on the head for good luck. The team’s first game took place later that day against Ashland University.
Ambassador Induction

One of Lake Erie College’s most revered traditions is the continuation of its ambassador program, whereby outstanding students serve as the official hosts for College events. On Sept. 13, 2015, eighteen students were inducted into the Order of Tiberius, named for the iron statue of a Labrador retriever that stands guard in the College Green. The formal induction ceremony took place in the Helen Rockwell Morley Memorial Music Building, and a reception followed in the Louise Price Social Parlor in College Hall.

New ambassadors are Liz Awuah, Andrew Bucur, Grayson Engler, Natalie Erickson, Desmond Filey, Forest Glogouski, Gina Henley, Nemanja Josic, Michelle Kinney, Emily Kotfis, Emily Long, Noelle Metz, Emma Miller, Samuel Mutemwa, Brock Pierson, Kristin PrimoZic, Elizabeth Roesch and Delaney Semacik.

Red Raider Preschool Visit

Students from Mrs. Sarah Starr’s class at Red Raider Preschool visited Lake Erie College on Sept. 30, 2015 to conduct some experiments as part of their unit on mixology. The students made rainbow jelly columns, milk rainbows and elephant toothpaste, all while learning how different types of materials can be mixed to produce different results.

The class also learned some introductory polymer chemistry and took some ingredients back to their classroom to make chemistry-based Halloween decorations including glowing body parts, zombie blood and ghost eggs. They were assisted by Dr. Johnathan Tedesco, dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and assistant professor of chemistry at Lake Erie College.

“Dunk a Dean” Day

On Sept. 2, 2015, the Lake Erie College Pre-Med Club hosted “Dunk a Dean” Day to benefit Team Kylan in the Northern Ohio Congenital Heart Walk. The team was participating in honor of local six-year-old Kylan Kuhn, who was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome and Jacobsen Syndrome.

Johnathan Tedesco, dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and assistant professor of chemistry, was the primary victim of the dunk tank, but he had his chance to exact revenge on Interim President Gerhart following a $1,000 pledge from sponsors Dworken & Bernstein Co, LPA to benefit student research at LEC.
Christmas Vespers

On Dec. 6, 2015, Lake Erie College presented its annual Christmas Vespers concert in the Helen Rockwell Morley Memorial Music Building. Begun in light and ending in darkness, the concert featured the Lake Erie College Student and Community Chorus, under the direction of instructor Mary Crow, and the Lake Erie College Flute Choir, under the direction of instructor Judith Elias.

The audience also enjoyed performances from a brass quartet with Dr. Bryan DePoy, vice president for academic affairs and chief academic officer, performing on trumpet; piano faculty instructor Sanni Kearns and her son, Ryan Kearns ’12, violinist; College organist Dr. Mark Bell; and instructor Robert Godfrey’s students Kailey Blasius ’16 and Taylor Miller ’19. Miller provided a holiday reading as well. The concert was preceded by a reception at the Steele Mansion.

Sidney Powell Lecture

Attorney and author Sidney Powell presented a lecture titled “The Current State of Justice” at Lake Erie College on Oct. 13, 2015 in the Helen Rockwell Morley Memorial Music Building. Powell has been lead counsel in more than 500 federal appeals resulting in more than 180 published decisions. She has represented clients in complex federal appeals and consults in complex federal litigation in civil and selective criminal cases.

December Commencement 2015

On Dec. 12, 2015, Lake Erie College celebrated its 159th commencement ceremony in the Helen Rockwell Morley Memorial Music Building. Of the 69 students who graduated, there were 24 graduate students and 45 undergraduates.

The keynote speaker was Steven A. Minter, former president and executive director of the Cleveland Foundation, a charitable organization working toward the greater good of the Cleveland community. Currently, Minter is an executive-in-residence at Cleveland State University’s Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs and a fellow in the University’s Center for Nonprofit Policy and Practice.

Russ Hogue, an education major and baseball player at the College, presented the Legacy from the Class of 2016. Paying homage to the 90s movie “10 Things I Hate About You,” Russ presented an original poem titled “10 Things I Hate About Lake Erie College.” Among the lines, he stated: “I hate how four years just flew by, but, mostly, I hate the way I don’t hate you Lake Erie College, not even close, not even a little bit, not even at all.”

A reception honoring the graduates followed the ceremony in the lobby of the Arthur S. Holden Center.

Dr. Katie Krammer, associate professor of special education, presented the Charge from the Faculty, and Dana Dennis ’76, chairman of the Lake Erie College Board of Directors, welcomed the graduates into the ranks of Lake Erie College alumni. Katie Staats ’09, MBA ’11, vice president of the Young Alumni Association, presented a welcome from the National Alumni Board. The Lake Erie College Flute Choir, Reverend Jan Yandell, D.Min., and organist Mark Bell, Ph.D. also participated in the event.
Entrepreneurship Immersion Week

From Aug. 2-7, 2015, Lake Erie College hosted Entrepreneurship Immersion Week, an intensive week of idea development, team building, learning and competition among teams of students from the Entrepreneurship Education Consortium (EEC). Each school sent five students to participate in a variety of academic sessions, networking opportunities and ultimately a business concept competition. Tom Lix, former professor of entrepreneurship at Lake Erie College and CEO of Cleveland Whiskey, served as the keynote speaker at the awards luncheon.

Members of the EEC are Ashland University, Baldwin Wallace University, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, Hiram College, John Carroll University, Kent State University, Lake Erie College, Lorain County Community College, the University of Akron and the University of Mount Union.

The Lake Erie College team, pictured in the photo below, consisted of Leah Struble, Samuel Mutemwa, Rutger Luebke, Rebecca Cornell and Nemanja Josic.

Mountain Day

Students awoke on the morning of Sept. 30, 2015 to the sound of pipers piping and drummers drumming, marking the start of another Mountain Day at Lake Erie College. One of the favorite traditions on campus, this special day of cancelled classes, fun and camaraderie was borrowed originally from Mt. Holyoke. Mountain Day has been celebrated since the early days of Lake Erie Female Seminary, when the girls traveled by hay wagons to the area known as Little Mountain to enjoy a day of picnicking and exploring in the out-of-doors.

This year, teams of Lake Erie students followed a series of clues in their search for the treasure chest, tried out a variety of games and inflatables on the College Green and enjoyed a steak dinner. Congratulations to “3 Blondes and a Brunette” (Taylor Ritchie, Emily Kotfis, Gina Henley and Hailey VanHoy) on their first-place finish in the Mountain Day treasure hunt!

LAKE ERIE | SPRING ’16
FETCH!

Fifteen Lake Erie College accounting students visited Leroy Elementary School on Nov. 13, 2015 to play FETCH! with two classes of fifth-grade students. FETCH! (Financial Education Teaches Children Healthy Habits) is a statewide initiative designed to teach real-life money skills to fifth and sixth graders. In the game, the playing field is a large dog park where teams of students compete to buy basic necessities for their dog and save money to pay for future needs. The visit was coordinated by Assistant Professor of Accounting Julie Ziemak.

“It’s relatable to the students because it’s based on the concept of owning and caring for a pet dog,” said Ziemak. “Our students had the opportunity to show the kids that math—and accounting—can be fun!”

Field Day

Students, faculty and staff joined together on the afternoon of Aug. 23, 2015 at the Victor Manor House to celebrate Field Day, a day of games, food and camaraderie meant to kick off the new academic year. Wearing their newly acquired Field Day shirts, the students enjoyed inflatables, tug of war, corn hole, Frisbee and more as they got to know new classmates and renewed old friendships. A delicious picnic dinner prepared by Metz Culinary Management was the perfect ending to this fun-filled celebration.

Raku Firing

On Dec. 1-2, 2015, students in Professor of Visual Arts Nancy Prudic’s ceramics class conducted raku firings, a traditional Japanese practice involving a controlled burn that smokes heavily. It was an excellent learning experience for all involved.
On Nov. 5, 2015, Lake Erie College recognized 159 years as an institution with the annual Founders Day celebration. The event took place in the Jerome T. Osborne Family Athletic & Wellness Center and included a reception in the building’s atrium.

Following a welcoming address by Amber Sherman ’16 and a performance of the College Hymn by the Lake Erie College Student and Community Chorus under the direction of Mary Crow, Interim President Gerhart presented a brief history of the College.

“Lake Erie College has thrived in the face of change due to our founding values,” he said. “Our founders understood the importance of critical thinking, problem solving and innovation. They would be so pleased if they knew what lies ahead.”

Student Government President Michelle Kinney ’16 had the honor of introducing the keynote speaker, Jeff Hoffman. A serial entrepreneur and internally recognized innovator, Hoffman has been a founder and CEO of a number of startups and high growth companies including Priceline.com, uBid.com and ColorJar. Among his many roles, Hoffman works with the White House, the Executive Office of the President, the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Department of Commerce to support business and economic growth initiatives all over the world.

In his speech, titled “Keys to Success for Entrepreneurs,” Hoffman emphasized that each of us has to make our own future and design the outcomes that we want for ourselves. “Entrepreneurship is not about making money,” he said. “It’s about designing your own future. You don’t need to wait to see what the future holds for you!”

Hoffman encouraged the audience to make lists of their goals and keep them in plain sight, reminding everyone that attitude is everything. “When you’re thinking about big dreams, you have to give them a chance by believing,” he said. “I like to tell people they should jump off a cliff and build an airplane on the way down.”

Other advice Hoffman offered included to harvest ideas wherever you go, learn one new thing each day, surround yourself with a great team, follow your curiosity and, ultimately, get out of the office and see the world. “Luck happens to people who are active,” he said. “Go out and find the intersection of the thing you’re best at and the thing you love doing.”

The event concluded with closing remarks from Adam Clare ’17 and a singing of the Alma Mater.
Mathematics in the Cleveland Museum of Art

While most midterms involve putting pencil to paper, the students in Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Education Betty Clifford’s HU 125: Critical Thinking through Math and Science class had the chance to take their learning outside of the classroom. On Oct. 14, 2015, the class traveled to Cleveland to explore mathematical concepts within the art collection at The Cleveland Museum of Art.

“This trip really showed the beauty of mathematics,” said freshman Hannah Williams. “We got to see firsthand how mathematical concepts in art have evolved from the 1400s to present day.”
New Student Convocation
With golden LEC medallions shining in the sun, Lake Erie College celebrated the annual New Student Convocation on Aug. 19, 2015 on the College Green. The ceremony marked the entrance of new students into the LEC family as the president, administration, faculty and staff congratulated them on the beginning of their academic careers.

This year’s convocation represented a marked increase in enrollment numbers, with 214 new first-time freshmen and 58 new full-time transfer undergraduates, veterans and full- and part-time post baccalaureates. The College also witnessed growth at the graduate level, as the Master of Education and Master of Physician Assistant Studies programs continue to thrive and the Parker Master of Business Administration program experienced a 30 percent increase in the number of credit hours being taken by students.

“The increase in enrollment is, as much as anything, a testament to the quality of our academic programs and the dedication of our outstanding faculty,” said Dr. Bryan DePoy, vice president of academic affairs and chief academic officer. Medallions with the College seal were given to each student to mark the beginning of his or her time at LEC. Welcome, Class of 2019!

Storytelling Harvest
On Oct. 10, 2015, Lake Erie College education students and volunteers came together for the 7th Annual Storytelling Harvest to read storybooks to young children ages 3-10 from Painesville City Schools. A free literacy event, the Storytelling Harvest gives children the opportunity to listen to and interact with storytellers, all with the goal of instilling a love of reading amongst our youth.

“The Storytelling Harvest is a culminating event for the Growing Readers Program, a collaborative project between the Painesville City Local Schools Family Resource Center (FRC) and the LEC Education Department’s early childhood pre-service licensure candidates,” said Dr. Katharine Delavan, associate professor and coordinator of early childhood education at the College. The FRC is directed by LEC alumna Amber Torres Gonzales (Adache).
State of the College Address

On Sept. 21, 2015, students, faculty, staff and friends gathered to hear Interim President Peter Gerhart present the State of the College Address from the back porch of College Hall. The speech consisted of three parts: preliminary remarks, an overview of where we are and an agenda for a year of preparation, foundation building and discovery. Gerhart recognized the fragility of the College’s current state yet emphasized the resilience and power of the College community.

Throughout the address, Gerhart laid out five initiatives: 1) To speak with one voice, 2) To define our signature educational philosophy, 3) To build a presidential treasure chest for the incoming president to make use of, 4) To build upon our wrap-around education, and 5) To create opportunity options for the new president outlining the various directions in which we might go from the foundation we set down this year.

“I give you no guarantee that we will accomplish all that we want to accomplish,” said Gerhart. “But if we think of ourselves as we would like to be, we can begin to seize our opportunities, find a coherent, single voice and fashion an educational product that markets itself.”

PA White Coat Ceremony

On Aug. 15, 2015, the Lake Erie College Physician Assistant Program presented White Coats to the members of the Class of 2016 as they entered the clinical phase of their education. These students were the first class to complete 15 months of didactic training, and this ceremony celebrated their transition to the clinical phase of their education.

Lori Stevic-Rust, PhD, ABPP served as the keynote speaker for the event. A board certified clinical health psychologist, Dr. Stevic-Rust is a national healthcare consultant and serves on numerous professional boards. The White Coat Ceremony took place in the Helen Rockwell Morley Memorial Music Building.

PA Community Outreach

The members of the Joseph G. Weber Physician Assistant Student Society got into the spirit of the season this past December as they volunteered with Project Hope for the Homeless, Lake County’s only homeless shelter. Inspired by PA student Quinn Repp’s regular volunteer work with the group, the students organized a car wash early in the fall semester to raise money to purchase clear bins for the occupants to use as storage for their belongings.

In addition to their work with Project Hope, the PA students partnered with Forbes House, Lake County’s only domestic abuse shelter, where PA student Lauren Miller regularly volunteers. Together the students “adopted” a single mother and her son, for whom they purchased Christmas gifts.

“One of the pillars of our society is to give back to the community that has given us so much,” said Tara Marthe, secretary of the Joseph G. Weber PA Student Society. “To be able to help families in need is why we want to be physician assistants. Being able to help others while in school brings us all great joy and purpose!”

Pictured are students Joannah Hutchinson, Eric Krolik, Tara Marthe, Maddy Ghimbasan and Kathryn Rodgers (left to right).
Katherine McMahon enjoys success in equine industry

by Cami (Harkless) Blanchard '90, MBA '05 and Michelle Kolk

Graduates from the Lake Erie College School of Equine Studies have made their marks across the world. For Katherine McMahon, Class of 2008, her passions led her to Rouen, France, where she works in the international equine business as the owner of French Horse Exports (FHE).

She also serves as an English professor for the Neoma Business School, in both their bachelor’s and master’s programs, and for the engineering universities École supérieure d’ingénieurs en génie électrique (ESIGELEC), translated as the Graduate School of Engineering in Electrical Engineering, and Centre des Études Supérieures Industrielles (CESI) or Industrial Higher Studies Center.

Originally from Alaska, McMahon majored at Lake Erie College in international business and minored in equine studies with a focus on teacher/trainer. The horse atmosphere isn’t as strong in Alaska as in the rest of the United States, so McMahon credits her years at LEC for exposing her to the real “horse world.” “I was able to work directly in horse shows as well as compete (competition hunters, IHSA shows, scribing for dressage judges, etc.),” she said. “I also showed at many dressage shows with Nancy Lewis Stanton. This gave me an inside look at competitive shows which has since helped me in my career.”

Shortly after graduation, McMahon moved to France with her now husband where she began riding with a Grand Prix dressage trainer and later with a jumper trainer. Eventually she began riding 4- to 5-year-old horses, one of which she recognized to be a great potential hunter. Identifying a business opportunity, McMahon began to market that horse and others online.

McMahon’s online business took off when Nicole DiCorti, a fellow LEC graduate, bought the hunter horse and connected McMahon to a client who bought a second horse from her. Soon McMahon began marketing on Facebook and by email which led her to land another wonderful client who competes in the grand prix and high A/O jumpers. The latter client has since bought six more horses from French Horse Exports. As a result of these relationships, FHE has exploded; last year the company’s sales doubled, and to date they have sold 33 horses. Much of their business has been through venues such as Hits, Ocala, Wellington and Thermal.

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FHE, which McMahon designed to help clients find their perfect horse, serves amateurs and professionals and sells hunters, jumpers and equitation horses. The majority of FHE’s clients stem from the East coast, Florida and California. In her work with FHE, McMahon caters to American and Canadian clients through marketing, emails, phone calls, shipping, quarantine, transferring and the like.

McMahon is thankful to LEC for successfully preparing her for her career, especially in regard to business classes, judging classes and her participation on the IHSA team. “The judging class was one of my favorites and really helped me to understand what to look for in a hunter, which has helped me greatly in France!” she said. “On the IHSA team, I got more hands-on experience and learned to become a better rider.” Having the opportunity to ride on difficult horses in some of the classes and competitions helped McMahon to feel comfortable on buckers, spookers and babies.

The business classes McMahon took at LEC also helped prepare her for her future. “Accounting has helped me to keep my books myself, and international business and international economics helped me to understand international trade and exchange rates, which I work with daily,” she said.

Katherine McMahon and other LEC alumni, including Stephanie Smentkowski, Dana Kriston and Kate Sunder, do their best to come back to campus every summer to take a lesson together with Mary Pardee, director of riding and assistant professor of equine studies at the Equestrian Center.

“I feel a great sense of pride having graduated from LEC, and I inform all my clients that I’m an LEC alumna!” said McMahon. “LEC really gave me the opportunity to feel comfortable working in the equine industry, gave me contacts for the future and taught me many things I will never forget.”
1950s

CHARLOTTE (SHOUL) BACKMAN ’50. Dedham, Mass., is still volunteering as a fundraiser and is now a pen pal with a delightful third grader from Dedham. She and her husband are both exercising and walking in the cold New England weather, and she is also busy taking literary and art courses. She enjoyed Thanksgiving with 38 adults and six great grandchildren of close relatives and can’t believe how many years have gone by since she started at LEC as an 18-year old from New England.

ELIZABETH (WICK) FIKRE ’58. McLean, Va., is still working at age (almost) 79, as a senior editor at the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine. It’s a job she loves and doesn’t want to give up. She’s traveled all over the world and lived for many years at a time in Europe and Africa. She and her husband have nine grandchildren spread out across the U.S. and now worry about and celebrate their woes and accomplishments. Fikre has dealt with a kind of muscular dystrophy for the last 20 years so now stays fairly close to home.

JOAN (BAILEY) HART ’51. Albuquerque, N.M., is retired. She writes that by the time of this publication she will be a great grandmother times three. She is still interested in quilting and family history. She would like to hear other news from her class.

1960s

BARBARA O. MURRY, PH.D. ’69. Soquel, Calif., said it was a great year for home improvements in drought-stricken California – new roof, new solar panels and rain catchment tanks. Her best travel was a cruise to Turkey and Greece, while she is still young and spry enough to enjoy it. At her 50th high school reunion she realized having a “before” yearbook picture to go with a current one was helpful in knowing who she was talking to. “Let’s do that for our 50th at LEC! See you there!”

JEAN (MARCOSON) PERLOFF ’65. Santa Barbara, Calif., traveled to Durham, Maine in July 2015. This picture was taken at a bed and breakfast that had an alpaca farm.

ALICE (HARTGE) WILSON ’66. Martinsburg, W.Va., retired in 2015 after a 30-year career in child psychotherapy. She received her master’s degree in social work from the National Catholic School of Social Services at the Catholic University of America in 1982 and a certificate in child and adolescent psychotherapy from the Washington School of Psychiatry in Washington D.C. in 1985. She worked in various roles including school counselor, emergency room evaluator, school for students with ADHD and dyslexia, hospital inpatient psychiatric unit social work in three different hospitals, and finally outpatient therapist at Brook Lane, a private behavioral health agency in Hagerstown, Md. She and her partner, Calvin Trowbridge, enjoy world travel, outdoor activities of all types and spending time with their family and friends. “I have been blessed with many wonderful instructors, mentors, supervisors, clients, colleagues and students,” Wilson said. She looks forward to seeing her classmates again at her class’s 50th reunion at LEC in fall 2016.

1970s

DENISE BREWSTER ’75. Concord, Ohio, will be retiring after 41 years in elementary education. She served as a teacher in the Painesville Twp. School District (now Riverside) and as an elementary principal at Leroy School, Louden (South Euclid Lyndhurst) and Westwood (West Geauga). She feels that LEC prepared her well for her classroom experiences.

1990s

JUDY (BAVETZ) ROBERTSON ’95. Fort Myers, Fla., is the group vice president, event sales at Garner, Inc. in Fort Myers. She and her husband, Tim, have two sons, Tyler and Brady.

2000s

MARK BAUGHMAN ’06. Willowick, Ohio, is a realtor and owner of RE/MAX Traditions. He and his wife, Shannon, have two children, Aiden and Aubrey. Aubrey was born Aug. 15, 2015.

SETH BENZEL ’06. Saratoga Springs, N.Y., had his original artwork featured in an exhibition titled Divergent Realities held in Chelsea’s Agora Gallery, New York City, from Oct. 9-29, 2015. Benzel’s paintings are intricate and bright construction that evoke a sense of colossal mythology and modern counterculture, also reflecting his professional life as a thoroughbred horse trainer and his close relationship with animals.

LORI FARRAR ’01. Painesville, Ohio, and her husband, Larry, announce the birth of their twin girls, Emily Elizabeth and Lindsay Marie, on July 15, 2015.
BRANDON LOGUE ’09, Wake Forest, N.C., is a major crimes detective in Henderson, N.C. and was nominated 2015 Officer of the Year.

KIM (FORD) McCORMACK ’04, Streetsboro, Ohio, and Michael McCormack were married on March 28, 2015. She is a general manager for Eat ’n Park Hospitality Group, Inc. in Boardman, Ohio.

KRISTEN MILLER ’08, Columbus, Ohio, is a database manager at Bishop Watterson High School in Columbus. She recently received her Master of Public Administration degree from Cleveland State University.

MELISSA NYE ’06, Tiffin, Ohio, is the international and graduate admissions coordinator and dance team advisor at Heidelberg University in Tiffin. She was on campus in fall 2015 to recruit for Heidelberg’s graduate programs.

SHAINA (VANDERPOOL) PALDA ’08, Kingston, Ohio, is a math teacher in the Circleville (Ohio) City School District. She and her husband, Andrew Palda, have two children, Owen and Adrienne.

DAN PURCELL ’07, New Orleans, La., is the basketball operations manager for the NBA’s New Orleans Pelicans. A self-described “12-to-15-minute player” at LEC from 2003-2007, after graduation he worked with the National Basketball Academy headquartered in Northeast Ohio. In 2009, the academy began a business relationship with the then-New Orleans Hornets, and Purcell was hired to run the operation in Louisiana. Four years later, he was hired as the team’s basketball operations assistant, and he was promoted to basketball operations manager last year.

CAMERON CASTRO ’12, Defiance, Ohio, is an assistant baseball coach at Defiance College.

ERIN DARING ’11, Lancaster, Calif., is a front desk agent at Embassy Suites – Palmdale in Palmdale, Calif.

EMMA HOSKINS ’10, Cincinnati, Ohio, is a registered pharmacist at Tri-Health in Lebanon, Ohio.

LAUREN (BOUCHER) HUNT ’10, Woburn, Mass., and ANDREW HUNT ’10 were married on June 20, 2015.

HEATHER (GRECO) KURTZ ’11, Berea, Ohio, and her husband, MICHAEL KURTZ ’13, had their first child, a healthy baby boy named Owen, in Sept. 2015. The couple met through Dr. Katharine Delavan’s “Team Up” program, never knowing that years later they would be happily married and have a child.

JOSEPH LOPEZ ’14, Painesville, Ohio, recently passed his CPA exam. He works as a finance associate for KeyBank in Cleveland.


KRISTA O’CONNOR ’12, North Royalton, Ohio, earned her doctorate of physical therapy from Belmont University in August 2015. She is a physical therapist at the Louis E. Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center.

ALLIE PETERS ’10, Austin, Texas, recently became the human resources manager for NLand Surf Park, the first surf park in the United States and second in the world. The park is run by the Coors family.

ANDREA TRIVISONNO ’11, Kirtland, Ohio, is a science teacher for grades 6-8 at Saint Anselm School in Chesterland. She is pursuing her Master of Education degree in adult learning and development at Cleveland State University. She and her husband, Don, have four children, Donnie, Grace, Dominic and Maria.

SARAH UVEGAS ’10, Oakland, Calif., is a bookkeeper at Landry’s Inc. She has been living in the Bay area for three and a half years.

ALLYSSA WAGERS ’11, MBA ’13, Streetsboro, Ohio, is a human resource generalist at Tarkett Incorporated in Middlefield, Ohio.
We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the following persons. For detailed obituary information, visit our website at www.lec.edu/Obituaries or contact Holly Menzie at 440.375.7240 or hmenzie@lec.edu to request a printed copy.

**GRACE ELIZABETH (TERHUNE) BENSON ’37**, Wilmington, Del. – Sept. 23, 2015

**BETTY CLAIRE (WEAVER) BOWSER ’47**, Canfield, Ohio – Aug. 31, 2011


**JEANNE (CHAMPLIN) HAYMON ’45**, Argyle, Maine – Oct. 28, 2014


**CAROL (PENNIMAN) KROMER ’51**, Cheboygan, Mich. – Sept. 7, 2015

**CHERYL ANN (VanBUSKIRK) AUXIER ’61**, New Castle, Ind. – July 31, 2015

**SALLY (GORHAM) BEYER ’66**, La Verne, Calif. – Oct. 16, 2015


**AUDREY (MAXWELL) TAYLOR ’66**

**MARY ELLEN (SPIESMAN) WARREN ’65**, Perry, Ohio – Jan. 1, 2016

**WILSON “BILL” BURR ’76**, Perry, Ohio – Nov. 21, 2015

**NANCY (HUNTINGTON) FARRELL ’70**, Hermitage, Tenn. – March 20, 2015

**DOROTHY FERGUSON ’70**, Deltona, Fla. – Oct. 6, 2015

**BETSY MORSE ’74**, Mentor, Ohio – Oct. 17, 2015

**MARTHA PROCTOR ’72**, Concord, Mass. – Aug. 28, 2015


**REBECCA JANE HIBBARD ’81**, Charlottesville, Va. – Dec. 21, 2015

**GLORIA (GRANDE) ROSS ’81**, Concord, Ohio – Sept. 9, 2015

**MARY ZAPPITELLI ’80**, Mentor, Ohio – Nov. 5, 2015

**GEORGE FARRELL**, Mentor, Ohio, died April 9, 2016. Farrell, professor emeritus of English at the College, taught literature and creative writing for 43 years until his retirement in 2007. He enjoyed reading, trains and puppetry and traveled frequently, often with his students. In 1989 he was given the Distinguished Alumni Award by the National Alumni Board, and he was named a Sesquicentennial Fellow in 2006. A memorial service will be held at the College during Homecoming Alumni Weekend in September 2016. Those who wish to make a donation in his memory may give to the Professor George Farrell Endowed Scholarship Fund at Lake Erie College.

**DR. RICHARD BONDE**, Willowick, Ohio, died March 19, 2016. Dr. Bonde was a member of the College’s education faculty from 1998 to 2012, and he also served as chair/dean of the department of education from 2005 to 2010. He taught a variety of education courses and also implemented the College’s Special Education program and Adolescent Young Adult secondary program. At the time of his passing, he was the mayor of the City of Willowick and previously served as the principal of several area high schools. His son, BRETT BONDE, is a 2011 alumnus of Lake Erie College.

**DAVID K. SIEGEL**, Willowbury, Ohio, died Jan. 23, 2016. Siegel was a dedicated member of the Lake Erie College Board of Directors, serving as a board member from 1997 to 2012, when he was granted emeritus status. He retired after serving for 15 years as owner and president of D.K. Siegel & Associates, which provided management consulting services. Aside from the College, Siegel served as a board member and chair of Lake Hospital Foundation. He and his wife, JULIA (SMITH) SIEGEL, M.S.E. ’84, were regular attendees at Founders Day and other events on campus and were named Sesquicentennial Fellows in 2002.
Betty Weibel has been a Northeast Ohio public relations agency owner for more than two decades. In this role, she has specialized in strategic planning and special event marketing and management. She has consulted for national and international companies and has conducted seminars on topics involving communications and media relations.


Before opening her own agency, Weibel was vice president with responsibility for corporate communications and human resources for a 1,200-store retail chain. She began her career as a newspaper journalist and worked as a sports broadcaster for ESPN as an equestrian commentator.

A resident of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Weibel is an award-winning member of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and is a mentor to young professionals. She has served on boards for Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center and Ohio Humanities, and she was recently reappointed to the Ohio Historical Society Board of Trustees by Governor John Kasich.

John Stallard graduated from Lake Erie College with a major in equestrian facilities management. During his time on campus he was team secretary for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) and president of the Prix de Villes.

Since graduation, Stallard has pursued the sport of carriage driving, initially running the farm of a United States Equestrian Team driver in North Carolina for several years before moving to Lexington, Ky. He volunteers a large amount of his time with the Carriage Association of America (CAA), which promotes the sport of traditional driving in the U.S., and he currently runs the largest United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Pleasure Driving competition in the country, the CAA Carriage Festival, at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Stallard’s career in driving has taken him around the country and to Europe. He has been invited by the president of the British Driving Society to drive in the society’s meet at the 2016 Royal Windsor Horse Show in Great Britain. He has also had the rare opportunity to meet Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip.
Lake Erie College welcomed alumni home to campus the weekend of Sept. 25-27, 2015 for the annual Homecoming/Alumni Weekend festivities. With events such as the 50th Class Reunion Luncheon at the Steele Mansion, a campus tour, a class dinner at Kirtland Country Club and a young alumni event at Red, Wine and Brew in Mentor, the weekend was a good time for all.

Guests also enjoyed a tour of the George M. Humphrey Equestrian Center, a tailgate party preceding the Storm football game versus Grand Valley State University, and a book discussion with Cleveland author Claire McMillan, as well as a special presentation from students in the physician assistant studies program and a cocktail party at the Manor House.

Congratulations to the members of this year’s Homecoming Court: Michelle Kinney, Marlena Lesniowski, Taylor Ritchie, Kyle Adams, Rutger Luebke, Steve Walezak and Zaide Whitley. Kinney was crowned queen and Whitley king.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the next Homecoming/Alumni Weekend, set to take place Sept. 23-25, 2016!
SAVE THE DATE!

September 23-25

2016 alumni weekend HOMECOMING

Come celebrate the 160th anniversary of the founding of Lake Erie College - and meet our new president!

Details and registration information will be sent over the summer. For more information please contact Director of Alumni Relations Debra (Blanchard) Remington ’74 at 440.375.7040 or dremington@lec.edu.