SPRING 2015

THIS ISSUE
Anthony Bilal
Founders Day
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Hometown Values Breed Success

In February I had the tremendous honor of speaking at the National Honor Society induction ceremony at Chardon High School.

As I told the inductees, “Because of the individualized attention you have received over the years, you have values right now that others may take longer to acquire or may actually never possess. You will be successful because you have a sense of place, and that place has no boundaries.”

In this issue of Lake Erie, we focus in part on several of the directors who were once students at Lake Erie College and who are now serving as valued members of our governing board. This is a feature that will continue in several future issues of the magazine, as we are fortunate to have many alumni serving in this leadership capacity. These persons, too, embrace the National Honor Society values of character, scholarship, leadership and service. These values, combined with the lessons learned in our close-knit college community, are what help to make a Lake Erie education so special.

Always remember the many things you learned at Lake Erie College. As students and alumni, you can be as successful as you want to be.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Victor, J.D., LL.D.
President
Anthony Bilal succeeds on and off the field

by Holly Menzie MBA ’06 and Jeremy Smith MBA ’14

Anthony Bilal represents the best of a Lake Erie College student-athlete. He is not only one of the College’s most recognized football players, but he also excels in the classroom and in other areas off the field.

A graduate of nearby Riverside High School, Bilal selected Lake Erie College because it was close to home and because the football coaches and others at LEC made him feel like part of a second family. He knows he made the right choice because he has achieved what he had hoped for on the field and in the total college experience.

Anthony Bilal, the athlete

On the football field, Bilal is a running back and was one of the most successful players in NCAA Division II this past season. He broke several school records in addition to becoming the Storm’s first 2,000-yard rusher. He ended the year tied for a national record in rushing touchdowns with 29 and second in rushing yards with 2,091 and an average of 8.2 yards per carry. Following is a recap of his accomplishments on the field in 2014.

Bilal set the tone for the year in the Storm’s first game of the season against Ashland University by rushing for 200 yards and a pair of touchdowns. In week two, Bilal upped the ante, rushing for 217 yards and four touchdowns in the Storm’s home opener against Hillsdale College.

Against Walsh University in week three in front of the home faithful, Bilal tied the previous GLIAC record of six rushing touchdowns in a single game to give the Storm their first win of the season.

In week five, Bilal faced one of the toughest defenses when the Storm squared off against eighth-ranked Ohio Dominican University. Though the Storm lost, Bilal took it to the Panther defense, rushing for 163 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

The following week, the Storm traveled down the road to South Euclid to face rival Notre Dame College. Bilal shined in the rivalry game, rushing for four touchdowns and 228 yards to lead the Storm to victory. The Storm returned home the following week, where Bilal had 225 yards and a touchdown as the Storm defeated GLIAC foe Saginaw Valley State University. The Storm’s winning streak reached three games at Malone University in week eight. In the game, Bilal set the LEC record for rushing yards in a game with 241 and had the longest rush in College history – 80 yards.

Week nine presented another tough test for Bilal and the Storm. The third-ranked Ferris State University Bulldogs had previously allowed just 97 yards per game

Bilal was announced as one of nine finalists for the Harlon Hill Trophy, which is awarded to the top player in NCAA Division II football.
to opposing offenses. Though the Storm fell in a shootout, Bilal picked up 193 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

After rushing for 145 yards and three touchdowns in their home finale against Wayne State University, the Storm traveled to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to face 20th-ranked Michigan Tech University. Bilal topped his own record for rushing yards in a game by exploding for 270 yards and a pair of touchdowns to close the season.

The awards

Four days after the season ended, the GLIAC released its annual award winners. For the first time in program history, a member of the Storm won Offensive Back of the Year. In addition to this honor, Bilal was named First-Team All-Conference.

Two weeks later, Bilal was announced as one of nine finalists for the Harlon Hill Trophy, which is awarded to the top player in NCAA Division II football. After this, the honors and accolades started to pile up. Over the next several weeks, Bilal earned Daktronics All-Region honors, AP Little All-American honors, ECAC Co-Offensive Player of the Year, USA College First-Team All-American honors and a spot on the prestigious Daktronics All-American First-Team.

On December 19, the winner of the Harlon Hill Trophy was announced via webcast. As members of the Lake Erie community watched, it was revealed that Bilal finished third in the voting.

“I’ve been blessed,” Bilal said. “Just to be mentioned [for the Harlon Hill Trophy] is huge.”

Anthony Bilal, the student

At Lake Erie College, Bilal is majoring in business administration and sport management. As a student in the 4 + 1 program, he will receive his undergraduate degree in 2015 and his MBA in 2016. His dream is to play in the NFL, but if that doesn’t materialize, he plans to become an athletic director either at the high school or college level.

When he’s not in class or on the field, Bilal volunteers as the head coach for his six-year-old nephew’s indoor flag football team. With other LEC football players, he was one of the callers at the Rainbow Radiothon to benefit Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital, and he has also read books to preschoolers enrolled in a local Kindercare.

When asked what gives him the most satisfaction, Bilal said it is making his family proud. “Being able to represent my last name to my family, the College and the community is an honor,” he said. “I’m proud to be a student at Lake Erie College and a member of the Storm football team.”

At 170 pounds, Bilal is small for a running back. However, he is probably one of the most motivated student-athletes at Lake Erie College. As he told a representative of the Cleveland Browns at a recent meeting, “In football, as in life, size doesn’t matter!”

We know Anthony Bilal will continue to be successful, both on and off the football field. As a student and an athlete, he represents the best of the Lake Erie College student body.
Doris (Roach) Bray ’59

Originally from the South, Doris Bray’s sense of adventure is what drew her to Lake Erie College. “I wanted to go somewhere away from home,” she said. She was also excited about the opportunity to visit Italy through the Winter Term Abroad program, an experience that became one of her favorite memories. “It was such a wonderful, eye-opening experience, especially so soon after World War II!” she said.

Following her graduation from Lake Erie, Bray continued her education. She won a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship to Yale University, where she earned her master’s degree in American studies in only nine months. From there, she attended UNC Law School, where she was first in her class and served as editor-in-chief of the North Carolina Law Review, the school’s highest honor. “I have always told people that Lake Erie taught me how to write and how to think,” she said. “I actually had a law professor tell me that I was the only law student who wrote literate exams. I developed a great deal of self-confidence at LEC, which I needed at a time when girls were neither law students nor lawyers.”

“I have always told people that Lake Erie taught me how to write and how to think,” she said. “I actually had a law professor tell me that I was the only law student who wrote literate exams. I developed a great deal of self-confidence at LEC, which I needed at a time when girls were neither law students nor lawyers.”

“College has faced many challenges during her years on the board, Bray is most proud “that we managed to survive and to place LEC on a firm footing with strong leadership.”

When asked what she sees as the greatest similarities and differences between the College then and now, what strikes Bray most is the difference between the student bodies. While her classmates were all female and adhered to many rules, the current co-ed student body is afforded much more freedom.

According to Bray, current students should understand that a good education is generally the best path to success. “Grades make you stand apart. Make the most of your college career by studying hard and taking advantage of all of your opportunities,” she said.
Elizabeth (Havens) Abraham ’68

Hailing from a hometown 600 miles from campus, Elizabeth Abraham chose to attend Lake Erie College for its Winter Term Abroad program. As she earned her degree with a major in psychology and a minor in Spanish, Dr. Lynde Steckle became her favorite professor. “He was a hard nose professor with a soft heart,” she said. “He had a subtle sense of humor and liked being called the Bastard of Bentley Hall!”

Abraham’s experiences in college led her to the realization that she liked to lead. She held leadership positions as president of Phi Chi, president of Laurel Society and as a judicial board member, where she realized the value of continual improvement. “The faculty wouldn’t let us rest on our laurels,” she said. “I learned I can always do better, and that is true throughout life.”

Following graduation, Abraham earned a master’s degree in psychology. After working as a psychologist at a rehab and psychiatric hospital in Chicago, she joined the faculty at Chicago Medical School. Eventually, she left Chicago for Minneapolis where she worked as a group and family therapist until she returned to graduate school to earn a MBA in finance. After completing her MBA, Abraham worked at Pillsbury (now part of General Mills) and First Bank. She then became a consultant to small businesses before purchasing a small manufacturing business with her husband in 1987. She is now the majority owner and CEO of Top Tool, an award-winning manufacturing company of micro miniature complex components.

Abraham has a variety of interests away from business. She loves to golf, read, travel, drink good wine and eat great food. She learned how to fly a plane and bought a Mooney aircraft to fly to Nebraska and New England. She has been very active in Carlson School alumni events and has won several awards as a business and alumnae leader. Her favorite award was the 2012 Lake Erie College Distinguished Alumnae Award because she was nominated by a record number of her classmates.

Abraham became involved as a trustee at Lake Erie as a way to give back to the College that made such an impression on her. “It is very rewarding to see the Board develop,” she said. “We tackle different issues that result in making the College ever better.”

For Abraham, there are many differences between the College now and when she attended. Unlike in the 1960s, Lake Erie today is coed, has sports teams and has less stringent rules. She also notices a stronger connection between the College and the local community and Cleveland. Even still, the similarities hold strong. “The students are still bright and passionate, and the campus is as beautiful as it was in my day,” she said. “The College continues to elevate its reputation and overall standing.”

As for advice to current students, Abraham advises to “pursue your dreams, and remember to do your best today, and tomorrow you can do better! Keep Lake Erie in your hearts and minds wherever life takes you.”

“The students are still bright and passionate, and the campus is as beautiful as it was in my day. The College continues to elevate its reputation and overall standing.”
Cathy Lincoln ‘78

Coming from a long line of leaders, donors and friends of Lake Erie College, Cathy Lincoln is a member of the class of 1978. She was a Spanish and art double major, though her favorite class was taught by Dr. Bean, a professor of political science. “Dr. Bean’s lectures and teaching style were legendary,” she said. “He was known for using his version of the beanpole, a large jar of beans requiring guesswork.”

The art department was one of two main factors that drew Lincoln to Lake Erie, the second being the College’s Academic Term Abroad program. She credits her travel and study abroad experiences in college for helping her break out of her shell. “Few people believe that I used to be shy,” she said. “My experiences abroad were crucial to my overcoming my shyness.” She strongly recommends that all students travel and study abroad in order to widen their worldviews.

On campus, Lincoln’s best memories involve evenings spent at the cabin that used to exist in the woods by the former hockey field. Since graduating, she has primarily worked as a professional volunteer and joined the board of directors in 2005. For her, the most rewarding part of serving as a trustee is helping guide the College into the future.

Lincoln has some sage advice for the students of today. “Take all sorts of classes,” she said. “To be a truly educated person you need to be a student for life and have knowledge in many different subjects.” She continued, “The job you start out with will probably not be the one you have throughout your life, so a well-rounded education will enable you to steer your career onto different paths.”

Nancy (Krehl) Stillwagon ‘70

Nancy Stillwagon chose to attend Lake Erie College after visiting for a weekend and staying in College Hall. She liked the friendliness of the girls she met and was drawn to the Winter Term Abroad program, which turned out to be a great bonding experience.

As Stillwagon progressed through her coursework, Harold Fink and Wade McGee became her favorite professors. They were both engaging and talked about life. Stillwagon double-majored in art and music, which culminated in a senior art show and a senior piano recital. Her recital was a two-piano concert at the Victor Manor House.

Stillwagon’s best memories as a student involve trying to get around the rules. “Rules are made to be broken!” she said. While the students were supposed to sign in and out of the residence halls, Stillwagon enjoyed spending the night out away from campus. Her favorite memory is riding in a yellow Volkswagen Beetle in Kirtland Hills in April as the sun was rising over a beautiful field of daffodils, an image that has always stuck with her.

Stillwagon is grateful to Lake Erie for giving her a macroscopic view of the world. She was able to take a variety of courses, travel abroad and learn how to view the world through a much wider lens.

Following graduation, Stillwagon worked at the Cleveland Museum of Art for a year before receiving her master of fine arts degree and her Ph.D. in art history from Kent State University. She taught art while earning these degrees and now plays piano professionally alongside Lake Erie’s artist-in-residence Joe Augustine.

Stillwagon joined the board of directors because she loves LEC and wants it to do well. Lately, the most rewarding part of her position has been seeing President Victor’s impact on the College’s standing. She notes a sense of vibrancy and pride on campus today that wavered in the 1980s.

As for the greatest similarities between the College now and when she attended, Stillwagon admires the constant dedication of the faculty to the students. She wishes there were more of an emphasis on the arts, however. On that note, Stillwagon’s advice for current students is to become well-rounded.
A firm believer in the power of personalized learning environments, Nancy Terrill has carried the lessons she learned at Lake Erie throughout her career. Growing up in Wickliffe, Ohio, she first considered the College after winning a $2,000 scholarship at a foreign language festival. Attending LEC became a no-brainer, and she grew to love the small class sizes and close relationships with her professors.

As she worked toward a degree in international business with concentrations in French and Spanish, Terrill’s favorite professors were Miss Rubio, her Spanish professor who came from Brazil, and her professor of dance. Her dance professor had left the business world to pursue her artistic passions and taught Terrill much about how to retain her identity as a woman in business, which was then very much a man’s world. Terrill credits her professors for teaching her how to fully think through a problem from all sides, work through alternatives, weigh pros and cons and then concisely communicate her thoughts.

Terrill’s best memories from college came from her academic terms abroad. She studied in Salamanca, Spain as a sophomore and in Nancy, France as a junior. “I gained a sense of independence and learned how the world thought of Americans,” she said. “This insight has remained invaluable as we face global challenges today.”

Following graduation, Terrill became a commercial banker at the Cleveland Trust Company. By the time she left banking 25 years later, she was the national manager of the special credits department at Keybank, managing a $3 billion problem loan portfolio with a department of 134 employees. Terrill then became a business consultant in 2003, working with troubled companies to restructure their businesses and maintain the supply chain.

Terrill served as the alumni representative on the board of directors at LEC in the late 1980s before she rejoined the board several years ago. “The most rewarding part of being on the board is two-fold,” she said. “The opportunity to develop relationships with the staff and other board members has been very rewarding, but perhaps the best part is the opportunity to give back to my community in a meaningful way.”

For Terrill, the greatest similarity between the College when she attended and now is the intimate learning environment. While LEC has changed with the times to address modern challenges, it is “one unified entity which embraces the best of its traditions but is firmly rooted in the future.”

Terrill’s advice to current LEC students is to work hard and network. “It is all about what effort you put in,” she said. “Make connections early and often. It will pay dividends down the road no matter what your choice of study may be.”

“This is the time in your life to experiment, to take a number of different courses, to develop interests in other areas,” she said. “Branch out of your comfort zone and try new things!”
Lake Erie College has ties to President Abraham Lincoln

by Holly Menzie MBA ’06

Lake Erie Seminary and College students were fortunate to have personally seen several U.S. presidents – Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley and William Howard Taft. In this and future issues of Lake Erie, we will focus on these presidential connections, thereby making national history come alive in the small town of Painesville, Ohio. We begin with Abraham Lincoln.

Inauguration Journey

Saturday, Feb. 16, 1861 was a momentous day for the students at Lake Erie Female Seminary, for this was when President-elect Abraham Lincoln made a brief appearance at the Painesville depot. The train carrying the lanky soon-to-be-president was traveling from Springfield, Ill. to Washington, D.C., and its route took it directly through Painesville.

Miss Ellen Wright, a faculty member at the Seminary, described Lincoln’s appearance in Painesville in a hand-written journal entry dated Feb. 16, 1861:

“This morning was very pleasant and, as we were all on tiptoe to see a ‘real true President of these United States,’ the young ladies seemed to be delighted to find that arrangements had been made, by which all who wished could ride to the Depot. ‘Ah, then and there was hurrying to and fro’ – and at nine we were on our way in omnibuses, carriages, and buggies.’”

Along with other well-wishers from the Painesville area, the Lake Erie students joined the crowd around the platform that had been erected near the depot. Miss Wright’s journal entry continues:

“We remained in the carriages and from them had a fine view of Mr. Lincoln as he stepped from the car to the platform and addressed the assembly; and we were all pleased to find that he is more interesting in his appearance than his pictures represent him. Cheer after cheer arose as he left the platform and reentered the car; and as the Engine puffed and whistled, and began to move off, the Band again played and we started for the Seminary, expressing many hopes that our President-elect may reach Washington in safety and be enabled to discharge faithfully all the duties that may devolve upon him.”

During a 1909 chapel service, Judge Reynolds, a College trustee, recalled Lincoln’s remarks directed to the girls from the Seminary during this appearance in Painesville. Judge Reynolds said the following about Lincoln’s visit: “The long, lank, care-worn man appeared at the car door. ‘Ladies,’ said he to the Lake Erie girls present, ‘I see a great deal more beauty than you do.’”

This remark was confirmed through an entry in George Elliott’s “The Abraham Lincoln Blog.” Elliott wrote, “The first stop of that day [Feb. 16, 1861] we have a record of was in the town of Painesville, Ohio, not far east of Cleveland. [Lincoln] briefly greeted the crowd waiting for him, made polite remarks about the ‘good-looking ladies’ and asked to have music from the assembled music band.”

Mrs. Edna Lyman Wilbur, an alumna from the Lake Erie Female Seminary Class of 1862, recalled Lincoln’s stop in Painesville in a letter she wrote from Jamestown, Dakota, on June 18, 1884 to be read at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Seminary. She wrote the following:

“On a bright spring morning, with many a laugh and jest, we are loaded into picnic wagons and drive away towards the depot. Abraham Lincoln, President-elect of the United States, is to pass through Painesville to-day on his way from Springfield to Washington, to enter the duties of his office. We want to see
“An incident in my life at Lake Erie which made a deep impression on my mind refers to the time when all, who would not thereby be absent from duty, started out in groups, climbed the rail fences and went in a northeasterly direction through the meadows and pastures to the Lake Shore Railroad to await the funeral pageant of Abraham Lincoln. A few moments after our arrival, the train slowly drew in sight, the engine was followed by an open flat car upon which rested the catafalque, all, in the deepest garb of mourning, then one or two coaches for the family of our lamented President. Not a word was spoken as this solemn train passed before our eyes and was gone from our sight, but the scene has ever remained in my memory. The train had stopped a moment at the station in town, as it had done all along the line at the largest places, while groups had gathered along the railroad as we had done to pay a silent tribute to the man who has grown in love and esteem with our whole Nation since that memorable occasion, more than fifty years ago.”

Edna Wilbur also wrote about this somber event in her letter:

“Another morning comes, – a rainy morning, – more than four years after, a few of us are still at the Seminary. We put on our hats, shawls, and rubbers, take our umbrellas and walk silently through the rain towards the depot. Our Chief is going back to-day, – back from Washington to Springfield. He will pass through Painesville on the early morning train. We shall not see his face to-day. We shall not hear his voice. His still form lies wrapped in that flag for the love of which he lived and died.

Oh! The wail of that locomotive! Did you ever hear so sorrowful a sound before? It is as if the pent-up grief of a nation found sudden vent in one prolonged wail of agony. The depot is draped in black. The cars are draped. Crowds are assembled, but not a word is spoken. A few bouquets are handed to a man upon the platform, who takes them in to lay upon the casket. We can see it through the car window. The engine has taken in water. It puffs and begins to move. It moves slowly away. We walk home again, – all in silence, – all mourners. There is not one bright spot in the whole horizon. There is not one to speak an encouraging word. Oh, yes! One – one who can still say: “God reins! There the government at Washington still lives.”

Lincoln’s funeral train traveled almost 1,700 miles in taking the President’s body from Washington, D.C. to Springfield. Lake Erie Female Seminary students were among the millions of people who saw the train pass by as silent witnesses to this sad part of our nation’s history.

On Alumnae Day in 1917, Harriet Brewster McCullough, an alumna from the Lake Erie Female Seminary Class of 1867, recalled the students’ sad visit to the Painesville depot to see President Lincoln’s Funeral Train. She said the following:

LAKE ERIE | SPRING ’15
On November 6, 2014 Lake Erie College recognized 159 years as an institution with the annual Founders Day celebration. This year’s keynote speaker was Michael Uslan, originator and executive producer of the Batman movie series. Both nationally and abroad, Batman is one of the most successful pop culture franchises of all time.

The Founders Day celebration took place in the Paul S. Weaver Auditorium in the Helen Rockwell Morley Memorial Music Building. To begin, senior Vanessa Dunne greeted the audience by speaking about the importance of preserving the College’s history and traditions while embracing the future. President Michael T. Victor then took the stage to deliver a brief history of the College, its presidents and its major developments over the years.

Following President Victor’s presentation, senior Patrick Goelz had the honor of introducing the College’s six founders. Goelz spoke of the importance of growing the College in a manner that preserves the original vision of the founders. He then recognized their descendants, some of whom were in attendance. Finally, senior Halie Harper took the stage to introduce Michael Uslan.

For Ulsan, comic books were his passion from the start. He learned how to read from them by the age of four and had accumulated a collection of over 30,000 editions by the time he reached high school. Uslan’s parents, a stonemason and a bookkeeper, always encouraged him to embrace his love of comics. His challenge, however, involved how to turn his passion into a career. Several issues faced Uslan in the pursuit of his dreams, key among them being his lack of money or connections in the industry.

His first opportunity to get his foot in the door came when he attended Indiana University in the 1970s. As part of a new experimental curriculum, the College of Arts and Sciences allowed individuals to pitch ideas for courses to the deans and professors. A junior at the time, Uslan decided to present an idea for a course on comic books, arguing superheroes are the modern-day mythology. Uslan’s belief was, just as the Greeks, Romans and Egyptians had their Gods, the modern-day world venerates brave warriors who happen to wear spandex and capes.

Initially, he was rejected by the dean who disregarded comic books as cheap entertainment for children. “Every once in a while there are life-changing moments,” said Uslan. “I could have bowed my head, picked up my ‘funny’ books and walked out of that room.” Instead, figuring he had nothing to lose, Uslan held his ground. Using the comparison of the story of Moses with the origins of Superman, Uslan convinced the dean to accredit his course, which ultimately led him to become the world’s first college professor of comic books.

“Find your passion. Find something that makes you excited to go to work, even if it’s a rainy Monday morning.”
At this point in his story, Uslan reached a second key theme: always market yourself and your ideas. “After getting my course approved, I could hear my mother’s voice in my head,” he said. “Michael, you can have the greatest creative ideas in the world, but if you don’t market yourself, no one will ever know!”

Uslan decided to call the United Press in Indianapolis and pretend to be an angry tax payer, enraged that his dollars were funding a course on comic books at IU. Next thing he knew, he and his course were featured in an interview that was picked up by national and international newspapers, leading to invitations to speak on radio programs, television talk shows, the national evening news, and even in magazines such as Playboy and Penthouse.

The heads of both Marvel Comics and DC Comics called Uslan personally, which led to a summer internship and a job offer at DC Comics in New York City. During his internship, Uslan continued to follow his own advice by believing in himself and marketing his ideas. He jumped on the opportunity to write a script for a comic called The Shadow, which turned into an opportunity to write for Batman comics as well. Uslan’s childhood dream of writing comic books had been achieved.

Always wanting to move forward, Uslan realized he had to find a new dream. Having been horrified by the mockery that was the Batman television series, he made it his mission to bring Batman to the silver screen in a dark and mysterious light. “I made a vow that somehow, someway I’d show the world what the TRUE Batman is like,” he said. “Someday, I would erase from the collective consciousness of the world culture three little worlds: Pow, Zap and Wham!”

While continuing to write comics for DC Comics, Uslan began pursuing this new dream in his senior year of college. He contacted 372 motion picture executives in the hopes that one of them could help him get his start in Hollywood. This plan failed. “Always have a plan B, and a plan C and a plan D if you can,” he said. “The twists and turns of life just come at you so fast.”

For Uslan, his plan B was law school. “I didn’t want to go to law school,” he said with a laugh. “I didn’t want to be a lawyer. But I thought maybe it would be a means to an end. Maybe if I took every course I could find having to do with entertainment and communications I could get a job on the legal business financial side and network like mad and when no one was looking, slip in a back door onto the creative side.”

Plan B worked. After graduating from law school, Uslan got a job as a motion picture production attorney at a major studio and was put in charge of legal and business affairs. He continued this job for three and a half years before resolving to buy the rights to Batman.

After first approaching his former boss at DC Comics for advice, Uslan soon realized that everyone thought his plan was crazy. “I was told that no one was interested in Batman anymore, but there was no way of talking me out of it,” he said. In October 1979 he bought the rights, quit his job and went to Hollywood with Batman in his back pocket.
For the next decade, Uslan pitched his idea all over town and was rejected by every single studio. “I faced ten long years of rejection,” he said. “I was told my work is bad, my ideas are bad.” Against all odds, Uslan continued to hold true to his beliefs. “When your back is up against the wall, and you don’t know where your next dollar is coming from, and the whole world is saying you’re wrong, you have to look deep inside yourself. Do I really believe in this or am I just being stubborn? Each time I asked, I reached the same conclusion. I really believed in this.”

Eventually, with the help of director Tim Burton, Uslan made his dream come true with the 1989 film *Batman*. His persistence has since resulted in four more Batman films, including Christopher Nolan’s *The Dark Knight* trilogy and Zach Snyder’s forthcoming *Superman v. Batman: Dawn Of Justice*, due for a summer 2016 release.

Directing his story toward the audience, Uslan advised, “If you don’t believe them when they tell you how bad you are, and you don’t believe them when they tell you how wonderful you are, but just continue to believe in yourself and your work, you’ll do just fine.” He continued, “Find your passion. Find something that makes you excited to go to work, even if it’s a rainy Monday morning.”

Continuing this thought, Uslan’s final piece of advice was simple: get up off the couch. “Over the years, I realized that only 10-15% of people actually reach for their dreams,” he said. “It’s okay that it takes time! The world doesn’t owe you anything, you have to make something happen for yourself. Your competition in life is only going to be that 10-15% of people who get up off that couch.”

To conclude his speech, Uslan shared a verse from “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost, a poem that has helped motivate him since high school. He recited, “I shall be telling this with a sigh, somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I — I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.”
College holds second December commencement

by Holly Menzie MBA ‘06

The setting was elegant and the mood festive for the College’s second annual December commencement. Fifty undergraduate and graduate students received their diplomas during the Saturday afternoon ceremony held Dec. 13 in the Helen Rockwell Morley Memorial Music Building.

The commencement speaker was Dan Moulthrop, CEO of The City Club of Cleveland, the nation’s oldest continuously running free speech forum. Moulthrop was a co-founder of The Civic Commons, a Knight Foundation project creating a social media environment designed for civic dialogue. He is also co-author of the best-selling book Teachers Have it Easy: The Big Sacrifices and Small Salaries of America’s Teachers, which provided the basis for the 2011 documentary American Teacher. He’s an award-winning local public radio host, a former high school teacher and a graduate of UC Berkeley’s graduate School of Journalism.

“You are so lucky to have the opportunity to experience new, never-done before moments,” Moulthrop said. He related the story of one of his first teaching jobs, when he instructed a group of inmates in prison in a class called “Exit Planning.” “I had absolutely no idea what I was doing, but I learned quickly,” he said, comparing this experience to the new moments the graduates will experience during their lives.

Moulthrop also spoke about leadership, encouraging the graduates to face challenges head-on and not be afraid to fail. “Everyone is winging it,” he said. “Some are just doing it more confidently than others. They turn toward issues that others avoid.”

He ended his speech by telling the graduates it’s OK if they don’t feel ready. “We are all wingmen,” Moulthrop said. “Don’t be afraid to wing it — do it confidently, because you are going to be great!

In the Legacy from the Class of 2013, Claire Burkholder told the graduates, “Today, we celebrate us!” She encouraged her classmates to be optimistic and see the good in everyone. “Believe in yourself, and that is the key to finding happiness,” Burkholder said.

Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Deborah Schulman delivered the Charge from the Faculty, telling the graduates to never stop learning. “We should never be arrogant enough to believe that we know everything, even on a single subject,” Schulman said. “Never stop learning, never stop growing, and if you forget how, take a lesson from a child!”

Dana Dennis, chairman of the Lake Erie College Board of Directors, spoke on behalf of the board. “Graduates, we are proud of you today,” he said. “We know you will continue to bring great pride to Lake Erie College alumni.”

Following the ceremony, graduates and their guests attended a reception in the Louise Price Social Parlor in College Hall before departing for their homes to celebrate the holidays and their lives away from Lake Erie College.
New Partnerships

Lake Erie College and the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine enter into partnership

by Michelle Kolk

As the biology and chemistry disciplines at Lake Erie College continue to grow, another development has come to fruition. Lake Erie College has paired with the similarly named Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) to create a new and exciting collaborative partnership. Leaders from both colleges have signed an Early Acceptance Program (EAP) Agreement that will grant qualified LEC students a provisional early acceptance to LECOM’s College of Osteopathic Medicine, School of Pharmacy or School of Dental Medicine.

At the press conference held Oct. 2, 2014 announcing the partnership, officials from LECOM emphasized the importance of an educational background such as that found at LEC. “We believe that the liberal arts education is important for the doctor/patient relationship,” said Silvia M. Ferretti, D.O., provost, senior vice president and dean of academic affairs at LECOM. “Patients want to be able to maintain open communication with their doctors.”

Dr. Christine Kell, associate dean of preclinical education at LECOM, echoed those sentiments. “Being successful requires critical thinking and problem solving, not just facts,” she said. Kell emphasized the importance of integrity, ethical behavior, honor and commitment to community service, saying that LEC produces students who meet these criteria.

The new program between LEC and LECOM begins with three or four years of study at LEC, during which time students will be encouraged to pursue Bachelor of Science degrees. Dr. Johnathan Tedesco, interim dean of the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics and assistant professor of chemistry at LEC, will serve as the advisor to students who participate in this new program. After meeting all of the EAP requirements and graduating from LEC, the students will be accepted into one of the professional degree programs at LECOM.

As the largest medical school in the country, LECOM has locations in Erie, Pa., Bradenton, Fla. and Greensville, Pa. Admission to the college is extremely competitive, giving LEC students in this new program a distinct advantage.

“On behalf of all the board members, I want to congratulate the administration of LECOM and LEC as well as the faculty members,” said Dana Dennis, chairman of the board of directors at LEC. “This is a very important step forward.”
Lake Erie College and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law have entered into a partnership to offer the state’s only 3+3 joint bachelor’s/law accelerated degree program.

By enrolling in this program, students will be able to complete both bachelor’s and law degrees in six years instead of the traditional seven years necessary to complete four years of undergraduate studies and three years of law school. Under this partnership, enrolled students will receive their undergraduate degree from Lake Erie College after completing their first year of Juris Doctor studies at Cleveland-Marshall.

“We are pleased to partner with Cleveland-Marshall College of Law to offer the first 3+3 program in the state,” President Victor said. “The program will not only help in educating the next generation of lawyers, but it will also eliminate a year of school for the students enrolled. This will be a tremendous help to them as they train for their lifelong careers.”

The opportunity to offer this accelerated 3+3 Juris Doctor program was made possible when the Supreme Court of Ohio adopted amendments to the Government of the Bar of Ohio in July 2014, requiring students to obtain a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university only before admission to the practice of law. Previously in Ohio, students needed to complete their bachelor’s degree prior to enrolling in law school. Accelerated Juris Doctor opportunities have previously been available in select states, with nearly 30 law schools engaged in 3+3 program partnerships.

These scenarios have been made possible by a newly formed partnership between Lake Erie College and Euclid City Schools, announced during a press conference held at the College on Sept. 23, 2014. College administrators worked with the administration of Euclid City Schools over the preceding 10 months to make the partnership a reality.

The general education courses the high school students are taking are the same as those Lake Erie College students take. The courses are taught at Euclid High School by Euclid High School teachers, all of whom are certified as adjunct Lake Erie College professors. Credit for these courses will transfer to any college in Ohio and to many colleges across the country.

Dr. Charles Smialek, principal of Euclid High School, said the partnership is not only focused on preparing students for higher education but also on getting them excited about learning. "Our goal is to make sure our students have an idea of what they want to do after graduation and have tangible steps to achieving their goals," Smialek said.

"We are most proud of how the classes are impacting students," Smialek said. "The $1.4 million in college tuition these students are receiving is a wonderful incentive for them to go on to pursue higher education and achieve their future dreams."

"We’re very excited about this partnership and believe it is a model for others to follow," President Victor said.
In physics, as in all of science, it is best to start with the basics. Doing so allows us to fully understand the links between major ideas, making problems at hand much simpler to solve.

This approach is particularly useful in introductory physics courses, when it is necessary to understand concepts such as mechanics. For instance, by first learning the basic tenants of Newton’s laws of motion, students are better able to fully describe the motion of a given object.

Conventional labs often performed in introductory classes to demonstrate motion leave much to be desired. They tend to neglect the effect of factors such as air resistance, leaving students frustrated by the lack of real-world application.

Instead of sticking to your “grandfather’s physics” labs, I decided to look elsewhere for practical teaching tools that would improve accuracy and enhance student interest. One visit to the George M. Humphrey Equestrian Center (EQ) was all it took for me to see the potential for physics applications in the arena. We may be limited on space for projectile motion experiments in the lab, but we have a unique gem of a resource in our nationally recognized equestrian center.

In addition to the incredible equine programs that it offers, the EQ provides unique opportunities for motion studies that are as “real” as real-world application can be. One activity for a physics lab that immediately “jumped” out at me was the potential to study the physics of horse jumping. As a result, I am
designing an introductory lab activity to study the motion of horse jumping in terms of various motion parameters such as speed, jump angle, acceleration, maximum height and range of the jump.

To analyze the motion of horse jumping, introductory physics students will apply the screen capture software Video Physics, produced by Vernier, one of the nation’s leaders in science lab sensors and software. The software records the motion of a horse’s jump that the students can then analyze frame by frame with great precision. They will be able to assess the trajectory of a successful or unsuccessful jump by applying concepts previously taught in class, thus demonstrating the applicability of theoretical analysis to real-world situations. My hope for this lab activity at the EQ is to eliminate the frustration of limited lab experiments and get students excited about science.

I am grateful to Dr. Pamela Hess, Dean of the School of Equine Studies and Associate Professor of Equine Studies, and to Mary Pardee, Director of Riding and Assistant Professor of Equine Studies, for allowing our use of the EQ. Thanks are also due to graduate student rider Courtney Newby and undergraduate student riders Andy Armstrong and Tiphani Beckett for their collaboration on this project. The nature and size of Lake Erie College makes unique collaborations such as this one possible, and for that I am grateful as well.

Our first run of the physics of horse jumping lab was a success, and I intend to begin incorporating it into my introductory physics lab course next fall. Our hope is for this lab to be the first of many physics applications at the EQ as we continue to make Lake Erie’s physics program the best that it can be.

The figure shows a snap shot of rider Courtney Newby on her horse, Zulu. The motion of the jump can be tracked frame by frame to determine its speed, acceleration, launch angle, height and range.

College receives grant from Ohio Board of Regents

Lake Erie College has received a grant from the Ohio Board of Regents as part of the Improving Teacher Quality State Grants program funded under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. As part of a competitive grant process, Lake Erie College faculty and staff proposed partnering with local educational agencies to improve teacher quality by focusing on the delivery of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education.

Lake Erie College leadership and faculty believe that in order for students who are educated in the United States to be competitive in a global marketplace, it is important they be trained in STEM disciplines. This begins with the basic sciences at the primary school level and continues throughout the educational process.

Faculty members from the School of Education and Professional Studies and the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics have partnered with several local high-need school systems to offer learning workshops that focus on water quality. In these workshops, teachers will be exposed to a variety of analytical techniques, biological assays and use of technology. They will in turn teach students to use that equipment, perform analyses and draw appropriate conclusions based on the data collected.

The Improving Teacher Quality program allows the educational community to address serious concerns about teaching and learning in STEM-related content. The Ohio Board of Regents hopes that by bringing collegiate faculty together with elementary and secondary STEM teachers and principals, effective ideas and methods of teaching and learning will flourish.
Class of 1962 close to reaching scholarship goal

The Class of 1962 celebrated its 50th reunion during alumni weekend in 2012. As a way to help current and future Lake Erie College students attain an education at their alma mater, the class members established an endowed scholarship as their class gift. The class is now in the homestretch of attaining its goal of $50,000, the minimum required for an endowment at the College, and establishing a legacy in its class name.

Class of 1962 alumnae Margaret “Peggy” (Weisner) Pontious, Caroline “Fin” (Quinby) McElroy and Deborah (Bryant) Hirschey have worked behind the scenes to secure $47,246.81 in cash and pledges from many of their classmates. “To not raise the additional $2,753 and some odd cents needed to establish a class legacy at the College would be disappointing. I know these ladies have worked hard to raise awareness and funds for the scholarship,” said Pam Schlosser-Palermo, director of development. “Scholarships are vital to student enrollment and persistence to graduation,” she said.

If you are interested in contributing to the cause, personal solicitations are currently underway by Pontious, McElroy and Hirschey. You may also contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 440.375.7225 or make a gift online at www.lec.edu/giving and designate your gift to the Class of 1962 Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Express your love with a planned gift to Lake Erie College

There are as many different definitions of love as there are expressions of love. According to Merriam Webster, one definition of love is “the unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another.” True giving begins with love. When we love, we feel connected and in touch with the most basic and fundamental human need.

Great religions of the world express love by promoting generosity and care of others. Judaism prescribes charity to make a better world, and Jews are taught to perform mitzvahs or “good deeds” throughout their lives. Hindus believe that generosity is a path to salvation, while Christianity proclaims that three things will endure – faith, hope and love – and the greatest of these is love. Regardless of one’s background, culture or faith, love is
Major gifts are making a difference

by Pam Schlosser-Palermo

The landscape of higher education is constantly changing, and the institutions that provide higher education are changing with it. Gone are the days when tuition covered the expenses associated with operating a higher education institution. Higher education is a vastly competitive market, and even if tuition is raised as a budget initiative, it cannot realistically cover the true cost of education as it relates to factors like faculty development, facilities maintenance, collaborative initiatives and other hidden costs.

Like many other colleges and universities, Lake Erie College is continually working to secure an infusion of private dollars, including the transformational impact of major gifts. These gifts ensure that the College remains vital and relevant and maintains an institutional vibrancy. Lake Erie College would like to recognize the following recent major gift benefactors:

The Austin E. Knowlton Foundation has made a $100,000 commitment in support of student scholarships. The scholarship will support residents of Logan County, Ohio who apply to Lake Erie College and plan to pursue a major in mathematics or a related field. This outstanding gift helps to further Mr. Knowlton's public-spirited legacy and will enable many deserving students to attain a Lake Erie College education.

William and Sam Kinney, friends of the College, have committed $100,000 in support of the School of Equine Studies. Their gift has allowed the College to construct a building at the George M. Humphrey Equestrian Center that will house an extraordinary collection of jumps donated to the College by Sam's brother and Bill's uncle, Charles “Chuck” Kinney. Their gift also made it possible to add additional square footage to the building that will serve as hay storage and provide a dedicated space where jumps can be properly maintained. A dedication of this building will be held during the 47th annual Prix de Villes in April.

The Parker Hannifin Foundation has made a $100,000 commitment in support of the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program at Lake Erie College. This first-of-its-kind program at the College is an intense, 27 month-long program in which students study and learn about more than 1,000 diseases and 700 different types of drugs. They spend 288 days in the classroom and 1,800 hours in clinical practice. Dan Serbin, executive vice president of corporate human resources for Parker Hannifin, emphasized the long-standing relationship the company has had with Lake Erie College and said, “We are pleased to offer our support to this program.”

If you are interested in making a transformational gift to the College, please contact Scott Evans, senior vice president for institutional advancement and president’s chief of staff, at 440.375.7255 or sevans@lec.edu or Pam Schlosser-Palermo, director of development, at 440.375.7225 or ppalermo@lec.edu.
After much planning followed by several months of construction, the Lake Erie Storm wrestling facility has received a much-needed renovation. Thanks to the generosity of Bob and Carole and John and Renee Zappitelli, the wrestling facility has received the necessary physical improvements that will maximize the utilization of this athletic space.

On October 16, 2014, President Victor and Dana Dennis, chairman of the Lake Erie College Board of Directors, welcomed the Zappitelli family, friends, faculty, staff and students to acknowledge the generosity of the Zappitelli family and dedicate the newly renovated space as the Zappitelli Family Wrestling Complex.

Scott Evans, senior vice president for institutional advancement and chief of the president’s staff, gave opening remarks at the dedication and shared the tremendous pride the College has in its relationship with the Zappitelli family. “The Zappitelli family is a strong partner in the mission and vision of the College. They are showing the Lake Erie College family and community that they believe in the College and our students by allowing us to add the Zappitelli name to our wrestling facility.”

Dennis read a resolution highlighting Bob and Carole’s son Bobby as a member of the wrestling team, the generosity of the family to make the needed physical upgrades to the facility and the Board of Director’s recognition of the Zappitelli family.

Coach Kevin Hoogenboom addressed the crowd and echoed Evans’ sentiments, expressing his appreciation to the Zappitelli family. “Thanks to the Zappitelli’s generosity, the Storm wrestling facility not only has all the essential provisions but is a place that our student athletes can utilize with pride.”

Bob Zappitelli thanked President Victor and those gathered at the dedication for recognizing the family in such a meaningful way. Zappitelli also took the opportunity to encourage the student athletes who were in attendance to keep their bodies strong and their minds focused to persist with their education. “We have been blessed and were able to make this gift to Lake Erie College. Get your education. It will be the best gift you give yourself and your community,” he said.
FALL SPORTS WRAP-UPS

Cross Country
The Storm cross country program found success under first-year head coach Matt Reneker. At the GLIAC Championships, Vincent Horning, Braden Burk, Jacob Godec and Steven White all ran personal bests in the 8k race. For the women, freshmen Gina Henley and Maria Vanhoy had solid seasons for the Storm. Eight members of the Storm cross country teams earned GLIAC All-Academic honors.

Football
The Storm finished the fall with a 4-7 record. The highlight win of the season was a 42-35 victory over Cleveland area rival Notre Dame College on October 11. The Storm was led on the field by junior running back Anthony Bilal. Bilal finished the season second in the country in rushing yards and was tied for the most rushing touchdowns. He earned several post season awards, including a third-place finish in the Harlon Hill Trophy voting, which is awarded to the top player in NCAA Division II football. Tanner Wells, Corbin Jackimowicz, Tommy Jackson, Chris Higgins, Ben Miller, Maurice Hale, Ty Law and David Bojalad earned All-GLIAC honors.

Men’s Soccer
The Storm men’s soccer team had one of its best seasons to date, finishing with an 11-5-2 record. The highlight of the Storm’s season was an eight-game winning streak to close the regular season, which included a win over Saginaw Valley State University, which was ranked second in the country. Several members of the Storm earned post season awards. Joseph Coombs was named to the All-GLIAC and All-Midwest Region teams. Anthony Novak, Ryan Gibson, Alfred Majer, Nolyn Do Nascimento and Cory Bucur earned spots on the All-GLIAC teams. Head coach Davie Carmichael was named GLIAC Coach of the Year.

Volleyball
A young Storm volleyball team faced some of the toughest competition in the country competing in the GLIAC. The team, which prominently featured five freshmen, improved its win mark from the 2013 season. Freshman Asya Hobbs earned All-GLIAC honors for her terrific play throughout the season. Mallory Gustincic, Jamie Riley and Samantha Knepley earned All-GLIAC Academic honors.

Women’s Soccer
The women’s soccer team had one of its best seasons to date under first-year head coach Valerie Prause, MBA ’14. The Storm finished with a 7-9-2 record and saw improvements in every aspect on the field. One of the highlights for the Storm this season was a 1-0 overtime win over Malone University, with Marlena Lesniowski scoring the game winner. Sophomore Elizabeth Awuah led the Storm with nine goals this season. Senior Grace Ferut earned All-GLIAC honors.
Men’s Basketball
The Storm men’s basketball team returned several key players under head coach Cliff Hunt’s 10th season. Michael Morris returned for his sophomore year after a solid freshman campaign. Morris averaged 8.1 points and 3.5 rebounds per game. Sean Howard also saw significant playing time last year as a freshman, averaging 6.2 points per game. Andy Bosley and Roy Alexander also saw significant time last season, with Bosley averaging 6.3 points and Alexander 4.5 points per game. The Storm also returned Trey Howard and Jamil Dudley, who missed last season.

Swimming
Storm swimmer Meri Cizmar became the College’s first female swimmer to qualify for the NCAA Division II Championships, held March 13-14, 2015 in Indianapolis. She took 14th in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2.01.96 in the consolation final. Her brother, Ivan Cizmar, qualified for his fourth trip to the Championships in his final year. Ivan also qualified for the Championships the previous three seasons and has earned multiple All-American honors.

Women’s Basketball
The Lake Erie College women’s basketball looked to build upon a solid 2013-14 campaign in 2014-15 in head coach Bob Booher’s 10th season. The Storm returned several key players from last year, including senior guard Jackie Murray, who led the Storm with 11.1 points per game. She was joined by senior forward Chloe Irish, who averaged 7.8 points per game last year. Junior center Kaeding averaged 5.2 rebounds per game last year, and Sami Narducci finished near the top of the GLIAC in steals last year. Daija Jones, Brianna Shagovac and Shelby Carpenter also returned for the Storm.

Wrestling
The Lake Erie wrestling team completed one of its best seasons to date, reaching the top 10 of the national poll. The Storm started the season as the top team in the regional polls and had several top finishes in big tournaments. In January, the Storm defeated second-ranked, defending NCAA Division II National Champion and rival Notre Dame College 18-16 in front of a lively home crowd. A program-record five wrestlers advanced to the NCAA Championships – Zak Vargo, Matt Vandermeer, Nicholas Vandermeer, Zev Green and Evan Rosborough. At the Championships held March 13-14 in St. Louis, Matt Vandermeer became the second national runner-up in program history, finishing second at 165 pounds.

Indoor Track and Field
Three members of the Storm track and field team qualified for the NCAA D-II Championships under second-year head coach Ryan Rademacher. Joe Postwaite, a five-time All-American, became the second National Champion since the Storm transitioned to Division II, capturing the triple jump title on March 14, 2015 in Birmingham, Ala. Postwaite jumped a distance of 15.52 meters (50’11”) to win the event. For the women, Destiny Prusky finished 12th in her first Indoor Championship in the high jump, clearing a height of 1.68 meters (5'6”). Nadia Lee finished 17th in the women’s triple jump, jumping 11.88 meters (38’11.75”).

Men’s Golf
The Storm played some of their best golf in the fall of 2014. Ian Hardesty started the year by placing second at the Kyle Rymann Memorial Shootout. Several weeks later, Hardesty took 14th in the GLIAC North Event. Jimmy Wild had the best finish for the Storm at the GLIAC Championships, finishing in 30th. The men’s spring schedule started on March 8 at the Oxford College Invitational in Atlanta.

Women’s Golf
Joan Graziano led the Storm women’s golf team in the fall, averaging 89 per 18 holes. At the Lake Superior State Invitational to kick off the season, Graziano and Emily Long tied for 27th place. The women’s spring schedule started on March 8 at the Oxford College Invitational in Atlanta.
School of Equine Studies has busy fall semester

by Cami (Harkless) Blanchard ’90, MBA ’05

New faces

The fall semester opened with the School of Equine Studies welcoming 28 new students into our program. This talented group of freshmen and transfers hailed from California, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island and Vermont.

New faculty member Debby Savage joined the equestrian staff, bringing a lifetime of experience in diverse parts of the industry. Savage, an “S” judge (dressage), was introduced to the Lake Erie program when she judged the Dressage Derby in 2011. She earned her United States Dressage Federation Gold Medal and has competed three horses to Silver Medal Qualifications. She also has her Young Horse Judging Certification and has experience in marketing, advertising and the pharmaceutical industry. She teaches dressage classes and several managerial-based academic classes.

Summer activities

Junior Tatiana (Tati) Eagles, a teacher/trainer major, spent her summer in Holland completing an internship for reputable trainer John Steeghs. Steeghs owns and operates his own training and sales barn, Stal Steeghs. Through her internship, Eagles had the opportunity to work with young horses – riding, showing them to clients and competing herself.

Student Elise Bealer continued her pursuit of a career in equine movement therapy by working on long-lining in Canada with a British Horse Society-trained event rider. Bealer is currently developing her own equine movement therapy/equine bodywork business, EHB Equine Bodywork.

Student Jade Styburski leased LEC school horse Leroy and trained with alumna Kim Barone ’96. Barone won the prestigious Cacchione Cup, awarded to the National Individual Hunt Seat High Point Rider, in 1996. She owns and operates Raven Ridge Farm in Watertown, Minn. and has won many Grand Prix’s and Hunter Derbies. She conducted a workshop on campus again this fall, helping the IHSA hunt seat team to develop skills to lead the region.

Faculty and staff members Alex Shokat, Linnea Swanson and Julie McElhaney competed school horses at various venues, including Buckeye Horse Park, over the summer.
Therapeutic horsemanship

Over the past several years the School of Equine Studies has noticed an increased interest in the therapeutic horsemanship concentration. This has led us to take steps and develop the concentration into a major. Dr. Pam Hess, dean of the School of Equine Studies, led the charge with adjunct faculty member and certified PATH member Teresa Morris. PATH is the governing body through which LEC hopes to accredit our therapeutic riding program through a rigid set of standards.

Veterinary school acceptance

Senior Melanie Richards has recently been accepted to not just one, but two veterinary schools – Oregon State and Ohio State. Richard attributes part of her success to being able to major in biology while still being able to ride and enroll in the College’s health-related equine classes and clinics. She was accepted at Oregon State without an interview and at Ohio State within one week after her initial (and only) interview.

Recruiting activities

The School of Equine Studies has represented the College at Equine Affaire in Columbus, Ohio for over 20 years and continues to make the trip each year. In November the College participated in the Massachusetts Equine Affaire, where many interested prospective students and alumni stopped by to visit. In January 2015, Lake Erie was represented at the College Preparatory Invitational held in West Palm Beach, Fla. Students from all over the country were in attendance, eager to speak to college recruiters and coaches. The School of Equine Studies has also recruited at Interscholastic Equestrian Association Nationals (for students in grades six through twelve) and will continue to have a presence.

“Chuck” Kinney’s lasting impact

Longtime friend and former adjunct faculty member Charles E. “Chuck” Kinney passed away in December 2013, but the impact of this renowned Cleveland horseman is still being felt at the School of Equine Studies.

Kinney had a long-time association with the College that went back to the founding of the equestrian program under the leadership of Laddie Andahazy. Kinney taught generations of Lake Erie students, designed jump and hunter courses for many Prix de Villes events and left many hoof prints in the dirt of the equestrian learning center. His estate provided a gift that included an extraordinary collection of jumps, standards, poles and gates.

A newly constructed storage facility where Lake Erie College can store and maintain this collection was dedicated in Kinney’s memory during the 47th annual Prix de Villes in April.

Upcoming events

Time flies as we drift into the spring semester, always our busiest and most challenging time of year. Fall semester wrapped up with our IHSA hunt seat team leading our region and students already making names for themselves. This spring we hosted the 47th annual Prix de Villes of North America on April 10-12, featuring the High Performance Hunter Derby. The Dressage Prix de Villes was held April 18-19, and LEC hosted a booth at Equine Affaire in Columbus, Ohio from April 9-12.

We invite our alumni to come home and visit us at the equestrian center, attend a show or clinic or just stop in to catch up on all of the new and exciting developments in our program.
Ambassador Induction

Lake Erie College ambassadors are the official student hosts of all College events including lectures, receptions, alumni and development events, and all formal dinners and social gatherings hosted by President Victor. On Sept. 14, 2014 seventeen students were inducted into the Order of Tiberius, named for the loyal 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 Kyle Adams, Rachel Arnst, Adam Clare, Rebecca Cornell, Alexis Grice, Grace Ferut, Patrick Goelz, Courtney Hawk, Sarah Herman, Luke Hobbs, Marlena Lesniowski, Natalija Miljanovic, David Throne, Derek Turocy, Zaide Whitley, Monica Williams and Anthony Woodford.
An “Eerie Trick-or-Treat”

On Oct. 18, 2014 the inaugural physician assistant class at Lake Erie College hosted the first “Eerie Trick-or-Treat” Halloween festival. The 24 students in the Joseph G. Weber Physician Assistant Student Society of LEC organized the event and invited local elementary students to join in a pre-Halloween celebration. The sounds of laughter and Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” echoed within the gym of the Jerome T. Osborne Family Athletic & Wellness Center as over 50 children participated in the event. The physician assistant students and the Pre-Med Club of LEC helped the children make various crafts, painted faces and organized many games that were fun for all ages. Children were also able to hold reptiles, make ice cream, recline on a bed of nails and eat crickets.

Photography Workshop

On Oct. 17, 2014, students from the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences took part in a photography workshop with commercial Cleveland-based photographer Jerry Mann. As the primary photographer for SPACES gallery in downtown Cleveland, Mann is well-versed in photographing artwork and instructed students on relevant skills. Topics included how to photograph different materials such as glass and ceramics, how to light various objects and how to operate the camera. The three-hour workshop took place in a studio environment and taught students how to photograph their own or someone else’s art.
Constitution Day

Constitution Day is observed annually on Sept. 17 to commemorate the signing of the Constitution at the U.S. Constitutional Convention in 1787. On this important day in our country’s history, student, faculty and staff volunteers read the Constitution from the back porch of College Hall and, in the evening, a panel of faculty and staff members hosted a discussion on “Multidisciplinary Perspectives on the Constitution.” Participants on the panel were Dr. Susan Blankenship, assistant professor of criminal justice; Dr. Darlene Hall, associate professor of history; Dr. Margaret Payerle, coordinator of the Academic Learning Center; and Dr. Robert Trebar, dean of the School of Business and assistant professor of business.

“Meet the Accountants”

The College hosted its first “Meet the Accountants” event on Nov. 18, 2014. Representatives from Deloitte and Touche; Bober, Markey and Fedorovich; Martinet and Recchia; and Cast Nylons LTD participated in a panel discussion, which was attended by over 20 students. Students were able to network, ask questions and hear about each panelist’s professional journey. The event was sponsored by Becker Professionals and was coordinated on campus by LEC junior Taylor Ritchie and Assistant Professor of Accounting Julie Ziemak.
Field Day

Students, faculty and staff joined together on the grounds of the Victor Manor House on Aug. 26, 2014 for a day of games, food and camaraderie to kick off the new academic year. Inflatables, tug of war, corn hole, Frisbee and more kept the students busy 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.
Heritage Foundation Lecture

Lake Erie College welcomed Andrew Kloster of The Heritage Foundation for a lunchtime lecture on Nov. 12, 2014. His presentation, “Recent Executive Branch Actions that Skirt the Rule of Law,” was structured to educate audiences on issues related to this theme.

Located in Washington, D.C. and founded in 1973, the Heritage Foundation is a research and educational institution whose mission is to formulate and promote conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values and a strong national defense.

Having joined the think-tank in 2013, Kloster is a legal fellow in the Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, focusing on civil rights, the role of the federal courts and other constitutional issues.

To begin his lecture, Kloster gave an in-depth explanation of The Heritage Foundation itself before inviting students to apply for the group’s various internship opportunities and job banks. He also gave advice for post-graduate life, particularly regarding the importance of being persistent while job hunting.

Kloster then turned his speech toward several key requirements surrounding the rule of law. According to Kloster, our country was founded on the idea that rules should govern everyone, including leaders. In order for everyone to abide by the rule of law, the laws must be widely publicized and easily understood. A functioning democracy also requires that laws not be contradictory, easily changed or enacted retroactively.

Based on these ideas, Kloster listed several major legislative actions by the current administration that may be seen to “skirt the rule of law.” In his opinion, recent amendments to laws such as Obamacare and The No Child Left Behind Act demonstrate disregard of these fundamental rules, as do the implementation of procedures regarding policies such as Title IX and affirmative action. “One of the main issues with the rule of law surrounding these ideas is that it changes so quickly you can’t keep up with it,” he said.

“The rule of law is important because following our constitutional norms gives us faith in our democracy and keeps our society stable,” Kloster said.

Team Kylan Fundraiser

Pies in interim dean of the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics and Assistant Professor of Chemistry Dr. Johnathan Tedesco’s face were the order of the day at the Pre-Med Club’s fundraiser on Aug. 28, 2014. Proceeds from the pie throw and donations for lanyards and t-shirts benefited Team Kylan and the Cleveland Heart Walk. Kylan is a four-year-old boy who was born with a congenital heart defect and has had multiple heart surgeries. He and his family are honorary members of the Pre-Med Club.
AROUND Campus

“God” Theatre Production

The theatre department presented the play “God” by Andy Kaufman on Nov. 6 through 9, 2014 in the C. K. Rickel Theatre. Told from the perspective of a child and filtered through the experiences of 1950s television, the play depicted a variety of storylines and characters, including an old man who seemed to think he was God. Actors were LEC students Alexis Grice, Devon Hood, Alexander Camczyk, Connor McCarthy, Jessi Morre, Mike Reasor and Grant Strlich-Waybright and local resident Brandon Stroud. The play was directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Dr. Jerry Jaffe.

Rainbow Radiothon

Members of the Lake Erie College Storm football team volunteered for the fourth year at the Rainbow Radiothon on Dec. 5, 2014. The radiothon raises funds for University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital. Student athletes John Banyasz, Anthony Bilal, Tyler Eden, Adam Johnson, Zaide Whitley and Tony Woodford volunteered at the event. Their volunteer service was coordinated by assistant head football coach Gerald Hazzard and his wife Emily, whose son was delivered prematurely and spent four months at Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital.
Women’s Lacrosse Team: Champions of Community Service

by Michelle Kolk

This past December marked 200 hours of community service thus far this year by the members of the Storm women’s lacrosse team. In addition to their work on the field and in the classroom, the 2014-2015 team is working to complete 400 cumulative hours of community service.

Led by head coach Mallory Ferrandiz and graduate assistant coach Alexandria Quast, the team’s 17 players have tackled a range of service projects this season. From volunteering at the Cleveland Heart Walk to mentoring elementary school students in Painesville, the team’s efforts have been far-reaching. They have read stories to children at local literacy events, stocked boxes of food at a local food bank and organized Christmas toys for low-income families at the Salvation Army. They even organized a shoe drive, asking our LEC community to donate gently-used shoes to charity. Showcasing the collective spirit of service on campus, the team was able to collect over 50 pairs!

In addition to bettering the community around them, the team’s service efforts have had the effect of bringing the players together. “Donating our time allows the girls to build team unity and to learn more about each other while having fun in different settings,” said Ferrandiz. “Team members who aren’t typically vocal are able to become leaders during these events.”

Ferrandiz, who had a decorated collegiate lacrosse career as a D-II midfielder, joined the athletics program at Lake Erie this past July after being drawn to the College’s warm culture. “Everyone at Lake Erie is so supportive and wants you to succeed on more than just a winning level,” she said. “We’re happy to be part of this great environment.”

Even when they are away from organized service events, the women’s lacrosse team continues to find ways to connect with those around them. Their efforts have been as simple as implementing “Cupcakes for Smiles,” a campus initiative where they distributed cupcakes to people in exchange for a smile. They also attend other LEC sporting events whenever possible to cheer on their fellow athletes.

Players such as senior Hana Abu-Kwiek credit the team for changing their perspectives on the community around them. “This project has motivated me personally because I am always thinking of ways I can give back,” said Abu-Kwiek. “Being able to help someone gives you a feeling that is unmatched, and experiencing that feeling with your teammates just adds to the level of camaraderie. We know that we always have our lacrosse family to lean on.”

It is clear that what began as a team-building exercise is making an inspiring impact both on and off campus. Ultimately, the team hopes to become more involved with youth lacrosse teams in the area and with the Painesville community as a whole. “I got into coaching because I wanted to be a role model as my coaches were to me,” said Ferrandiz. “Watching my team complete these projects makes it clear that they are becoming role models, too.”
“Project Warmth”

“Project Warmth” began as a dream of Kim Mariotti, assistant director of residence life, and Stephanie Johnson, coordinator of service development, and it became a reality for the campus community on Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2015. On this day over 50 Lake Erie College students and staff members gathered together in the Holden Center to make items designed to help children and adults stay warm this winter.

Volunteers from the College’s yarn club, women’s lacrosse team, Students Making a Difference club, and residence staff members knit hats for babies, made fleece blankets and scarves and collected gently used jackets, hats, gloves, scarves and blankets in order to provide a little extra warmth for others.

“The group made five full-size adult blankets, one child-size blanket and a plethora of scarves,” Johnson said. “We’ll give the baby hats to Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital and the blankets to the Sub-Zero Mission to benefit the homeless.”

The “Project Warmth” volunteers hope this is the first of many similar events in the future.
Mountain Day

One of the favorite traditions for Lake Erie College students is Mountain Day. This special day of cancelled classes, fun and camaraderie took place this fall on Sept. 23, 2014. A tradition 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 ate their fill of snow cones and picnic foods. The underclass students are already rounding up their teams for next year’s Mountain Day treasure hunt!
New-student convocation

The Class of 2018 was officially introduced to the Lake Erie College family during the formal convocation held Aug. 20, 2014. “We extend a warm welcome to all of you on this day of new beginnings and opportunities,” said Steve Lazowski, vice president for enrollment management and financial aid. “Today serves as a celebration of your hard work, dedication and commitment to discover your own potential and identify your passions.”

In his address, President Victor encouraged the students to work hard in order to meet the goal of receiving their degrees. He suggested that they go to class, get to know the faculty, encourage and support one another, get involved in activities other than academics, and take risks by trying new things. “Students, I hope your time here transforms your lives, just as it has transformed the lives of so many alumni over the last century and a half. Embrace the three pillars of Lake Erie College – Excellence, Tradition and Service – and you will join the ranks of our distinguished graduates,” he said.

Each student was then recognized individually and received a medallion with the College seal to mark the beginning of his or her time at LEC. Lazowski said, “Medallions are given to you as a symbol of inspiration, as you begin your journey toward graduation. They also celebrate your accomplishments thus far and mark your induction into Lake Erie College.” Welcome, Class of 2018!
Tiberius Tradition

Athletes on the Storm football team gathered around the statue of Tiberius on Sept. 5, 2014 for the annual ceremony to kick off the 2014 football season. President Victor welcomed the team and told the tradition of Tiberius before the team members and coaches sang the College Fight Song and filed by the statue, giving Tiberius a friendly pat on the head for good luck. The team’s first game was held the next day, Sept. 6, at Ashland.

FETCH!

Ten Lake Erie College accounting students visited Leroy Elementary School on Nov. 19, 2014 to play FETCH! with the school’s 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.

Homecoming Court

The College celebrated its annual Homecoming during the Oct. 4, 2014 football game against Ohio Dominican. Destiny Prusky and Stacy Woodford were crowned queen and king. Other members of the court were Cory Bucur, Amber Dowen, Vanessa Dunne, Grace Ferut, Patrick Goelz and Joe Postwaite.
The annual tradition of Christmas Vespers continued this year on Dec. 7, 2014 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. College organist Dr. Mark Bell, instructor Robert Godfrey and students Kailey Bast and Christina Pratt also performed, as well as the new Lake Erie College Men of the Chorus. Associate Professor of Theatre Dr. Jerry Jaffe presented a holiday reading, and the audience joined all the groups in singing traditional carols.
2014 Distinguished Alumni

Dr. Barbara Good ’74

Barbara Good has over 30 years of experience in marketing, finance and strategic planning. She is an innovative teacher, multi-published author and consultant to the aerospace industry and not-for-profits.

She received a Master of Science degree in management from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in 1975 and a Ph.D. in management from Weatherhead School of Management at CWRU in 1998. She has been associated with Acorn Technology Corporation, Good Consulting, Global Marketing Insights, Inc., Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and ADP Network Services.

Dr. Good is an associate professor at Ursuline College and has been an adjunct instructor at Walsh University, Lawrence Technical University, Cleveland State University, John Carroll University and Lake Erie College. She has also been involved with a wide variety of professional and community service activities.

Jason Weybrecht ’95

Jason Weybrecht works as a relationship manager with Capital Group. He deals with consultants working with defined benefits plans, defined contribution plans and endowments as well as with bank trusts and large investment advisors serving high net worth individuals.

Weybrecht was with Spero-Smith Investment Advisors for 12 years previous to his employment with the Capital Group. He has been a member of the Lake Erie College Board of Directors since 2010 and enjoys serving his alma mater in this important way.

He volunteers for the Cleveland Bridge Builders and the Make-a-Wish Foundation and serves on the board of Aspire 11NAV, which helps to provide hope and financial support to people experiencing difficulties in their lives. He has coached basketball at several schools and leads the Liturgy of the Word for children at Saint Paschal Baylon Parish. He is dedicated to his family – wife Kim and children Evan and Amy.

Bridget Beury ’12, Distinguished Young Alumna

Bridget Beury works at the Birmingham Zoo with the U.S.’s only all-male herd of elephants as well as a breeding herd of Southern white rhinos and a male hippo. She trains, bathes and exercises the elephants and also performs daily tasks such as foot and skin care.

“Our elephant program is crucial to understanding the social dynamics of a bachelor herd that consists of four bulls as well as educating our guests about the elephant poaching crisis,” Beury said. The zoo is also involved with multiple research projects designed to help persons better understand elephant behaviors.

Beury’s goal is to make the world a better place, which she is doing by inspiring, educating and equipping a generation of global problem solvers to create permanent change around the world. “I love that every day I am able to give the elephants the best care possible and hope to preserve this species so that my grandchildren will be able to see and experience elephants just as I have,” she said.
Alumni reconnect during Homecoming Alumni Weekend 2014

by Debra (Blanchard) Remington ’74

Thursday was a day of culture and art, featuring visits to the Rock ‘n Roll Hall of Fame and the Cleveland Art Museum. In the evening we gathered for an extraordinary art opening in the B. K. Smith Gallery in Royce Hall featuring alumna Anastasia Pantsios ’68. Her exhibit of “Girls on Film: 50 years of Women in Rock” was an amazing trip down memory lane for us all.

On Friday we celebrated the 50th Reunion of the Class of 1964. President Victor hosted a lovely luncheon, and at the Kirtland Country Club that evening he presented golden diplomas and roses to each attendee in the anniversary class.

Later that evening, many younger College alumni met at Winking Lizard to hang out and catch up on their lives, while reliving their recent years at LEC.

Saturday was a day of local exploration: the Holden Arboretum, the Steele Mansion (formerly Mentor House) and the South River Winery. The Alumni Cocktail Party hosted by President and Mrs. Victor at the Manor House was a perfect ending to the day.

On Sunday everyone ventured to the Learning Center at the George M. Humphrey Equestrian Center for a brunch, book signing by Betty Yopko Weibel ’80 and demonstration in the arena by LEC students led by equine instructor Deborah Savage.

Save the dates of Sept. 25-27, 2015 for our next Homecoming Alumni Weekend. Class years ending in “0” and “5” will be celebrated – please let Deb Remington know if you need help rounding up your classmates!
Greetings from the National Alumni Board!

I recently had the distinct privilege of spending time with two former classmates, Jason Weybrecht and Dave Golen. We engaged in a lively conversation about our college professors and classes and fondly reminisced about the adventures we embarked upon during our college years – and then something incredible occurred to me. This year is our twentieth reunion! My mind started to race. How can this be? Where did the time go? Didn’t I just cross the stage during commencement?

I quickly became very excited about this year’s Alumni Weekend (to be held Sept. 25-27, 2015). We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us for some incredible food, spirits, stories and laughter. It is wonderful to reconnect with people who experienced life at Lake Erie College and make new memories.

On another note, I have a special request for you. The National Alumni Board is accepting nominations for two awards. The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated sustained excellence, accomplishment and creativity in their career or extraordinary service in their community. The Young Alumni Award recognizes young alums who fall within these same criteria and have graduated within the past 10 years or are 32 years of age or younger. If you would like to nominate someone, please do so through the website or contact the Alumni Office at 440.375.7040.

Best regards,

Janeane Cappara, J.D., ’95, MBA ’04
President, National Alumni Board
Member, Lake Erie College Board of Directors

Alumni Director’s Message

Winter time at Lake Erie College – snow-covered trees, bitter wind and the faculty and students huddled around warm cups of coffee and hot cocoa between classes! As we embrace these moments, we also long for the sweet smells of spring on campus… the vibrant colors of the azaleas along the front lawn and the magnolia trees on the Green. We all watch excitedly as our students prepare for graduation and entry into the real world of work or graduate school. This is a time of very mixed emotions for me. I will miss so many of the graduates… but realize that they will still be connected to my alma mater and me!

But how do I keep our new alumni connected to Lake Erie? And how do I keep our other alums, who have experienced our College in different times and decades, connected? This is my challenge… and I need everyone’s help! Here are my questions to you:

• What was your favorite memory about your time here as a student?
• What programs or events would bring you back to campus?
• How can I better engage your interest and participation in the College?

I look forward to hearing from you! Drop me a line, email me at dremington@lec.edu, call me at 440.375.7040 or drop in for a cup of coffee and a chat. The Alumni Office is for YOU – please help me make it so…

Cheers!

Deb Blanchard Remington ’74
Director of Alumni Relations and Events
Class of 1923

In the photo below, ANNA RUTH (BEARDSLEY) HIPPSLEY is pictured third from left. Anna Ruth is the mother of JANET (HIPPSLEY) HELGESON ’53, mother-in-law of ROSEMARY (ARGYLE) HIPPSLEY ’52, and cousin of JULIANA BROTZMAN ’14. Helgeson sent the interesting historic photo along with her annual fund gift.

Class of 1937

MARY FEY (HOSSLER) JENKINS, Hockessin, Del., celebrated her 100th birthday on Jan. 13, 2015. Her daughter, Helen Fishel, made a generous donation to the College for scholarships in recognition of this milestone event. BETTY (TERHUNE) BENSON (age 98), Wilmington, Del., was present at Jenkins’ birthday party.

Class of 1945

KARLEENE (ANDREWS) WHITE, Dewey, Ariz., is happily retired in Arizona after a career as a teacher. Her husband, Harry H. White, also a teacher, passed away in 2007; they were married for 53 years. Their son, Jeff, lives with his wife, Sandra, and their family in Fulton, N.Y. White enjoyed reading the Fall 2014 issue of the Lake Erie magazine – especially the articles about Tiberius and alumna Elizabeth Grannis.

Class of 1953

NANCY STEWART, Petoskey, Mich., has dedicated over 50 years of service to her local community. Stewart has served the Petoskey community in a myriad of ways from founding the Women’s Resource Center to volunteering for the Manna Food Bank. She has been a pinnacle in the community. At age 80+, she is still an active volunteer and works part-time at the Gold Mine Resale Shop. Stewart was the first director and one of the founders of the Women’s Resource Center and was also the founder of the Petoskey Children’s Nursery. She has impacted the lives of thousands of people and is known for “her timeless dedication, her commitment, her kindness, her positive good energy and her calmness.”

Class of 1955

ANNE (NEWTON) DUMPER, Broadford, Va., decided at age 80+ to officially retire. She now writes and tells stories to children at a living history museum and church.

Class of 1960

FRANCES (MOORE) JEFFRIES, her sister, Dottie Jeffries, principal of Jeffries Marketing in New York City, shared the article about alumna Elizabeth Grannis that appeared in the Fall 2014 edition of Lake Erie magazine with researcher Lisa Barnett and with key persons at the Park Avenue Christian Church in the city.

Class of 1962

The Class of 1962 is close to raising the minimum $50,000 needed to endow a scholarship fund in honor of their class. “PEGGY” (WEISNER) PONTIOUS, “FIN” (QUINBY) MCELROY and DEBORAH (BRYANT) HIRSCHAY have been instrumental in establishing this scholarship fund. For additional information, see the article under Development News.

Class of 1966

JAN (LIFSON) BRAY, Albuquerque, N.M., has made a career out of being president of various civic associations – AAUW, League of Women Voters, Hadassah (she is also on the regional board), and Business and Professional Women – as well as being a lobbyist for both AAUW and LWV.

Class of 1967

HOLLY (CONKLIN) FITZGERALD, S. Dartmouth, Mass., and her husband, Jerry, are joyfully involved with their four grandchildren (aged three months to four years) who live in the same area along with the Fitzgeralds’ daughters and their husbands. Fitzgerald recently visited JANE (GALLACHER) DEBARBIERI in western Massachusetts and spent an afternoon with BOBBI (THOMAS) McGOVERN in New York City in the winter of 2014. McGovern, DeBarbieri and Fitzgerald try to get together in the city at least once a year and would love to see other LEC alums there, too.

Class of 1971

BARBARA (STONE) AMIDON, West Dennis, Mass., notified the College about the passing of her dear friend, former professor Tom Beers (see In Memoriam section under Friends). She wrote the following as a beautiful tribute to Beers:

On Sept. 11, 2014, the world lost the consummate teacher, Tom Beers. As a freshman at Lake Erie College in 1967, I was a naïve young woman who had been exposed to very little except the small town life in Massachusetts and numerous guests at our family hotel on Cape Cod. While my father was insistent that his children attend college, and I as the third girl had been exposed to some
of the “feminine mystique” and equal opportunities for women, it was at Lake Erie and my encounters with Professor Beers that I learned how to think, how to be independent, and how to form opinions and back them up with research and facts.

Tom could be outrageous in the classroom, and he could sometimes be offensive, but he was insistent that we think for ourselves, take stands and understand all sides of the question. Because of his ability to question, to probe and to insist on excellence, I became a good student with direction in my life. And during a tumultuous time in our history when drugs became rampant, Vietnam overshadowed all, and we experienced the shooting at Kent State, Tom was a moral compass to build on an already strong foundation laid by my family.

As a result of Tom’s teachings, I became a social worker working with the disenfranchised; and eventually completed my Ph.D. and have been employed as a forensic psychologist working with juveniles for the past 20 years.

Tom was passionate and compassionate; a man who put learning above all else; a moral and good man who, until the last year, continued to teach, remarking that students today don’t read books, have difficulty writing coherently, don’t think for themselves and don’t know how to question. And yet, he didn’t give up asking the probing questions, insisting his students read and write and attend all of his classes – expecting excellence, not mediocrity.

I was fortunate to have a long friendship with Tom and Marrion, his wife; and I miss his wry comments, his wisdom and his expertise. Every student should have the good fortune of having a Tom Beers in her life to guide, to help her succeed, exceed, and excel.

Thank you, Lake Erie; thank you, Tom. “Conceive it, believe it, achieve it.”

Class of 1979

HOLLY H. WHITNEY, Sterling, Conn., is married to Kurt Oster. The couple lives on Windham Hill Farm, where Whitney is the owner.

Class of 1997

BONNIE (FITZGERALD) DICZHAZY, Mentor, Ohio, works as a marketing manager for the California start-up company, Pack.

Class of 2002

STEPHEN ROSENBERGER, Northfield, Ohio, published a book titled “The Relation Equation.”

Class of 2004

MICHELLE (PETRIELLA) CIRINO, Willoughby Hills, Ohio, and her husband, Rob, are enjoying life as new parents with their precious daughter, Amelia Ann (Mia) Cirino. Mia was born Feb. 6, 2014.

Class of 2006

MELISSA NYE, Tiffin, Ohio, is the coordinator for international and graduate admissions at Heidelberg University since her promotion in July 2013. In this role she processes applications and coordinates communications with prospective students. She also creates murals and commissioned art on the side and teaches part of an undergraduate course titled “Teaching of Dance and Gymnastics” at Heidelberg.


Class of 2008

ASHLEY M. ECKARD, Rising Sun, Md., was elected to the Society for Human Resource Management’s (SHRM) prestigious Young Professionals Advisory Council. Eckard is human resources director for a rehabilitation and healthcare facility. She also serves on the board of directors for the Delaware SHRM and teaches human resources management at local colleges as an adjunct professor.

Class of 2009

ALLISON ENEGUESS, Lexington, Ky., is a manager of jumper programs at the United States Hunter Jumper Association. She earned her M.Ed. in 2011 from Lake Erie College.

CHÉRIE L. GALLANT, Lakewood, Ohio, is a chiropractic physician and owner of Comprehensive Holistic & Integrative Care LLC.

DEVON KLINGENSMITH, Columbus, Ohio, recently passed the National Veterinary Boards. She attended The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

RICK LEASURE, Painesville, Ohio, appeared as a contestant on “Wheel of Fortune” in a show that aired Feb. 5, 2015. Leasure solved the first puzzle – “Going on a brisk morning walk” – and
FRIENDS

MELANIE LANDERS, Boardman, Ohio, is an insurance agent for

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BRITTANY RABUANO, Sylvania, Ohio, is a graduate assistant
lacrosse coach at Lourdes University. She is also a head coach for
the club lacrosse team Black Swamp Lacrosse.

DANIELLE (BLYMIER) HEBLER, Geneva, Ohio, married her husband, Robert, on Sept. 27, 2014.
She is a horse trainer for DB Sport Horses.

JULIA KUDLA, Holland, Ohio, is an athletic
development assistant at the University of Toledo
Department of Intercollegiate Athletics in Toledo,
Ohio.

Class of 2014

HANNAH NONCEK, Lakewood, Ohio, is a sales
consultant for Pat O’Brien Chevrolet in
Westlake, Ohio.

Julie Valentic, Kirtland, Ohio, has created a kindergarten
readiness program for Mentor Public Schools called Ready, Set,
Learn. A M.Ed. student, Julie is an early childhood intervention
specialist and a member of the preschool staff at Mentor
Public Schools.

Class of 2011

AMBER (TORRES) GONZALEZ, Cleveland, Ohio, is the
coordinator of the new Bilingual Family Resource Center in
Painesville City Local Schools.

MELANIE LANDERS, Boardman, Ohio, is an insurance agent for

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Class of 2013

ALLISON (TROMBETTI) KEMP, Freder-
icksburg, Va., married her husband, Kyle, on
Aug. 2, 2014. She is a staff accountant for
A-T Solutions, Inc.

FRIENDS

MARIA ZAMPINI, Madison, Ohio, is a former LEC
board member and a respected author, speaker and
consultant. She co-authored Garden-pedia: An A-Z Guide
to Gardening Terms (St. Lynn’s Press, 2015) with fellow
veteran horticulturalist, Pamela Bennett. Zampini serves
as the president of Upshoot, LLC in Madison, Ohio, a
boutique horticulture marketing firm, and she is the
director of plant development for the HGTV HOME Plant
Collection. She writes for green industry trade journals
and consumer publications such as Nursery Management,
Garden Center Magazine and State-by-State gardening
magazines. Her speaking topics include new plant intro-
ductions, plant patents and trademarks, sustainability and
native plants.

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Class of 2010

ERIN M. ROUSH-SABETTA, Cleveland, Ohio, married her
husband, Michael, on Sept. 5, 2014. She is an outreach coordinator
for University Hospitals. Her most recent achievement was being
named the 2014 American Liver Foundation Heartland Division
Volunteer of the Year. She earned her MBA in 2010 from Lake Erie
College.

RILEY WHITTAKE, Tucson, Ariz., is married to his wife, Ashley.
He is a weapons load crew chief for the United States Air Force.
His most recent achievement was being awarded Staff Sergeant
New College Organizations.

VINCE HUG, Eastlake, Ohio, is working in football operations and
player personnel at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz. He
earned his M.Ed. in 2012 from Lake Erie College.

Class of 2013

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44  LAKE ERIE  |  SPRING ’15
**IN TOUCH WITH LAKE ERIE COLLEGE**

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**Marriage Announcement**

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<th>Date of Marriage</th>
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**Honor or Achievement**

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<th>Recent Honor or Achievement</th>
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**Alumni Recognition**

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<tr>
<th>My Nomination for National Alumni Board</th>
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<tr>
<th>My Nomination for Athletic Hall of Fame or Distinguished Alumni Award</th>
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If you need additional space attach more pages.
We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the following persons.

Class of 1939

GERALDINE (CARSON) ROCK, Bryan, Texas, passed away Oct. 14, 2014. Throughout her adult life she held fond memories of her years at Lake Erie College, where she worked 20 hours per week to pay her tuition, room and board. Her family relishes her story of setting the Lake Erie College javelin record during a home track meet. With her encouragement and leadership, all four of her children completed college and pursued successful professional careers.

ELIZABETH (CRISP) REA, McLean, Va., died Sept. 22, 2014. After graduating from Lake Erie College, Rea received medical technology training at the Western Reserve School of Medicine. She later worked for the George Washington University School of Medicine. She was the national president of the Herb Society of America from 1976-1978 and was a founder and the first president of the Friends of the National Arboretum. She helped obtain funding for the movement of the Capital Columns from Blue Plains to the National Arboretum and was also a member of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration.

SALLY (COMESKEY) FISHER, Granite Bay, Calif., passed away Oct. 3, 2014. She was an active member of Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, was involved in many community service activities during her life, was an avid doll maker and quilter and loved her family and grandchildren very much. Fisher was married to her husband, Jack, for 57 years until he passed away in 2006. They had four children and nine grandchildren.

VIRGINIA (WENDT) MCKENZIE, Richmond, Va., died Jan. 8, 2015. McKenzie graduated from Lake Erie College with a bachelor's degree with a major in music. She met her husband, Angus (who was attending Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland), at a blind date dance. They were together for 60 years before he passed away in 2011. McKenzie was an accomplished organist and played for the Glory of God at Grace Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls. For a short time, she worked in the accounting department at Wendt’s, her father’s dairy. Besides being a loving homemaker and mother, McKenzie donated considerable amounts of time to organizations such as the Niagara Falls Little Theater, The Niagara Falls Service League, The Women’s Auxiliary of the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center and the Tatler Club of Niagara Falls. She had three children, Mary, Craig and Rob.

BETH (TUSHAR) PINNEY, Poway, Calif., passed quietly Dec. 7, 2014. She was a teacher in the South Euclid, Ohio school system and later in the Elk Valley school system in Girard, Pa., where she distinguished herself by developing a series of children’s games for learning. She was in demand at National Teachers’ meetings to run seminars demonstrating these games which are still in use today. Later, while in Kansas City, Kan., she became a private tutor and concluded her teaching career there. She was married to her husband, Charles, and had two children, Arek and Linnea.

JOANN (VOKOUN) CRELLIN, Chardon, Ohio, died Dec. 15, 2014. Crellin graduated from Lake Erie College with a bachelor's degree with a major in health and physical education before receiving her master's degree in guidance and counseling from John Carroll University. She was married to her husband, Donald. She worked for 30 years at Riverside High School in the Painesville Township School District. She was a physical education teacher for the first 12 years and a guidance counselor for the last 18 years. Crellin enjoyed spending her time on the Trent River in Canada, reading, completing crosswords, playing Sudoku, crocheting and sewing. She especially enjoyed spending time with her grandkids.

JANE (HALL) KIRK, Asheville, N.C., passed away Nov. 19, 2014. After graduating from Lake Erie College, Kirk received her master's degree in library science from Emory University. She taught for 30 years in Georgia and used her library classrooms to share her love for reading with many children. Upon retiring, Kirk made Asheville her home, where she devoted her time to the things she enjoyed most: volunteering, gardening, cooking, hiking, tennis and traveling. She was a member of the Children's Welfare League...
and Friends of the Earth Garden Club. Kirk was a dedicated mother, wife and educator.

Class of 1971

CAROL (STANTON) PIKE, Mentor, Ohio, passed away Nov. 21, 2014. Pike worked at Progressive Insurance Company, Smythe Cramer Prudential and Prudential Select Properties. She was a member of St. John Vianney Parish and a former member of the Lake County and the Ohio Realtor’s Associations. She deeply cherished the special moments of joy, happiness and laughter she shared with her children. She loved spending time with her brothers, sisters and their families and was thankful for the many people who touched her life.

Class of 1976

PATRICIA A. REED, Perry, Ohio, died Dec. 17, 2014. After graduating from Lake Erie College with a bachelor’s degree in education, Reed was a home economics teacher with Lake County Schools for 14 years. Her interests included sewing, cooking, crocheting, teaching and gardening.

Class of 1979

WAYNE A. DIENZI, Mentor, Ohio, passed away Jan. 26, 2015. DiCenzi graduated from Shaw High School in 1965 and Lake Erie College in 1979. He was a lover of traveling, shopping and tending to his vegetable garden. He was a fifth-degree black belt in martial arts and a U.S. Navy veteran. He worked at the City of Cleveland Water Dept. as an instrument technician and supervisor for 33 years prior to his retirement in 2003.

Class of 1980

MARTHA HELEN GURD, Albuquerque, N.M., died peacefully Jan. 6, 2015. Gurd wrote poetry for many years and was a caregiver, student teacher and owner of Martha’s Pet Sitting Plus in Bloomington, Ind. In the early 1980s, she often gave massages to people suffering from AIDS. She also worked as an advocate for Middleway (an organization that helps abused women) and escorted abused women to court. She was a lifelong Episcopalian and believed that all creatures – great and small – are part of God’s creation. One of Martha’s last poems states: “Thy SON’s face I see in the distance…”

Friends

BARBARA A. ASTON, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, passed away Nov. 29, 2014. Aston was formerly employed by Avery Denison (Fasson) and Lake Erie College.

THOMAS E. BEERS, Chardon, Ohio, passed away Sept. 11, 2014. Beers was married to his beloved wife, Marion, for 41 years and had three kids, Ellen, Emily and Tom. He attended Youngstown State University (B.A. 1958), Kent State University (M.A. 1968) and Case Western Reserve University (Ph.D. A.B.D.). Dr. Beers served as Chief of Staff to Ohio’s 10th District in the 89th U.S. Congress. He taught sociology at Lake Erie College and Lakeland Community College. He was an educator, formally and informally, to many and a mentor to those closest to him. His message to all was “Conceive it, believe it, then achieve it.” (For a beautiful tribute to Beers, see the letter from Barbara (Stone) Amidon, Class of 1971, in Class Notes section.)

LAWRENCE HOGAN, Painesville, Ohio, passed away Jan. 24, 2015. Hogan was married to his wife, Joyce, for 25 years and had two kids, Brian and Beth. He was a patrolman for the City of Painesville Police Department for 15 years. Hogan was also employed in the security department for Progressive Insurance and Lake Erie College. He was a United States Army veteran and belonged to AMVETS Post 109 in Mentor-on-the-Lake, Ohio, and the Hungarian Culture Club in Fairport Harbor, Ohio.

LOUISE M. JAQUES, Mentor, Ohio, died Jan. 19, 2015. Jaques attended Wellston High School and graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in music. She went on to The Juilliard School, where she was hired as an accompanist and vocal coach. While in New York City, she played several concerts. Upon returning to Ohio, she moved to Painesville, where she taught music in the public school system and gave piano lessons. In the 1960s, she became the first female music director of the St. James’ Episcopal Church where she built a vibrant music program and was the first director of the Guild of the Arts at Lake Erie College, where she was awarded the degree of doctor of humane letters.

VILMA “WILLY” KOHN, Cleveland, Ohio, died Nov. 1, 2014. Kohn taught biology and physics at Lake Erie College in the late 1950s and early 1960s. She was active in civic and women’s issues, becoming president of the League of Women Voters in 1965 and helping to found Women’s Space. In 1971, she graduated from Case Western Reserve University Law School and became one of the first women to join the Cleveland law firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey. In 1972, Kohn was one of the first two women admitted to the City Club of Cleveland and was elected to the club’s board of directors the next year. In 1976, she left Squire Sanders to take a position as administrator of the Cleveland Court of Appeals.

GEORGE E. “TED” WILLIS, Marco Island, Fla., died on April 2, 2014. He was a trustee, influential leader and generous donor to Lake Erie College from 1976-86. As an artillery officer in the 10th Mountain Division, Mule Pack Artillery he saw combat in two WWII theaters of battle: The Pacific Theater in the Aleutian Islands and The European Theater in the mountains of Italy, Germany and France. Post-war, he attended Harvard Business School on the GI Bill and graduated with an MBA in 1947. From Harvard, he was recruited by J.F. Lincoln to work at the Lincoln Electric Company. Beginning in plant engineering, he climbed the corporate ladder, becoming plant superintendent, vice president, executive vice president, president and finally, chairman and chief executive officer. Willis devoted much of his life to leading Camp Ho-Mita-Koda, a summer camp for diabetic children in Newbury, Ohio. His goal was to leave a positive legacy to his work and friends, blended family of eight children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
“Thank you for your generous support!”

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