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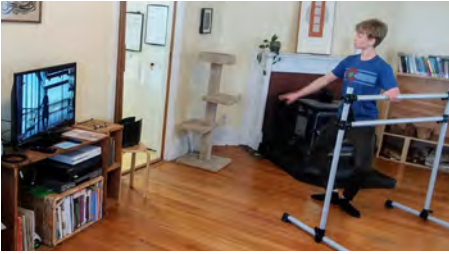
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Corrections: This digital version of the Alumnus now attributes the page 18 ballet article to Annabel Street '21. Photo credit for images in page 12 have now been attributed to Felicity Audet '15.



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On the cover: **The Resilient Class of 2020.** *Compiled by Pamela Dorman '83*

We began the school year with two focal points: resilience, which served as our theme, and community, which served to inform us about place. From the onset, our new boarding students from over 20 different countries arrived two weeks early and demonstrated perseverance in overcoming fears and anxieties about a new country, state, and town, not to mention the challenges of making friends far away from home with people they never met before. In early Fall 2020, we witnessed our school community coming together with faculty and staff serving the greater Pittsfield community with our Community Service Day. Our sport teams and clubs raised awareness and funds for other national priorities, like autism and breast cancer. At Thanksgiving, our Key Club and Kindness Crew prepared Thanksgiving Day baskets for the local community, and at Christmas, the MCI community provided toys for kids in the community that may not otherwise receive any.

Resilience was our theme at the beginning of the school year. For many, it was merely an abstract term that had a wide bandwidth of application. As the year progressed, we were reminded of our theme with real-world examples. In the *Patterson Lecture Series*, we listened to two guest speakers convey their experiences and personal challenges. Then came March. And April. And May. And June, with a most uniquely designed Commencement ceremony, an innovative and inclusive product that demonstrated teamwork and everyone working together for a common cause – a memorable celebration. Students had to persevere through significant social life disruption with the constant anxiety of uncertainty that, at this hour, is still with us. Learning patterns were disrupted. Days and nights were no longer defined by alarm clocks and bells indicating class change. Rather, all were forced to become masters of time and space without the institutional definitions. Commencement was the embodiment of the MCI community, demonstrating all aspects of this year's theme.

Moving forward to this upcoming 2020-21 academic year, a continued focus is our employees (everyone who works and lives at MCI), our town (Pittsfield), and our families and students. Empathy – our theme for this year chosen by faculty and students – builds upon our resilience theme as we focus inward to understand others. With the added sense of social awareness about what others are thinking and feeling, we will see challenges as opportunities, and these opportunities will be viewed as ways to improve, innovate and fulfill our passions. The MCI community understands and embraces this. We are living in a time of social advocacy, and many of our students are seeking ways to make this country and this world better – to have their voices heard and be agents of change. As educators, our calling is to focus as much on their emotional intelligence, *their empathy*, as their intelligence quotient. It is the MCI mission and our focus this upcoming academic year. We wish a healthy and safe summer to all, and we look forward to a new school year, whatever that may bring.



*Christopher M. McDonald,
MCI Head of School*

Transitioning to Online Learning



Pamela Dorman

On March 16, MCI teachers transitioned from in-person instruction to online classes in response to the COVID19 pandemic. Dean of Academics **Eveline Bailey** with IT Director **Jennifer Watson** and Technology Coach **Mike Libby** worked quickly to ensure that teachers and students were prepared for online classes. Despite an abrupt shift in how learning happens at our school, the MCI community moved online with resilience and true Husky spirit.

The switch to online classes moved swiftly with carefully planning: faculty was notified on March 12, the day before students were dismissed from campus upon guidance from the Maine Department of Education. District students and many of the boarding students went home, while a few boarding students chose to stay on campus in dorms or in homestays.

“While teaching online was certainly not my favorite way to teach,” science teacher **Jessica Verrill** commented, “I felt fortunate that we had the tools and systems in place. Our transition to *Google Classroom* at the start of this school year, coupled with the fact that all of our students have iPads available to them, made this possible. I cannot imagine the issues we would have faced if these things were not already in place.”

Science teacher **Lincoln Robinson** noted, “It was a challenge at first, a learning curve for sure, and I received mixed feedback from students. Some liked it, some didn’t, and some were in between. For me, it was okay, although some of the activities I love most in classes were not options when we were not (physically) together.”

ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher **Artur Fass** recalled, “The transition to online learning... was

one of the greatest experiments in the history of education, and we are still figuring out how to do this right.” He explained that MCI’s continuous implementation of digital tools in classrooms positioned the faculty to deliver online education to students wherever they are. He added, “As a teacher whose students were located on three different continents, I was grateful for the opportunity to be able to reach them despite being thousands of miles away.”

For the most part, teachers found unforeseen opportunities to online learning. Humanities-History teacher **Ethan Brownell** observed, “I saw some really thoughtful and incisive work from my students. To be disrupted at the end of a unit was challenging, especially when unpacking the complexities of the war in Afghanistan, for example. Despite that, my seniors wrote thoughtfully and forcefully about the recent peace

talks – some made video explainers, others wrote letters to Congress people expressing concerns. My Advanced Placement U. S. History class and Model United Nations classes did well transitioning to online and Zoom discussions and debates.”

Theatre teacher **Debra Susi** observed, “My Makeup and Costume Design students were given a ‘Bring Paintings to Life’ activity in which they tackled with real creativity. I was amazed and inspired by the work my Theatre Arts students produced.” Along with developing a YouTube channel with lessons and student messages, Mrs. Susi documented student work during the pandemic and planned to share it with them as a celebration of their perseverance and spirit.

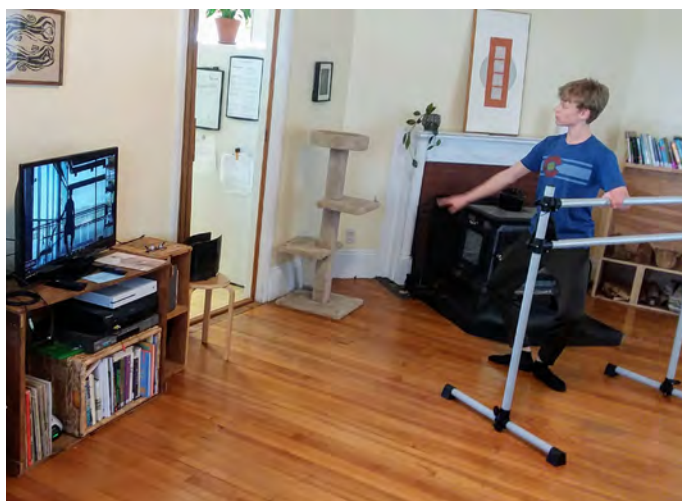
Art teacher **Paddy Aidan** acknowledged a similar positive outcome with teaching online art classes. “I had to let go of the hands-on aspect of teaching visual art and focus instead on stimulating engagement and self-education through engaging explorations using found materials at home.” While Ms. Aidan provided paint packets for her

students, some were unable to access these supplies, having to rely on seeking alternate media, like nail polish, shoe polish and spray paint, which she fully supported.

Ms. Aidan noted that her students realized that creating art was a much-needed ‘go-to’ in times of stress and uncertainty. Her student assignments were intentionally designed to stimulate looking and thinking. “I also gave assignments that open a door to expressing feelings and thoughts directly and indirectly. Many students have done great work and sent emails expressing satisfaction with the projects and how much choice they had.”

The key to learning depends on keeping lines of communication open for students and parents. “Many let me know that the format of my lessons was working well for them,” commented Mrs. Verrill. “Most of the students who were falling behind at some point over the past few weeks responded well to gentle inquiries and got themselves back on track. I have also been pleased with parents’ responses: nearly every parent that I contacted either responded directly or prompted their student to respond.”

MCI counselor **Macie Batchelder ’09, LCSW**, maintained communication with students throughout the pandemic, underscoring the importance of positive and therapeutic outreach to students. “Students quickly learned that they



BBT student practicing ballet at home

need to channel their independent skills and self-motivation and, for some, these didn’t come easy. As we moved forward with remote learning, I would say more students adapted well but overall they missed being in the classroom with their peers.”

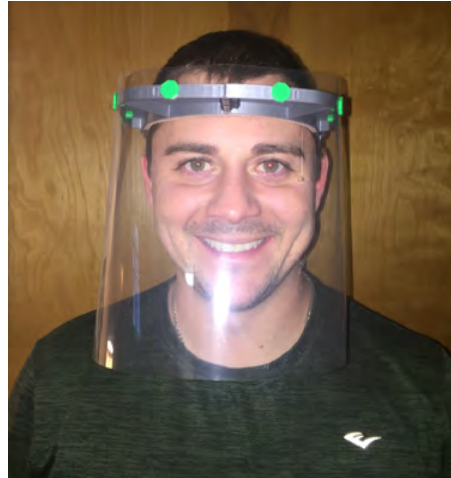
Many teachers expressed similar feelings about not seeing their kids in person. Mr. Robinson shared that he missed communicating with struggling students. “Students that were not doing well before [online classes] provided little to zero communication with me [since moving online], and although I wanted to help in any way I could, it was difficult if we couldn’t get in touch with them.”

“Just like any other teacher,” noted Mr. Brownell, “I love being in the classroom with the kids. Not to have that in-person interaction made it hard to get down to work.”



Boarding students study in Kinney

MCI's 3D Printers Created Face Shields



📷 Jessica Libby

With news stories about shortages of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers throughout the world and United States, providing Maine hospitals with much-needed access to face shields quickly became imperative. In March, former MCI teacher **Jim Tyson** reached out to our school with a request that protected the safety and lives of Maine's healthcare workers treating patients stricken by COVID-19.

"Mr. Tyson contacted teacher **Lincoln Robinson** to ask if MCI would loan three 3D printers (given to us by the Perloff Family Foundation) to the *Challenger Learning Center* in Bangor to help create 2,000 face shields for local hospitals," **Jessica Libby** explained. "Mr. Robinson forwarded this request to me and, with fellow teacher **Adam Pomeroy**, the three of us decided to lend those printers and three additional ones from our Makerspace." She explained that Mr. Tyson picked up the six printers on April 3, leaving some 3D printers on campus for student projects.

With guidance from **Dave Perloff**, Bangor's Challenger Learning Center developed an ambitious plan to produce components to create face shields. In a presentation released by Mr. Perloff, the initiative would create thousands of a modified version of the Budmen COVID-19 Face Shield that was produced at the Center and given to regional healthcare facilities. Mr. Perloff provided detailed instructions to print the two-piece visor, snap-on fasteners, and clips to hold transparent film for the shield.

His plan inspired MCI science teachers to provide local healthcare professionals with face shields. "Mr.

Pomeroy, Mr. Robinson, and I set up a 3D printer at each of our houses to print materials to make face shields using Mr. Perloff's plan," Mrs. Libby explained. "The ones we produced are being given to our local hospitals to help their staff stay safe while caring for patients."

Mrs. Libby added, "We are so excited to help in this cause and are grateful that MCI is in the position to do so."

Mike Lynch '84 generously donated additional funds to pay for more face shields for area healthcare providers in central Maine.



📷 Larry Ayotte

MCI students honored for Volunteerism

MCI received word that **Bartianna Brown '20**, **Edith Tierney '20** and **Hyeonjee Rho '22** were recognized for their volunteer efforts by the United Nations Association – USA (UNA-USA), an organization dedicated to honoring the American people for supporting the ideals and vital work of the United Nations. According to Head of School **Christopher M. McDonald**, Bartianna is the first MCI student to receive the National Community Service Ambassador Award from UNA-USA. “I am very proud of Bart’s community spirit and eagerness to help others throughout our region.”

Although the award deadline occurred later in April, Bartianna met the criteria well in advance of that date. Her online service resume (<https://innerview.org/bartiannabrown2>) lists 106 hours of community service this year ranging throughout various community sources – from Key Club activities and helping new students get acquainted to MCI, to volunteering for Edith Tierney’s *Empty Bowls* event last fall and volunteering at the 2019 Commonground Fair. Bart is often called upon to help with community events to support the Pittsfield Community Theater, Pittsfield Public Library, Waterville Opera House, and the Maine Special Olympics.

“I was honored to receive this recognition,” said Bartianna. “Community service is incredibly important to me and I enjoy helping when and where I can. Throughout my time at MCI, I have made it a

priority to take the time to work on projects throughout our community and, on a personal level, community service has helped make me a well-rounded person. I am able to work with various age groups and people that are all going through different things.” Bart will attend Simmons University this fall to study psychology and public health.

Both Edith and Hyeonjee won merit awards for raising money/awareness of hunger in Maine and volunteer efforts throughout the MCI campus, respectively. Three tiers of award levels exist to celebrate students who




Bart is the first MCI student to become UNA-USA National Community Service Ambassador



Edith Tierney '20



Hyeonjee Rho '22 (right)  Scott Giallombardo

“...Community service has helped make me a well-rounded person.”

Bartianna Brown '20

make the decision to invest energy and effort into helping others, and Bart reached the highest level of Ambassador, which includes at least 100 hours of community service across 12 activities during the school year. In May, award earners received digital certificates endorsed by the UNA-USA. Due to COVID19, the physical awards are planned to arrive later this year.

Congratulations to our students who value volunteering in our community and personify our core values!

The Book of Will and MCI Resilience



Harrison Sites '20 as John Burbage (foreground) performing with several MCI students in *The Book of Will* in March 2020.

📷 Pamela Dorman

In early spring this year, 47 MCI theatre students participated in the Central Maine Regional Drama Festival and won the Central Maine 2020 Regional B Title performing *The Book of Will* by Lauren Gunderson. MCI received scores of 98, 98 and 96 out of 100. Theatre teacher **Debra Susi** shared judges' comments after the win: "Best Ensemble Acting by far - this was the best all-cast acting I have seen to date - everyone of the characters was well defined and believable," "too many kudos to list: well-balanced cast to have standouts... even smaller roles (were) done well," and "so well realized - appropos to the period and subject."

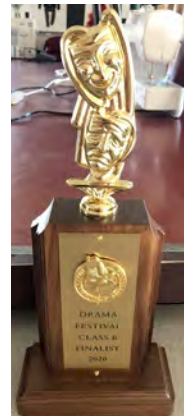
Mrs. Susi added that four students received All Festival Cast Awards: **Isabelle Grignon '20** (as Alice Hemmings), **Isaac Tardy '20** (as

John Hemmings), **Harrison Sites '20** (as John Burbage) and **Corinna Franzose '23** (as William Jaggard). MCI also received Outstanding Technical Achievement Awards for Technical Theatre I and II, Costume Design, Stage and TV Makeup, and Lighting. MCI was poised to "move on to the State Class B Competition on March 20-21" at Oceanside High School in Rockland, Maine, Mrs. Susi announced.

Before that final performance on March 20, however, Maine schools closed and all public gatherings were stopped. The months of rehearsing a technically challenging play, constructing and painting historically accurate sets, and carefully sewing period costumes, ended abruptly, and MCI fell short of the state finals because of COVID19.

"This was a tragedy," said Mrs. Susi. "We had the highest scores in Maine and were on our way to winning the states. I've loved each and every show my students have performed, but this one with its message of friendship and legacy sums up my teaching and directing philosophy. I only wish they could have performed it one last time."

The Book of Will tells the story of how William Shakespeare's friends, Henry Condell and John Heminges, tirelessly gathered the Bard's notes, scripts, and writings after his death to publish the *First Folio*, which contains most of Shakespeare's plays and writings. Like playwrights of his era, Shakespeare did not



📷 Debra Susi



always provide entire written scripts to actors; instead, he often handed out piecemeal scenes or character lines. Condell's and Heminges' efforts preserved some of the finest plays and verse ever written in the English language.

Congratulations to our very talented award-winning students and volunteers who made this year's one-act play outstanding: **Sherman O'Brien '21, Isaac Tardy '20, Harrison Sites '20, Isabelle Grignon '20, Delanie Nichols '23, Jason Farias '22, Xavier Moss '20, Jackson Leonard '22, Morgan Tibbetts '20, Rylee Stock '20, Kyle Burger-Roy '20, Will Newschafer '22, Bartianna Brown '20, Corinna Franzose '23, Parker St. Clair '20, Jillian Michaud '22, Ronda O'Brien '20, Alexis Tardy '20, Reagan Lary '20, Riley Lary '20, Lillian Verrill '22, Lydia-Mae Roderick '22, Stefani Higgins '21, Nickolas Humphrey-Stevens '22, Asa Cianchette '21, Erin Nolan '20, Jett Gerke '21, Brandon Reny '20, David Edgecomb '20, Dyllon Dunton '20, Makaila Bailey '20, Matthew Craig '21, Malik Kersey '21, Alahna McCarron '20, Emily Hathaway '22, Abigail Shaw '20, Abigeal Shea '20, Ava Patterson '20, Sayaka Tada '21, Adryanna Oliveira '21, Ashley Souliere '20, Michael Beauregard '20, Edith Tierney '20, Tyler Staples '20, Sara Linkletter '20, Lillian Hopkins '20, Inna Osetrova '20, Jovanna Ramires '20** with special thanks to **John Buys, Jayson Murray, and Jeralyn and Bart Shattuck** of the Waterville Opera House.



Scenes from the award-winning one-act play that was the final live performance at MCI, March 2020

A Time of Renewal and Reflection: Staying connected in a time of challenge

By Elizabeth Audet, BBT Manager

Like dance students everywhere, the Bossov Ballet Theatre at Maine Central Institute (BBT) dancers have faced many challenges this past year. The sense of community connection that breathed fresh life into their annual performance of *The Nutcracker* last December felt momentarily lost when COVID19 closures halted work on BBT's latest creative work intended for the spring. Separation and stasis, however unimaginable and abhorrent to both dancers and youth, have nevertheless required them to discover hidden wellsprings of resilience, and a more personal connection to life and art.

Last December, people flocked to the Waterville Opera House for the holiday magic of Bossov Ballet Theatre's *The Nutcracker*. For **Natalya Getman**, a 33-season veteran of *The Nutcracker*, there was a feeling of rejuvenation about the production thanks to the support and talent of the local community. Not only was she inspired to create new choreography, but she was also excited by the new look that locally created costumes and set designs brought to the production. According to Getman, "There is a great sense of community when people come together to make this production happen – people of great talent whom I have known since they first began their careers, and now contribute their artistry and holiday spirit to the production. I'm very grateful for that!"

One of those individuals included New York-based Chad Lefebvre, scenic, lighting, and projection designer for projects that include CBS Sports Network, ESPN, NFL, Busch Gardens, and the Metropolitan Opera and Theatre Project Consultants in London. A Waterville native and frequent contributor to the Waterville Opera House productions, Lefebvre provided a new fairytale forest set design for the show. Tamsen Brooke Warner, executive director of the Waterville Opera House and fellow native, brought that design to life. Both worked with Getman early in their careers, and on BBT's *Nutcracker* in particular. BBT costume mistress, Lorica Siefken of Clinton, Maine, reflected on her own contribution to the production, "working with a myriad of beautiful fabrics and trims is a joy. I'm impressed by how Natalya and the dancers all pull together and pitch in wherever needed... I'm so pleased to be part of the team."



Lindsay Turner defines #Resilience



Lindsay Turner (right) with niece **Morgan Robinson** and **Kellan Tilton** during the recent Patterson Lecture Series on Resilience

On March 3, MCI welcomed **Lindsay Turner RN, MSM**, to give her presentation, “Hashtag Resilience,” as part of our Patterson Lecture Series. Held in Parks Gym before hundreds of students, faculty, and community members, Ms. Turner spoke of the importance of resilience, which was this year’s school theme.

Ms. Turner is co-founder of *Sarah’s House*, a respite home for patients and families receiving life-saving treatments for cancer that she helped create in memory of her twin sister, Sarah, who passed away after her courageous battle with brain cancer in 2011. “[Sarah] said, ‘we need to do something: we need to give cancer patients a place to stay’” when traveling hours away from home for life-saving care. *Sarah’s House* opened in 2011 in Holden, Maine.

Ms. Turner shared stories of how

resilience helped her growing up in central Maine, attending college despite financial obstacles, and becoming a nurse caring for patients in eastern Maine. She is currently the school nurse for Maine School Administrative District #53.

Throughout her talk, she interjected “Hashtag Resilience” that focused the audience on her message. Her profound, heartfelt presentation was often times candid, hopeful, and relatable to students, especially when she talked about being the youngest of eight brothers and sisters growing up in a home with one bathroom.

To bring home her message to students, Ms. Turner welcomed two guests to join her onstage: her niece, **Morgan Robinson**, the only child of her late sister, and **Kellan Tilton**, the son of MCI board member, **Dan Tilton**. Living in a household

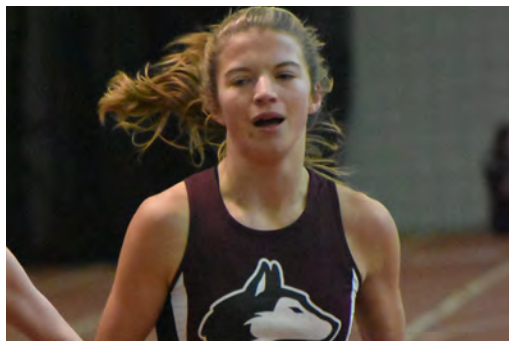
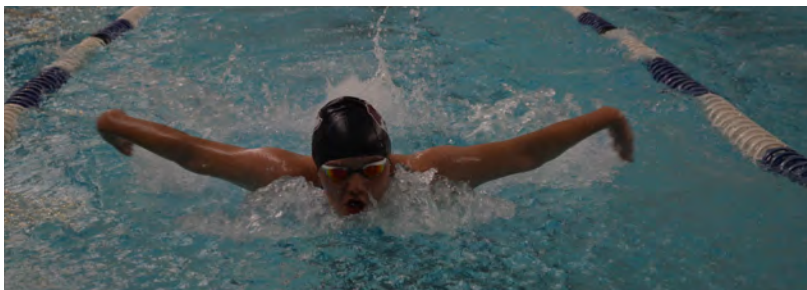
where “can’t” is never spoken, Kellan explained how he is encouraged to always try. Kellan concluded his talk with this advice: “If you are facing a tricky time and don’t know how you are going to get through it, just remind yourself that you can do anything if you believe in yourself.”

Morgan explained that she was five years old when her mother was diagnosed with cancer. “Having gone through losing a parent, I’ve been forced to learn that there is life after loss. I’ve experienced my dad deploying overseas when I was two years old: he has endured the unimaginable and holds a very special place in my heart. He is persistent and determined... he instilled in me the will to be resilient.”

She offered, “When you feel lost, get up, trust, and move on – because there is light at the end of the tunnel.”

Ms. Turner deftly emphasized the importance of resilience in times of desperation. “Resilient is not something you are but what you choose to be... we all have a choice.”

*Patterson Lecture Series was established in 2008 by MCI trustee **Gregg ’69** and **Elaine Patterson**, and features presentations that explore MCI’s school theme.*



MCI Athletes Persevere and Thrive

By James Leonard, Director of Athletics

The 2019-2020 winter sport season was a successful one for MCI Athletics. Nearly all of our teams made the postseason and several individuals had some outstanding performances.

In swimming, the Huskies hosted their first “home” meet (at the Waterville Boys and Girls Club) of the season and defeated Hyde School in that first-ever event. School records were set in several events by **Isabelle Ortiz '22** and **Kadin Braley '22**. MCI Swim posted three meet victories on the season and continued an upward trend in improvement.

MCI wrestler **Cole Steeves '21** won the Class B South 136-pound regional championship at Medomak Valley in February. Steeves also eclipsed the 100-career victories mark in early January. Cole is poised to break the

school record for individual victories sometime next year.

On the hardwood, the Girls Basketball program pushed through a rebuilding year while the boys team finished 4th in the regional standings and made it to the regional quarterfinal round in Bangor.

Indoor Track had an outstanding year with a number of school records falling in relay events. **Samantha Martin '22** (Pole Vault), **Gracie Moore '22** (55 meter hurdles) and **Emma Burr '23** (200 meter) each reset existing school marks in their events.

In total, 18 MCI winter sport student athletes were recognized by the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference on postseason all-star teams. Seventeen MCI Senior

student athletes were named to the conference's all academic team.

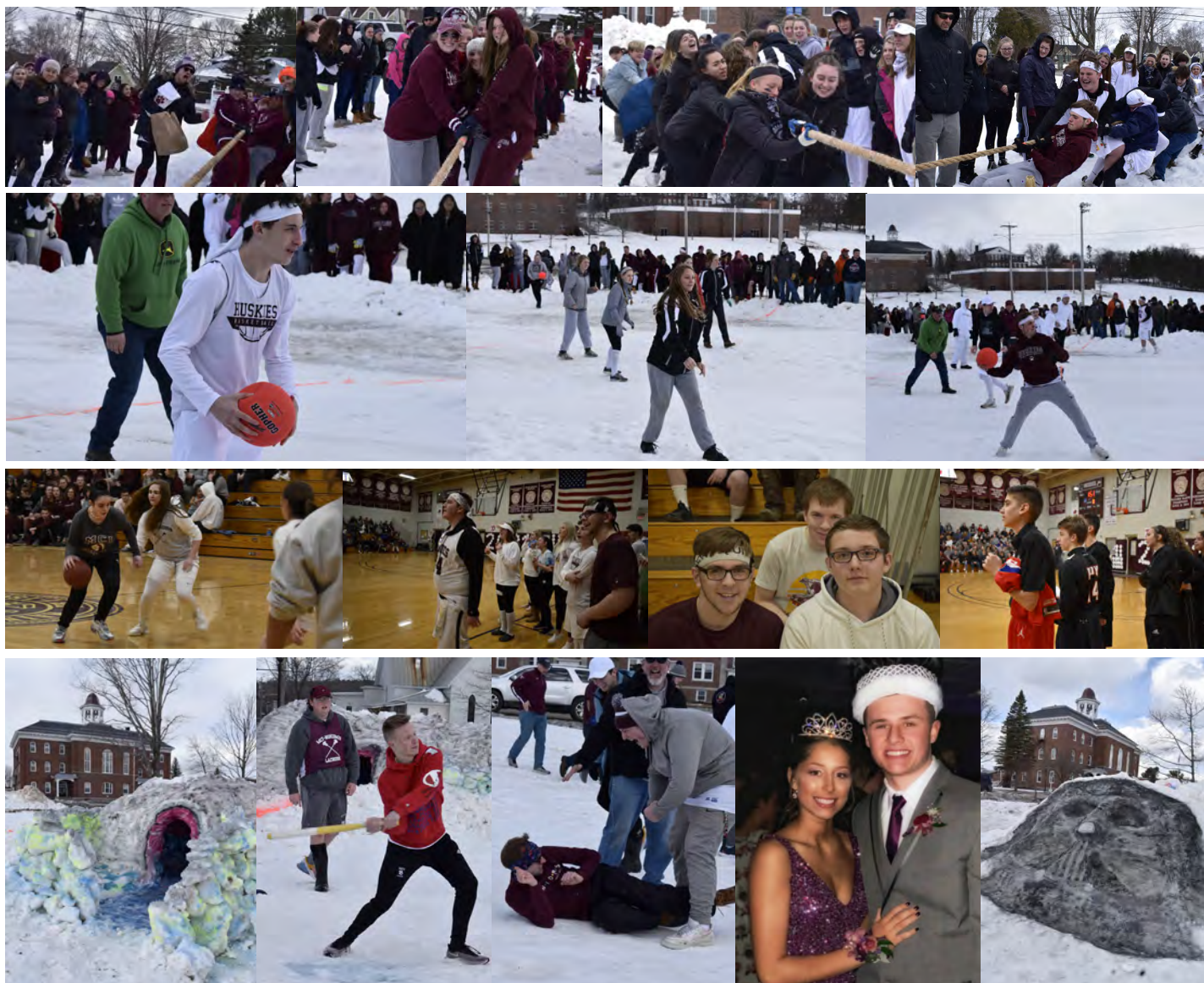
Spring brought an unprecedented time in Maine high school athletics. COVID-19 shut down the spring sport season before it began, and it was cancelled by the Maine Principals' Association in early April.

As of this writing, there is much to be decided about when and how sports will return to Maine high schools. Updates on these issues will be posted on the MCI Athletics Facebook page (facebook.com/MCIathletics/).

I am working closely with other Maine athletic directors to prepare for the reintroduction of education-based athletics in the summer and fall. We look forward with hope that our programs will be up and running this summer and throughout next year.

Winter Carnival 2020

Filling big shoes left by retired teacher/
Winter Carnival legend **Ed Miller**, Director of
Student Affairs **John Dean** welcomed the MCI
community to enjoy one of MCI's treasured
traditions that certainly quashes the winter blahs
in central Maine!



Isaac Everlasting



MCI's 2020 one-act play, *The Book of Will* – a play about how Shakespeare's works were preserved after his death in 1616 – was the last play that **Isaac Tardy** performed before a live audience at our school. Yet, his favorite role was one that he has yet to perform because of COVID19 – playing the lead in *Tuck Everlasting* at the Waterville Opera House. Isaac was intrigued by and grew to love the character of Jess Tuck. "Tuck lives his entire life on the edge – instead of looking back, he always keeps his eye on what is ahead," Isaac explained. "Tuck says, 'if you aren't afraid, you aren't alive.' I think this statement is honorable: instead of living in fear of failure, you should embrace it and learn from it."

It is as though Isaac has always possessed Tuck's perseverance. Parents Jason and Sherry Tardy of Palmyra encouraged Isaac and his twin sister, **Alexis**, to follow their dreams through uncharted territories. When their father became the superintendent for Maine School Administrative District #53, both children considered migrating from MSAD #48. "Alexis and I were presented with the tough choice to leave our childhood friends and attend school in this district," Isaac explained. "While it wasn't easy at first, I realize it was the best choice we could

have made. The programs and opportunities this district offered have helped shape the person I am today."

Throughout his four years at MCI, Isaac has been a reliable and ubiquitous presence at school concerts, where he plays in the Concert Band and is in the vocal jazz ensemble *Caravan*, as well as in several theatrical performances. Isaac's passion for MCI's Visual and Performing Arts program has provided him the confidence and expert talent to participate in several theatrical performances at the Waterville Opera House while attending school full-time and holding down part-time jobs.

"My overall experience at MCI has been really rewarding and the transformation I have made over my four years at MCI is incredible," he stated. "If you had told me four years ago I would be pursuing a career in the performing arts, I would have laughed. Now I





Isaac in his noteworthy roles at MCI (left to right): the conniving butler in *Clue the Play*, the lascivious Boy Scout in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, a pirate in *Peter and Wendy*, and as John Hemmings in *The Book of Will* 📷 Pamela Dorman, Debra Susi

feel confident that MCI has prepared me to be successful in my artistry. MCI has opened my eyes to the beautiful opportunities that cultural diversity has to offer and I am so happy to be a part of this community of individuals.”

Many of those opportunities resulted from his cherished friendship with theatre teacher **Debra Susi**. “She never puts walls up around me and has urged me to step out of my own comfort zone every step of the way,” he explained. “Mrs. Susi believed in me when I couldn’t believe in myself, and I am honored to have learned everything I know from her. Without her outlets for artistic expressions, my MCI experience would be completely different.”

When considering resilience, Isaac is reminded of the profound experience in the Visual and Performing Arts department and the welcoming community they offer to all MCI students. “This program allows students to explore themselves at intellectual levels and step into their own skin in completely different ways,” he explained. “Our international students’ ability to jump headfirst into a new culture is completely astonishing. I love interacting and developing relationships with these students, and understanding our differences is the most beautiful part of the MCI community. Through a lens of diversity, we are pushed to see different perspectives that open our eyes to a world of possibilities.”

The winner of the George Washington Book Award, the Wells College Book Award, and the HOBY Leadership Conference Award, Isaac stands out as one of MCI’s top students, having placed in the Manson Essays and being awarded an Ella Night ‘expert performer’. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Student Council, and was elected the senior class president in 2019.

“As class president I get excited for some friendly competition between classes,” Isaac admitted. “Stepping into that role has allowed me to show my competitive side and have fun getting to know my other classmates outside of the classroom.”

As we sadly witnessed how the pandemic curtailed beloved senior class traditions – in-person gatherings and time-honored graduation ceremonies with classmates and faculty – Isaac’s determined spirit and leadership encourages us to keep moving forward toward the promise of what lies ahead.



BBT Dancer's Perspective on COVID19

By Annabel Street '21

The last way I ever would have expected my year to end would be with me giving myself ballet class off the kitchen table in my parent's house. Yet, here we are. The past two months have been nothing short of disconcerting, but I am grateful to say that they have also brought a number of heartening lessons and realizations. Over the past couple of months, BBT, as well as the rest of the global dance community, has been navigating how to remain connected to our identity as dancers under such stifling limitations on our ability to dance. During a Zoom call with BBT last week, **Natalya Getman** reminded us that it was natural to feel discouraged and unmotivated in our present situation because, at its core, ballet is an interactive art form. And interaction is precisely what our present circumstance has dissuaded us from.

We can and have continued to dance, of course, but the reality is that giving myself class in an empty room at my house is an entirely different experience from being in the studio among my peers and teacher. There is no supplementing the energy we feel when dancing alongside one another, the motivation we are filled with when receiving corrections, the excitement of being choreographed, or the gratification that follows a successful class, rehearsal, or production. But for now, like so many in the world, we are making do. The resilience of our spirits as aspiring dancers and artists has been put to the test, but we are prevailing – pushing through and remaining hopeful of a return.

Despite the prevalence of our optimism, it is still difficult not to feel loss when so much in our lives has changed. COVID19 has impacted each and every one of us in different ways; many in much more burdensome ways than my own. As a result, I have frequently found myself feeling guilty over my own disappointments. What I have concluded over the past few weeks, however, is another important lesson: that one person's loss does not detract from another's.

While I certainly believe in the importance of remaining mindful, sympathetic, and attentive towards those who have experienced worse, I do not believe that their more considerable grievances warrant embarrassment on account of my own. I am disappointed that BBT's spring performance was never completed. I am disappointed that I was unable to perform alongside my senior friends one last time. I am disappointed that it all feels so unfinished, so dropped, so incomplete. But it is okay to feel those disappointments, as well as the surprising amounts of gratitude I have found amidst them.

The past few months have reminded me how lucky I am to be a part of Bossov Ballet. While our typical modes of study seemed impossible, our education has certainly never lapsed. In place of our usual classes and rehearsals, Natalya assigned us work that encouraged us to develop our artistry. We have analyzed music,



Annabel performing for Bossov Ballet

dissected choreography, and created stories. We have been encouraged to dig deep within ourselves and consider our own thoughts and feelings, as well as to be bold enough to share them. Before these assignments, I had never listened to or watched anything with so much intention. It has been an entirely new experience, but one that has helped me grow as a dancer, an artist, and a person— even so far away from our studio. The assignments have helped me realize what solace can be found in the creativity of my own mind—in my reflections of other artists' mechanisms and intentions, as well as my analysis of my own subsequent emotions.

In a time like this, such a realization has been freeing. There is an artist

Dancer's continued on page 27

Notes from the Cianchette House

By Alicia J. Nichols, Dean of Advancement

Sending Thanks from MCI

Xie xie • Hvala • Tak • Danke • Kiitos • Merci • Dank u •
Grazie • Arigato • Kamsahamnida • Spasiba • Kop khun •
Cam o'n ban

Thank you! Two little words that mean so much. We want to thank you all.

Donors who give, volunteers who serve and give their time, alumni near and far who have included MCI in their wills, and community members who advocate, attend performances, and cheer on student-athletes. If only we could list you all in this small space. Thank you!

During this year unlike any other, MCI has received more financial support for the Annual Fund than the previous six fiscal years. To our alumni and friends, thank you.

We are grateful to the advertisers in Bossov Ballet Theatre's playbill and warmly thank CM Almy, Creative Print Services, Waterville Creates, Maine Central Motors, Valley Arts Alliance, People's Salon & Spa, Vittles, Hometown Health, Robert W. Baird & Co., Bud's Shop 'n Save, and Petit Jeté.

Thank you to the MCI Alumni Association officers – **Milton Webber '71**, **Nicole Cianchette Steeves '99**, **Kathy Kelley '79**, and **Michelle Hubbard '89** who, every year, work with the Advancement staff and volunteer to raise



 Pamela Dorman

funds for two scholarships and senior t-shirts for every member of the graduating class.

Thank you to **Michael Lynch '84** for going above and beyond. Over the past year, in addition to his traditional contributions, Michael both hosted and funded a house party, a 35th Reunion gathering for his class, and a pre-game dinner for Husky football fans before the state championship. This past spring, he contributed funds so the MCI Science faculty had the materials to produce face shields for area healthcare facilities.

Thank you to MCI Trustee **Susan Haseltine '67** and former MCI Headmaster, **Doug and Lori Cummings**. Sue, Doug, and Lori funded the "We Love the Class of 2020" posters that we produced to show the class we were holding them in our hearts as the hopes of their senior spring faded away. The posters can still be seen in windows across the community. We're grateful to Creative Print Services for printing the posters at cost, and the five businesses that distributed the free posters to their customers – Bud's Shop 'n Save, The Flower Studio, PopOnOver, Frost Mobil Service and Dysart's.

To all who supported MCI over the past year – thank you!

The Alumnus is Going Digital!

This issue of the Alumnus will be the last one to be printed and mailed for the next 12 months due to budget limitations. To receive a notice regarding the electronic

publication of the next issue, please email your name to alumni@mci-school.org. Thank you.

MCI | CLASS AGENTS

Class Agents are an invaluable resource to both MCI and their classmates because they link the School with its graduates. Agents keep classmates connected through The MCI Alumnus throughout the year, helping plan the Class Party during Reunion Weekend and maintaining the Class Facebook page.

If you would like to reach out to your Class Agent, please contact the MCI Advancement Office by phone (207-487-5915) or by email (alumni@MCI-School.org).

1942	Herbert Scribner, Sr.	1973	Susan Smith England	1996	Heather Gray Csontos
1950	Virginia Coolbroth Landry	1974	Vera Lloyd Bryant	1997	Terri-Jean Grant Wilkinson
1951	Robert Hutchinson	1975	Ralph Ingraham, Jr.	1998	Jared McCannell
1952	Alvah Wyman	1976	Donald Hallenbeck	1999	Natalia Mayhew Hall
1955	Leona Cross Lovely	1978	Robert Bryant	2000	Hillary Stevens
1956	Forest Frost	1979	Kathy Kelley	2000	Michael Thompson
1959	James MacMichael	1980	Belinda Lawrence LaFlamme	2001	Daniel Flaherty
1960	Joan Basford Bradley	1981	Suzanne Lynch Guild	2002	Donna Russo Sawtelle
1960	Marilyn Nash	1982	Cheryl Paresson Austin	2003	Ashley Holt Morency
1963	Janet Viger Bryant	1985	Karen Rollins Fraser	2004	Melissa Hussey Stinson
1963	Marcia Sprague Hodson	1986	Lisa Nickerson	2005	Sarah Frost Robertson
1963	Wayne Pinkham	1987	Tammy Reynolds George	2007	Brittanie Holt Smith
1964	Barbara Vigue Day	1987	David O'Brien	2008	Tyler LePage
1965	Lawrence Yeaton	1988	Chris Mitchell	2009	Brandon Wilson
1966	Anna Maria Parker	1988	Loren Lavalle Martin	2010	Aaron Kirouac
1967	Sheilya Cookson Voter	1989	Nancy MacGown Monteyro	2011	Cody Thies
1968	Sharon Hanson Ringuette	1990	Thomas Bertrand	2012	Michaela George
1969	Susan Furbush Ryman	1991	James Richards	2013	Courtney Fowler
1970	William Cunningham	1992	Sean Callahan	2014	Shane Hathaway
1970	David England	1993	Jennifer Kuhlmeier Lebo	2017	Carter Pearl
1970	Martha Lloyd	1993	Kristin McCaughley Gagnon		
1971	Jeffrey Knights	1994	Courtney Cianchette Harvey		
1971	Laurie Fitts Loosigian	1995	Frances Oviatt Rogers		

Please consider being an agent for one of these classes: 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1953, 1954, 1957, 1958, 1961, 1962, 1972, 1977, 1983, 1984, 2006, 2010, 2015, 2016, 2018, and 2019. Contact the Advancement Office today to represent your class in the Alumnus!

Return to the
MCI Campus
for the

**2021 Class
Reunion on
August 6-7**



Class of 1952

There will be a memorial service for **Armour Brown** and his wife, **Loretta Doherty Brown '53**, on August 3 in Arlington National Cemetery starting at 10:15 and 11:00 a.m. Their son, Dan, lives in Kodiak, Alaska.

Lynn Blood Stavro volunteers to help shut-ins in the area where she lives and also works as an advocate for cats. She had five children, and her son Brent raises horses, so she enjoys helping with them.

Heard from **Bill Hamlin**, **Robert Hackett**, **Adrian Fournier** and **Herman Roberts**, who all report to be doing about the same.

Our condolences to the family of **Bob Berry '51**, who passed way in January in Florida.

Jake Jacobs writes, "The Class of '52 was a great one: there was not a school in the state as good. We had great teachers and coaches that were also mentors. We also had great teams. MCI has come a long way since back in our day. Thank you, MCI, for being there for my class, past and present students, and for our future classes." He adds that "Growing up in Pittsfield was really great for me, but I must say that Crossville, Tennessee, is the best place I've ever lived." Jake and wife, Vickie, have two daughters who live in Georgia and Alabama, and they are enjoying their granddaughter, visiting the Smoky Mountains and the beach.

Bob Belanger writes that last Easter, his family celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Bob and his wife, Betty, his 85th birthday, and her 90th birthday. Over sixty people attended the celebration and had a great time. They have three more great-grandchildren on the way from his "#1" daughter.

Nancy Billings writes that she has been trying to get to Maine for the past two years. "My family and I are fine - both granddaughters received their masters degrees and were able to get their jobs back, which is wonderful." She finally

has two great-grandchildren, just aced her annual physical, and keeps very busy volunteering (mostly with food distribution). "There's a big difference on the Vineyard - between the very wealthy and the struggling workforce, so there is so much to do."

Bev Breau wrote recently from 'the confines of home due to the coronavirus pandemic: "All activities I would have been doing have been cancelled. These are some of the things I am looking forward to: I hope to plan a celebration for the graduation of my grandson, Curtis, from the University of Maine in May. In July I hope to attend the installation of my grand-daughter, **Erin Fitts '02**, as Grand Esther for the Grand Chapter of Maine Order of the Eastern Star in Presque Isle. My husband, Dave, and I have been volunteering some time helping our daughter **Jodi '77** and her business *Dentallace*, and our grandson **Lewis '08** who is the fulfillment manager for that company. Stay safe everyone!"

Bob Knowles writes "We are spending our last months of winter season, like all others, sheltered at home. I talk periodically to **Bill Hamlin**, who is our neighbor. I love reading about all that is happening at MCI and particularly enjoy hearing about student life and activities from my great grandson, **Randy Starbird**, who is a junior this year. We are hoping to return to our Maine home in June to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. We will be receiving an award from the Maine Vintage Race Car Association for having made a lasting impact on the racing community over multiple generations. I recently joined Facebook and am having fun following former Unity Raceway fans, drivers, and friends."

Class Agent:
Alvah Wyman

Class of 1953

Loretta Doherty Brown will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on August 3 at 11:00 a.m. with her late husband, **Armour Brown '52**. If anyone

would like to attend, they are welcome. Rest in peace, Loretta.

Class of 1955

David Edes writes, "Paula and I are still living here in the Sunshine State, Florida. We are both well and healthy, going to the gym twice a week. Our daughter fell on hard times and came to live with us a few months ago. Hoping she'll be back on her feet soon."

Gard and Mary Rand celebrated their 60th anniversary this past November. They enjoy living in Damariscotta on Biscay Pond, which they say is a "wonderful town for good living!" Their three children and their families live and work in the Portland area, so are close by for them.

Jim Hallee writes, "We'll have a 60th anniversary this year and still enjoy good health at 82 years of age. I'm the 5th of 6 boys in our family and two of my brothers, Jerome and Larry, have passed. Our children are doing well in college. Lynne and Mark's children have straight A's in college; they live in Rhode Island and Georgia. Our plans are to stay here in Cape Elizabeth."

Joanne Withee writes from Arizona, "Thanks, Leona, for remaining our Class Agent. At this stressful time, my most fervent plea is that each of us manages our own health well during the pandemic. We are now in our eighties and are more vulnerable than other segments of the MCI Alumni. Despite rheumatoid arthritis, I remain active both physically and mentally. In general I'm well and fortunately reside in Arizona in the winter, Colorado during spring and early summer, and Maine in late summer and fall. I still travel worldwide, cruising most often via small ships. Life treats me generously each day."

Wayne Sinclair and his wife Clivia spend winters in Pittsfield and, during the summers, they go to their camp on Morrill Pond, where they "really enjoy spending time fishing, boat rides and

visiting neighbors.” Their two children, grandson and family visit often, and their three-year old great granddaughter visits and “keeps everyone entertained - she is so much fun.”

Sandra Bessey Powers writes that “it is surreal to think that we, as a class, graduated 65 years ago from MCI! So far, my life journey has been incredible. My husband, Grant, and I have raised five wonderful children - each with their own special gifts to share with the world. We also have seven grandchildren ranging in ages from four to thirty-two - a wide range that keeps us busy.” Sandra and Grant retired at age 62, put their Auburn home on the market, started constructing their dream log home on Great Pond in the Belgrade area, and purchased a Florida home in North Port near her brothers Dick '51 and Bob '51 (who recently passed away in January), Berry and Ron Bessey '62. They enjoy being “snow birds” - spending seven months in Florida and five months in Maine. Sandra enjoys performing in the North Port Chorale, which is a 40-50-member group that performs four seasonal shows. She and her husband are still very active in park activities and church.

Class Agent:
Leona Cross Lovely

Class of 1959

Nancy Files Peters and her husband, Mike, flew to Mexico in January, intending to stay for three months. A week after arriving in Mexico, Nancy fell, fracturing her wrist and her hip. Surgery was required and it went well. Subsequently, Nancy was ambulatory with the aid of a walker. Anticipating that the border might close due to the spread of the coronavirus, they flew home early.

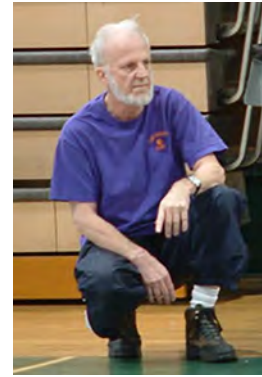
Diane Nash Crane wrote that she read online that **Laddie Dysart's** community, North Reading, Massachusetts, had a special night honoring him for all that he had done for youth basketball. Laddie was too ill to attend. Diane recently retired as an English, Latin and Spanish

high school teacher. She misses teaching but is enjoying retirement. She has five grandchildren and enjoys her time with them and with her son and daughter. Diane and her husband enjoy sailing on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

Donna Richardson Glenn wrote that she and her husband, Jerald, are in good health but are “progressing in age like all of us.” They have sixteen grandchildren with fourteen of them living nearby. Donna and Jerald plan to go to San Diego this summer to visit their daughter and her family. They have a motor home and plan to drive along the coast of California and visit Glacier National Park in Montana. They enjoy taking some of their grandchildren on some of their trips. Donna keeps in touch with **Nancy Ross Cameron**, **Sophia Kellis**, and **Martha Menendez Mourkas**. Donna and Jerald remain active in their church and community. She hopes to hear from many of us and would love to hear from any of us living in Arizona. She says that her family in Arizona loves lobster “but it tastes the best in Maine.” Her email address is donna.glenn@gmail.com and her phone number is 480-833-3588.

Nancy Ross Cameron spent a week with her husband, Don, in Dunedin, Florida this winter. While there, they played golf, walked the beaches, and visited friends. Nancy is looking forward to spring/summer to get back to gardening and enjoying the centennial celebrations. One of her grandsons, Jonah, graduated from Wheaton College in May.

Janice Cianchette Harkins moved to her home in Palmyra approximately three years ago. She says that she is “glad to be back home.” She has reconnected with several people, including **Sandra Homstead Cote '60**. Janice's two youngest grandchildren are graduating from college this spring. Her granddaughter, Kirsten, graduated from the University of North Carolina two years ago and will graduate from the University of North Carolina School of Nursing this spring. She will be working in a pediatric, cardiac, and neonatal intensive care unit after



Laddie Dysart died peacefully at his home in North Reading, Massachusetts, on December 2, 2019.

graduation. Her granddaughter, Carolyn, will graduate from Duke this spring. Janice says that Carolyn has no idea what she is going to do after graduating: in Janice's words, “I hope the world is ready for her!”

The valedictorian of our class, **Laddie Dysart**, died peacefully at his home in North Reading, Massachusetts, on December 2, 2019. Laddie moved to North Reading to teach math at Merrimack College. He later went on to work 30 years as a software engineer at Parametric Technology (formerly Computer Vision/Prime Computers). Laddie founded the North Reading Youth Basketball program in the 1970s and nurtured it for the next forty-five years. He was also involved with the North Reading Recreation Committee, Little League, and Youth Softball. He gave his time to many other programs in town (including music and theater in the schools), volunteering too many hours to count.

At a recent Select Board meeting at the Town Hall, family members accepted on his behalf many heartfelt accolades and tributes for his 40-plus years of dedication to the youth of North Reading, particularly as a coach, mentor and founder of North Reading Youth Basketball.

In October, **Ellen MacMichael's** team, Ellen's Kids, participated in the Central Maine Walk for a Cure for Alzheimer's Disease. The team raised a little over \$8,000, which was the most money raised by any of the approximately forty participating teams!

I had breakfast with **Dick Gordon**, **Charlie Armstrong**, **Paul Bertrand**, and **Phil Theriault** at Vittles Restaurant in Pittsfield shortly before Christmas. We plan to do it again, and we will try to have others join us when we have the opportunity.

Depending upon what happens with the coronavirus, some of our plans for summer may have changed by the time you receive these class notes.

Class Agent:
Red MacMichael

Class of 1960

Joan Basford Bradley “had a wonderful vacation in England last June along with my daughter, Karen, and grandson, Justin. We visited London and Oxford, which included many historical and cultural sights, gardens and restaurants. We found the people very friendly and helpful.”

Natalie McGuire Mandell recently paid a short visit to Maine. I had a nice meal with her and husband Don along with **Patty Reynolds Goodblood** and friend, Michael.

Avis Ames Paresson does a lot of traveling with her daughters. Last year, she went with one daughter to visit another in Utah. This was a road trip. In January, luckily making the trip before the coronavirus, she went on a cruise to the Caribbean with her daughters. This was her second cruise, and they were only able to visit three islands due to poor weather conditions.

Class Agents:
Joan Basford Bradley
Marilyn Nash

Class of 1963

We heard from **Skip Ettinger**, who shared that on September 7, 2019, he was inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame. Karate has been



one of Skip's loves since 1963 when the US Army stationed him in Okinawa, where he studied Karate for three years. He returned to Okinawa in 1972 to continue his study of Karate as a live-in student at Jaguru Dojo. Skip returned in 1978 and began teaching Shorin-Ryu while also continuing his martial arts study under Sensei Edward Takae. In 2009, Skip received his Hachi-Dan rank (8th degree) placing him as Sensei's highest-ranking black belt. Skip is also well known for his experience in kata, winning many competitions to become one of the top three winners of the US Karate International Championships from 1978-1984. He also placed second in the top 10 National Championships. Skip won State Championships in North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Colorado and Washington state. Skip has also instructed many who became state, national and international champions.

Congratulations to you, Skip. We are very proud of you.

Class Agents:
Janet Viger Bryant
Marcia Sprague Hodson
Wayne Pinkham

Class of 1964

Georgie and **Ron Farrin** announced they have a new basset hound, Winston, and eight grandchildren.

Linda Vanadestine Bell and her husband are retired in Florida.

Lowell Martin from Cambridge is getting ready for planting season and had new calves arrive at his farm.

Frank “Tom” Haseltine and his wife, Anne, are planning to return to Maine from Knoxville, Tennessee, later this summer.

Ralph Damren and his wife, Roberta, moved back to Pittsfield from Old Town, hopeful he will be back to refereeing this year.

Jane Woodcock Woodruff and her husband, Don, were busy with Pittsfield's 200th year celebration last year and has a Facebook page called “Heart of Pittsfield.”

Rae Philbrook is looking to return to Maine from Florida later this spring. She is happy to report she has a new great grandson in the family.

Pat Elkins Pratt and husband, Billy, are in Ocala, Florida, and will be celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary. They enjoy their backyard minus the pygmy rattlesnake wanting to visit them!

Bonnie McGaffin Baker from Rhode Island says hello and she is still busy with her hospice work and going to try her hand at a vegetable garden this year.

Linda Snowdeal Brown and her husband, Pat, celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. They have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Donna Brooks Rolfe says hello to all. She has two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She has been busy helping with the Hartland Children Fund and is hoping to do some camping this year.

Linda Tozier Dean is happy to report that her reincarnation status is still alive and well and she will be celebrating her 20th year at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bangor, Maine.

Crystal Hunt Cyr and husband, Arthur, will be celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary this year.

Marlene Hunt Ward and husband, Buddy, still live in Florida and are looking forward to Maine camping soon.

Glenda McMann Weymouth and George are planning their flower and vegetable gardens, when not busy with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Steve Barnes is busy in Virginia remodeling their home and is planning a trip to Pittsfield later this year.

Leon Southard and wife, Lee, also plans on being back in the Pittsfield area this summer. We shared weather stories: his 80 degrees and my nine inches of fresh snow.

Greg Wright and his wife are busy as usual. They found time this year to help the Hartland Children Fund (HCF) with new toys and clothes.

Joan Van Derveer Gould and Bob found time last fall to visit Maine and shared their pride in their grandsons. Joan is a retired nurse and still enjoys the White Mountains and helping out the HCF.

Rita Flood Bubar says hello to all; she is hoping to be back in Maine later this spring.

Mike Vigue is still busy with his business, working with no present plans to retire.

Joe and Karoldene Martin Barnes '65 say they will be relocating to Pittsfield soon.

Linda Eastman from California said they're getting by okay and says hello.

Bobby Mercier and wife Laura are still busy with their coffee business in Newport with freshly roasted coffee beans that are very tasty.

Dorothy Creasy Ackerman is busy with new family plus her six grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Jim Scribner lives in West Vancouver, British Columbia, and is still rescuing animals in need of saving and kindness while enjoying the many outdoor activities that Canada has to offer.

Tom Smith and spouse, Connie, planned to travel to Florida in May to attend their oldest granddaughter's graduation from Eckerd College. Abby will graduate with a degree in anthropology with a minor in Spanish. Tom and Connie traveled to Puerto Rico in January to visit the ancestral land of their son-in-law's dad, Pedro. With their daughter, Heather, and their two daughters, they travel to Puerto Rico almost annually. They report that they felt the tremors of one earthquake, observed damaged buildings and drove past a tent city of residents who had lost their home due to previous strong earthquakes – and stayed well away from the epicenter. Tom plans to be at camp with 6 of 8 grandchildren during class reunion time in 2020. "Sorry to miss!"

Barbara Vigue Day (aka your class agent) is waiting for the snow to melt to get started on the garden. "Sorry I missed talking with you. Please remember you can always contact the MCI Advancement Office with news for our Class Notes." She finds it hard to believe it has been 56 years since graduation and wishes to thank everyone who helped with the HCF that was able to help 200 people this year. "All the people in our class who make a positive difference - I am so proud of your kindness. You are some of the best people on the planet."

Class Agent:
Barbara Vigue Day

Class of 1965

Congratulations to **Betty Goding**, now **Betty Goding Black**. She and Loren Black were married December 16, 2019.

Class Agent:
Lawrence Yeaton

Class of 1968

It's a big year for most of us in the MCI Class of 1968 as we will (if we haven't already) turn 70 years old. I remember when my parents, **Verna Merrithew**

Hanson '32 and **Harry Hanson '35**, attended their reunions every year way beyond their 50th. They always had such a wonderful time. I hope many of us will continue that tradition, even in the *off* years. I think some of us have been pretty faithful so far. **Dawn Peterson Cox** was sad she had to cancel the MCI Winter Gathering at her home in Winter Haven, Florida, in mid-March due to the rising concerns of the coronavirus at that time. My sister, **Bonnie Jean Hanson Gulliver '69**, and I stopped by to see Dawn and Jesse for a brief and pleasant visit on our way home from a memorial service we attended nearby. This was in early March just as social distancing was ramping up. I checked in with the class on our Facebook page around the same time to see how everyone was doing with the coronavirus quarantine. About 20 people from near and far responded that they were safe and well and hunkered down in their homes. **Peter McPheters** wrote that he just published his second book of the Splendor Series. It can be found on Amazon. "Giants of the Mistress Moon" is the title. Congratulations Peter!

Hoping and praying that we all will be safe and stay well until we can be together again! Best wishes and blessings to all!

Class Agent:
Sharon Hanson Ringuette

Class of 1969

Greetings MCI-Warsaw Classmates. I hope everyone is well and coping with the tremendous changes we are experiencing at this time. I look forward to hearing and seeing people in the near future.

I have heard from **Jim Rowe** and he has written this to our classmates: "Historic times. I don't know where we'll be in our fight against COVID19 when this edition of the *Alumnus* lands. Hopefully the virus will be just a memory and will leave us and our loved ones not only physically unscathed, but also emotionally and economically salvageable. Self isolation

gave me plenty of time to reflect about a lot of things. High on my list of thoughts has been our wonderful 50-year reunion last summer. Also high on that list are memories of our days in school together. Reconnecting with many of my favorite people in the world is an experience I cherish: nearly impossible to improve upon and awfully tough to duplicate. But let's try! Health!"

Class Agent:
Susan Ryman

Class of 1970

Amos Davis writes from Louisiana, "I am on the brink of retiring this year so that I can spend much more time with my grandchildren, who live out of state, pursuing full-time my outdoor hobbies of traveling, hiking, fishing, hunting, spending more time at my lake house, and reading."

Bill Cunningham and wife Karen are so far virus-free and have been learning how to make masks out of cotton fabric and elastic cords for family and friends to wear while food shopping and in other public places. Social distancing is hard to maintain! They are also learning how to use Zoom to attend various club and other meetings to break up the social isolation of staying at home to slow the spread of the virus. They have even tried virtual square dancing with their square dance club members!

Susan and **Dave England** are enjoying their days in Wickford, Rhode Island. Susan continues to enjoy her retirement and Dave reports that he "still enjoys working at my plumbing business. We did not make it down to a warmer climate this past winter but look forward to a much needed trip south next year." They had a great late winter weekend getaway in Wells, Maine, with **Wendy Murdock Esposito** and husband "Espo." They are looking forward to summer and attending the upcoming 50th 1970 class reunion. Says Dave, "I hope whoever can make it to this historical event will. The committee is working hard to make it a

memorable event. And as always the class of 1969 and 1971 are always invited to the class party that is held after the luncheon. See you there!"

Class Agents:
William Cunningham
David England
Martha Lloyd

Class of 1971

First, we are hoping for the best to all of you during this pandemic. In trying to gather news from classmates, I found that some of you are still working and navigating social distancing and safety measures, some are sheltered in place alone or with family. No one has any trips planned, graduations or weddings to attend, or any summer plans. Some are retiring and applying for social security, some are caring for pets, and some like **Deb Morancie Giallombardo** have new puppies, two golden retrievers.

Colleen Peterson helps with her grandsons and online education. She hopes to come to Maine to Pettingill Pond for the summer.

Milton Webber and I are assembling a reunion committee to plan our 50th reunion events for the first weekend in August 2020. So far, **Tamra Wright Monett, Deb Morancie Gialombardo, Sally Hodgkins Baker, Linda Sweet, Marjorie Jones Scott, Colleen Peterson Seremet, Linda Wiles, Mary Lloyd** and **Jeff Knights** are interested in helping. If anyone else wants to help plan reunion, please get in touch with me or Milton.

One challenge we have is gathering cell phone numbers since most have dropped their land lines. Please call MCI to update your contact information or text me 603-686-2331 and I can do it for you.

I apologize for the miscommunication in the last Class Notes: Colleen is not playing pickleball in Venice, Florida. It is I. Deb's grandson's name is Rowan.

My own news is that our third grandson arrived three weeks early in early August and since we live across the street from our daughter, we are sheltering with them and enjoying daily visits from 3-year old Woods.

Johnna Furbush Farkas officially retired from teaching in 2017. She continues to work at the school as a reading/writing tutor one day a week, substitutes and is a private tutor. Jeff is semi-retired from the finance industry, working from home. They have been traveling (Italy last year) and cruising, often with her sister, Susan, and her husband, Ed. She reports that all is good and she's staying active. They have three adult children living nearby along with their two beautiful grandchildren. **[Johnna will be a new aunt in May as her sister welcomes her first grandchild.]**

"I am happy to share that my daughter, Emma, gave birth on March 5, three weeks early, to an 8-pound baby boy, her second! Best part for me is that I got to witness the birth!"

This is a troubling time for MCI who still has students in dorms in April. Kudos to the faculty for their efforts to continue to teach. Please consider an annual fund gift to help MCI through this difficult period.

Our wish is that we will all get through this and get our lives back on track soon.

Class Agent:
Laurie Fitts Loosigian

Class of 1973

Hi classmates. It is mid April as I write this. There is a very windy, rainy nor'easter going on outside and, like many others, we are pretty much at home as a result of COVID19. We are hoping you all are safe and healthy these days. David and I have enjoyed a mild, snowless winter. We didn't go south to a warmer climate – choosing instead to stay home which turned out to be just fine. We always seem to find plenty to do to keep our days busy.

I am sorry to report that recently we lost our classmate, **Thomas “Roland” Jackson**. Tom was part of the impressive 1973 PG basketball team. We certainly had great basketball to watch that winter of ’73 between our MCI Varsity and PG teams. Tom has attended many of our class reunions over the years. He always timed his visits with a camping trip to a favorite spot on the coast of Maine. Tom will be missed by his many MCI friends.

David and I are looking forward to his 50th reunion in August. This makes me realize our 50th isn’t far behind. Hard to believe! Please be sure to become a member of our Facebook page - MCI Class of ’73 (Maine Central Institute).

Class Agent:

Susan Smith England

Class of 1974

Patti Davis Buck writes, “I continue to enjoy my work as a neuro-geriatric physical therapist, but am starting to look forward to easing into retirement over the next few years. My primary goal is to spend more time traveling to visit friends and family around the globe. The major draw currently is my son Alex’s family in Kentucky: grandson #2, Harrison, was born Christmas morning and joined big brother Calvin at home. We were fortunate to be there for the birth and several weeks after. On the home front, we enjoy having our daughter, Chelsea, teaching and living here in New Hampshire just an hour and a half away. Bruce and I also got to hang out regularly with my brother **Ken Davis ’70** and his wife, Barb, who are just 30 miles away. We occasionally see **Dorothy Wilkins Anderson** and husband, Jim, usually taking in some good music along with ample laughter and good food. Through Dot, we’ve also connected with **Randy Gould** and wife, Sherry. Fun times continue; life IS good!”

Rusty Hall retired from Bath Iron Works in March. He spent most of his career with a very long commute to work, so he

will be enjoying being off the road and having time to spend with his family.

Laura Cianchette and **Vera Lloyd Bryant** spent a long weekend in Florida with **Karen Cianchette Carville** and her husband and former MCI faculty, **Doug Carville**. “It was a quick trip, but we had a great time enjoying the sunshine and reminiscing about our school days.”

Kevin Bryant and I hosted a small gathering last year on Friday night to celebrate our 45th reunion. It was great to get together with old friends and share memories. On the day of reunion, I was attending the wedding of **Susan Cianchette Koch**’s daughter, Gretchen. It was a beautiful wedding near the ocean in Cape Elizabeth. I am retiring from Cianbro in June after working there for 30 years. I am looking forward to spending time in the garden, at our family camp, camping, and traveling.

Class Agent:

Vera Lloyd Bryant

Class of 1975

Buddy Ingraham writes, “I am still sailing and winding down as I want to unpack my sea bag for good next June at 65 years young. Tammy and I are expecting our first grandchild in July and we are very excited. Both daughters were married this year, so it has been an exciting time for us, for sure.”

Suzie Quint and Rich have a French Fry Party and Luge run every February and is a great time and very well attended. I see her in town on occasion and it is always good to visit and catch up.

Bart Kelleher is looking forward to moving back to Maine soon, in retirement. After a stint in the Navy and working in New York City, Miami, and now Colorado, he says he is ready to come home.

Brian Duplisea is moving from Miami to Stewart, Florida, and is ready to relax a bit

after some health issues. He is doing great and seems in good spirits as always!

I hope to see you all for a good turnout for our 45th reunion. As time is slipping by so quickly, it would be nice to catch up with you all.

Class Agent:

Ralph “Buddy” Ingraham

Class of 1979

Phil Hendricks writes, “I am happily married to my wife, Ellen Hendricks, and we share 10 grandchildren that keep us entertained and busy. After working for many years as a teacher and baseball coach (mostly at MCI), I left due to illness associated with Lyme disease. However, after five years of being too sick to work, I have now been successfully running the CBD wholesale company, Gerrick Alternatives, that we started almost four years ago. We have a wonderful life in Hallowell, Maine, surrounded by great restaurants and live music. We invite all our classmates to look us up when in the area.”

In this crazy time of the pandemic, it has been heartwarming to see many people, checking in with everyone to say hello and offer assistance when available. It just shows how close our class is and what memorable connections we made at MCI and how we are all not only friends, but family. I want to thank **Ann Cianchette** for bringing questionnaires to our 40th reunion last August, those who completed them, and **Trudy Bickford Ames** for summarizing the results. I will be posting the results/updates a few at a time on our Facebook page. I wish everyone safe times and hope to see many at the 2020 reunion here in Pittsfield.

Class Agent:

Kathy Kelley

Class of 1981

Mike Ouellette writes from Fryeburg, “I am in my 24th year of teaching Spanish and French at Fryeburg Academy. My wife, Terren, and I are expecting our first grandchild in early June.”

Class Agent:

Suzanne Lynch Gould

Class of 1985

Richard Levesque writes from Connecticut, “Hi! Thirty-five years ago in June, I left MCI. I’d like to come up and see the school again, but have no way to come up. I have a brother and cousins that live in Maine.”

Class Agent:

Karen Rollins Fraser

Class of 2008

Jordan Paradis reports that he and his family enjoyed a trip to Disney World in 2018 for the first time, and had lots of fun.

Class Agent:

Tyler LePage

Dancer’s continued from page 18

within me – an artist within each of us – and when we access that, we become unconfined, regardless of the restrictions of our circumstances. Now is the time to let our creativity flourish. The past months have been undeniably difficult, but remarkably, they have also carried many appreciated silver linings. I have learned to be perseverant and creative in spite of whatever obstacles come my way. I credit much of that to my BBT family – to the incredible, uplifting people I am so lucky to know. I cannot wait to see them again.

MCI | In Memoriam

The Advancement Office wishes to honor the members of the MCI family who recently passed away:

Marie Lewis Armistead ‘65

Robert Berry ‘51

Bennett Bickford ‘61

Terry Chadbourne ‘61

Deanna Leavitt Clark ‘60

Terrie Dean Clark ‘54

Galen Cole

Owen Cooper ‘72

Charles Harlow ‘61

May Lewis Holden ‘65

Thomas Jackson ‘73

Alice Loane Johnson ‘50

Peter McAleney ‘66

George McGilvery ‘50

Thomas Millett ‘48

Helen Mosher

Diane Murray ‘84

Donna Vanadestine Peterson ‘61

Lloyd Porter

Keith Sanborn ‘65

Marjorie Vaughn Saporita ‘45

Barbara Schissler ‘66

David Varney ‘69

Taylor Whittington ‘22

Marcia Wilson

Herbert Wright ‘67

The Advancement Office extends our deepest condolences to the families and friends of those who have passed on. We try to accurately record the names of the alumni/ae and friends who have passed away. Please contact our office about the passing of MCI alumni/ae and friends by calling (207) 487-5915 or by email (alumni@mci-school.org).

Maine Central Institute

295 Main Street
Pittsfield, ME 04967
www.MCI-School.org

Leave a legacy that makes MCI Stronger

Have you ever considered including MCI in your will? By remembering MCI through your estate plan, you honor education and leave a legacy that will make MCI stronger. MCI's Heritage Society recognizes those who have included the school in their will or estate plans. Members of the Heritage Society are listed in the *Alumnus* magazine, annual donor reports and Heritage Society promotions, or you may choose to be anonymous.

To join the Heritage Society, simply confirm in writing that you have included MCI in your will or estate plans. If you have already included MCI in your gift planning and wish to be included as a member of the Heritage Society, please contact the Advancement Office at (207) 487-5915 (alumni@mci-school.org). Specific details of your planned gift are strictly confidential.

Thank you for remembering MCI!

Members:

William '63 and Beverly Ball
Frank '55 and Anne McCready Bowen '55
Tania Carnrick '73
Scott Carter '73
Helen Esty Cianchette '48
Robert Cianchette '78 and Hillary Ginsberg
Christopher Crowley '70
Ralph Damren '64
Robert and Rita Desjardins
David '70 and Susan Smith England '73
Michael Fendler '70 and Melinda Loveitt
Peter Fendler '80

Gary '69 and Amy Fitts
Susan Haseltine '67
Michael '86 and
Michelle Vigue Hodgins '91
Harold and
Sandra Humphrey Carson '52
Ralph, Jr. '75 and
Tamara Andrews Ingraham '77
John LeMieux '78
Jeremy Lord '62
James '69 and Cynthia Maynard
Dalen Mills '66



MCI Trustee Gregg '69 and Elaine Patterson,
Heritage Society members

John Mosher '83
Gregg '81 and Laurie Newhouse
Margaret "Peg" Maynard Olson '84
Daniel Oakes '66 and
Anna Maria Parker '66
Gregg '69 and Elaine Patterson
Charles Pratt '59
Mary Dysart Quint '50
Michael '62 and Priscilla Savage
Linda Shorey '69
Peter '65 and Carole Daily Vigue '64
Norbert '66 and Christine Young