

# Maine Central Institute ALUMNUS

## Onward and *Upward*

Randall Starbird '21 takes  
to the air in MCI's Aviation  
Program

Spring/Summer 2021



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Maine Central Institute *Alumnus*  
Spring/Summer 2021

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From the Head of School



Dear MCI Family,

We began this academic year with the knowledge that school will be unlike anything we have experienced in the past. As the pandemic hit in March, 2020, our employees and students showed resilience by immediately switching to an on-line learning platform and making the most of what became a fractured school year. Beginning this academic year, we all transitioned successfully to a two-day on, two-day off schedule. The entire MCI community showed great empathy--our theme this year--as this new learning model and social configuration took the place of what we have known our entire life in school. And while these changes are nothing we could have predicted, and these changes are nothing that we liked, our community demonstrated the ability to be flexible, to adapt, and to overcome whatever challenges may come our way in the future.

There is hope even in the most challenging of times, and by mid-March we transitioned to 4 days a week of in-person learning. But even from the beginning, we kindly welcomed international students from twenty-three different countries. These students combined with our students from several communities of central Maine to become one MCI student body, and together with MCI faculty, and staff, we immediately began serving the greater Pittsfield area with our Community Service Day in October and then again in June. This commitment to others and focus on community continued at Thanksgiving as our Key Club and Kindness Crew prepared Thanksgiving Day baskets, and at Christmas, the MCI community provided toys for kids in the community that may not otherwise receive any. We even hosted a Red Cross blood drive on campus in March. At MCI, we make a difference in the lives of others regardless of a pandemic. And we will continue to do so.

To be a part of such a place with such people is an honor and privilege. It is one that I never take for granted as I constantly seek ways to grow and to improve for the betterment of others. And it is clear to me that our students--past and present--share this determination and commitment to community, a core value of MCI. Our new graduates of the class of 2021 have now become a part of a legacy that was established in 1866. Like those before them, they are entering an unknown world with reservations, fears, ambitions, and excitement. And like the MCI alumni of years gone by who have lived the core values of resilience and empathy that informed and guided them to live fulfilling lives, our newest alumni will rely upon these attributes to make their own ways. MCI has provided all who have attended with character development, maturity, and experiences to make a difference in all aspects of one's life. To quote Robert Frost from "The Road Not Taken"--

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*

Keep moving with the MCI spirit in your life's journey and do not fear taking that less traveled road. It has and will make all the difference.

Sincerely,  
*Christopher M. McDonald*  
Christopher M. McDonald



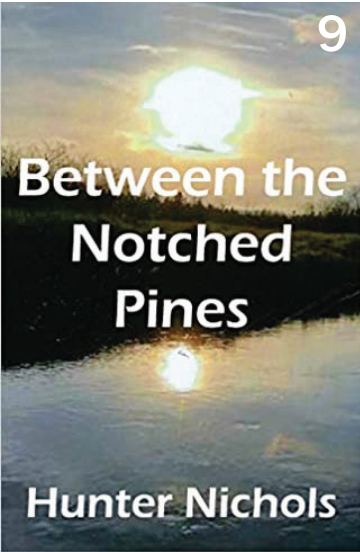
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*On the cover: Randall Starbird '21 poses at the Pittsfield Municipal Airport, where he is in the process of earning a private pilot's license*





## Honoring Natalie Hodgins, Valedictorian, and Annabel Street, Salutatorian

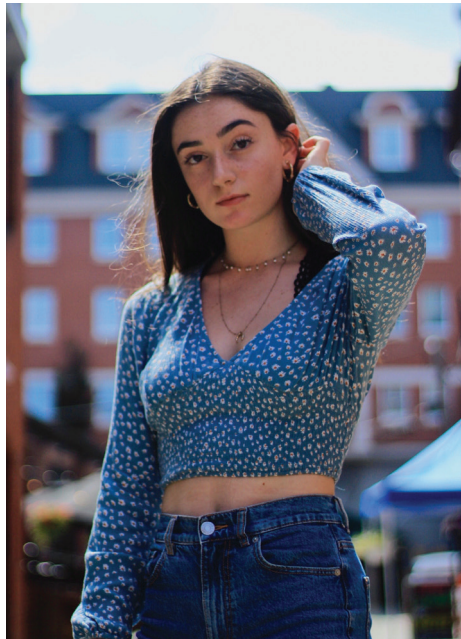


Natalie Hodgins '21, Valedictorian

Maine Central Institute would like to recognize and honor **Natalie Hodgins**, Valedictorian, and **Annabel Street**, Salutatorian, of the Class of 2021 for their excellence in academics.

**Natalie Hodgins** of Pittsfield is the daughter of MCI alumni **Mike Hodgins '86** and **Michelle Vigue Hodgins '91** and a fourth generation MCI graduate. While earning Highest Honors in each quarter of her high school career, Natalie has been awarded as an undergraduate for excellence in science and mathematics from the Society of Women Engineers along with MCI's prestigious George M. Parks Award. She has also received recognition for her academic excellence in AP Calculus AB, AP Humanities III, Honors Humanities II, Pre-Calculus, Biology, Health, Spanish I, Honors English I, Earth and Space Science, and Physical Education I.

In addition to earning the top grade point average in her graduating class, Natalie has been a member of the soccer, basketball, and softball teams, captaining the soccer squad in her junior and senior seasons. She is an officer in the Key Club and Student Council and a member of the



Annabel Street '21, Salutatorian

National Honors Society. Natalie has also served on the Student Leadership Committee and MCI Mentor Program and been a member of the Pep Band and Concert Band.

Natalie has earned acceptance to Bentley University, Endicott College, Merrimack College, Stonehill College, St. Joseph's College of Maine, Thomas College, University of Maine at Orono.

**Annabel Street** is the daughter of Gordon and Dr. Lee Street of Raymond, Maine. She is a Bossov Ballet dancer and has attended MCI for four years, participating in a variety of co-curricular activities while earning numerous awards for her achievements, most notably the Maine Principals Association Principal's Award.

Annie's academic honors include the Maine Model United Nations Distinguished Delegate Award (10th grade), class awards for AP Humanities III, Spanish IV, Honors English II, CP Chemistry, and CP Geometry, the Richard Gilder History Prize, the Williams College Book Award, and the Certificate of Merit for Bossov Ballet Theatre.

Along with a demanding ballet

schedule, Annie has served as Student Council President, Senior Class Vice President, and Alumni Hall Prefect. She was inducted into the National Honors Society as a sophomore, served as a Student Ambassador for four years, was a member of the Philanthropy Council and the Kindness Krew, and participated in Model United Nations for four years.

Annie has committed to the University of Southern California and plans to study International Relations and Environmental Science in the fall.

### MCI Welcomes Wayne Lobley as Director of Advancement

*"If you believe your support, influence or volunteer effort is too little to have an effect, try sleeping in a tent with a mosquito."*



Join us in welcoming Mr. **Wayne Lobley** to our community as Director of Advancement.

Mr. Lobley enjoys working with all types of donors and organizations, finding solutions to challenges while helping both the organization and donors reach their dreams together.

"I have recently discovered these hidden gems known to some as Pittsfield and Maine Central Institute!" said Mr. Lobley. "Having grown up in Orrington, Maine, studied and worked at the University of Maine, I just never realized how wonderful Pittsfield was until just now (of course I have long known about MCI's outstanding reputation as an independent school). Having lived and worked in Massachusetts, across Maine, and most recently in Downeast Maine, my wife and I are looking forward to being closer to our families for this next chapter in our lives."

## Joo Ohk Yi '98 joins Board of Trustees

**Joo Ohk Yi** lives and works in Seoul, Korea where she works for Google. As the Development Manager for Google Play Games, she advises top gaming companies in KR to uplift business performance and she guides plans for future initiatives. She is leading import initiatives for the Korean market by helping foreign developers prepare their go to market strategy, thereby offering a greater potential for success. She also formulates KR Games BD mid-term strategy by analyzing emerging macro-trends and impact on the KR gaming landscape and evolving developer needs.

For 10 years before her current position, Joo Yi worked for Tencent Korean in a variety of roles. As Director of Korea BD Center, she led the scan of mobility, entertainment, and fintech sectors identifying potential partnerships/investment targets. Previous to that role she served as Director of Business Strategy and served as a liaison between HQ and Tencent's Korea and Japan offices. She provided Korea game market insights in formulating overall game investment strategies. She managed a multinational team in locations such as San Francisco, Beijing, and Shenzhen.



These are only a few of the remarkable tasks and experiences that Joo Yi will bring to the MCI Board of Trustees. A true linguist, she speaks Korean, Mandarin, and English. She enjoys travel, having been to over 40 countries, and she likes to swim, do pilates, and read in her free time. This is most evident in her education background. In 2001, she earned a Certificate In Chinese Language from Beijing Normal University. She graduated in 2002 from William and Mary University with a degree in Economics, and in 2010 she graduated with an MBA from China Europe International Business School. Truly a distinguished alumna. We look forward to her energy, input, and experience, as MCI continues to educate students to undertake "social responsibility and to be thoughtful global citizens and lifelong learners."

*Retired Colonel Michael Wyly and Commander Jimmie Miller tour campus and begin preparations for the launch of the US Navy NNDCC Program. Commander Miller was most impressed with the MCI campus and classes as he toured facilities and classrooms and saw MCI students and teachers in session. MCI looks forward to this new partnership beginning September, 2021, as it opens new opportunities and possibilities for our students and families.*



**Stay up to date on MCI news and events at our website and social media accounts!**

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**Facebook:**  
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## MCI to Offer Navy ROTC In the Fall

Students interested in learning about the Armed Forces will have a new opportunity to gain experience in the fall of 2021. Facilitated by retired **Colonel Michael Wyly**, MCI has partnered with the Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) program, which is offered to qualifying secondary schools.

While earning one half credit per semester, MCI's Navy ROTC cadets will receive an introduction to all the armed services while learning about the Constitution, U.S. Government and the role of the Naval and Military Services, why we need a Navy, and good citizenship and its role in the national defense. Classes will include physical fitness training, uniforms, drills, ceremonies, and parades. All curriculum is provided by the US Navy and based on Navy Junior ROTC courses.

With a focus on citizenship, ROTC students will gain experience and credentials toward being qualified toward acceptance into military academies. They'll experience courses taught by Veteran Navy and Marine officers, and senior cadets will plan and teach some classes.



## BBT Performs Original Production for an Outdoor Audience

*Dancers took the stage together for the first time since 2019 to perform Heartbeat, choreographed and created by BBT Artistic Director, Natalya Getman*

By Elizabeth Audet

While we consider the many ways that COVID-19 has impacted and often devastated so many lives over the past year, emerging young artists have faced their own distinct set of challenges that are perhaps less noticed during times of crisis. Bossov Ballet Theatre (BBT) at Maine Central Institute (MCI), like arts education organizations everywhere, has had to find ways to work through the financial and logistical constraints that the pandemic has imposed, in order to fulfil its mission to nurture the next generation of artists and creative thinkers. Part of that challenge is to find new ways to allow these students to share their art outside the studio, with their families and the wider community.

Most of BBT's students had not had an opportunity to perform since 2019. For others, 2021 was their last opportunity to dance together. Therefore, BBT dancers were thrilled to finally have an opportunity to present a new work to the public on May 29th, on the MCI campus. According to BBT student, **Jane Weymouth**, "performing is how we are able to give something to the people—it's our way of trying to move and inspire them. We interpret different emotions and stories through our movements so that our audience can hopefully take something from this, and so that we can connect with others through something more than just words."

This desire to connect and understand formed an important part of BBT's spring production, *Heartbeat*, 8 Maine Central Institute *Alumnus*



*Bossov Ballet Theatre performs Heartbeat on Front Campus, Photo and production by Natalya Getman. Image and production Copyright 2021.*

created and choreographed by BBT Artistic Director, **Natalya Getman**. With help from a Siberian shamanic drum, this original work follows life's rhythms - its beginnings and endings - as a series of shaping moments that lead to a greater understanding and expression of who we really are as individuals. While our pursuit of happiness can be interrupted, we learn to become receptive to moments of unexpected joy and learning along the way.

Since the dancers couldn't take

their work to the theatre, an outdoor covered stage came to them on the MCI grounds, so that they could present their work in a safe and responsible manner. This opportunity was made possible by the shared vision of the greater community, with individuals joining together to create something bigger and more beautiful than the sum of its parts. This is a truth that our students learned and expressed in the studio every day, and now more than ever, cherished in sharing from the stage.



## Manson Essay Speeches Feature Diverse, Global Concerns

*Elena Rho wins speech contest with "Laws and Policies and Gender Stereotype Reinforcement," Gracie Moore selected as runner up*

On Thursday, March 25, ten MCI juniors presented Manson Essay speeches to a panel of judges in Parks Gymnasium. Winner **Elena Rho** and Runner Up **Gracie Moore** rounded out a field including **Hector Bligh, Greta Blomer, Yuran Choi, Abbie Keenan, Samantha Martin, Ava McCannell, Jillian Michaud, and Lillian Verrill**.

Under the tutelage of speaking coaches **Jason Allen, John Buys, Eveline Bailey, and Ethan Brownell**, the finalists presented admirably under unique circumstances. **Nancy Hughes, Tanya Kingsbury, and Kim Shorey** served as judges.

"The larger venue and Covid protocols made the event more stressful, I'm sure," said Allen, "but the students all performed admirably. I'm glad that we were able to offer an event that mostly resembled the Manson Essay nights of the pre-Covid world."

Buys offered the following statement in appreciation of the night's performers:

*This year's finalists performed under pressures unlike any other recent year of the Manson Essay Night. What has become one of MCI's more intimate academic celebrations was live streamed, microphoned, masked, and all under*

*the pressures of performing and sharing space during the pandemic. Our students' resilience during this time continues to impress me. Public speaking and the Manson Speech produces some of the most overwrought moments of the year. While part of this is the fear that public speaking creates, another layer is the tradition and value that surrounds the Manson Essay process. Many of these students overcame their anxieties and concerns with public speaking in the class portion to be polished and professional public speakers.*

*Most importantly, this night is a celebration of academic integrity. Sharing a well-sourced, cited and rhetorically considerate argument in a public forum is daunting. For students to step up to the podium and share their claim of policy, truth, or value on a topic that is often controversial and timely is a challenge enough, but to do it for such an extended audience is even more impressive. It displays the quality of our Humanities program and our students' initiative.*

*The topic diversity was an exciting component this year as well. It speaks to what is meaningful to students and what conversations they want to have. This year they were obviously thinking about global concerns around environmental concerns and gender equity, but also topics that were more personal to them: jazz, education, and athletics.*



*Photo by Kim Shorey*

### The Essays

**Samantha Martin:** "The Best Ways to Prevent Future Outbreaks"  
*Samantha looks at the response to the 1918 Influenza outbreak in comparison with the response to the Covid-19 pandemic for important lessons to be learned for future*

**Ava McCannell:** "Transgender Discrimination"  
*Ava argues for an end to discrimination against individuals who are transgender.*

**Jillian Michaud:** "Creativity vs. School System"  
*Jillian warns against school's minimization of creativity within curricula and advocates for efforts to bring more creativity to the classroom.*

**Gracie Moore:** "Diversification: The Key to a Successful Athletic Career"  
*Gracie argues that efforts to specialize in a single sport during high school are detrimental and encourages athletes to participate in multiple sports.*

**Lillian Verrill:** "Just as Pretty: Encouraging the Use of Native Plants in Landscaping"  
*Lillian warns against the usage of invasive species in landscaping and argues for native species to be used.*

**Hector Bligh:** "How Jazz Continues To Be Relevant Today"  
*Hector asserts that while jazz may no longer hold its former status it continues to permeate the modern world in a meaningful manner.*

**Abbie Keenan:** "Social Media's Impact on Body Image"  
*Abbie warns that the increase of social media is creating medical and psychological problems for American society.*

**Elena Rho:** "Laws and Policies and Gender Stereotype Reinforcement"  
*Elena proposes that the United States intensifies gender stereotypes by promoting policies that give exceptional attention to the protection of women.*

**Yuran Choi:** "The Counterattack of the Plastic Bag Ban"  
*Yuran warns that efforts to terminate the plastic bag are a misguided policy to end environmental pollution.*

**Greta Blömer:** "Blue, Pink, or Gray? A Case for Gender-Neutral Parenting"  
*Greta proposes that adopting a gender-neutral parenting model will help create a more equitable society.*





Volleyball on Front Campus  
Photo by Scott Giallombardo



Senior Snow Sculpture  
Photo by Eveline Bailey



Sled Relays on the back hill  
Photo by Kim Shorey

## Winter Carnival 2021: “Around the World”

*The annual tradition lives on with a bit of creative scheduling and a slate of outdoor events*

By John Dean  
MCI Director of Student Affairs and Winter Carnival Director

Covid has changed or taken away so much over the past year from our students that we as an entire community needed for the students to have a “win.” As we transitioned into the second semester of this unprecedented school year, it was obvious to us all that we needed some kind of a Winter Carnival. We knew that with the CDC and State restrictions that were laid upon us that it wouldn’t be easy, but the time and effort that would go into planning and executing this year’s Winter Carnival

would be well worth the effort.

In early January a committee of faculty, staff, and students began discussing the possibility of a Winter Carnival and if it was even feasible, which it was quickly determined that it would be, but with some changes. By moving ALL events outdoors and creating a rotation of classes around campus (two classes on lower campus and two classes on upper campus) we could have a day where we could meet all CDC and State regulations and have a competitive and fun day where the students can just be kids and forget about what they have lost and just enjoy what they have.

WC21 was moved from the last week of February to the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before February Break. The theme for the 2021 Winter Carnival was “Around the World,” and the schedule, after many attempts, was finalized. As expected the students were thrilled to hear that Winter Carnival was not canceled and that it would actually be happening.

Thursday, February 11th, kicked off WC21 with the start of snow sculptures and Quiz Bowl taking place in the evening. Quiz Bowl was the only indoor event and was live streamed to the community. A limited number of people were invited into Parks Gym, but that didn’t take away from the spirit of the event or for it to set a positive tone for the following two days.



WC Director John Dean watches over the proceedings  
Photo by Kim Shorey

Seniors showed their superior intellect and easily swept their “competition” for the first place finish.

The events continued on Friday, February 12th, with Bombardment and Sledding Relays on the lower campus. The Sophomore class came in first in Bombardment with the Juniors taking first in the Relays. Feedback from all involved was that the new addition of the Sledding Relays is a must keep for future Winter Carnivals. On front campus the classes competed in Tug-of-War and Volleyball, which was moved from an indoor event to and outdoor event. The Freshmen dominated the Tug-of-War while Volleyball more closely contested with the Juniors and Seniors share the bragging rights. Class Skits broke up the morning and the afternoon as the students showed their creativity in the development and production of a 4-5 minute skit that had to meet several criteria. The Freshmen class knock it out of the park and was awarded first place.

Winter Carnival was wrapped up on Saturday, February 13th, with Kickball on front campus in the morning and Snow Sculptures closed things out by mid-day. Seniors squeaked out first place in kickball, but ran away in the snow sculpture competition.

This years WC21 champion was the Senior Class with 119 points followed by the Sophomore Class with 97, Freshmen came in 3rd with 89 points and bringing up the rear was the Juniors with 70 points. More importantly it was 3 days where our community safely came together and the students didn’t have to worry about tests, homework assignments, papers or even Covid. They just had to hang out with their friends and have fun, which they all did and for a brief moment could just be kids.

Thanks to all that made this day possible for our students, but mostly the biggest thanks goes out to those students that showed up and made WC21 a very special event.



Top: Bombardment on the lower Campus  
Bottom: Tug-of-War on Front Campus  
Photos by Kim Shorey





## An Exercise in Perseverance

*Under strange and unprecedented circumstances, the Husky athletic community reminded us that the will to compete and persevere can triumph over adversity*

By Jim Leonard  
MCI Director of Athletics

For MCI Athletics, the past year has been a test in patience, flexibility, understanding, and empathy.

The pandemic dramatically impacted high school athletics in Maine. Face coverings were worn during competition, benches were scrapped in favor of chairs spaced to allow for proper social distancing. Spectators, if allowed at all, were limited. Athletes had daily pre-practice screenings for COVID symptoms and the terms “cohort” and “close contact” became part of the high school athlete’s jargon.

Still, we were able to get in nearly full seasons in most of our athletic programs. The fall and winter seasons started a month later than usual and featured abbreviated schedules with no playoffs in most cases. While field hockey and soccer were essentially the

same game (with masks) football was converted to a touch game with masks and without gear

One sport that did have a state-level playoff was golf. MCI Freshman Owen Moore was able to finish third in the Maine Schoolboy Individual Golf Championships at Natanis Golf Club in October.

The winter sport season was more restrictive. No fans were allowed at games (MCI live-streamed all basketball games). Players, coaches, officials and support personnel were required to wear masks. The opening tip at basketball games was removed in favor of a coin flip for opening possession. Here again an abbreviated season was played with a regional, non-state-sponsored playoff included.

The indoor track and wrestling teams practiced for months, waiting

for the season to open. In both cases, those openings never occurred.

This spring brought new hope. Full schedules with state-sponsored playoffs were held. Participation numbers were at – in some cases above – the levels from the 2019 spring season.

MCI’s student-athletes and coaches have been disciplined and accommodating around the ever-changing requirements surrounding Maine high school athletics and COVID.

On behalf of the MCI Athletic Department, I’d like to thank the Husky coaching faculty and student-athletes for their unwavering commitment to their sport, and their willingness to work through some very challenging circumstances. We have persevered.





# the ART of FLIGHT

Randall Starbird '21 is blazing  
his own path across the sky

*story and photos by Nick Miller*



It's a warm Wednesday in early April. Maine Central Institute senior **Randall Starbird** is scheduled to begin his flight lesson at the Pittsfield Municipal Airport at 2:00 pm. In a hangar attached to the main airport building, mechanics mill around a half dozen small planes. A stiff breeze sweeps up the runway and into the open garage bay.

Starbird pulls into a small parking area next to a handful of pickups owned by airport employees. After a stroll through the main building, he determines his flight instructor, Charlie Surprenant, is already in the air with another of his Central Maine Aviation students.

As he waits for Surprenant's 1970's era Piper Cherokee to appear in the sky, we take a tour of the grounds. Dozens of small aircraft line the pavement outside the main hangar, at the end of which begins a solitary runway that stretches toward the Sebasticook River. Beyond the cracked runway are early sprouts of field grass and a still leafless woodline that hems in the tiny airfield. Starbird strolls over to a larger float plane parked on rollers near the main building.

"This is like my dream plane," he says, climbing onto the floats to peer inside the cockpit. "I love the versatility of being able to land on water, but also you have the wheels so you can land on runways. I love the radial engines, I love the design, and a lot of pilots in Alaska doing fishing and hunting use that kind of plane."

Starbird has designs on a future in commercial aviation, but he said

Randall Starbird '21 checks gauges and instruments in pre-flight preparation

he wouldn't mind having his own collection of small planes some day.

It's probably difficult for some of us to imagine the freedom and attached responsibility of a private float plane, but this is more than just a pipe dream for Starbird. Beginning in the spring of 2020, he became one of the first MCI students to enroll in ground school training through the school's newly formed partnership with the University of Maine at Augusta (UMA).

MCI's aviation track begins with two courses taken through the online school AeroScholars. Students then enroll in a three-credit ground training course through UMA, which doubles as a physics credit at MCI. They then have the option to advance to UMA's Solo Flight Training and Solo to Private Flight Training courses, earning three more college credits and accumulating nearly 50 hours of flying.

Bound to remote learning by the pandemic, Starbird

completed the accredited online coursework during UMA's Spring 2020 semester, then the Pittsfield native took up flight school. He's now only a handful of training hours and two exams away from earning his private pilot's license, a task he plans to complete before embarking on a bachelor's degree in Commercial Aviation at the University of North Dakota's (UND) highly regarded John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences. Starbird's early start through UMA will allow him to bypass several courses at UND, where he will begin earning his airplane instrument ratings ahead of schedule.

In a sense, Starbird isn't so different from his classmates. He plays trumpet in the band, takes AP classes, is a member of the Model United Nations Club, and was inducted into the National Honor Society in his senior year. For all high school students, the year of graduation is a busy one. Seniors juggle increasing academic rigor



Starbird poses with his "dream plane" outside of the main hangar at the Pittsfield Municipal Airport

with the pressure of college and career prep along with managing a social life. At the same time, Starbird's passion and pursuit is wildly different from his peers.

Starbird's academic path is unique to any student to have attended MCI in its 155-year history, including a long list of family members who graduated before him, although he's not the first in his tribe to take to the sky.

Starbird is the fourth generation of his family to earn a diploma at MCI, beginning with his great-great grandmother, **Gwendolyn Hanson**, in 1920. His great-grandmother, **Shirley Lawler-McPherson '51**, was the valedictorian of her class, and great-grandmother **Rae Jean Knowles** was inducted into the MCI Hall of Fame in 2008. Starbird's great grandfather **Robert Knowles** graduated in 1952, his grandmother

**Ginger McPherson-Russell** was a Trustee from 1997-2008, and his mother **Amy McPherson-Starbird** is a 1993 alum.

In the long line of family members who stepped on campus before him, there is one that represents a kindred spirit to Starbird. His grandfather and namesake, the late **Randall McPherson '66**, was a private pilot. Although he never had the chance to take to the sky alongside his grandfather, Starbird understands the power of his legacy.

"It means a lot," said Starbird. "As I've grown older, I've discovered for myself the tradition of flying, and family is very, very important to me. I never met my grandfather, so it provides more of a connection than just being his grandson."

Starbird said his favorite air

mission happened on a day that he wasn't even the pilot, when **Charlie Cianchette '78**, a friend of Randall McPherson's, took Starbird on a ride in his private plane.

"Charlie Cianchette flew with my grandfather. He's got a twin engine plane, and I'd been dying to go up with him. We finally got a good day to go up, and we're flying around near my family's place on Unity pond. We're flying over and I could see the camp. He's like, 'all right,' and we turn hard and really buzz the top of the tree line, and they're all standing out on the deck and waving. That was a whole lot of fun."

The flight with Cianchette stands out in Starbird's memory, but it was hardly his first time in the air. As far back as seventh grade, Starbird and a friend began hanging around the airport out of



curiosity. Through their interest, they got to know Caleb Curtis of Curtis Air, which operates out of the Pittsfield Municipal Airport. They eventually secured jobs as airport lineman, refueling planes and doing odd tasks around the airport, a position Starbird still holds today.

Starbird still recalls the first day he showed up to look at planes as a thirteen-year old. “I remember specifically when we got there, Caleb (Curtis) had just landed. He got out and he was wearing this whole jumpsuit, and I thought that was so cool. You know he had this headset on and everything, like a movie or something like that. I thought ‘this is cool,’ and as I’ve worked there and made more connections, I’ve just been engulfed in it.”

The lineman job led to opportunities to ride along with Surprenant a few times, and Starbird’s parents even gifted him a flight lesson for his sixteenth birthday. By then, a passion for the open skies was well-established.

“It’s a pretty good sign [you’re going to be a pilot] when you’ve been hanging around the airport since you were thirteen,” said Surprenant.

When MCI announced its cooperative ground school program with UMA, Starbird, then a junior, jumped at the opportunity to begin his training and earn a private pilot’s license before graduating high school.

**B**efore long, a single engine plane appears, lands, and taxis from Pittsfield’s only runway toward a refueling pump near the main building. Surprenant and his student crouch down to climb out of the sedan-sized cabin, revealing



According to Starbird, there’s nothing quite like the feeling of being in control in the cockpit of a small aircraft

themselves as taller than the plane itself when they crawl off the wings and their feet hit the ground.

The sky is still clear with only a few scattered clouds, but Starbird and Surprenant both comment on the steady breeze coming out of the northwest. Landing and taking off for the lesson will be a little tricky today—but that’s part of the learning experience. Starbird flies once a week as long as the weather is permitting, which is a big “if” during springtime in Maine. But today, a little wind won’t stop him like heavy gusts or freezing precipitation might.

It’s no secret that teenagers aren’t the most trustworthy operators when it comes to cars, so it takes a certain kind of teenager to handle the responsibility of piloting an airplane, says Surprenant. As Starbird says, flight school “is a little bit more complicated” than driver’s ed.

The lessons normally begin with instruction about a particular maneuver in Starbird’s progression. From there, Surprenant will demonstrate in the air alongside his student in the two-seater plane before Starbird tries it out for

himself.

Starbird has grown comfortable with the runway at Pittsfield Municipal Airport in his 30-plus hours of flight training, but some of his most memorable days in the air involve touching down at different airports around the state.

“You have to take those experiences from landing here and apply them somewhere else,” he said. “On the runway in Dover-Foxcroft, one of the final legs where you’re looking right down the runway, there’s a hill right before it, and so the airflow over the hill dictates what your plane is going to do. You just kind of keep with it and deal with that different airflow right before you land and

Learn more about  
MCI’s aviation  
program by visting  
our website

[mci-school.org/  
academics/  
aviation-program](https://mci-school.org/academics/aviation-program)



The Piper Cherokee plane that Randall Starbird has spent nearly 50 air hours mastering

eventually you get there, and it all flattens out.”

“We’ve gone to Bangor under pretty strong winds for a small aircraft like ours. Dealing with the air pushing us over the runway and having to correct for it is pretty interesting to do,” he said.

The challenge of navigating and landing on new runways also comes with a birds-eye view that few have the privilege to experience. Starbid said, “I really enjoy going to different areas further away from here, whether that be down towards the coast or up towards Katahdin or over in the hilly western regions of Maine, days like that where you’re able to see new things from the sky, that’s a big part of it.”

These opportunities to fly over Maine’s scenic vistas are well earned. During his semester

of ground school study at UMA, Starbird’s education ran the gamut of aviation basics. This included familiarization with instruments and how the plane actually works, flight physics, weather adjustments, flight situations, and what to do in the air if something like mid-air collision occurs.

**A**t the start of today’s lesson, Surprenant walks Starbird through his preflight checklist, checking lights, oil level, and fuel quantity. For this particular flight, the two will make a five-minute journey to Waterville where they’ll practice navigating the air patterns particular to taking off and landing at the Waterville airport. The lesson involves several “touch and goes,” the aviation lingo for touching down and

immediately taking off again.

The repetition of touch and goes and the study of air patterns in Waterville are mainly academic, a term that Starbird has redefined late in his high school career. A pioneer in MCI’s aviation program, he represents the ideals of a proud, old school. He’s bold in his pursuit of new skies, at once blazing an exciting new path for others to follow and steeping himself in the legacy and lore of those who came before him. It’s a world of responsibility to shoulder, but through the rigor of aviation training, he hasn’t lost sight of the best part of being a pilot: the joy of flight.

“Maybe euphoria is a good word for it,” he said. “I mean just being able to pursue those skies and be in control of that plane, it’s a special experience.” ■



# Schedule of Events

## Friday, August 6, 2021

### Alumni Association Golf Scramble

8:00 am registration

9:00 am Golf

JW Parks Golf Course, Pittsfield

*rain or shine!*

Join MCI alumni and friends for an 18-hole golf scramble. Space is limited; reservations honored on a first come, first served basis. Arrange a foursome, or we can create a team for you. Spouses and friends are welcome to play.

**\$50 per person (includes cart and lunch)**

### Awards Celebration

4:30 pm

Savage Family Dining Room in the Trustee Memorial Student Center

Join us in recognizing the achievements of Hall of Fame inductees and our Distinguished Achievement Award recipients. Discount is \$20 per person and regular price is \$25 per person. Cash Bar.

### All Alumni Party

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Visit with alumni and friends and listen to music while enjoying a Maine summer evening. Cash bar.



## Saturday, August 7, 2021

### Registration and Historical Video

9:00 am to 11:00 am

Patterson Lounge in the Trustee Memorial Student Center

### Reunion Breakfast and Registration

8:30 am to 10:30 am

Savage Family Dining Room

Enjoy a relaxing full brunch as you gather with friends and classmates. Hot and cold offerings include fresh fruit, waffles, eggs, home fries, sausage, and pastries (vegetarian and vegan offerings available). Early bird discount price is \$10 per person and regular price is \$15 per person.

### Rededication of Ronald and Susan Friend

### Weight Room Equipment

10:00-11:00 am

Parks Gym

### Alumni Association Annual Meeting and

### Class Agents' Meeting

11:00 am-noon

Parks Gym

### Reunion Luncheon and Class Party Kickoff

1:00 pm

*Sponsored by Greg Patterson '69 in honor of Alice Shaw Patterson '48*

Join us on Boutelle Savage Front Lawn for lunch with your friends and classmates for a meal with vegetarian and vegan options available. Early bird discount is \$25 per person and regular price is \$30 per person. Cash bar.

### Class Parties (years ending in 0, 1, 5, 6)

3:00 pm

Reunite with friends and classmates! Check with your class agent, or call the Advancement Office at (207) 487-5915 for party locations.

## Reunion 2021

Join us for Reunion Weekend!

**Friday and Saturday, August 6-7, 2021**

Register online at <https://www.mci-school.org/alumni/alumni-events/reunion> or use the attached form seen below

After missing out on Reunion 2020 due to Covid-19 concerns, *we will honor classes with graduating years ending in 0, 1, 5, or 6*. Even if it isn't your reunion year, we hope you'll consider returning to campus for the celebration. See you there!

This year's Reunion Luncheon is sponsored by Gregg Patterson '69  
"To celebrate and honor my mother -- Alice Shaw Patterson, Class of 1948 -- for her love of and dedication to MCI."



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest/Children name(s) - include ages of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Event	Fee	Discount rate	# Attending	Subtotal
Friday: Alumni Association Golf Scramble	\$50	\$50		
Friday: Awards Celebration	\$25	\$20		
Friday: Party for All Alumni	Free	Free		
Saturday: Reunion Breakfast - Adult	\$15	\$10		
Breakfast - children (12 and under)	\$10	\$10		
Saturday: Reunion Luncheon - Adult	\$30	\$25		
Lunch - children	\$10	\$10		
On-site Accomodations	\$35/night per person or \$50/night couple			
Please include a donation to the <b>MCI Annual Fund</b> <i>Contributions support students, Reunion, Homecoming, and advancing MCI's mission</i>				
Total				

### Payment

\*Please make checks payable to Maine Central Institute

\*Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV code: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees

*MCI's Hall of Fame and Distinguished Achievement Award Ceremony will be held during Reunion Weekend on Friday, August 6, 2021, and all are invited to attend. Please use the enclosed registration form or contact the Advancement Office by August 1.*

### Andi Vigue '89

**Peter "Andi" Vigue** is a Pittsfield native who graduated from MCI in 1989. He earned a bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Maine in 1993 and began working at Cianbro Corporation. Andi served in several capacities at Cianbro in his early years, initially at the Bowater Mill in East Millinocket and then as Project Engineer on construction jobs across the Mid Atlantic region, including the Case Memorial Bridge in Washington D.C. He went on to earn a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Maine in 1998, and served as Cianbro's Senior Vice President of Operations before being named President and Chief Operations Officer in 2018.

As a student at MCI, Andi was a member of the soccer, football, basketball, and ski teams. He

participated in Latin Club and Key Club, was honored as a selection to Boys State, and was recognized with the Rodney F. Johonnet Scholarship.

Andi continues to live in Pittsfield with his wife **Emily Melvin Vigue '88**. His son, **Gregory**, graduated from MCI in 2016 as did his daughter, **Caroline**, in 2018. Andi is the son of **Peter G. Vigue '65** and **Carole M. Vigue '64**. His sister **Michelle Hodgins (married to Mike '86)** graduated from MCI in 1991 as did his nieces, **Margaret (Maggie) '19** and **Natalie '21**.

Andi began served on the Board of Trustees from 2010-2019. He remains active in the alumni community and has been a generous and steadfast supporter of MCI. He also served as Scoutmaster of Boy Scouts of America Troop 428, the same troop that he



earned the rank of Eagle in as a scout.

"MCI is a special place--I am truly blessed to have attended the school. I have many memories and hope by giving back that others can make their own memories as well," said Vigue.

### Ed Miller

**Eddie Miller** graduated from Orono High School in 1976 before moving onto the University of Maine to earn a bachelor's degree in Secondary Mathematics Education in 1980. After beginning his career as a teacher at Orono High, Ed accepted a job at MCI in 1983 where he remained until his retirement in 2019. He was awarded with a Faculty Chair in 2003.

Ed met his wife **Anne Vaughan Miller**, then an English teacher at MCI, in 1985. Anne taught at MCI from 1985 to 2005, becoming the school's Library Media Specialist and eventually the Curriculum Coordinator for MSAD 53 in Pittsfield. Ed served as a dorm parent in Rowe Hall and Alumni Hall in his early years before he and Anne moved into their Pittsfield home to raise their two children, **Nicholas '09** and **Cassandra '15**.

In the classroom, Mr. Miller was known for his disciplined and effective instruction in geometry and

algebra. Demanding and fair, Mr. Miller maintained high expectations for all of his students and worked diligently to help them reach their potential. Many math students who attended MCI have noted that while math wasn't their strong suit, Mr. Miller's class gave them what they needed to succeed.

During two stints as a football coach, Coach Miller served as a defensive coordinator while coaching the offensive line and linebackers. His players and fellow coaches remember him as an astute defensive tactician with a knack for drilling fundamental techniques. Over the years, Coach Miller helped develop stalwart lineman and linebackers from even the most diminutive of players. He also spent



several years as an assistant coach on the baseball team.

Mr. Miller became a Winter Carnival fixture during his time at MCI. The image of him standing on a ladder to signal the start of countless tug-of-war contests will be a familiar one to any student who participated in the festivities during Mr. Miller's 32 year run as the man in charge.

## 2021 Distinguished Achievement Awards

### Larry '67 and Cindy '70 Morton

**Cynthia "Cindy" Morton** grew up in Burnham and Pittsfield, graduating from Warsaw High School in 1970, marrying **Larry Morton**, soon after, July 4, 1970. Two years later, March 7, 1972, Jason was born. Soon, the after-school events started: Karate, soccer, basketball and football, with football being the family's favorite pastime. Shortly thereafter, a Football Boosters Club was formed and Cindy became Secretary for two plus years.

Cindy ventured into her own business of embroidered apparel at Fynl Vinyl in 1997 after working for years at Northeast Shoe and then SAS in Pittsfield.

Larry, too, maintained a working relationship with the MCI Football Boosters. He worked hard on different projects beginning with accompanying **Norm Mitchell** filming football and basketball games. He cooked hot dogs and fried onions, in

the original food trailer, and then the lighting project developed. As the light poles were set, Larry became an electrical apprentice and hardwired the panels. His final work event was to accompany **Steven Vance** in a man lift to attach the final lights upon the last and highest pole.

Although they didn't hold any further office positions, Larry & Cindy gladly offered their support for many of the other team sports, Field Hockey, Soccer, Track & Field, Basketball, Music, Cheering, Wrestling, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, The MCI Bookstore, MCI Alumni, among others in the surrounding communities. They also revived the popular letterman jackets.

Through Fynl Vinyl, Larry and Cindy formed a special bond through their dedication in outfitting the schools and sports programs, as well as businesses in the local

communities. Their devotion could be easily seen by their working late into the night, into the early morning hours, and even during the weekend to make sure their Customers had everything they needed.

Cindy, passed away on October 7, 2020, after her courageous two year battle with cancer. She was born on August 7, 1952.



### Christopher Crowley '70

A 1970 graduate of MCI, **Chris Crowley** lives in Southborough Massachusetts with his wife, Elizabeth L. Crowley. He is the father of three daughters, Meredith, Lucy and Laura. He is the Executive Vice President and Treasurer of Polar Beverages, a company his family has owned and operated since 1882. After graduating from MCI, Chris earned a degree from Nichols College before he began managing the night shift at Polar Beverages' Worcester plant for eleven years.

"MCI taught me the importance of academics," Crowley told the Alumnus magazine in a 2007 profile. "Everyone that left there was impacted in a positive way."

Chris and his brother, Ralph Jr, are part of a fourth generation of Crowley's to operate the Worcester, Massachusetts based company. While Polar has expanded with plants in Scotia, NY, and Fitzgerald, GA, they've maintained their local roots, electing to expand into an old plastics facility in Worcester when the original plant out-

grew production demand. The move helped to rejuvenate the former industrial site, and secured over 600 new jobs for the Worcester community.

The family also owns and operates Wachusett Mountain ski area, which Ralph Sr began leasing in 1969, and is managed by Chris' siblings Jeff, David, and Carolyn. Chris remains an avid skier, which he traces back to his time racing on the ski team at MCI.

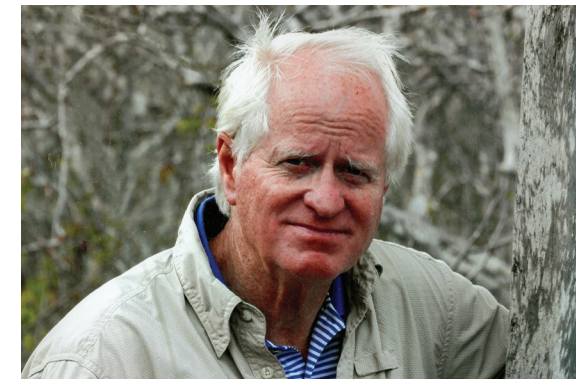
Recently, Chris and family secured naming rights for Polar Park, the home of the Boston Red Sox triple A affiliate, the Worcester Red Sox. The Park opened in 2021, and includes nearby apartment spaces, a hotel, and retail area development.

An active community member, Chris served as the Sports Commissioner in Southborough for 18 years and has been on the Board of Directors at the local YMCA for six. Chris has also helped his brother and an employee build a school for disadvantaged youth in Kenya.

Chris enjoys spending time on Cape Cod where he is an avid sailor and sail boat racer, and where the

Crowley family continues to vacation together.

In a 2004 interview with Alumnus staff, Crowley said, "I truly appreciated my education because MCI opened doors for me that were tremendously important to my development. In Worcester's huge classes I wasn't doing well. I came to MCI and gained a great perspective as I flourished in the attention provided by small classes and a caring faculty. I became grounded and who I am now was formed then. MCI's foundation became the building blocks for my life and my future."







# Honorable Reuel Robinson

## A Life and Legacy

An 1877 MCI graduate left behind a legacy of service and empathy that still resonates on our campus and around the state.

*By Patricia Skaling '63*

### Early Years

Of humble beginnings, **Reuel Robinson** was born in Palmyra in 1858, the son of a farmer, Daniel Shepard Robinson, and Susan (Bruce) Robinson. His ancestors were of old New England stock going back generations in Brentwood, New Hampshire.

Educated in Palmyra and then at Maine Central Institute, Robinson learned at an early age that life is fashioned through hard work and service to others. He once wrote that he began teaching at the age of 17 while a student at MCI because he had decided on a college course and he didn't want to burden his parents with the expenses of college. During those years, Robinson taught school during the winter and worked on his father's farm in summer so that he earned much of the money for college. He graduated from MCI in 1877 and from Bates College in 1881 with an A.B. before earning his A.M. from Bates in 1884.

While working on his masters degree, Robinson moved to Camden in 1883 and was hired as the principal of the high school. For his first year, he boarded with the family of a school board member and by all accounts was a well-liked and successful teaching principal.

In 1885, Robinson married Blanche E. Atkins, daughter of Charles and Delia Atkins who moved to Camden from Milford, Maine around 1880. Blanche was a teacher of music and an organist. Blanche and Reuel had no children.

While teaching, Robinson began studying law with Thaddeus Simonton, Esq. and was admitted to the Knox County Bar in 1888. Just thirty years old, he was elected as Judge of Probate for Knox County and served admirably, delaying the establishment of his private practice so he could concentrate on his probate duties.

### Public Service

Judge Robinson was a distinguished member of two fraternities: the Odd Fellows, for which he served in many positions both locally and statewide, and the Amity Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons in which he served in almost every capacity including eminent commander of Camden Commandery, Knights Templar, for many years.

Robinson's was a life-long commitment to the progress of the town, its economic vitality, and its prosperity. He gave freely of his time to numerous boards and organizations and was always willing to step in when there was a job to be done. For example, in 1917 and through the period of WWI, Robinson was engaged in all the war work of the community and made many speeches on behalf of the same. He was appointed by Governor Milliken to Knox County's Committee of Safety and as a special agent to review requests for exemptions for the draft. After the war ended, he served as chairman of the grandest celebration ever held in Camden honoring the returning soldiers with a huge "Welcome Home" event with parade, concerts, dancing, dinner, and speeches. In June of 1919, he delivered an



*Above: Photo courtesy of the Camden Rockport Historical Society Collection*

*Previous Page: The photo of Robinson and his bicycle was taken by Theresa Parker Babb and is found in the Theresa Parker Babb Collection of the Walsh History Center. Theresa actively photographed people and events in Camden in the late 1800s to early 1900s. Her husband, C. Wilkes Babb, ran the Knox Woolen Company in Camden. In addition to taking many wonderful photographs, she was active in Camden as a member of the St. Thomas Episcopal Church and helped establish the Camden Community Hospital (1926). She was on the Managers Board of the Home for Aged Women and belonged to several social clubs of the time.*

eloquent memorial address commemorating the many men and women of Camden who succumbed to the Spanish flu and to the war during the past year.

Chief among the industrial interests of Camden during Robinson's time was the woolen business. He became a director and assistant treasurer of the Camden Woolen Company, and as one of the organizers of the Penobscot Woolen Company, he served as a member of the board of directors and its treasurer. He served three years



as president of the Camden Yacht Building & Railway Company, and for many years was one of its directors.

With an active connection of more than 40 years with the Republican party, Robinson gave service of great value to the organization. Before the primary system went into effect, he was unfailingly a delegate from his town to the county, district, and state conventions; he worked tirelessly on the stump in every campaign for the Republican party. It was also his privilege to attend one of the great national conventions--that of 1916, held in Chicago, when the party nominated Charles Evans Hughes for the U.S. Presidency vs. Woodrow Wilson.

In addition, Judge Robinson was a member of the Camden Business Men's Association, a trustee of the Public Library, a member of the Megunticook Golf Club and the Camden Yacht Club. In his younger days he was an active participant in amateur theatricals and an enthusiastic supporter of baseball. He also served as President of the Old Ladies' Home Assn. for over 20 years. Judge Robinson was appointed postmaster in 1922 and held this important office until his death in 1927.

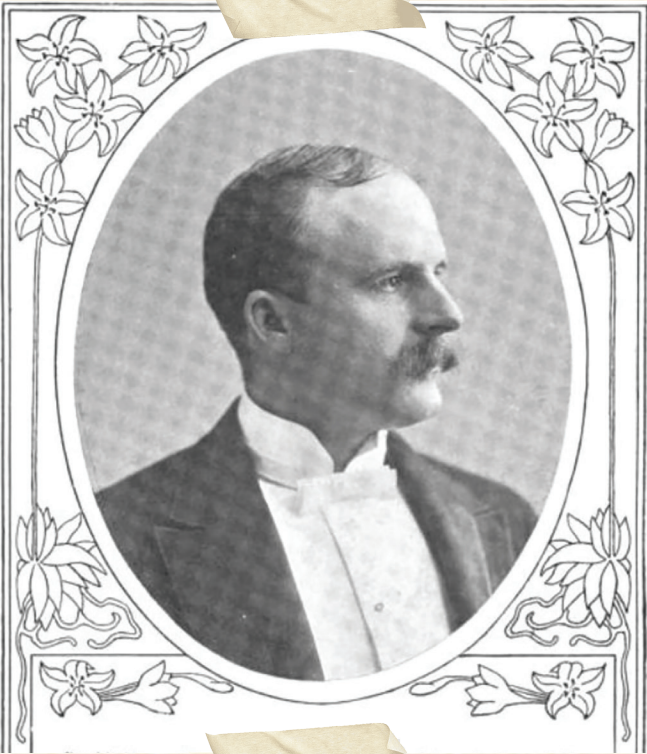
Writing and Oration

The promise which Robinson had shown as a young man, when elected orator of his class at Bates College, was fine tuned in his adulthood. He was one of the most popular orators sought in connection with Memorial Day addresses, and he officiated many important public occasions in his hometown and state. In 1907 he delivered the centennial address to his native town of Palmyra, and seven years later he was selected for a similar honor in the town of Newport.

Multi-talented, Judge Robinson was editor of The Camden Herald for three years and always considered the town's well-being, as he advocated issues earnestly and fearlessly. Unafraid to take a stance when necessary, in the summer of 1923, when the Ku Klux Klan brazenly attempted to make inroads in Maine by scheduling speeches in many communities, he famously took issue with the activities and motivations of the Klan in his editorials published in the Herald. Robinson prevailed upon the good citizens of Camden to consider the faulty thinking of the Klan's spokesmen and to be critical of all organizations that created divisiveness on the grounds of race, religion, or sectional differences. He stressed tolerance for all races and religious preferences. Long after leaving his post as editor of the paper, he continued to be one of its most prolific contributors.

In his speech at the Centennial celebration of the town of Newport in 1914, at which fifteen hundred were in attendance, Judge Robinson reminded the crowd that

“Our fathers and brothers knew that the great final struggle between liberty and slavery, between light and darkness in the world was at hand when they

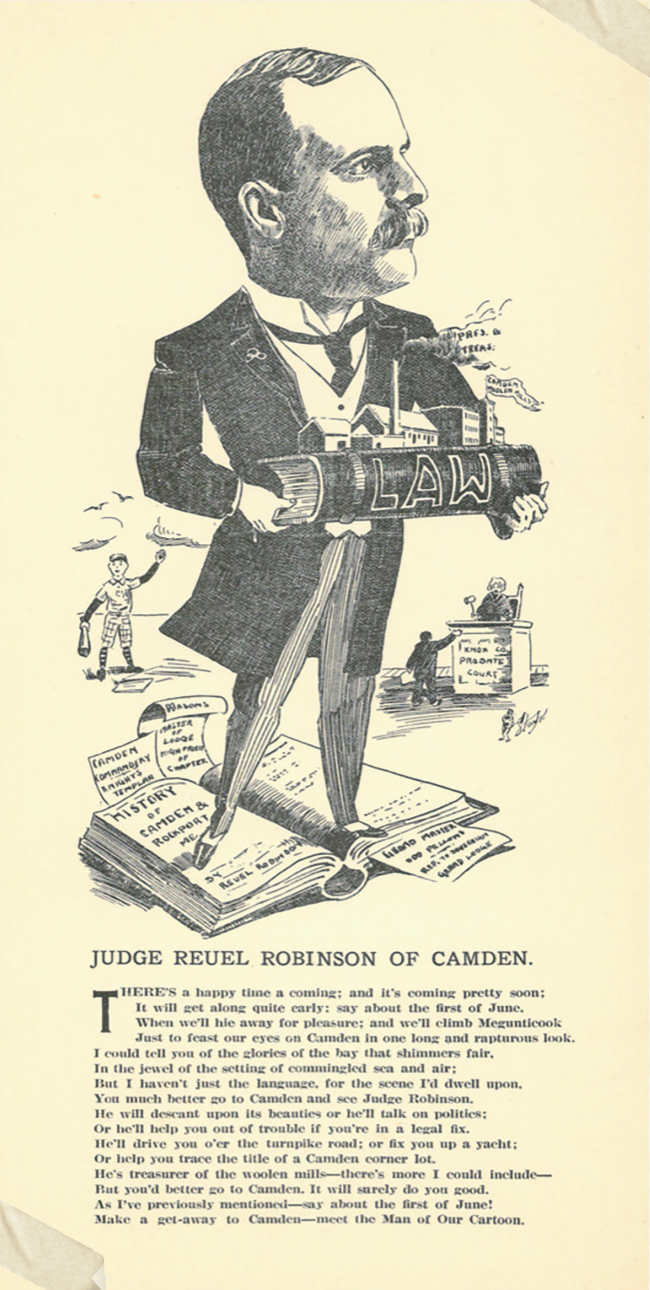


The portrait of Reuel “surrounded by lilies” was from ALBUM OF THE ATTORNEYS OF MAINE, compiled and edited by E. C. Bowler, Bethel, Maine, News Publishing Co., c.1900, p. 199.

sprang to arms in 1861, and they knew their duty and did it. One hundred and forty-nine brave men from Newport did it. ... They kept the Union whole. They kept the old flag in the sky without a rival. They tore the bonds from the limbs of Progress, the manacles from the wrists of Liberty and the hoodwink from the eyes of Justice. They rewrote the Declaration of Independence with their sword points dipped in the best blood of the land and to it they added the Emancipation Proclamation.”

Robinson enjoyed all literary endeavors and was known to write some poetry; he established a men's literary group which met weekly for discussion and dinner. The most valuable and lasting of his literary endeavors, however, were his two books, the History of Camden and Rockport, Maine and the History of Amity Lodge.

By all measures, Honorable Reuel Robinson accomplished much in his 67 years. His history volumes are invaluable gifts to the people of the Camden-Rockport area and the state, but it should also be noted that Mr. Robinson, ever the teacher, left his influence on the town in many intangible



This caricature came from the 1907 Lewiston Journal publication, “Men of the Hour as told in Cartoon and Verse.” The volume contained 152 caricatures depicting notable men in Maine. Each caricature was accompanied by a verse. The image is available at the link below: [https://digitalmaine.com/men\\_of\\_the\\_hour/](https://digitalmaine.com/men_of_the_hour/)

Robinson is the last entry on page 5.

ways. Nothing was more important to him than honesty, integrity, and service to others, as expressed in the words of Brigadier General Herbert M. Lord, Director of the United States Bureau of the Budget, who spoke at Judge Robinson's funeral:

“When I entered Bates College, Judge Robinson was a student there. He was very highly regarded in the college for his high character and ability. I learned then to have a high respect for him.... His life was always characterized by high ideals and he was in every way a good citizen. He was a steadfast friend and whenever he has served in an official capacity has given to his duties the best that was that was in him, which was a great deal.”

And by friend and fellow lawyer, Z.M. Dwinal in an editorial piece:

“I learned to know him well; always with respect and esteem. His interest and sound judgment in public affairs, his love for Camden, and his high ability as a writer and as an advocate united to create for him a standing in this community which few may hope to equal, and none to excel.” (1927)

Pat (Rodgers) Skaling '63, a retired educator, lives with her husband in Camden, Maine, where she has served on the town's Historic Resources Committee since 2011. She has participated in an archaeology dig in Maine, explored ghost towns in the west, and is working on genealogies of her and her husband's families. When researching historic details of the Camden area, she and others depend extensively on an essential reference book, The History of Camden and Rockport Maine (1907) written by Reuel Robinson. When Pat discovered Mr. Robinson was an 1877 graduate of MCI, she was intrigued and began gathering details of his life for a biographical sketch to share with the MCI community, the Walsh History Center of the Camden Public Library, and the Palmyra Historical Society.





Giulia Scuderi '21 at Rockland  
Breakwater Lighthouse  
Photo by Marta Regazzoni '21

# *the Day the World Stopped Spinning*

*By Giulia Scuderi '21*

Editor's note: Before coming to MCI for her senior year in the fall of 2020, **Giulia Scuderi '21** endured the COVID-19 lockdown at her home in Rome, Italy. This essay is a reflection on that time, in her own words. Fortunately for our community, Giulia found MCI, and spent a senior year forming lifelong friendships and earning an MCI diploma.

Every year during the first week of March, my family and I go up to northern Italy for a week or two of vacation. Since I was little, we always go to the same hotel and attend the same ski resorts. We were already hearing about some cases of coronavirus, and many areas in northern Italy were in a semi-quarantine that forced people to remain in their own regions. Despite this, my family and I left to enjoy our well deserved vacation. The travel was longer than usual. Normally the traffic slowed us down, but this time we were forced to take and cross different regions as many were blocked.

Arriving at the hotel I remember smelling the delicious aroma of freshly made waffles for the classic skier's snack that the hotel offered every afternoon. I heard my father talking to the manager: "not many people have booked rooms in the

hotel." There were so many cancellations from tourists, and people in the village had begun to never leave their homes. There were certainly advantages. The first days on the slopes were incredibly fantastic--the only people enjoying the freshly groomed snow and the sun that warms you from that dry wind on the top of the mountain were practically just us. The days were beautiful, arriving at the lifts early in the morning, with the sun rising and the smell of fresh, cold, snow ...

But on Sunday March 8, 2020, everything changed.

At dawn my alarm went off. As always, I snoozed a few minutes (or maybe a dozen). I already had in mind the image of the skiing day, arriving first on the slopes and starting to ski and enjoying the silence that was on the chairlifts. I quickly got ready and went downstairs to my parents. My mom was packing our bags while my father



had gone to warm up the engine of the car. There wasn't even the need to ask the question, I already knew that something serious had happened. In fact, I didn't even have the time to take the remote control from my parents' bed and turn up the volume of the television when a news anchor announced the official lockdown of the whole of Italy. I remember feeling something, inside my heart or maybe my stomach, a strange sensation. For a few seconds I felt lost. I didn't understand exactly what was happening. What did all this entail? A thousand messages began to arrive on my phone, and my friends wrote to me worried: "I think we won't see each other for a long time ..."

I was still bewildered, with my mother who kept telling me: "Giuli hurry up, get your things ready, we have to go home before tonight."

That was the first day of masks. Each of us had to have one when we were around. Leaving the hotel, masks were the one thing that we went looking for, but of course the fear had already reached all the people of the village where we were. The shops were closed, as well as the pharmacies and even the windows of the houses were locked. Hardly a ray of sunlight could enter, so no masks. I remember going away from that place, which has always brought me so much happiness, with bad emotions, like a nightmare that still remains in your mind even though you have already woken up.

I was confused, and to think that in the beginning it seemed to be something so distant from us, almost as if it did not belong to us. But who could have ever imagined such a situation?

And instead, from week to another we found ourselves like this, forced to stay at home, not to go to school or work, not to see our friends



Giulia Scuderi '21 and Marta Regazzoni '21 enjoy the sun on Front Campus.

and colleagues, forced to play sports from home, following the workout videos on YouTube, studying on a computer, calling our grandparents instead of going to their house for lunch like every day after school or on Sundays.

Nobody would have expected it.

I think that no one would ever have expected to find deserted streets, to take their pets out in a

limited time, to struggle in supermarkets for the last package of pasta.

With the passing of the days, weeks, and months of total isolation, closed with my family within the four walls of our house, the idea of what it would be like to have found myself strolling in my own city during that time came to my mind. With my imagination I traveled

along my mind, visualizing a different reality: I would have retraced the road I take every morning to go to school, but this time there would have been no traffic nor the problem of parking, which has always been impossible to find before. To go out with my friends for a walk in the center, but the shops are all closed this time. In the parks there are only birds looking for food, small pieces of bread that people used to throw at them, as well as the tourist attractions and museums of Rome completely empty. I no longer saw the tourists taking funny selfies close to the Colosseum. No one for the hidden alleys among the ancient buildings. My favorite cafe, a fixed stop with my friends every Saturday morning, hasn't its outdoor tables anymore, and no more the good smell of croissants and roasted coffee beans ground in the machine that makes the best coffee ever.

With the passing of the months the situation still did not improve, but I know that each of us more than once thought, "When will all this end? Will the doctors be able to find a cure? Would we remain stuck at home and away from everything and everyone forever?"

No one has ever received clear answers to these questions. Each country has used different rules and systems to ensure that cities and their citizens do not fall into a total abyss. Doctors and scientists have worked to find the vaccine, but still today we can't live a normal life, the life of two years ago.

I have mused a lot about it, I have pondered and rethought several times about what our world has gone through and is still trying to overcome today, about the causes and the effects on things and especially on people.

We all know how crucial it was to stay at home, limit contacts with

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"To be free does not simply mean having the ability to do and say what you want. The human, in my opinion, can be said to be truly free when she matures, when she realizes she is capable of choosing, or when she is able to understand which are the right choices to make--always with **respect** for others."

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strangers and, above all, respect the safety measures established by the national health system, wearing masks and gloves in case we were to go out.

In this particular historical period in which each of us in the world has faced what many consider a real war against an unknown and seemingly unstoppable enemy, fear was dominant. In addition to taking the lives of a huge number of people, this virus has brought with it a series of problems, including psychological ones. It originated a sort of psychological terrorism due to the need to stay at home, and the anxiety surrounding it spread so quickly. There weren't even sufficient health facilities for the care of everyone, especially the elderly.

The isolation that many call "forced" was not entirely limiting our individual freedom. Individual freedom is such a vast principle to represent, as it can take various forms and contexts. To be free does not simply mean having the ability to do and say what you want. The human, in my opinion, can be said to be truly free when she matures, when she realizes she is capable of choosing, or when she is able to understand which are the right choices

to make--always with respect for others. And it is during these last few months, thanks to all this situation, that I have really understood how much freedom and respect are indispensable. Today the world, with some exceptions, is choosing to do this right. In spite of economic problems that will inevitably come, it chose life.

One morning in quarantine I saw an interesting video that explained the different attitudes of two insects. On one side, there was a fly that looked for garbage, dirt and ugliness in the middle of a vast flowery meadow. On the other hand, a bee was looking for a flower to draw its nourishment from, even in the midst of filth. I think this concept can also be extended to us human beings: There are those who are attracted to the ugly and the negative, and there are those who seek positivity and beauty, even in the midst of bad things. The way I see it, this is how we all should live. Look for the positivity in all moments of difficulty such as in this period, and do not simply lock ourselves up into fear and pain. And I am happy to see that, despite the big difficulties, human beings have and still try to continue to choose beauty. ■



## Celebrating Chef Jason Harris and 27 Years of Service

It is with deep gratitude that we in the MCI community say goodbye to our longtime chef and Assistant Food Services Director, **Jason Harris**. Jay has graced our kitchen with his culinary talent and welcoming disposition for nearly 28 years. He will be deeply missed by everyone in the MCI family, most notably those who take their meals in our dining hall.

Mr. Harris joined the kitchen staff shortly after graduating from Nokomis Regional High in 1991. He was promoted to the position of Chef after four years and, eventually, to his current role as the Executive Chef.

Among his countless specialties, Jay's take on various international cuisines have resonated with MCI's boarding population for years. It's a skill he says he's learned through trial and error, a lot of research, and asking for feedback from students. "When I have a student say, 'this reminds me of something my mom makes,' that's as good as it gets for a compliment," he said. "If someone compares your food to their mom's, you know you nailed it."

**Maggie Ren**, MCI Director of Admissions, says that for international students, the first thing that comes to mind regarding their experience at MCI is how good the food is and how wonderful chef Jay is to them. Many students know his meals by heart, she says, and they show up at the dining hall just to see the surprise Jay has for them.

"It's getting to know your audience and being positive about your food," said Harris, "and usually, if you're excited about it, you build that excitement for other people, and they're more apt to try it."

Jay's genuine excitement about his food is palpable when he announces the menu before dinners and events. At boarding program family dinners, alumni weekend luncheons, and the like, folks gathered to share a meal



*Chef Jason Harris serves a meal at Reunion Weekend in August, 2019. Mr. Harris is leaving MCI after nearly 28 years in the kitchen.*

can be seen waiting for Jay's announcement of the night's menu.

Harris credits his own mother for teaching him to cook when he was seven years old. In addition to taking cooking courses in high school, Jay said he learned a great deal from colleagues **Bill Carr**, **Ed Perkins**, and **Sandy Wright**.

Mr. Carr, MCI's Food Service Manager, notes Jay's attention to detail and artistic talent, both skills that he's applied to his culinary career. These traits, along with years of practice, helped him hone his skills in cooking for large gatherings and events.

While Harris will certainly miss the kitchen, it's the people he says he'll miss the most. "Watching so many kids grow up is just fantastic. And working with part time students in

the kitchen. That's been the biggest reward of working here--seeing the kids and watching people grow up," he said. "Watching them start off being naive or scared kids and then watching them graduate as young adults is just very rewarding."

So what's next for chef Jay? After almost 28 years of service to MCI, he and his wife are ready to start a new chapter exploring and finding their way. "I want to be creative. I want to work on art, and sculpt, and craft, and still cook for myself at home and maybe even create new recipes," he said. "I'll fall into a spot and see where it takes me, and then follow it through. That's just the way I've kind of lived my life, and that's the way I'm going to continue to live it."

## What We're Reading

**Between the Notched Pines**, by **Hunter Nichols '07**  
Goose River Press, Waldoboro, Maine  
March 2021

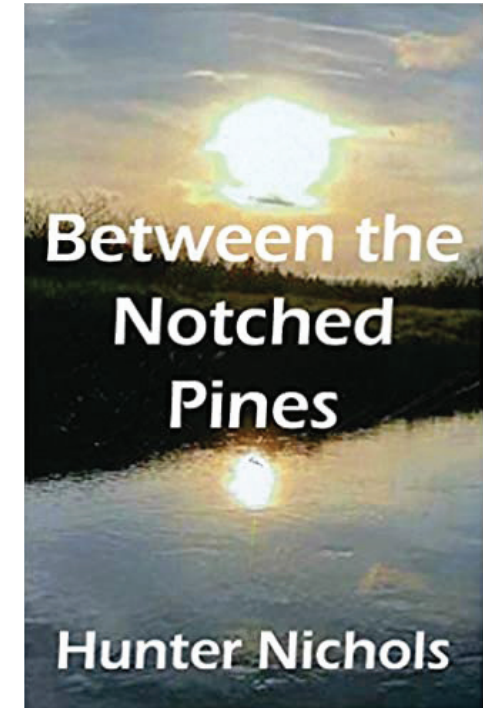
In some ways, Maine's literary traditions are as unique as the state itself. The characters found in classic Maine fiction are often harsh, always colorful, and deeply memorable, much like the land they call home. At its best, writing from the Pine Tree State explores the deep bond between the woods and waters and the people that live among them.

Fans of Maine literature will do well to pick up a copy of *Between the Notched Pines*, the debut novella from MCI's own **Hunter Nichols '07**. Released in March by Goose River Press of Waldoboro, Maine, Nichols' first work of fiction follows the exploits of Connor Hennessey, a native son of Maine, as he tries to reconnect with the wilderness and repair severed family ties.

Nichols' protagonist proves to be at least semi-autobiographical. Much like his main character, Hunter moved to Boston after high school to pursue an education and a career. After

graduating from MCI, he attended Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in Boston. He graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree (PharmD) and completed postgraduate residency at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center in Burlington, MA. Since 2015, Hunter has worked as a clinical pharmacist with a focus in Cardiology and Population Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He currently lives in Boston with his wife, Julia, but says he still likes to spend time in Maine hiking, fishing, and visiting family.

Nichols says he drew inspiration for the book from his own experiences growing up in Maine. "I grew up fishing and spending time in Downeast Maine," he said. "From catching trout in the brooks to raking blueberries, I enjoyed my time down that way, and it has continued into adulthood." His connections to Pittsfield are apparent throughout the novella as well--one scene finds



Connor crumpling old copies of *The Rolling Thunder* newspaper to kindle a fire in a wood stove at his family's fishing cabin.

Hunter's pension for literature also has roots in Maine, specifically at MCI. While he might be remembered by many for his feats as a smooth-handling guard on the basketball court in high school, he was also honing his craft as a writer. In particular, Nichols said English and Creative Writing courses with **Dr. Richard Waite** stood out as influential in his development as a writer.

As for his literary future, Nichols said, "I do have plans to write more works of fiction, so if you like *Between the Notched Pines*, stay tuned."

*Between the Notched Pines* is available on Amazon, Bookshop and other online retailers. It's also in stock at several independent bookstores, most recently in Maine at Sherman's Maine Coast Book Shop, which has locations in Bar Harbor, Damariscotta, Boothbay Harbor, Freeport, and Portland.

*Left: Hunter Nichols '07, author of Between the Notched Pines, poses with his catch on a recent vacation to New Zealand.*







Greetings to all,

This year’s MCI Reunion Weekend scheduled for August 6 and 7 has all the makings for becoming one of the largest, most fun and most unique School Reunions ever held! There are three items that will make this Reunion Weekend extra special and the one Reunion you should not miss:

**First**, not only the classes with graduation years ending in “6” and “1”, but also last year’s Reunion classes ending in “5” and “0”, who could not gather to celebrate last year due to the pandemic, are being asked to gather on campus to be honored at this Reunion Weekend. This doubling of the honored classes means a doubling of the number of class parties on Saturday night and a doubling of your chances of meeting up with your own classmates and those from nearby graduation years. For example, the honored Classes of 1970 and 1971 will be doing their celebrating at a big joint 50th Reunion party they have organized and will be held at a new local venue complete with a live classmate band! The Roaring Twenties are indeed back now that large gatherings are permitted again.

**Second**, this will be the first Reunion Weekend in recent years almost completely organized and staffed by volunteer members of the MCI Alumni Association. We took on this new challenge at the request of the school, and have worked hard for the past few months to make sure all the usual much loved Reunion events are in place to make this Reunion a very successful and memorable one. However, we still need local alumni and those coming to Reunion from away to volunteer and to assist at Reunion events. If you are interested in assisting, contact me as soon as possible.

**Third**, The Executive Committee has revamped the organization by updating and revising its mission, goals and its structure by carefully rewriting its Bylaws last fall to reflect these changes. We are now promoting various social fun events to enable alumni to interact and reconnect with each other. Our Alumni Association Zoom Trivia Nights were a big hit this past winter. Another exciting change is that the MCI Class Agent program is now part of the Alumni Association. Please plan on attending the brief Annual General Meeting in Parks Gym on Saturday morning at 11 am, to hear more about these important changes in the Association, our plans for Alumni events, to participant in the election of Executive Committee Officers, and to vote to formally adopt our newly revised Bylaws which you can view on the MCI website under the Alumni Association, on the Alumni page. If you would like to serve on the Executive Committee, as an elected or appointed officer, please contact me before the Annual Meeting.

Remember, all MCI graduates and former students who attended MCI for at least one school year are considered Regular Members of the Association with full voting rights.

Also, an important reminder for all you Alumni who are golfers and your golfing buddies, the MCI Alumni Association Golf Scramble is scheduled for Friday August 6th, at J. W. Parks, here in town. This is our primary fundraiser to enable the Association to offer two Alumni Scholarships to a male and a female Senior whose parents are Alumni of the school, as well as giving each graduating Senior the traditional tee shirt that lists the names of the Senior class. All funds raised from the sale of the \$125 Golf Scramble Tee and Hole sponsorship signs to Alumni, Reunion classes, and area businesses go directly to providing these things to the Senior Class. Please fill out a Golf Scramble registration form and send it in to Sharon Savasuk at the MCI Advancement Office.

Please rest assured that all required covid-19 prevention rules in effect at the time of Reunion will be observed, to make this in-person event a safe event for all.

Check the MCI Alumni Association Facebook page frequently for updates on MCI Reunion Weekend and Class activities. Your help and ideas are always welcomed. An outstanding MCI Reunion Weekend awaits you! See you on campus.

Best regards,

  
**Milton Webber ’71**

Your Alumni Association President  
207-416-5125  
mci.alumni.assoc@gmail.com  
identities.bymawebber@yahoo.com

**Class of 1942**

**Jim Scribner ’64** wrote to tell us of the passing of his father, Herbert C. Scribner due to a brain aneurysm at home in Lakeland, FL. Herb Sr. was predeceased by his first and second wives and his second son **Herbert J., Class of ’65**. He is survived by his loving family of 3 children, a daughter-in-law and a step daughter, as well as 7 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. He is deeply missed by his son **James ’64** and his granddaughter **Danielle, Class of ’02** and numerous family and friends.

**Barbara Vigue Day**  
Class Agent

**Class of 1957**

**John Meyer** – son of **Flixena Cole Meyer** -- notified us that his mother has passed on. Flixena Cole Meyer (sister of current alumni Betty Cole) passed away on January 15, 2019 in Fort Worth, Texas. She was living with me at the time and I was going to move her up here with me in May 2019 but unfortunately she didn’t make it to come back up. She loved coming to visit during the summer and as we drove through the campus, she would always tell us stories of what buildings were what and how she had such fond memories of being at MCI. Thank you.

Class Agent Needed

**Class of 1958**

We were sorry to learn of the passing of **James B. Booker** (Jim, Mr. B or Captain) to his friends on September 27, 2020 from complications following a stroke earlier this year.

Class Agent Needed

**Class of 1959**

**Judith Mercier Vacchina ’62** notified us of the passing of her sister, **Sandra Mercier Friend** on March 25, 2020. Our condolences to the family.

**James MacMichael**  
Class Agent

**Class of 1963**

**Patricia Rodgers Skaling** writes, “I have finally finished gathering information on

**Reuel Robinson, 1877** graduate of MCI, who played such an important part in the development of Camden, Maine, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. My fascination with Reuel Robinson began when I stumbled upon the fact that he had graduated from MCI. What interested me was that Reuel Robinson is a near-celebrity in Camden, especially among local historic researchers, but seemingly unknown at MCI. I guess I felt a kinship and responsibility to let MCI in on his accomplishments and his importance to the mid-coast area. In Camden and mid-coast Maine, his book is constantly consulted and often quoted, for he wrote a definitive history of Camden and Rockport from early settlement days to the year his book was published in 1907.

His book, THE HISTORY OF CAMDEN AND ROCKPORT MAINE, chronicles the early days of the two villages of Camden and Rockport. He wrote of the people, the town governances, the industries, the politics, and of world events and wars as they affected the local towns. He wrote with authority, confidence, and clarity conveying the personalities of the towns, the townspeople, the times, and of mid-coast Maine during its formative years.”

**Janet Viger Bryant**  
**Marcia Sprague Hodson**  
**Wayne Pinkham**  
Class Agents

**Class of 1964**

Our sympathy to **Patricia Elkins Pratt**, whose husband, Billy passed away.

**Jim Scribner** wrote, Hello Dear Barb! I’ve been intending to put pen to paper for weeks now but I can’t seem to get around to writing you a card thanking you for your tree planting for my dad. It’s a gesture I’m sure he would’ve appreciated greatly. I’m still working with the VA trying to get the Veterans’ WWII memorial plaque for his gravesite. (It’s a simple formality with VA. I’ve found them pleasant and helpful).

I received a Condolence card from Chris McDonald and wish to extend our thanks to him for his thoughtfulness. Your card was most welcomed and a great way to catch me up!

Chip has been pretty patient with my political rants! We agreed on most points. Hopefully that’s over for a few terms? I’m not sure when recreational travel will resume. I can tell you I’m ready! It looks like Vaccines will be our best weapon vs viruses?

I wrote to Pat after I got her news of Bill! Terrible. I’m glad she’s got hearty genes and survived it!

Dad must have had a mild infection and was in its last stages of mending, (judging from his diarrhea, a late symptom?) He may have been weak or balance compromised as well? His nurse FaceTimed me and explained the bleeding on his brain would not be addressed and I was able to say goodbye. I regret he had to leave, before our lives opened up again. This wasn’t the retirement he’d planned!

Not much else to write about! I had forgotten we had the e-link and thought I’d give it a try.

**Barbara Vigue Day**  
Class Agent

**Class of 1966**

Our class notes from the spring of 2021 were inadvertently omitted from the Alumnus. When we realized we sent those notes out to the class in email, but of course it didn’t go to those for whom we don’t have an email address. If you would like a copy of them, please let me know and I’ll forward them to you. And please send us your email address anyway. I still have four audio recordings of our MCI graduation in 1966. If you would like a copy, let me know and I’ll send you one.

I had a very fun phone conversation with **Philip Levesque** who lives in Idaho. He wrote:

A Memorial Day Tribute for Contemplation

If you are able - save a place for them inside you and save and backward glance when you are leaving for places they can no longer go. Be not ashamed to say you love them, though you may or may not have always, take what they have left and what they have taught you with their



dying and keep it with your own. And in that time when men decide and feel safe to call war insane, take one moment to embrace those gentle hero's you left behind.  
**Major Michael Davis O'Donnell, 1970,**  
Hamburger Hill

What follows is my history to date: After graduating from MCI in '66 I enlisted in the U.S. Navy Seabees - two tours in Vietnam and one-and-a-half in Iceland. In '70-'74 I attended St. Thomas University of New Brunswick (Bi-Campus), in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. In '74 earned a BA in English Literature. For 4 years I played Rugby and was President of the University Rugby Club in '74 at St. Thomas University. In '72 I participated in the University Rugby tour, Eastern Division. In '73 I studied Sculpturing and Architecture in Florence, Italy. In '85 I attended Arizona State University in Tempe and played rugby for the ASU Sundevils. I did not complete the degree - the GI Bill was terminated. In '76-'83 I was a Building Renovator in Aspen, Colorado and played rugby for the Aspen Gentlemen. In '83 I lived in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire and was a Building Renovator. From '86-'92 I lived in Park City, Utah as a Building Renovator. From '92-'00 lived in Hattiesburg, MS as a building Renovator for the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). I also owned and operated an antique shop. I currently reside in Sandpoint, Idaho (land of shimmering mountains from Indian lore). I have four brothers that attended MCI: **Romeo '58, Laurels '64, Thomas '68 and Gregory '74.** My father, Romeo, and sister, Patricia Mae, are buried in the Pittsfield Cemetery. I have two sons: Sean, 32, and Luke, 31, and a granddaughter, Javelin Jade, 13. In 2010 I contributed monies in memory of Mr. Dave Lahait for his passion in athletics, who was my mentor, teacher, coach and friend while at MCI.

**Rex Fowler** wrote: We were thrilled with our Simon and Garfunkel show (and our set that followed too). The audience went bonkers. So great to be playing in front of people again...

I am sorry to report that our following classmates have died:  
**Prescott Arnold**  
**Richard Burkinshaw**

**Albert Brewer**  
**William Mitchell**  
**Daniel Oakes**  
**David Joseph Poulin**  
**Francis Skillin**  
**James Allen McConnell**  
**David Robb**

I will be sending you a letter soon about our Reunion plans on August 6-7, 2021 which is going to happen!

I would LOVE to hear from you!

**Anna Parker**  
Class Agent

**Class of 1967**  
**Brian “Rusty” Stevens** writes, “After living in Cape Elizabeth, ME for 19 years and operating Handyman Services of Maine there, Vicky and I decided to build a log home on the lot where the family camp was at Cold Stream Pond in Enfield, ME. We enjoy visitations from my adult children and our grandchildren in the summer. We do enjoy going to Destin, FL for 3 or 4 months in the winter as the snow and cold is just too much to take at the lake. I am still in touch with **Paul Means '67** as Paul does an excellent job at Means Wealth Management in Bangor, ME. Where are all the Weymouth Hall guys from ‘67?”

**Twilda (Ouellette) Shameklis '67 and David J. Poulin '66** met in 1962 and were MCI high school sweethearts. We would attend the basketball games sitting at the same spot every time. We also attended all the proms together. David first proposed in 1967 after my graduation, but I wanted to see the world. We married others. David lost his wife (Suzanne) after 22 years and I lost my husband (Bruce) after 44 years of marriage. Both were due to auto accidents.

David and I had not even seen each other over 40 plus years since I lived out of state. When we actually started talking, it was amazing how much our lives were so much alike. We both had 2 children and 6 grandchildren. It was fun getting caught up and comparing our lives. Eventually we both started attending the class reunions and the proms just like old times. David proposed again two more times. We finally married July 29, 2020. We didn't have enough time together. He

passed on January 21, 2021. I am thankful for the time we had and the memories MCI helped create for us. Twilda

**Sheilya Cookson Voter**  
Class Agent

**Class of 1968**  
**Sharon Ringuette** writes: Like all the other MCI Alumni classes, I'm sure the class of 1968 is happy to put 2020 in the rear view mirror. Now we are doing our best to recover and look ahead to healthy, happy days with friends and family and getting back to “normal living”, whatever that may look like! Hopefully the scheduled Alumni Weekend in August 2021 will go forward as planned. Although we missed the annual MCI Reunion last year, in September a small group of us was able to safely gather for a bonfire hosted by **Steve and Dora (Barrett) Miles** at Unity Pond and a cookout with **Ellery and Rose Ann Hathorn. Dawn (Peterson) Cox** tells me that after a year of hibernation in Florida, she and Jesse are looking forward to Reunion and a couple of months on Unity Pond this summer with some day trips around the state. Dora and Steve stay in touch often and are both well and keeping busy. **Cheryl (Foster) Duplessis** and I had a couple of lovely visits while I was with my sister in Florida. She is happy to be permanently relocated to a much warmer climate. A few classmates are friends on Facebook and keep in touch there but the MCI Class of 1968 Facebook page has been quiet. Sadly, to my knowledge, we lost two classmates this past year, **David Temple**, and **Ralph Debay**. Our deepest sympathies go out to their families. Let us all cherish our friendships and treasure our memories. Be well, my friends!

**Class of 1970**  
**Martha Lloyd** emailed: I still hold a retired active RN license in the state of Washington, so have been able to do volunteer work during the pandemic, initially working in the COVID-19 phone information bank of our local health department, and now by being a volunteer vaccinator 1 to 2 shifts per week. Feels GREAT to be getting “shots in arms” and seeing all those happy folks. AND I got to have a birthday party this year April 22nd in our backyard with our fully vaccinated friends. Jim and I are planning on

attending reunion, I am on the planning committee, and look forward to seeing everyone at the Friday night party on the MCI lawn, the Saturday luncheon (gotta beat 1971 as the loudest cheering class), and at the class party at Outland Farm Brewery!

**Alan Kennedy** writes: I actually took a part time job as a courier. I drive from Hermon to Dover-Foxcroft to pick up lab specimens and take them to Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor. 7:45pm - 10:30pm leaving my whole day open. I have tickets to the Ryder Cup golf tournament in Wisconsin at the end of September. This was postponed from last September because of Covid. Going to be a nice road trip.

**Bill Cunningham** is putting in a high tech indoor lap swimming pool to keep in shape to better his chances of reaching 100 in good health like his mother, former longtime SAD 53 first grade teacher, **Pat Cunningham**, has done this year. Bill continues helping the Town of Pittsfield construct a public carry in boat launch at Fendler Park on the mill pond. Permitting has been just completed with much help from Kleinschmidt Associates and Cianbro. The next phase involves putting the project out to bid and then raising donations from the public and obtaining in kind donations of materials to make this important community recreational project a reality, giving local paddlers easy and safe access to this interesting part of the Seabasticook River.

Our super duper “make up” 50th Reunion MCI-Warsaw Class of 1970 Party will finally be held jointly with the Class of 1971 at the Outland Farms Brewery in downtown Pittsfield on Saturday August 7. As soon as possible, contact Bill Cunningham '70 at docbille@gmail.com to obtain an advanced party registration form to use to obtain Tickets to this one time milestone reunion party before they sell out.

**David England** writes, “I am looking forward to the up coming MCI reunion weekend that will be held in August. The luncheon is always a great get together for the whole school. This year our class will be celebrating 50+1. We (class of '70) will be having a combined class party with the class of '71. Susan and I are looking

forward to attending this monumental event. I hope to see and talk to all who are planning to attend.

**Bill Cunningham**  
**David England**  
**Martha Lloyd**  
Class Agents

**Class of 1971**  
**Jean Zarate** wrote “My husband, George, and I are looking forward to celebrating our 45th wedding anniversary and spending time at our camp in Plymouth this summer. Our grandson, Leo, is now 7 years old and he keeps us busy walking on forest trails and searching for sea glass at the beach. I hope to be able to meet up with some of my high school friends at our 50th class reunion in August.”

**Patricia Green Halpin** wrote that her husband of 9 years passed away two years ago of lung cancer. We send her our condolences. Many classmates said that because of covid, they didn't really do much during the last year, but they hope to come back for reunion.

We are gearing up for our reunion party with the class of '70 and hope that many of you can come back on Aug. 7. Thanks to **Milton Webber** for his efforts with the Alumni Association to do the planning for reunion this year.

**Laurie Fitts Loosigian**  
**Jeffrey Knights**  
Class Agent

**Class of 1973**  
Hi all,  
I hope this past year has been good to each of you. It's been a long, quiet one on our end. Despite the pandemic restrictions, David and I continued to do all the outside activities we enjoy doing during the summer, fall and winter. Spring has come and we are happy to get the bicycles out and the golf clubs dusted off. We are looking forward to David's 50th reunion in August which his class will share with the Class of 1971. It is shaping up to be a fun weekend with many classmates planning to attend. It will be good to see friends.

**Sue England**  
Class Agent

**Class of 1974**  
**Sylvia McNichol** wrote, “My Aunt Fronie bought the Reifschneider house on Lancey Street years ago and some furniture went with it. When she sold the house she gave the furniture away and **Sukie Berry McGowan** took a couch. Sukie found an MCI class ring in the couch. She brought it to me and with **Tania Rogers Carnick, Brian Rogers & Mark Lary's** help it is now back with its owner, **Gene Louis Rumery, class of 1967.** He is very happy to get it back.”

**Vera Lloyd Bryant**  
Class Agent

**Class of 1976**  
Hi All ~ Hope you've all survived the Covid- 19 so far & have gotten or are getting your vaccine shots.. The owners or the Mgmt Co. of my apartment set up a small exclusive clinic for the 40 of us, so, I got the shot.

I'm doing fine except for a bum left shoulder. My left upper arm is swollen to the point where if it blows up anymore I'll have a major problem. I had an ultra sound and it said there's something there, but what they don't know. There's no pain, just major discomfort and the feeling that I'm lugging around a part of a suit of armor. I don't have the range of movement I should have and have to be careful trying to hold something lefty. They tried to give me an MRI at SVH, but the dude kept trying to stuff a pillow under my arm so he could get a better picture and I had to quit as the discomfort got too much to stand, so I was told to get a sleeping MRI in Bangor but at the time I didn't have a way to get there. A colleague of mine from the Historical Society has offered to run me up. Will wait and see what happens.

In other news from the Pitts, the old Edwards plant is now plant #1 in Pittsfield for Puritin & the one on the Waverley (Behind what used to be the Quints place, the old N.E. Shoe/SAS shop) is now the #2 plant. The owners had the part of the place where Good Box was for a short time in the mid 70's torn down.

As far as I know now, as of this writing, there will be no Egg Fest again this Yr. due



# In Memorium

to Covid-19 and the same for the Museum. I saw **Milt Webber** in Bud’s and asked about Reunion. Plans are being made to have Reunion August 6 & 7, pending any new developments.

I still see some of you from time to time to chat with. My email is Phtoman\_flash@yahoo.com  
You all take care, stay well.

Historically yours,  
**Don Hallenbeck**  
Class Agent

### Class of 1979

The class of ’79 has had a few Zoom get-togethers since last fall with much laughter and reminiscing. So good to see faces and hear voices in these trying times. We are looking forward to getting together.

My husband **Milton Webber ’71** and I went on a trip to Arizona in February where we met up with **Debbie Feegel**. She is doing well just outside of Tucson running her own direct care business.

I have been working the Northern Light Covid Vaccine Clinics in the area and seeing many of our classmates and friends. **Sherry Mayhew Littlefield** is the Superintendent of SAD 53 and has been volunteering at the clinics. Much to our surprise, Ms. O’Donnel (Mrs. McCaseline) Warsaw Gym teacher was in for her vaccine on the same day that **Debbie McLaggin** (who checks in on her mother weekly, from her home in Gray), came in for hers. We had a great time reminiscing. **JoAnn Cook** is retired from the Post Office. **Trudy Bickford Ames** is still working at Varney Chevrolet.

**Jay Pease** continues to work at the DCI Dialysis Clinic in Fairfield, and has 2 grand-daughters. He and his wife Sonia live in Oakland.

**Mark Lary** continues to send updates from Bean’s Corner where he is busy building and will be headed to Eastport soon for summer projects. I saw them both at the funeral of **Scott Small**. Another of our classmates gone too soon.

**Kathy Kelley**  
Class Agent

### Class of 1980

**Andy Haynes** notified us that his sister, **Linda Louise Haynes** passed away due to natural causes. A small service was held for her due to Covid-19 restrictions, and she has been buried at the Pittsfield Village Cemetery on Peltoma Ave. Our condolences to her family.

**Belinda Lawrence LaFlamme**  
Class Agent

### Class of 1984

**Trish Brown Cianchette** writes: I am a proud mother of 2 sons that both graduated from Maine Maritime Academy, and both earned degrees in Marine Engineering Operations. They now have their own families; my oldest son, **Zack Littlefield**, graduated from MCI in 2011, and he and his wife, Patty, have a 4.5 year old son; my youngest son, **Tanner Littlefield**, graduated from MCI in 2014, and he and his wife, **Emily, (McAlpine,** who also graduated from MCI), have a new baby boy that was born on April 3rd. As for myself, I decided later in life that I wanted to become a nurse and follow in my mother’s footsteps, so I pursued my career goal and graduated with Honors from University of Maine Fort Kent with a Bachelors Degree in Nursing in 2020 and am currently working on the Medical/ Surgical Unit at Maine General Hospital in Augusta. I am very much looking forward to seeing the Class of ’84 at our next class reunion and hope you are all doing well!

Class Agent Needed

### Class of 2008

**Ethan West** has found his purpose in merging his upbringing as a farmer with his MBA education from Chaminade University to deliver on his deep-rooted commitment to sustainable agriculture. Ethan has worked for years to improve Hawaii’s food system and food security while decreasing our dependence on imported goods and was recently named “Young Professional of the Year” by Pacific Edge Magazine and his company, Punahale Provisions, was named a finalist for “Best New Business”. In early 2020, Ethan founded Punahale Provisions, a public benefit corporation that specializes in producing baby food using sustainable, Hawaii-grown ingredients with the mission of bringing the best foods for the

world to the world. He actively advocates for innovation in Hawaii’s food industry and diversifying our economy by advising private industry and public policy.

Ethan is a role model for other young professionals and believes in service over self. He dedicates his time to serving his community through many various roles, including serving as Vice President of the Board of Directors for O’ahu Resource Conservation Development Council (ORCD), as an active member of the Hawaii Agricultural Foundation’s 2020 Localicious leadership council, and as a member of the Advisory Board for Waipahu High Schools Academy of Professional and Public Services. Past service has also included work with the American Heart Association and the Hawaii Seal of Quality evaluation committee.

**Tyler LePage**  
Class Agent

### Class of 2017

**Carter Pearl** shares: I am happy to share that on May 15th I graduated Magna Cum Laude from Stonehill College with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) degree in Finance and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Economics. I am extremely grateful for all of the opportunities I was afforded during my time at Stonehill and the tremendous guidance I received from the faculty and staff. I am also excited to announce that I have accepted a full-time position as a Financial Advisor at Financial Benefit Services Raymond James in Portland, Maine. After interning with the firm the past two summers, I look forward to expanding my role in the company. I am beyond grateful to all those who have supported me these past four years and am excited to begin my new role.

**Carter Pearl**  
Class Agent

**Linda Amsden**  
**Douglas Archibald**  
**Gloria Debeck**  
**Rae Jean Knowles**  
**Marcia Wilson**

**Barbara Hammond Withers ’41**  
**Herbert Scribner ’42**  
**Meredith Holt Dowling ’44**  
**Ryan Fendler ’45**  
**Elizabeth Coolidge Whalen ’48**  
**Joyce Beattie Williams ’48**  
**Adolph Gingras ’51**  
**Frederick Maher ’51**  
**Lois Snow Brooks ’51**  
**Asa “Brian” Craig ’53**  
**Joyce Bane Holt ’53**  
**Richard Merriman ’53**

**Faye Ellingwood Shaw ’53**  
**Margaret Kinney Thompson ’55**  
**Justine Estes Marks ’57**  
**Alfred Menendez ’57**  
**Valerie Havey Varney ’57**  
**James Booker ’58**  
**Robert Foster ’60**  
**Ruth White King ’61**  
**Currie Stafford ’62**  
**Hollis Andrews ’63**  
**Winthrop Johnson ’63**  
**Stephen Warren ’63**  
**Rae Pease Williams ’64**  
**Ronald Friend ’65**  
**Brian Rogers ’65**  
**Terrance Withee ’65**  
**Prescott Arnold ’66**  
**Albert Brewer ’66**

**Daniel Oakes ’66**  
**David Poulin ’66**  
**Thomas Brzezinski ’67**  
**David Temple ’68**  
**Ralph Debay ’68**  
**Roland Coulombe ’70**  
**Cynthia Young Morton ’70**  
**Donald Fendler ’72**  
**Kathleen Viger ’75**  
**Ronello Reynolds ’79**  
**Scott Small ’79**  
**Linda Haynes ’80**  
**Debora Jones ’83**  
**Rex Ludden ’83**  
**Linda Lovely Lary ’85**  
**Christopher Hathaway ’01**

### Rae Jean Knowles

of Marco Island, Florida and Unity, Maine passed away peacefully on March 7, 2021 in Naples, Florida at age 93. She was born January 5, 1928 in Hartland, Maine the daughter of Rae and Gwendolyn (Hanson) Randlett. Rae Jean was educated in Hartland schools and was a graduate of Hartland Academy. In 1946 she married Clarence Towle with whom she had one daughter. Upon his tragic death in 1956, she faced the challenge of raising her daughter alone. To support herself and her daughter she held multiple jobs. Rae Jean became the Director of the Hartland School Lunch Program as well as the summer cook for the Commodore Club and later Camp Dexter and Wild Goose Camp for Boys. She also served as hostess at the Lancey House in Pittsfield, Maine.

In 1960 she married Robert (Bob) Knowles. They were a team who together owned and operated several successful businesses. From the early sixties to the late seventies, under their leadership, Unity Raceway became one of the best short tracks in New England. In 1971 they founded Maine X-ray, which at the time of sale served all of northern New England.

Rae Jean served on many boards and civic organizations. She served on the Hartland School Board, was a trustee of Maine Central Institute and in 2008 was inducted into the MCI Hall of Fame. She was a life member of Bethlehem #36 Order of the Eastern Star and Anah Temple #160 Daughters of The Nile.

Rae Jean is survived by her husband of 60 years Robert (Bob) Knowles, her daughter Ginger Russell and husband, Charles of Naples, FL; granddaughter Amy (McPherson) Starbird and husband, Michael of Pittsfield, ME; and great grandson, Randall Starbird of Pittsfield, ME.



### Ryan Fendler ’45

died peacefully at Gosnell Memorial Hospice Home in Scarborough, on April 30, 2021, at age 94. Ryan grew up in a large family in Rye, N.Y., and spent several summers of his youth in Newport, Maine.

He was the twin brother of Donn Fendler who famously survived being lost on Mt. Katahdin for nine days in 1939 when they were 12. Ryan was always proud to be the twin who didn’t get lost.

He received some of his secondary school education at Maine Central Institute in Pittsfield, Maine and served in the Navy during WWII. He resumed his education after the war, met Barbara Rogers in Rye, and they were married in 1949. After he finished Hobart College, they moved to Pittsfield with two baby sons in 1952.

Over time, they had three more children. He drove steady growth at Church Goods Manufacturing (now known as CM Almy) in Pittsfield. He helped found the Kiwanis Club anco-founded the Pinnacle Ski Club Ryan also served on the Boards of Sebasticook Valley Hospital, Maine Central Institute and the Training and Development Corporation, the Mark Maine Commission, and he was a Somerset County Commissioner. He was inducted into the MCI Hall of Fame in 2013. Ryan was a ski ambassador at Sugarloaf. He also served on Boards of Directors of the Transportation Museum at Owl’s Head and the Pen Bay Medical Center in Rockland. Also at Pen Bay, he volunteered in the Emergency Room. Ryan’s final organizational involvement was with Partners for World Health, a Portland organization that gathers surplus medical equipment and sends containers-full of it, along with groups of medical professionals, to provide supplies and training in developing countries.







MAINE CENTRAL INSTITUTE

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# DO YOU HAVE YOUR DUCKS IN A ROW?

Dr. Manson did when he planned his estate to fund and establish the Manson Essay, build Manson Park, and provide a residence for MCI's Head of School. What will your ducks do for future MCI students?



Learn more about MCI's Heritage Society by contacting the Advancement Office at 207-487-5915.