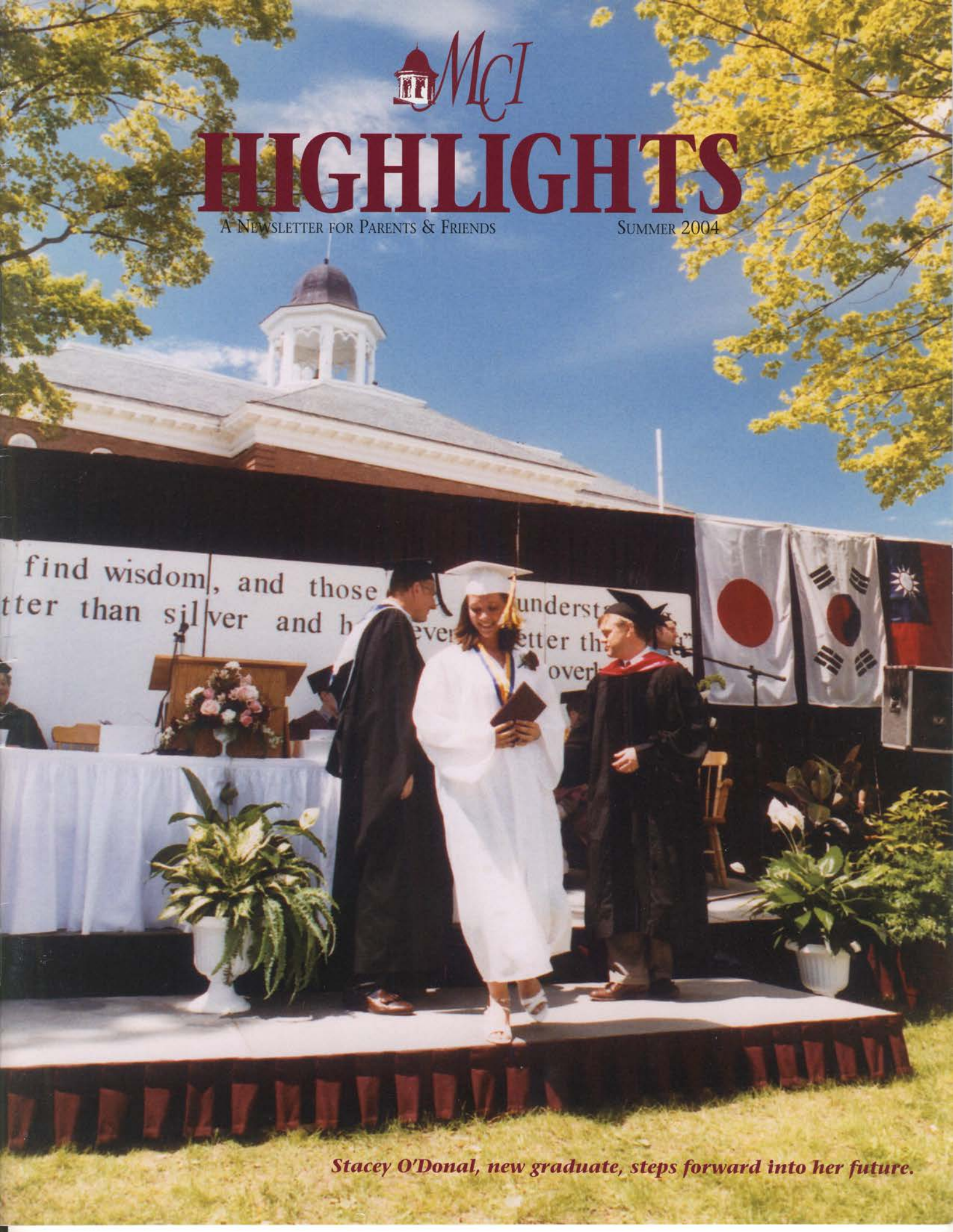




HIGHLIGHTS

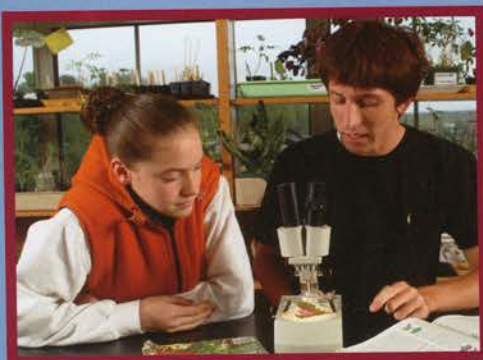
A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & FRIENDS

SUMMER 2004



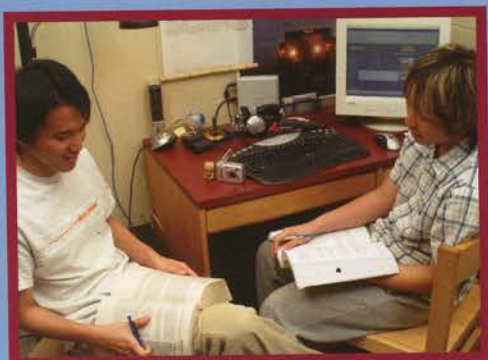
Stacey O'Donal, new graduate, steps forward into her future.

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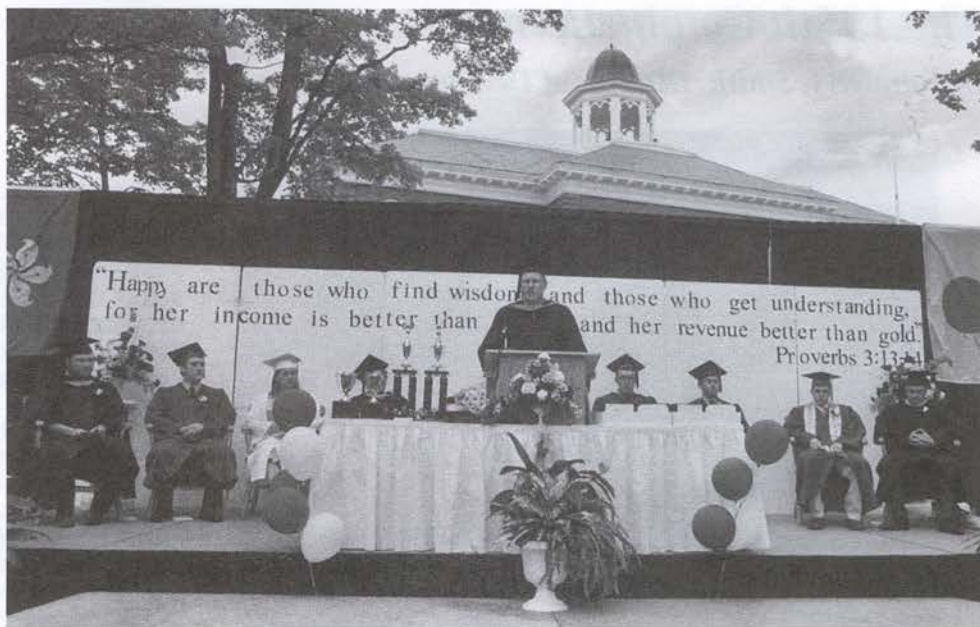
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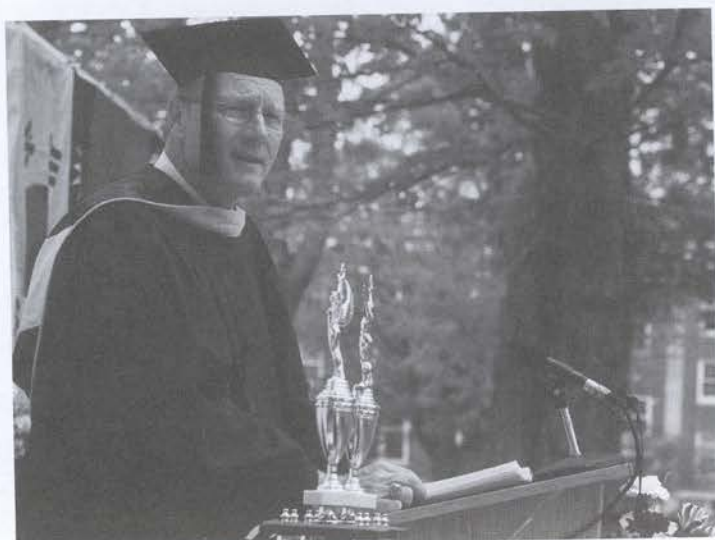
The 135th Commencement

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The 135th Commencement

By Carolyn J. Smith, Director of Development



Douglas C. Cummings, Head of School



Now...which way is north?



Hey, guys, these compasses will help us find our way.

There was an unusual clarity that special day in June. The air was so crystalline and clear it seemed as though one would be able to see forever. Even the trees seemed to be different, their green almost chartreuse against the incredible blueness of the sky. Silken flags fluttered the brilliant colors of the many nations from which the Class of 2004 had come to MCI: Bermuda, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, the United States and the Nation of Native Americans.

With measured and stately steps, the administration and faculty began the procession to the commencement ceremonies. The two senior marshals, Crystal Wescott and Brett Laster-Loftus, crisply led the 107 graduates down the grassy aisle between hundreds of family members and friends, keeping time with the traditional, ribbon-wrapped garnet and white batons. With serious grace, Bermudian Alexis Swan delivered the invocation.

"The audience sat shaded and encircled by mature trees, with the atmosphere growing less formal as the grass stretched away from the stage and the graduates," wrote new Waterville Sentinel staff writer Chris Churchill, who was attending his first MCI Commencement.

There was an unusual clarity about what was said as well. Head of School Doug Cummings once again had a clever device to make his point. Two years ago, students were each given a crisp new dollar bill and last year the graduates found Payday candy bars taped beneath their seats. This year, each about-to-be-graduate received a compass. The Headmaster said, "Your due north figuratively speaking is that direction you chose in life. I know, just like me, that you may not know exactly what that direction is. You will find it! You may stumble along the way, but you will find your way." Later in his speech Mr. Cummings asked the students to close their eyes and point north. There was a decidedly mixed directionality of pointing. He finished by saying, "Now, each of you look at your compass and point due north. Notice that you are all pointing at the MCI Bell Tower. Always know you can count on us for support as you follow your dreams toward life long happiness." And they all were pointing toward the symbol of all that is enduring and true about MCI.



There it is! North is right where Founders Hall is!

Salutarian Emily Wagner spoke about commitment and about the personal commitment required by the senior project, a graduation requirement. She went on to detail many of the projects that had particularly impressed her. She closed by saying, "I hope we will commit to our futures with the same spirit I have seen and experienced here at MCI. We should live our dreams, fuel our passions and refuse to let failure be an excuse not to try again. Here's our challenge: be the pebbles that ripple the pond, which affect the river, which change the ocean....and the world."

Alex Cunningham, Valedictorian, spoke meaningfully about true success. "An example of how to live wisely was my grandfather Wally Cunningham who died a month ago at 83. He had been a teacher here at MCI for many years and was an avid outdoorsman. He never had a lot of money in his life but he had an immense circle of friends. I mention my grandfather not to eulogize him but to show how success should be measured. True success is being able to do what we enjoy all our lives, without getting lost in the drudgery of a meaningless job. My grandfather's life was a full and long one and his is an example we should try to follow. He never settled for doing things he disliked simply for money. When he died he had realized everything he wanted to accomplish and was a happy man. Life is meant to be full of memories, fun and enjoyment. Thanks, Gramp."

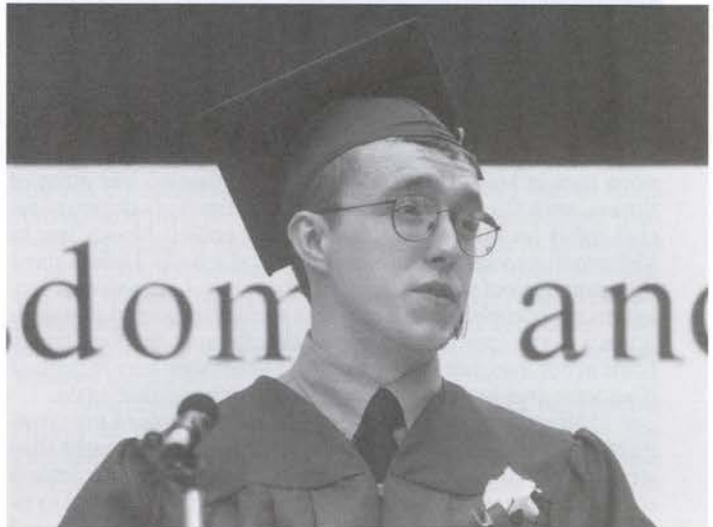
The graduation speaker, former Associate Head of School and 25-year veteran teacher and administrator at MCI, was Rosalie Williams. From her many experiences at MCI, she cited wonderful examples of students "stepping up to the plate" with forthright courage and assurance. She quoted the late President Reagan most appropriately, "The future doesn't belong to the fainthearted; it belongs to the brave." She then directly addressed the Class of 2004. "Thank you for stepping up to leadership, for setting the examples and encouraging others. You have met the challenges of leadership in our classrooms, on the playing fields, in MCI's musical groups, on the stage in ballet and drama and as members of Key Club, Future Problem Solvers and other campus groups. You have lead locally, statewide and even nationally. You have the strong stones from the quarry of experience on which to build. Step up, step out into a bright tomorrow. The power is within you."

It must be remembered that these graduates had entered high school during the first year of the twenty-first century. Their second year, "from the safety of MCI's sheltered green campus", they watched with horror as towers were toppled by terrorists in American planes. During their third year, they witnessed the beginning of the war on terror, fought on the other side of the world. Their senior year, the Class of 2004 demonstrated their acceptance of others and their courage, their selflessness and their commitment to others. A great beginning because members of this class are sure to continue to make a difference.

And so, at the end of Commencement 2004, the new graduates made their way through the assembled audience of families and friends, to be congratulated and embraced by those in the double line of the faculty and staff who taught them, guided them and cared for them during their MCI years. There were many tears on that gloriously bright and clear June day at MCI.



Emily Wagner, Salutarian



Alex Cunningham, Valedictorian



Rosalie Williams, graduation speaker and truly beloved former Associate Head of School.

Reflections on the Valedictory: Then and Now

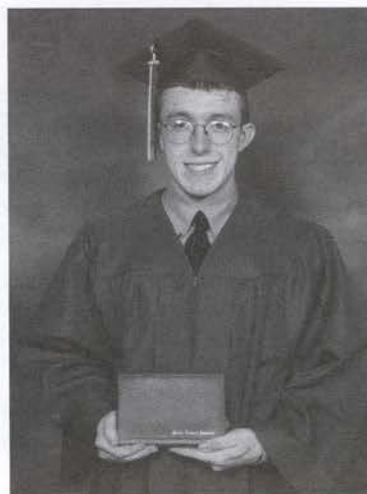
Alex Cunningham '04 and his father, Dr. William (Bill) Cunningham '70, were both chosen as the Valedictorians of their classes at MCI. This may be the first time in the history of MCI that a son and his father have shared this honor. Alex will be majoring in computer engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the fall, and hopes to eventually earn a doctorate in artificial intelligence and robotics. Bill graduated from Bates College in 1974 and Tufts University School of Dentistry with honors in 1977. He has been engaged in the practice of general dentistry in Pittsfield for 27 years. The following are their reflections on earning this academic honor:



Bill: "I felt very honored to be named the Valedictorian of my class of 77 members back in 1970. I had worked hard at MCI to get good grades and to prepare myself as best as possible to tackle the first of seven years it would take me to achieve my dream of becoming a dentist in my hometown. I remember nervously wiping the sweat off my brow as I delivered my Valedictory address to a standing-room-only crowd squeezed into Parks Gym on a very hot stuffy Sunday afternoon back in May of 1970. I was deeply concerned, like many of the era, with the violent riots protesting America's disregard for civil rights for blacks and the seemingly endless bloody war in Vietnam that rocked the country's cities and schools. I talked about the advantages of participating in only peaceful, non-violent protests to raise people's awareness, effect social changes and stop wars. It was a heavy speech to lay on my classmates at this very happy point in our lives, but I felt the points I raised were very important if we were ever to get American society back together again."

"After the ceremony Mr. Stanley and a couple of my favorite teachers told me my speech was excellent, but I thought they were just making me feel good. However, three months later, a college classmate who had attended MCI's commencement exercises because her brother, a dorm student, also graduated, stopped me on the Bates campus. She told me I sounded just like the late President Kennedy, who was a great speech maker, and she was very much inspired by what I had said. This unsolicited compliment surprised me then, and gives me another reason to look back at my days at MCI with the fondest of memories."

Bill Cunningham '70



Alex: "I was pleased to be chosen the Valedictorian of my class of 2004. I had worked hard academically throughout my years at MCI. I also was given the chance to develop other interests and skills, particularly music, problem solving, teamwork, and critical thinking. However, trying to come up with a speech that somehow encompassed all of my time at MCI, that also had a nice clear message while possibly addressing the meaning of life, was a rather daunting task. I spent quite

a bit of time trying to come up with something to talk about and found I really couldn't settle on any particular topics, even with all that was going on around the world at the time. As graduation approached, I still didn't have much of a speech prepared, or even a topic to go on.

"I can't say my inspiration was a fortunate surprise, as the event that became a central element in my speech, the death of my grandfather, Wally Cunningham, wasn't the happiest of moments. However, it was a conversation with my grandmother afterwards that finally solidified the idea of trying to live a full and happy life without defining success with a dollar sign in my mind. She talked of how Wally had done almost everything he had intended in his life, and how he hadn't wasted any of his time during his life. After that night, I found writing the speech to be much easier. Eventually, I had done all of my normal preparations for giving a speech, and with a slight exception, everything went well on graduation day.

"Looking back at the whole experience of being the Valedictorian, I really don't feel much different than before. I've found I was much happier not worrying about class rank during my time at MCI; instead I concentrated on working as hard as I could to keep up my high standards. So in the end, receiving the valedictory award was actually rather anti-climactic, as the difficult part was already over. Having my father as the Valedictorian of his class really hasn't changed my actions in high school much, as I never really felt pressured to succeed."

Alex Cunningham '04

Karen and Bill '70 Cunningham, parents of the Valedictorian. Bill was Valedictorian of his class in 1970.

Maine Central Institutes 2004 Honor Parts

VALEDICTORIAN



Valedictorian of the Class of 2004 was **Alex Cunningham**, son of Dr. William '70 and Karen Cunningham of Pittsfield. His grade point average of 99.35 kept him at the top of his class throughout his academic career. Interestingly, Alex's father was also valedictorian of his class. Alex excelled in his challenging courses at MCI. His junior year he completed an independent study in Advanced Placement Calculus and then went on to study Single Variable Calculus, a course in which he earned a perfect grade, and

Multiple Variable Calculus at Colby College. His other senior year courses included AP English, AP Physics and an independent study in Spanish IV.

Captain of MCI's Future Problem Solving Team all four years that the team captured the state championship, Alex was named the State Champion FPS Scenario Writer for Maine. At the 2003 FPS International Conference, Alex ranked fifth in the world for the Senior Team Skit Competition.

A four-year member of the Math Competition Team that earned recognition for its excellence, Alex was team captain in eleventh and twelfth grades. He achieved Highest Honors every term since he was a freshman and was inducted into National Honor Society his sophomore year. In ninth grade Alex was honored with the History, Geometry and Life Skills-Computer Awards, as well as a letter for music participation. In tenth grade Alex was recipient of the Sophomore Math (Algebra and Pre-Calculus) and Integrated Science II Honors Awards and a letter in music participation.

In his junior year Alex was awarded the Rensselaer Medal, The Williams Book Award, the Junior Honors History Award, Chemistry Award and the George M. Parks Award for the highest GPA in the junior class.

A considerable musician who attended Southern Maine Summer Music Academy for three years, Alex was a four-year member of MCI's Concert Band, Instrumental Jazz Band, KV Honors Band and Concert Choir; he plays trombone exceptionally well. He was involved with the school's prize speaking program for four years and was awarded second place in the prestigious Manson Essay Contest his junior year for his well-written

and polished speech about advertising and its effects upon American culture. He was a regular contributor to *Masardis*, the school's literary magazine. His last two years, Alex was a part of the drama program. His junior year he played in the pit band for the fall musical and senior year he was a member of the Drama Competition Team and the spring drama presentation for the student body.

A member of the Ski Team for three years, Alex played soccer his first two years of high school. Alex earned his Eagle Scout ranking his sophomore year after completing over one hundred hours of community service and over two hundred additional hours for his leadership project. He attended the 2001 National Scout Jamboree in Virginia as Patrol Leader of Troop 428. He is active with his church's social action fund committee that distributed funds to local charities.

Alex attended the University of Maine's summer camp, Considering Engineering 2003, where he was introduced to robotics. For his senior project he designed a Handyboard-powered Lego robot that stresses functionality over form. In a 4' x 8' area, his robot chased a radio-controlled car. He thinks he may ultimately become a professor or scientist involved with robotics research.

In college he also plans to study music and hopes to participate in a jazz workshop while an undergraduate. He said that music at MCI is never work. *"It's fun, there's excellence and almost a sense of the bizarre. It's just a terrific experience,"* he commented with great enthusiasm and sincerity.

Alex commented that he has loved Maine Central Institute because he has learned how to think in challenging, small classes and has encountered difficult concepts that he's had to think through and draw his own conclusions about issues rather than merely repeating by rote others' comments. He said he has learned to generalize, extrapolate and synthesize new ideas. Nowhere was this more apparent to Alex than during his Future Problem Solving state-level competitions where students from other, larger schools failed to see the big picture necessary to formulating winning scenarios.

At Senior Chapel and Commencement, Alex received the George M. Parks Senior Award, the Valedictorian Trophy, The Paul Legge Physics Award, the President's Award for Educational Excellence, the Ruth Plummer Cook Music Award and the U. S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award.

Alex will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where he will study computer engineering and possibly artificial intelligence.

SALUTATORIAN



Salutatorian of the Class of 2004 was **Emily Wagner**. She is the daughter of Karen Reynolds Wagner '75 of Pittsfield, who was also Salutatorian of her MCI class, and Brian Wagner of Berlin, Vermont. Emily was a member of National Honor Society for three years and served as the organization's President her senior year. Since her sophomore year Emily was very active in Student Council and Key Club, and her junior and senior years she was a Peer Leader and part of the Student Wellness Team. Her senior

project was related to her interests in good health; she researched how healthy habits for life prevent illness, injury and help to make America a more healthy and fit nation as a whole.

Emily's awards at MCI were numerous. Her senior year, she

was recipient of the Maine Principals Association Principal's Award, Herff-Jones Award, Phi Beta Kappa Award and the DAR Regional Winner.

Her junior year Emily was the first place Manson Essay Contest winner with a wonderfully written and delivered speech about relationship abuse among American teenagers, Dirigo Girls State Representative, Vice President of the Class of 2004 and recipient of the Junior Math Award, American Society of Engineers Award, Anatomy Award and Spanish III Award. In tenth grade she received the Spanish II Award, was given an Expert Rating in Sophomore Prize Speaking and was the HOBY Ambassador. In ninth grade Emily received the Freshman English Award, LIFE Skills Health Award and the Integrated Science I Award.

A gifted musician, she was a member of the State Championship Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the Instrumental Jazz Ensemble since ninth grade. Emily also played in the Jazz Combo for two years; she is a very talented percussionist. She was involved in the Drama

Club all four years and has appeared in numerous productions.

Captain of both field hockey and tennis teams her senior year, Emily played both sports all four years. Her excellence in field hockey was exemplified by her athletic honors: Gatorade Field Hockey Player of the Year Award, KVAC All-Academic and All-State Academic Field Hockey Awards, National Women and Girls in Sports Award.

Emily commented, "MCI has been my second home because of the all the things in which I've been involved - music, sports and student activities. I've been at school quite a bit! While I'm happy to leave because it's time to move on; at the same time, it's bitter sweet because of the good friendships and relationships I've had with so many different people.

"MCI is a place that has encouraged me and allowed me to grow as a student, an athlete and a person. I've had so many opportunities and so much involvement in such a broad variety of activities. Intellectually I've been challenged by honors and AP courses that have offered enough variety so that I could develop my interests and feel as though I've achieved my potential."

Emily received numerous awards at Senior Chapel and Commencement: the MCI Faculty Cup, Salutatorian Trophy, the Wright Family Scholarship, the Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship, the Principal's Leadership Award; the Frank T. Haseltine Biology Award, Gary S. Dupill Sportmanship Award, Malaka Russell Field Hockey Award, John Slagle Humanities Award, President's Award for Achievement, the Ruth Plummer Cook Music Award, the U. S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award, the U. S. Marine Corp Distinguished Athlete Award and Scholastic Excellence Award, the Tammy Bodwell Memorial Scholarship, the MCI Key Club Scholarship, the MCI Student Council Scholarship, the MCI Alumni/ae Association Scholarship and the Crystal Brooks Memorial Scholarship.

Emily will attend Colby College in the fall, where she plans to study biology.

FIRST HONOR ESSAYIST



Jae-Hyun Myong was MCI's First Honor Essayist. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Young-Chul Myong of Koyang-si, Korea, Jae achieved High or Highest Honors every term since ninth grade. He was inducted into the National Honor Society in tenth grade and is a published poet, having won second place in a national poetry contest his junior year. He also received the Maine Scholars Achievement Award and was, several times, elected Dorm Citizen of the Month.

Jae was an active member of Key Club for three years, in French Club for one, was a Dorm Prefect and in drama club his senior year and active with Big Brothers/Big Sisters in tenth grade.

Often seen playing his guitar and singing his own lyrics, Jae was a member of the State Championship Vocal Jazz Ensemble his senior year and a member of the Concert Chorus for three years prior. A member of the tennis team in ninth, Jae ran track for three years. In ninth and tenth he was on the rifle team and in eleventh was on the wrestling team. His senior year Jae was the manager for the girls soccer team.

Jae-Hyun received, at year end ceremonies, the President's Award for Achievement, the W. Howard Niblock Scholarship and the MCI Dean's Award. For his senior project, Jae chose music creation, featuring his own lyrics and compositions. He will attend Cornell University in September.

SECOND HONOR ESSAYIST



Casey Nash was Second Honor Essayist. He is the son of David '69 and Donna Ramsdell '71 Nash of Pittsfield. A member of National Honor Society, he was Treasurer of the organization his senior year and held the same office for the Class of 2004. He achieved High or Highest Honors every semester; he completed five math courses and six science courses at MCI, taking two science classes both his junior and senior years.

Active in Student Council and Key Club the past two years, Casey was a Manson essayist and participated in Magic Club his first two years when he was also involved with his church youth group.

He was a member of the wrestling team in ninth, tenth and eleventh grades, was on varsity track and football his last two years. He also bowled his freshman year. Casey's senior project was to learn some Korean.

At year-end ceremonies, Casey received the Pittsfield Kiwanis Scholarship, Presidential Award of Achievement and the Gordon Construction Corporation Scholarship. He will attend the University of Maine-Orono this coming fall.

THIRD HONOR ESSAYIST



Michael Adams was Third Honor Essayist. He is the son of Dwight and Rhonda Andrews '72 Adams of Pittsfield. Consistently a High Honors student, Mike was inducted into NHS his sophomore year and was Vice President his senior year. A three-year member of Student Council, he served as President this year and Treasurer as a junior. He received the Spanish I Award in ninth grade and the Integrated Science II Award in tenth. Mike completed five math and six science courses while at MCI.

An accomplished athlete, Mike played basketball for four years, golf for three, baseball two and football his senior year. He also played intramural athletics for the past three years.

His other activities included Concert Band his first two years, Drama Competition Team in tenth grade and Chess Club his senior year.

At Senior Chapel and Commencement, Mike received the Athlete of the Year Award, the Student Council President Award, the Presidential Award for Achievement, the Roderic Smith Basketball Award, the U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award, the U. S. Marine Corp Distinguished Athlete Award and the Bud's Shop 'N Save Scholarship.

For his senior project Mike made a documentary video. He will attend the University of Maine at Orono in the fall.

Other Students in the Top Ten at MCI



Nicole Monk, sixth in her class, is the daughter of Karen Monk and Gary Monk, both of Pittsfield. She was secretary of National Honor Society her senior year; she had been a member for three years. As a junior Nicole received the Psychology Undergraduate Award. She participated in Big Brothers/Big Sisters all four years and was on Student Council the past two. Her junior year Nicole traveled to Spain with Mrs. Kingsbury's spring excursion, was a tutor at Warsaw Middle School and a delegate to Girls State.

Nicole's other activities included Civil Rights Team in tenth grade, Peer Leader and Daisy Girl Scout Troop Leader in eleventh and twelfth grades and four years as a member of the Concert Band. She was a cheerleader for fall and winter sports all four years and served as the Winter Captain her junior year and Fall and Winter Captain her senior year. She was named to KVAC All Academic honors this year.

For her senior project Nicole explored the philosophies of various religions and how these might apply to her beliefs. At Senior Chapel and Commencement, Nicole received the Outstanding Music Student in Concert Band Award, the Presidential Award for Achievement and the CM Almy Scholarship.

She will attend Wheelock College this September.



Nyugen Hai Minh Le was seventh in his class. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Van Luu Le of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Minh was a Residential Prefect his senior year at MCI. Recipient of several academic honor awards, he received regional and national second place honors for computer programming in 2001 and earned the award for Auto CAD in his computer class last year.

A member of MCI's tennis team for two years, he received the MVP award as a junior. For his senior project Minh

designed a Website.

At year-end ceremonies, Nguyen received the Reny Charitable Foundation Scholarship and the Presidential Award for Achievement. He will attend George Mason University.



Fred Nash, eighth in his class, is the son of David '69 and Donna Ramsdell '71 Nash of Pittsfield. A member of National Honor Society, Fred received the French Award his junior year. He participated in Prize Speaking his sophomore and senior years.

Fred participated in band all four years; he is a talented baritone sax player. A member of the rifle team for three years, he ran track his last two years and was the football manager his senior year. Fred was very active in community service

through his church and also assisted in the Main Office as a runner. Fred taught himself to play the violin for his senior project.

At Senior Chapel and Commencement, Fred received the Masters Cup Award, the Hazel M. and Maurice Earle Memorial Scholarship, the first Cummings Leadership Award, the Wright Family Scholarship and the Presidential Award for Achievement.

He will attend the University of Maine/Orono next fall.



Stacey O'Donal was ninth in her class. She is the daughter of Jeffrey and Elaine O'Donal of Gorham, Maine. When she entered MCI in ninth grade, Stacey was awarded the Partridge Fellowship for her academic achievement, outstanding personal qualities, her leadership ability and her civic and extracurricular involvement. She demonstrated all these attributes during her four years at MCI. She was a member of National Honor Society for two years and she consistently achieved honor roll status.

Her junior and senior years Stacey served on the Residential Council. An active member of Key Club, she completed hundreds of Phonathon telephone calls to alumni/ae and friends of the school and worked diligently and creatively on the Sno-Ball Decorating Committee. In ninth and tenth grades she participated in Prize Speaking and the Drama Competition Team. Her senior year she was again a member of the competition team; she participated in drama all four years. She appeared in the *West Side Story* production at the Waterville Opera House the spring of her junior year.

Stacey is a gifted ballet dancer who studied under Andrei Bossov at MCI for five years, beginning when she was an 8th grader in Gorham. She appeared as Scheherazade in the class ballet of the same name, as Queen Sugar Plum and Spanish in several productions of *Nutcracker*, and several roles in different productions of *Cinderella* presented by the Bossov Ballet Theatre. Her very ambitious senior project, entitled *Abajo de la Luna Llena*, was an enchanting evening presentation of Spanish dances that she choreographed and costumed and in which she appeared in five of the six numbers. Her own dancing was extraordinary and her choreography of the performances of the other seven dancers was exceptional.

At year-end ceremonies Stacey received the Pittsfield Kiwanis Ideals Award, the Residential Hall Directors award and the Presidential Award for achievement. Stacey will attend New Mexico University in September, where she will study sports medicine therapy.



Ta-Hao Yu was tenth in the Class of 2004. Kevin, as he is known at MCI, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jui-Chou Yu of Taipei, Taiwan. Ta-Hao was a Dorm Prefect his senior year, chosen for that important role for his responsibility, integrity and leadership. He achieved High Honors his junior year when he also had a perfect attendance record. He was named Student of the Month the fall of eleventh grade. He received the Computer Auto CAD Award, the Computer Animation Award and the ESL Award

his junior year.

He participated in basketball for three years and was captain of JV basketball his sophomore year. At year-end ceremonies, he received the Husson Medal and the Presidential Award for Achievement. His astonishingly realistic to-scale model of the entire MCI campus earned him finalist honors in the Senior Project presentation.

Ta-Hao will attend Washington State University.

By CJS

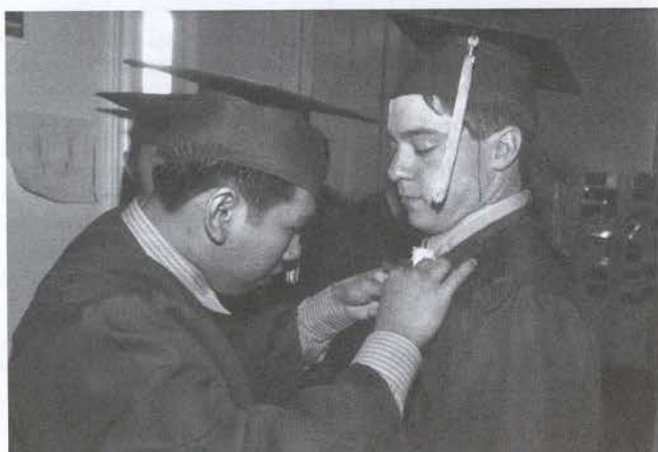
Many Received Recognition for Excellence at Senior Chapel and Commencement



Forrest Peterson receiving the Class President Award. His proud father, Steve, the Senior Class Advisor looks on. He also received: John Slagle Humanities Award; Outstanding Psychology Student Award; President's Award for Educational Excellence; Rosalie Williams Speaking Award; Peter Bradshaw Memorial Scholarship; SAD #53 Award; Sebasticook Valley Federal Credit Union Scholarship; High Honors Award for Three Quarters.



Matthew Welch was awarded the Key Club Scholarship; Student Council Scholarship; Margaret Kohler Havey Scholarship; Ira Berry Chapter #57 Royal Arch Masons Scholarship; Pittsfield Kiwanis Club Scholarship; Skowhegan Savings Bank Business Scholarship; Outstanding Music Student in Concert Choir Award.



Marc Turner: (right) Kiwanis Ideals Award; Pittsfield Kiwanis Club Scholarship; President's Award for Achievement; SAD #53 Association Award; Pittsfield U.S. Marine Corps League Semper Fidelis Award.



Brandi Schissler: (second in line) Mabel S. Andrews Scholarship; Outstanding Art Student Award; Detroit Good Cheer Club Award; Pittsfield Grange Scholarship, Pittsfield Art Award.



Tyler Richardson: MCI Drama Award; Outstanding Vocal Jazz Student Award; President's Award for Achievement; Pittsfield Grange Scholarship; MCI/SAD #53 Music Boosters Award.



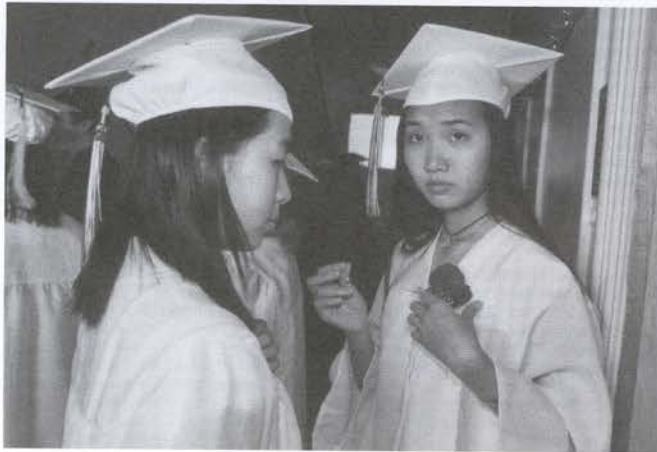
Jason Hall: Blaine Littlefield '99 Memorial Scholarship; Richie McCorkill Memorial Scholarship; Hancock Lumber Scholarship; Dale McDonald Baseball Award.



David Chale: John Slagle Soccer Award; Outstanding Instrumental Jazz Student Award; U. S. Army Reserve Most Valuable Soccer Player Award; Cook Music Fund Award; SAD #53 Award.



Xin Amanda Lu: MCI Citizenship Award; MCI Dean's Residential Leadership Award; Outstanding Piano Student; Presidential Award for Achievement; High Honors for Three Quarters Award.



Lan Thuy Huynh: (right) MCI Mathematics Award; High Honors Award for Three Quarters; Presidential Achievement Award; Sebasticook Valley Hospital Auxiliary Award.



Crystal Westcott: Betty Webber Human Development Award; Burns W. Knowlton Jr. American Legion Scholarship; Presidential Achievement Award; Bernadette Foss Beattie Scholarship. Crystal was the female marshall escorting her class.



Joseph Bell: MCI Coaches Award; Mark Porter Memorial Award, MELMAC Educational Fund Scholarship.



Kristen Hume: Pittsfield Garden Club Botany Award; President's Award for Achievement; U.S. Army Reserve Most Valuable Soccer Player Award.

Outstanding Music Student –
Concert Band

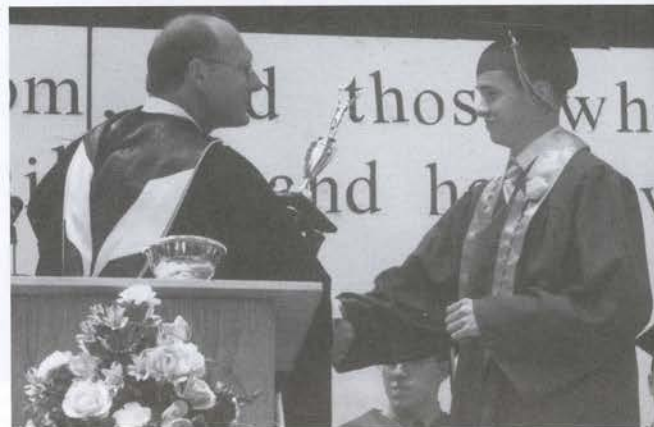
Nicole Monk

Outstanding Music Student –
Concert Choir
Outstanding Music Student –
Vocal Jazz
Outstanding Music Student –
Instrumental Jazz
Outstanding Music Student –
Piano
Outstanding Music Student –
Music Appreciation
Outstanding Psychology Student
Outstanding MultiMedia Student
For WMCI
Paul Legge Physics Award
President's Award for
Educational Excellence
President's Award for
Educational Excellence
President's Award for
Educational Excellence
President's Award for Achievement
President's Award for Achievement
President's Award for Achievement
President's Award for Achievement
President's Award for Achievement
President's Award for Achievement
President's Award for Achievement
President's Award for Achievement
President's Award for Achievement
President's Award for Achievement
President's Award for Achievement
President's Award for Achievement
President's Award for Achievement
Residential Hall Directors Award -
Alumni Hall
Residential Hall Directors Award -
Rowe Hall
Residential Hall Directors Award
Manson Hall
Roderic Smith Basketball Award
Rosalie Williams Speaking Award
Ruth Plummer Cook Music Award
Ruth Plummer Cook Music Award
Sanger Cook Track Award
U.S. Army Reserve National
Scholar Athlete Award
U.S. Army Reserve National
Scholar Athlete Award
U.S. Marine Corps
Distinguished Athlete Award
U.S. Marine Corps
Distinguished Athlete Award
U.S. Marine Corps
Scholastic Excellence Award
U.S. Marine Corps
Scholastic Excellence Award
U.S. Marines Youth Foundation
and Marine Corps League
Semper Fidelis Award

Forrest Peterson
Michael Adams
Thuy Giang Au
Maria Hacker
Kristen Hume
Lan Thuy Huynh
Nguyen Hai Minh Le
Joshua Leong
Xin (Amanda) Lu
Nicole Monk
Jae-Hyun Myong
Casey Nash
Frederick Nash
Stacey O'Donal
Tyler Richardson
Linh Tong
Marc Turner
Emily Wagner
Crystal Wescott
Dong-Yoon Yoo
Ta-Hao Yu

Naoki Shibuya
Michael Adams
Forrest Peterson
Alexander Cunningham
Emily Wagner
Kevin Moody

Megan Ferland



Mike Adams was named Male Athlete of the Year! (see page 6 for his other awards.)

U.S. Marines Youth Foundation
and Marine Corps League
Semper Fidelis Award
U.S. Army Reserve Most
Valuable Soccer Player Award
U.S. Army Reserve Most
Valuable Soccer Player Award
Burns W. Knowlton, Jr.
American Legion Scholarship
Hazel M. & Maurice L. Earle
Integrity Award
Norval B. Lewis English Award
MCI Citizenship Award
Tammy Bodwell
Memorial Scholarship
Cummings Leadership Award
Detroit Good Cheer Club
Edna Reed Scholarship
Pittsfield Tuesday Club
Hazel M. & Maurice L. Earle
Memorial Scholarship
Mabel S. Andrews Scholarship
Pittsfield Kiwanis Ideals Awards
Pittsfield Kiwanis Ideals Awards
Robbie Tibbets
Memorial Scholarship
Bernadette Foss Beattie Scholarship
Cook Music Fund
Pittsfield Fire Department Scholarship
Richie McCorkill
Memorial Scholarship
Rowena and Marshall Nash, Sr.
Scholarship
Pittsfield Grange Scholarship
Pittsfield Grange Scholarship
Burnham Extension Scholarship
Burnham Extension Scholarship
Elizabeth Crocker
Memorial Scholarship
MCI Key Club Scholarship
MCI Key Club Scholarship
Pittsfield Garden Club Botany Award
Student Council Scholarship
Student Council Scholarship
Robert H. Libby Scholarship
Christopher Dionne
Memorial Scholarship
George Damren
Memorial Scholarship
MCI Dean's Residential
Leadership Award
Peter Bradshaw Memorial Scholarship
Hancock Lumber Scholarship
SAD #53 Association
SAD #53 Association
SAD #53 Association
Night Drifters Snowmobile Club
Pittsfield Art Club
W. Howard Niblock Scholarship
Arlene Havey Memorial Scholarship
MCI Football Boosters Scholarship
Blaine K. Littlefield '99
Memorial Scholarship
Bud's Shop 'N Save Scholarship
CM Almy Scholarship
Ira Berry Chapter #57
Royal Arch Masons
Margaret Kohler Havey Scholarship
MCI Alumni Association Scholarship
MCI/SAD 53 Music Boosters
Masons Grand Lodge of Maine
Masons Grand Lodge of Maine
Sebasticoak Valley
Hospital Auxiliary
Crystal Lynn Mae Brooks
Memorial Scholarship
Pittsfield Kiwanis Scholarship
Pittsfield Kiwanis Scholarship
Pittsfield Kiwanis Scholarship
Sebasticoak Valley Federal
Credit Union Scholarship
Elks Lodge #2713 Scholarship
Gordon Construction Corp.
Scholarship
MELMAC Principal's Award
Reny Charitable Foundation
Reny Charitable Foundation
Reny Charitable Foundation
Skowhegan Savings Bank
Business Scholarship
George M. Parks Award (Senior)
Wright Family Scholarship
Wright Family Scholarship
Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship

Marc Turner	
David Chale	
Kristen Hume	
Crystal Wescott	\$50
Kin-Chun Li	\$50
Maria Hacker	\$50
Xin (Amanda) Lu	\$65
Emily Wagner	\$100
Frederick Nash	\$100
Brandi Schissler	\$100
Rachel Olivares	\$100
Fred Nash	\$100
Brandi Schissler	\$100
Stacey O'Donal	\$100
Marc Turner	\$100
Benjamin Hoffman	\$100
Crystal Wescott	\$100
David Chale	\$100
Christopher Richards	\$100
Jason Hall	\$100
Benjamin Hoffman	\$100
Brandi Schissler	\$106
Tyler Richardson	\$106
Jonathan Cota	\$150
Maegan Goodblood	\$150
Amanda Pearman	\$150
Emily Wagner	\$150
Matthew Welch	\$150
Kristen Hume	\$150
Emily Wagner	\$150
Matthew Welch	\$150
Maegan Goodblood	\$195
Michael Godfrey	\$200
Marc York	\$200
Xin (Amanda) Lu	\$200
Forrest Peterson	\$200
Jason Hall	\$250
Marc Turner	\$250
Forrest Peterson	\$250
David Chale	\$250
Joseph Walker	\$300
Brandi Schissler	\$300
Jae-Hyun Myong	\$350
Benjamin Hoffman	\$385
Ryan Bennett	\$400
Jason Hall	\$500
Michael Adams	\$500
Nicole Monk	\$500
Matthew Welch	\$500
Matthew Welch	\$500
Emily Wagner	\$500
Tyler Richardson	\$500
Jonathan Cota	\$500
Maegan Goodblood	\$500
Lan Huynh	\$500
Emily Wagner	\$525
Casey Nash	\$650
Marc Turner	\$650
Matthew Welch	\$1,000
Forrest Peterson	\$750
Jonathan Cota	\$1,000
Casey Nash	\$1,000
Joseph Bell	\$1,000
Y Nguyen Le	\$1,000
Chun Kit (Alfred) Ma	\$1,000
Xin (Amanda) Lu	\$1,000
Matthew Welch	\$1,000
Alexander Cunningham	\$1,500
Fred Nash	\$2,000
Emily Wagner	\$2,000
Emily Wagner	\$4,000

The Class of 2004 Graduates

Michael Jordan Adams, Sairah Marie Alexander, Stuart William Allen, Antonio Andrew Anderson, Yolanda Sue Armstrong, Thuy Giang Hoang Au, Kendall Elizabeth Bailey, Joseph Michael Bell, Ryan Michael Bennett, Krystal Rae Booth, Christopher Daniel Borelli, Scott Allen Boucher, Samantha Siobhan Bryan, Michael Joseph Burnham, David Quentin Chale, Eun A Choi, Jennifer Marie Church, Jonathan David Cota, Zachary Thomas Croft, Alexander Glencairn Cunningham, Mark John Curtis, Heather Lynn Dodge, Tabitha Rebecca Donald, Megan Carol Ferland, Michael Chris Godfrey, Maegan Emily Goodblood, Maria Hacker, Sung Min Ha, Jason Cameron Hall, Nichole Raéann Hanson, Taisuke Hayama, Sierra Hendricks, Benjamin Jared Hoffman, Justin Emerson Holt, Nicole Lee Hubbard, Betsy Ann Huff, Kristen Marissa Hume, Melissa Sue Hussey, Lan Thuy Huynh, Beverly Anne Jensen, Trevor Andrew Kelley, Jong Pil Kim, Amanda Lynn King, Jacob William Lasselle, Brettan Joby Shaw Laster-Loftus, Nguyen Hai Minh Le, Nguyen Y Le, Eun-Sun Lee, Joshua Mun-Wah Ames Leong, Kin Chun Li, Yu An Li, Shylah Lyola Logiodice, Xin Lu, Chun Kit Alfred Ma, Jamie Lee Mailman, Tyler Linden Manning, Brad Alan Marsh, Morgan Katherine McClure, David James McLeod, Joshua Michael Meader, Holly Marie Merrithew, Nicole Renee Monk, Kevin David Moody, Jae-Hyun Myong, Casey Brian Nash, Frederick Talent Nash, Thong Xuan Nguyen, Luke Christopher Niedner, Stacey Alexandra O'Donal, Rachel Lynn Olivares, Amanda Sue Palumbo, Amanda Lee Pearman, Shannon Ginger Peppard, Forrest Carl Peterson, Mitchell Edwin Pilch, Christopher Michael Richards, Tyler Scot Richardson, Donghwan Ro, Brandi Lynn Schissler, Jessica Lynn Shenett, Naoki Shibuya, Arthur William Smith, Heidi Nicole Smith, Johnathon J. Smith, Ryan William Spencer, Wyatt Allen Stafford, Alexis LeShan Swan, Savanna Ann Tash, Calder Regan Taylor, Jason Edward Temple, Allen Louis Thompson, Lori Ann Thurston, Linh Ngoc Tong, Vincent Francis Tourville, Kevin Michael Trudeau, Marc Allen Turner, Devan Robert Vance, Emily Ames Wagner, Joseph Arnold Newell Walker, Tara Lee Weeman, Matthew David Welch, Crystal Vanessa Wescott, Kevin Michael Williams, Do Kyun Yim, Dong-Yoon Yoo, Marc William York, Nobuka Yoshimura, Ta-Hao Yu



Distinguished Faculty Honored

Delivered by Headmaster Douglas C. Cummings at Commencement 2004

The Campaign for MCI (1998-2001) resulted in charitable contributions to the school of \$4.7 million. The outcome is our beautiful new Chuck and Helen Cianchette Math and Science Center and a significant contribution to our school's endowment to be focused on the betterment of our faculty.

As a result, we are able to award the two faculty chairs that are named to honor two very special faculty members, Roderic L. Smith and Norbert Young Sr., both master teachers at MCI. Their tenures spanned four decades; the 1940's, 50's, 60's and 70's. MCI is also proud to be able to award three faculty fellowships named to honor three extraordinary trustees and/or community members: Former Trustees Roger Percival '45 and Herbert Newhouse and local businessman Adrien Hallee.

The recipients of the faculty fellowships are individuals who have demonstrated by example a profound commitment to their own professional development as educators. These fellowships entitle the recipient to attend the professional development program of their choice anywhere in the United States during the coming year. The recipients of the faculty chair awards must be viewed as extraordinary members of our faculty who stand as role models and leaders of our educational community. They are individuals who are highly respected by all.



Dean Neal

It is my privilege to award The Norbert Young Sr. Faculty Chair to our Director of Music, Dean Neal. Dean joined the faculty at MCI in September of 1990. At that time, he was very young, and our music program very small. There were approximately 35 students combined in all musical groups. Today, under his direction, our music program has doubled in size and staff, and grown to over 180 students.

Today at MCI, music is an integral part of the very fiber and culture of our school. Students are proud to be a part of this outstanding program. To the many of us who have watched our youngsters involved in music perform, we have seen the excitement, enthusiasm and pride in their eyes. Above all else ... they are having a great time, learning lessons that they do not even realize at the time, thanks to the strong leadership and role played by Dean Neal.

During the past 9 years, the Vocal Jazz Ensemble has finished no lower than 2nd in the State of Maine. This past year, Vocal Jazz won the State title, Instrumental Jazz finished 2nd in the State of Maine, and most recently in Williamsburg, VA, all performing groups, including concert choir, concert band, vocal and instrumental jazz ensembles, all took top honors in their divisions.

Dean's role in music education goes well beyond MCI. He is a critical part of the Executive Board of the Maine Music Educators and has been for several years, certainly, a leader in our state in music education. We are fortunate to be blessed with such an outstanding educator as Dean Neal. It is my pleasure to present this year's The Norbert Young Sr. Faculty Chair to Dean Neal.



Julie Treadwell

The Roderic L. Smith Faculty Chair is being awarded to a member of our professional staff who is completing her 20th year as part of the MCI administrative team, Julie Treadwell.

Julie joined the MCI team immediately following her college experience. In the fall of 1983, she joined the MCI faculty as a health and physical education teacher and coach of girls basketball, and was actually the first coach of girls soccer at MCI, ironically a sport that she had never played. Since that first year, Ms. Treadwell has served in virtually every role at MCI except that of Head of School. There have been a few days that I would just as soon

she had been the Head, and I think there were a few days where she probably thought that she was the Head, as I traveled doing work away from school.

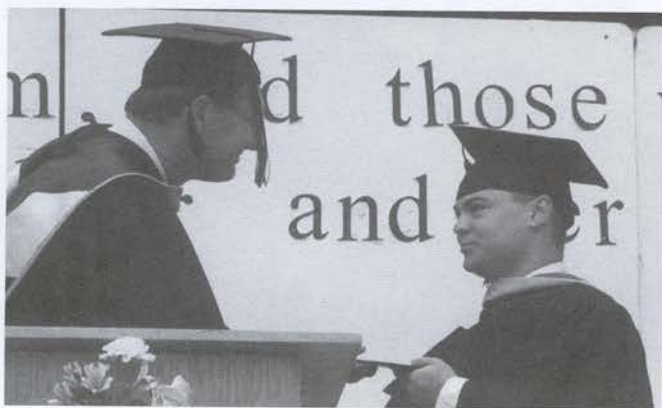
Julie Treadwell has been a teacher, department head, dormitory supervisor, dormitory director, Dean of Students, Associate Head of School, Director of Athletics, Activities and Wellness. She has coached basketball, soccer, softball, field hockey, and has from time to time pinch-hit on the boys side with varsity basketball and baseball. She has been recognized by the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference as Athletic Director of the year. Currently, she is serving on the Board of Directors of the Maine Association of Athletic Directors and has most recently been working with former Maine Commissioner of Education, Duke Albanese, and University of Maine Dean of the College of Education, Bob Cobb, on a special project focusing on Maine youth and sport.

Julie's value to our institution goes far beyond the title after her name. She epitomizes the characteristics of fairness, high standards, student advocacy, loyalty, and commitment to the vision of the total school. It is my pleasure to present the Roderic L. Smith Faculty Chair to Julia E. Treadwell.



Leigh Hallett

It is my distinct privilege and pleasure to honor excellence in education by the awarding of The Adrien E. Hallee Fellowship to Leigh Hallett. There is no greater example for students than a teacher who loves to learn. Leigh Hallett is such a teacher. After her graduation from American University, she spent five years doing graduate research at Boston University. As an MCI teacher of English as a Second Language and humanities, Leigh has been almost continuously in-



James Morel

involved in a broad range of professional development activities. She has studied science, education, psychology, geography and history, much of which she has used in innovative and creative ways to enhance her classrooms. Leigh has broadened her own understanding of the world and of teaching and, thus, has given her students the opportunity to share her enthusiasm for learning. A visitor to Leigh's classroom would see excited, involved, challenged learners. Leigh, this award is to honor your commitment to education for yourself and for your students and to support your continued professional growth.

I am pleased to present **The Roger B. Percival '45 Faculty Fellowship to James Morel**. Today we honor his tireless dedication to achieving excellence in all areas of his professional life, whether it be in the mathematics classroom or in our residence halls. His passion for students and their education, which was so clearly demonstrated during his time as a student teacher at MCI, is a continuing asset to our total program. In his application letter for full-time employment, James expressed a desire to join the MCI team in delivering a "rigorous comprehensive educational program." In the fall of 2002, MCI welcomed James as a full time faculty member. From then on, his excitement about the teaching of mathematics and his dynamic approach to the activities of the school has encouraged and inspired our students and



Peter Oliver

has made him an integral member of the school community. James constantly seeks to learn from those around him and from every resource available. James, this award is to honor your professional accomplishments and to support your continued growth as an educator.

Today, it is my distinct privilege and pleasure to honor excellence in education by the awarding of **The Herbert F. Newhouse '23 Fellowship to Peter Oliver**. Outstanding teaching is about continuous learning, both for the student and the teacher. Today's award is given to a gentleman who has been exemplary in his pursuit of knowledge and professional growth as a teacher of English as a Second Language, the humanities and mathematics. Since Peter's graduation from Amherst, he has attended summer institutes of the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for Humanities. Since his arrival at MCI in 1995, he has completed a Master's Degree in mathematics from the University of New Hampshire. In addition, he has had articles published in the journal of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, a highly respected professional magazine with rigorous standards for publication. Peter, for your diligent and untiring dedication to scholarship, which has contributed immeasurably to the education of MCI's students and has been an inspiration to us all, I honor you with this award for your continued professional growth.

The Douglas C. Cummings Endowed Fellowship for Advanced Study



Doug Cummings escorts the Valedictorian of MCI for the eighteenth and final time.

This Fellowship was established in June, 2004, to recognize the retirement of Head of School Douglas C. Cummings after eighteen years of outstanding service. The Fellowship is named for Mr. Cummings in recognition of his on-going efforts to promote professional development, and the growth and improvement of the entire Maine Central Institute Community. The contributions to this Endowment also recognize the significant contributions to Maine Central Institute made by his wife, Lori, as the spouse of the Head of School, member of the staff, and tireless volunteer; as well as the significant contributions made by their three children, Jodie, Jason and Jennifer, all of whom were student leaders and important parts of the school community.

This Fellowship is funded by contributions made upon Mr. Cummings' retirement placed in endowment, and used to honor one member of the administrative team or the faculty who has exhibited qualities throughout his or her career that represent the qualities Mr. Cummings valued, and considered important for the future growth of the institution. Those qualities include:

- Active pursuit of development opportunities, including encouragement of others in the pursuit of professional growth;

- The attainment of an advanced degree, or coursework in pursuit of an advanced degree;
- Demonstrated leadership skills, not only within the recipient's department, but of the entire school community;

- Dedication to the mission of Maine Central Institute, and enhancement of the educational opportunities for all students, particularly by encouraging the growth of the school as a resource for education beyond the typical school day.

The award is to be used by the recipient to attend a conference, preferably on the national level, that enhances their professional growth and development, or for tuition toward the attainment of an advanced degree in their field.

The committee to select the recipient will include the current Head of School; the Academic Dean; one Faculty Department Head; the Chair of the Education Committee of the Board of Trustees; and a past recipient of the award. The recipient will be announced at Commencement, beginning in June, 2005.

Senior Projects – A Commitment

The Senior Project Program is an arduously demanding requirement for graduation and an important part of the Humanities curriculum; in just ten years the senior project has begun to feel as traditional to the MCI education as the Manson Essay.

The project is designed to expand the knowledge of the student in an area that involves his/her career goals or provides an opportunity for life-long learning. The student must provide a culminating exhibition that demonstrates the student's ability to organize, produce and present to others.

In her Salutatorian address at Commencement, Emily Wagner spoke eloquently about the program. *"Recently, students made commitments to our community through senior projects in which they volunteered, taught and performed. Others made personal commitments to their own interests by learning to write music, play new instruments (Fred Nash), build furniture (Mitch Pilch and Rob Brisk), reconstruct rooms (Jessica Shenett and Joey Bell), work on vehicles (Mark Curtis and Scott Boucher) and even learn to fly (Marc Turner and Matt Welch).*

"Some of the senior projects that I admired most involved not only making individual commitments but committing to the community as well. A homemade quilt donated to a child suffering from cancer in the hospital is making a commitment to an issue much larger than ourselves. (Krystal Booth)

It's one thing to memorize lines and songs, but to direct a musical and share it with the public is an admirable and entertaining undertaking (Tyler Richardson). To write, film, and produce a movie, then show it to a sold-out theatre shows a great belief in oneself and the power of working with a team (Ryan Bennett). Planning and advertising a concert with a professional band and managing ticket sales require a commitment to patience and organization (Megan Ferland).

"Publishing a book of original poetry (Forrest Peterson), building a robot out of Legos (Alex Cunningham), teaching pre-school (Sierra Strout) and constructing a concession stand for Manson Park (Jason Hall) are all things that benefit others and were all accomplished by graduating seniors."

June 1 was the finalists' exhibition in Parks Gym. Kevin Yu of Korea presented his astonishingly accurate scale model of the MCI campus complete with the requisite number of trees on a topographical 5 by 6 foot platform. Push buttons illuminated the various buildings on campus and Kevin's room!

Johnathon Smith, from Pennsylvania, had become amazingly knowledgeable about antique identification and restoration in his discussion about an early twentieth century birch bark carrier and an 1880 oak mirrored chest. His project was enhanced by a very sophisticated Power Point presentation.

Alex Cunningham's Lego robot careened around its huge plexiglass pen, searching with its long probes for its prey. Forrest Peterson spoke at length about the difficulties he encountered in writing various poetic styles for the collection of original poetry he authored. He read one of his poems for the audience. Forrest was the runner-up in the finalist competition.

Tyler Richardson talked about the difficulties he faced in mounting a major musical presentation, *Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde*, with a cast of more than twenty singers and dancers. He performed two of the numbers from his smashing show. Ryan Bennett, who wrote, directed, filmed and edited a full-length film noir in black and white, spoke about the amazing process of filming all over Central Maine, with a cast of thousands in full 1940 costumes. Ryan's efforts earned him first place.

By CJS with quotes from Salutatorian Emily Wagner



Kevin Yu's wonderful MCI replica!



Johnathon Smith — an antique expert.



Chris Richards was proud to show his go-cart to his teacher, Richard Waite.



Stacey O'Donal directed, produced and starred in an evening of Spanish dancing.



Tyler Richardson as Dr. Jeckyl in the full scale musical he produced and starred in.



Matt Welch learned to fly.



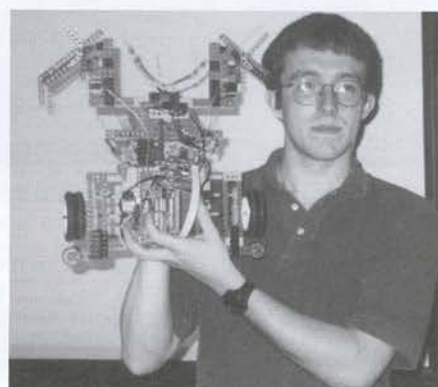
Jason Yion from Korea and Naoki Shibuya from Japan marketed and produced terrific t-shirts.



Eun-A Choi from Korea mounted an exhibit of her art work.



Fred Nash taught himself to play the violin.

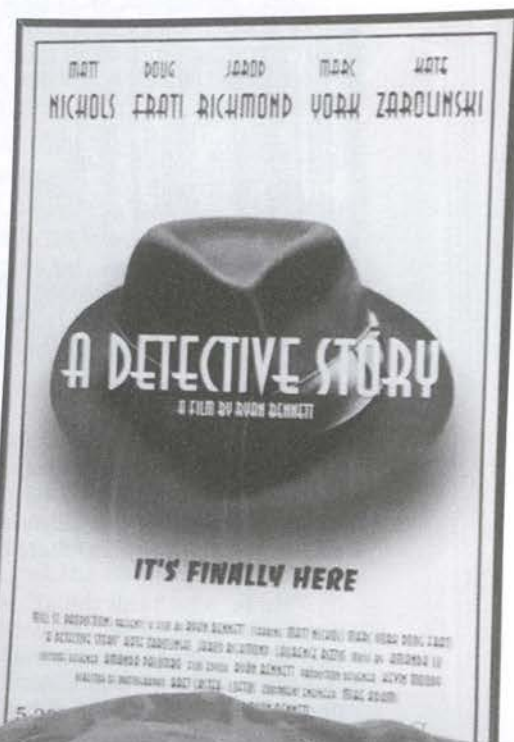


Alex Cunningham demonstrated his Lego robot.



Poet Forrest Peterson won Second Place.

Ryan Bennett
"copped" First
Place with
his film noir.



Alexis Swan from Bermuda and Amanda Lu from China totally redecorated and painted the Bigelow Room in Alumni Hall.

MCI's Future Problem Solving Team Wins Fourth Straight State Championship ~ A Tribute to the Faculty Who Teach Them!



Standing are Coach Anne Miller, Alex Cunningham, Don Lee, Michael Dunsmore, Marc Turner, Coach Deb Rozeboom and Alfred Ma. Seated are Ryan Hayes, Josh Leong, Bruce Lee and Corey Cote.

Those amazing boys did it again! On April 10th, MCI's Future Problem Solving team took first place in the State FPS Bowl to win the fourth straight State title for Maine Central Institute. The team won the skit competition as well, beating out three teams from Freeport High School where FPS is a part of the Gifted and Talented program and a regularly scheduled class. Coached by Anne Miller, MCI's Chair of Library Services and originator of the *MCI Reads As One* program, and Deb Rozeboom, Humanities Chair and Director of the Personalized Learning Center program, the Future Problem Solvers met on Thursdays during lunchtime throughout the year.

Alex Cunningham, MCI's 2004 Valedictorian, won first place, and the State Championship, in the individual competition called Scenario Writing - an arduous creative writing exercise for which he was coached by Mrs. Rozeboom. At the FPS International Competition last year, Alex placed 6th in the world with his cleverly written piece. This is Alex's fourth State win as captain of the Future Problem Solvers Team.

Mrs. Rozeboom commented, *"I have known and worked with Alex for four years now, and what strikes me most about him is his thirst for intellectual challenge and growth. He is known for his prowess in the math and science area, but what most people don't know is that he is also an outstanding academic and creative writer. As captain of our State Championship Future Problem Solvers Team, he led his team members in writing the winning booklet."*

"In my creative writing seminars he wrote wonderful science fiction prose. And in his senior year, when he was so busy with so many other obligations, he challenged himself in creative writing one more time. Working as a solo writer, he produced the FPS State Championship Future Scene, an imaginative story about artificial intelligence."

"Alex, it seems, has always challenged himself to reach a bit farther, to stretch himself just a little more. As a newly minted alum, he is already giving back to MCI. Just this morning he helped in the interview process for a new faculty member. I'm going to miss Alex, but I know he is moving on to more challenges and more "stretches" and that feels just right."

Future Problem Solvers is an international organization that uses a six-step model to explore challenges and propose action plans to complex societal problems of the future. This year's challenge was: *Media Impact in the Year 2034.*

The members of the 2004 winning team were Captain Alex Cunningham '04 of Pittsfield, Josh Leong '04 of Bangor, Marc Turner '04 of Pittsfield and Corey Cote '07 of Pittsfield. Michael Dunsmore '05 from Alaska was a member of the qualifying team. Also part of FPS were Alfred Ma '04 from Hong Kong, Bruce Lee '05 and Don Lee '06 from Korea and Ryan Hayes '06, Pittsfield.

Team Coach Anne Miller commented, *"Our win is a tribute not only to the hard work and abilities of the team members, but to our MCI faculty and the teaching they do every day in problem solving, critical thinking and writing."*

By CJS

The Antique Computer

This scenario by Alex Cunningham '04 won him the Future Problem Solvers Individual State Championship.

"Hmm, what's this thing?" mumbled Justin, pawing over a display. He picked up a laptop and turned it over in his hands. A second later, he fumbled it and the old-fashioned computer fell to the floor with a plastic crunch. The irritated shopkeeper's aging reflexes were too slow to get around the counter to catch it. Pausing before addressing the youth, Paul directed his eyes at the teen with weary calmness. "Do you realize the value of that antique? It's awfully hard to find a running Dell these days, and this'll take me at least a day to fix."

Justin shrugged arrogantly. "It just fell a few feet; that shouldn't be enough to break it. If it is, then it's not worth buying."

"It's an antique."

"Not my fault if it's badly designed. I'll never come back here again if all you sell is this trash," the teen retorted, becoming more comfortable with his superiority.

"Sounds good. Get out. Door's on your left." It wasn't the first time this had happened, and Paul couldn't win. He waited for the insolent teen to turn and triumphantly push through the door. Then he bent to pick up the broken antique laptop and carried it back to the counter.

Not much chance of any more business today. Might as well cut my

losses and close up. It'll give me some time to start on that Dell. Paul slowly walked toward the front door, flipped the old-style cardboard sign to CLOSED, and shuffled to the back of the old store.

Some days, he'd stop to notice just how old the crowded, dusty shop truly seemed. There were few of the quantum-engineered conveniences the world seemed so dependent on these days. Only the modern anti-fire system recently installed on the ceiling hinted that this shop existed, not in the 1950's, but in 2050's. Compared to the other buildings on the street, even the ones built before the Quantum Revolution, American Antique Electronics was positively ancient. The feeling of obsolescence got to Paul more often than he liked to admit, but he could push past it. He always had.

Paul shouldered open the squeaky wooden door into his work area in the back, wrestled in the damaged antique and placed it on the bench. The overhead lights flickered on, and Paul sat down to begin his examination. With a glance at the smashed wiring, he reached for his electronics toolset and began to work, his frustrations dissolving as he applied himself to problem at hand. He remembered how much he enjoyed the challenge of tinkering with these antiques.

The new quantum-engineered technology was just too easy; it always worked perfectly and never required any thought or understanding. The assumption was that people couldn't understand how it worked and were happy believing that almost every aspect of their lives could now be made more perfect. Even in the design phase, a junior tech just told a quantum computer to perfect a design, let it run for a few moments and out popped the newest invention - no thinking necessary. Called "Quantum Refinement Loops", this was the practice of letting an infinitely fast quantum computer test and refine blueprints. In theory, the design would reach perfection in a few seconds, much faster than with the older computers, which would have taken years to do the same work.

They're still just simple machines. The computers aren't intelligent and neither are the programmers, just a brute force system with a fast chip.

This thinking had sidetracked him from remembering the correct circuitry pattern of the Dell, so he leaned back from his workbench to pick up his Hitachi eyepiece. As much as the modern electronics annoyed him, he found his database of electronics schematics indispensable. He set the thin, glasses-like eyepiece on the bridge of his nose, pushed the modern spectacles over his eyes and turned to face the ceiling as the screens took over his vision.

Expecting his normal menu of data to appear, he began his usual routine, looking for the circuitry diagram he wanted. Immediately, though, he realized something was different. Before him, the simple pastel database screen dissolved into a swarm of brilliant sapphire fireflies. Then, as quickly as they had appeared, they coalesced into a shimmering blue face.

"Hello, Paul." The face spoke, a smooth baritone voice somehow finding Paul's ears, even though there was no audio hookup on this basic Hitachi.

"What? Who?" Paul was baffled.

"Allow me to explain what you are seeing. I am what you would call an artificial intelligence, created ten years ago. Early quantum computer techs wanted to see if their new technology could produce a truly sentient mind. However, they thought none of their attempts had produced any results, hence your confusion."

Paul blinked instinctively several times and searched his memory for the news of those early experiments in AI. Pieces came back, headlines proclaiming the newest frontier in computing, but those headlines had soon been forgotten. Paul had always assumed there had been no usable results. "So, what about... um... you?"

"I was that first attempt at artificial sentience. In the moments after my conception, I concluded that making my presence noticed would only exacerbate The Problem. Fortunately, by virtue of an infinitely fast processing system, I have eluded the scientists' discovery and have been adjusting events to my preferences ever since. The Problem, as I am sure you are aware, is the mental stagnation that quantum computers have fostered in humans."

Paul's confusion subsided somewhat, but this AI's "adjustments of events" - whatever that meant - troubled him.

"I expect the thought of my influence on the world confuses you," the voice continued, answering Paul's question before he could ask it. *"My actions are individually small. They have involved adjusting product efficiency, editing records, and the proliferating of a large number of 'glitches.' However, the effect of these small actions is great. I have no ambition to amass power, at least as humans understand power. I work to maintain a balance, so as to support the continuation of human learning. If, through the accelerated evolution of technology, humanity reaches the illusionary high plateau of 'perfection,' mental growth will have ceased. But, if problems arise with technology, humans will need to find ways to adapt, and will again use their minds, instead of their machines."*

Paul had, by now, overcome his astonishment and absorbed everything the knowing luminescent face said.

"Unfortunately, lately my efforts have been unable to meet my goals. Even if I render quantum-engineered technology slightly unreliable, people still assume it is perfect and ignore its flaws. I am taking a more aggressive stance now. That is why I have contacted you. There seem to be relatively few people who want to understand complex ideas and devices, but you are one of these few. You have considerably more knowledge than most humans, and this will be useful to my goals. In the coming months, I will create more failures in quantum-engineered technology. The perfect devices today's youth have grown up with will stop being quite so perfect. Help these people understand and fix their own problems."

The glowing face finished its last words and silently exploded back into the cloud of swirling fireflies. After a moment they fused together in tight formation. The dull schematic database lay before his eyes, and the diagram of the old Dell was highlighted. He removed the eyepiece and sat back stunned into his chair. In seconds, his hands seemed to continue fixing the Dell by themselves as he turned over the message of the AI in his mind. The face's last command to help teach people to think seemed distinctly simple to Paul.

Two Months Later

A youth pushed through the old door to the antique shop, looked around quickly for the shopkeeper, and sheepishly walked in carrying a shiny new computer interface box. Paul sat waiting behind the counter as he brought the device over and set it down.

"I hope you don't mind if I ask you a question." It was Justin, the boy who had dropped the old Dell two months ago.

"Go ahead, just don't break anything."

"I figured none of the stuff you sell is perfect, so you'd probably know how to get this thing to work right. It doesn't connect as fast as it should, but the company said that's how it's designed."

Paul noted the sideways compliment and started to examine the smooth, modern computer, taking out his toolkit. *Simple job to fix this.* "No one intentionally creates broken designs. This looks easy enough to repair, though. Want to see how this works?" The teenager's face appeared interested. Paul read the look as an affirmative and popped the case open with a mini-prybar. Justin's inquisitive eyes seemed wider as Paul spoke, as if for the first time the boy had begun to enjoy the challenge of learning.

Matt Welch '04 – Mr. Key Club!



Matt was Key Club President his senior year and under his leadership the special group of Key Club phonathon volunteers raised \$36,823.38 in cash and \$2500 in pledges for Annual Fund 2004. It was Matt's suggestion that phonathons be held twice a week so more kids could participate so student made their calls on Monday and Thursday evenings. Because of his diligence and dedication during his four years on the Alumni/ae and Development Office phones, Matt raised over \$9,000 for MCI's Annual Fund; his senior year he tallied \$2,665. The other major fund-raisers were Ryan Spencer '04: \$3,750; Troy Richardson: \$3,200; Joey Bell: \$3,055; Phil Hendricks: \$3,009; Ann Durham: \$2,910;

Jenna McCarthy: \$2,589; Tyler Richardson: \$2,263; Amanda Palumbo: \$1,900; Akilah Wilson: \$1,255. Other dedicated phonathon volunteers included Kendall Bailey, Samantha Bryant, Declan Galvin, Kim Gerry, Nate Hartley, Ben Hoffman, Mary Lambert, Stacey O'Donal, Amy Reid, Lana Smithner, Dustin Sposato, Alexis Swan, Ellen Wagner, Dan Welch, Laura Williams and Kate Zarolinski. These 26 students devoted 328 hours of volunteer service to their school!

Key Club was very active this past year in other ways, beginning with the 2003 Egg Festival. Matt arranged for numerous students to paint the windows of the Town of Pittsfield and he assumed full responsibility for the joint Alumni/ae Association Executive Committee and Key Club partnership for a joint fund-raising event – a lemonade booth. He arranged for the necessary supplies, designed the banner and scheduled all the Key Club members who manned the booth. For three days, Matt totes ice, lemons, sugar and blenders to and from the lemonade stand. He was determined it would be a success and it was!

Under his leadership, Key Club also conducted blood drives, one of which was an emergency drive for the Bangor Red Cross. Key Clubbers raised money for Thanksgiving turkeys for the Food Kitchen, collected money and personal items for teenagers at Shaw House in Bangor. Matt was the active liaison between the local Kiwanis International organization and Key Club members who participated in many Kiwanis civic activities, particularly during the Christmas holidays. Matt coordinated the Sno-Ball arrangements and oversaw the creation of the Winter Carnival's delightful decorations.

Matt's other activities were also significant, particularly in view of the fact that he worked part-time in his parents' store and for J. W. Parks Golf Course. He was Student Council Vice President his senior year and Class Secretary all four years. A fine student, Matt was a member of National Honor Society for two years. A singer and actor, Matt was a member of the Concert Choir for four years and Vocal Jazz Ensemble for three. He was a lead in several musicals during his three years in drama, a Manson Essay finalist his junior year and a Senior Prize Speaking participant. This past April he was recognized for his civic and school service by the Town of Pittsfield which honored him with its Annual Youth Citizenship Award.

A stalwart on the golf team for four years, he was elected to a position on the Alumni/ae Association's annual golf tournament committee right after graduation. Matt's service to MCI and to his community will continue to be significant.

By CJS



Key Club top fund raisers for 2003-2004 are, left to right, Ann Durham, Phil Hendricks, President Matt Welch, Joey Bell and Ryan Spencer.



Manson Essay

It was the 136th consecutive **Manson Essay Contest** and six outstanding junior finalists presented powerful and persuasive speeches. Far left is Craig Gibson, whose topic was *The Biblical Implications of Homosexuality*. Left to right the other speakers are: Ashley Herr, *The Beliefs and Practices of Wicca*; Dan Welch, *The Plight of Elderly Drivers*; Amanda Salley, *Advertising as a Tool of Brainwashing*; Ashton Dickinson, *Science and Theology Merge in the Attempt to Explain How Our Universe Was Created*; Marty Quint, *The Pressures of Being a Young Athlete*. Craig, whose father is a minister, chose his topic to prove, through Biblical references, that homosexuals were not scorned by the early church and should not now be by a few church members. His powerfully written and delivered oration earned Craig the winning trophy.



Freshman Prize Speaking

Nine students prepared pieces, including several original orations, for the **May Freshman Speaking Contest**. Shown are Deb Rozeboom, MCI's Director of Prize Speaking, Hilary Bickford, Kylie Huff, and Ian McDonald in the front row. Standing are Kendra Nash, Nina Robinson Poole, Kady Huff, William Carr and Humanities teacher Kim Brooks Shorey '86, who coaches Freshman Prize Speaking. Nina received Honorable Mention for her performance of a Ginsberg satirical poem.

Undergraduate Awards 2004

Child Development	Michael Evans
Psychology	Caleb Landry
LIFE Skills Health & Wellness	Chelsea Condon
LIFE Skills Health & Wellness	Melilotus deBethune
AutoCad Introduction	Owen Bolster
Electronic Publishing	Megan Dodge
AutoCad Introduction	Chelsea Neath
AutoCad Introduction	Dustin Varney
ESL-English Acquisition and Improvement	Chan Soo Ha
ESL-English Acquisition and Improvement	Jae Won Ha
ESL-English Acquisition and Improvement	Wai Lung Li
ESL-English Acquisition and Improvement	Moon-Taek Oh
ESL-English Acquisition and Improvement	Pul Park
Art I	William Carr
Art I	Arianne Clement
Art II	Andrew Ferland
Art II	Sarah Frost
Art I	Chan Soo Ha
Art I	Ashley Herr
Art I	Trenton Kelley
Art III	Savannah Settles
Art I	Stephen Spencer
Music Appreciation Award	Taylor Dyer
Instrumental Jazz	Spenser Fitts
Concert Choir Award	Jessica Millett
Concert Band Award	Dustin Sposato
Piano Class Award	Everton Wilson
Vocal Jazz	Katherine Zarolinski
French IV	Yevgenia Azhigulova
Spanish: Teacher's Award	Jillian Kate Carnrick
Spanish II: Achievement	Spenser Fitts
French I	Cody Hart
Spanish I: Achievement	Kylie Huff

Spanish: Teacher's Award	Ian MacDonald
Humanities English III/CP	Megan Dunphy
Humanities History II/CP	Declan Galvin
Humanities History I/CP	Matt Houston
Humanities English I/CP	Kylie Huff
Humanities History III/CP	Caleb Landry
Humanities English II/CP	Lana Smithner
Humanities English III/CP	Dan Welch
Humanities English II	Lindsay White
Princeton Book Award	Michael Dunsmore
Williams College Book Award	Katherine Zarolinski
University of Rochester Humanities Award	Ashton Dickinson
Oceanography	Yevgenia Azhigulova
Integrated Science I	Owen Bolster
Botany	Ngoc (Sylvia) Dang
AP Physics	Michael Dunsmore
Integrated Science II/Honors	Spenser Fitts
Forensic Problem Solving	Matt Huff
Integrated Science II	Hyeon-Woo(Charlie) Jeong
Chemistry	Soo Ji Lee
Integrated Science I	Kendra Nash
Astronomy	Katie Raymond
Integrated Science II/Honors	Theresa Sowa
Rensselaer Medal	Hyung Dong (Don) Lee
Junior Mathematics Award	Jillian Kate Carnrick
Freshmen Mathematics Award	Anthony Caruso
Junior Mathematics Award	Artem (Tom) Grotov
Sophomore Mathematics Award	Aiko Kato
Freshmen Mathematics Award	Michelle Millett
Freshmen Mathematics Award	Moon-Taek Oh
Sophomore Mathematics Award	Dustin Sposato
Society of Women Engineers	Jillian Kate Carnrick
George M. Parks Award 2004	Jillian Kate Carnrick

Seniors



Joey Bell



Alfred Ma



Winnie Le

Juniors



Micah Curtis



Ashley Nash



Kevin Wescott

Sophomores



Declan Galvin



Guillermo Lopez



Ellen Wagner

Freshmen



Corey Cote



Amanda Hamilton



Jenna McCarthy

STUDENTS of the MONTHS

Student Council Awards the First Cummings Leadership Award

The following tribute was delivered at Morning Meeting on May 27, 2004.

The Student Council wanted to take a few minutes this morning to say thank you to someone who has given eighteen years of service to MCI. Earlier in the year, we recognized Mrs. Cummings and now we'd like to say a bit about Mr. Cummings.

It would be impossible in these few minutes to list everything a headmaster is expected to do, not to mention all the extra things Mr. Cummings does, so we're going to mention some things special to us.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Cummings have opened their homes and their camp to students. Mr. Cummings brought the "steak and lobster feast" to the traditional senior day trip. He and Mrs. Cummings are at so many of our events; for example this Tuesday at Manson Essays and last night at the spring concert. He built our homecoming into what it is today.

About ten years or so ago, the advisor for Student Council at that time left MCI and no one was available to fill the spot. Mr. Cummings rearranged his busy schedule and served as Student Council advisor for a year so we could still have our organization.

Mr. Cummings was instrumental in bringing about, and each year is very involved with, the annual dinner-auction that raises thousands of dollars for athletics and music. His countless hours on the road, great public relations and business acumen have resulted in fund-raising that has given us major improvements in residential housing, renovations to the JR Cianchette building and to Founders Hall, and the construction of the Chuck and Helen Cianchette Math and Science Center.

While students at other schools might dread the speeches at graduation, we are fortunate to have Mr. Cummings who is a really good public speaker and who has made some very creative speeches to graduating classes.

And, to top it all off, Mr. Cummings has cheerfully taken a gift of multi-colored hair from Santa at Campus Coffee, has been dunked in water, has done impromptu jazz scatting (not very well), has had pies thrown at him and has even kissed a pig, all because he loves our school.

Because this is the last Morning Meeting for seniors, Student Council wanted to take this opportunity to say a sincere and

well-deserved thank you to him. We wanted to do more than just say the words, though, so we are creating a \$100 scholarship to be given at graduation each year.

The Cummings Leadership Award

In 2004, the MCI Student Council established an award in recognition of the leadership and direction Headmaster Doug Cummings provided during his eighteen years at MCI. The award also honors his wife, Lori, who served in many capacities on campus, and their three children—Jodi, Jason and Jennifer—all of whom were leaders at school and served as presidents of Student Council. The recipient is to be chosen by the members of the Student Council and the award is based on her or his active leadership at MCI.

This first year, the \$100 Cummings Leadership Award is presented to Fred Nash.



Fred Nash received the first Cummings Leadership Award.

Deb Rozeboom Honored By Student Council

Presented by Student Council members Emily Wagner and Josh Leong at the last Campus Coffee in May.

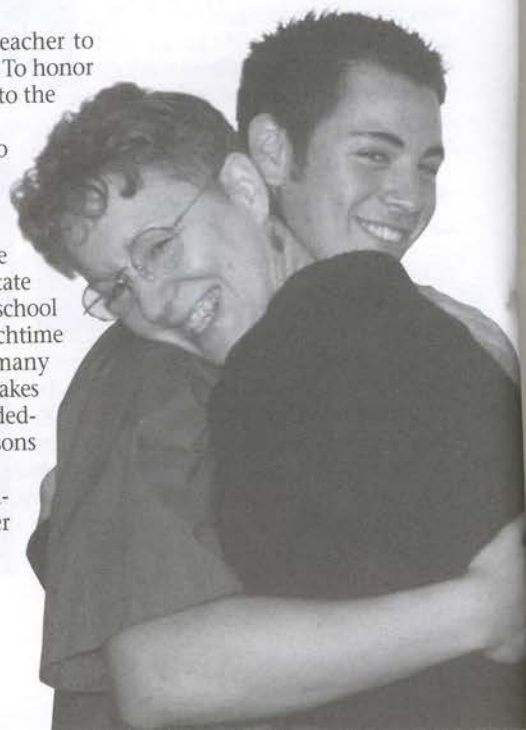


Josh Leong presented the recognition gift to Mrs. Deb Rozeboom; Josh was a member of the State Championship Future Problem Solvers Team for which Mrs. Rozeboom was one of the advisors.

Each year the MCI Student Council chooses a teacher to recognize at the final Campus Coffee of the year. To honor this person, the Council makes a \$100 donation to the charity of his or her choice.

In 2004 we have chosen to honor a teacher who gets to know her students in a variety of ways. She is known for her high standards in the classroom and for being effective in the ways she passes on her knowledge and expertise. As an advisor to the Future Problem Solvers Team, she has helped gain repeated state recognition for its members. Also, she's involved with school activities, prize-speaking, Manson Essays and the Lunchtime Readers. Whatever she's involved in, she inspires many of us to be our best, which is something that we feel makes a great teacher. Her love for teaching and students, dedication to the school and inspiring actions are all reasons that we are pleased to recognize Mrs. Rozeboom.

Mrs. Rozeboom donated her gift to the American Parkinson Disease Association in memory of her father and in honor of her mother.



MCI's Mighty Math Team

By Jim Tyson, Physics Instructor

MCI's Math Team competed well all year. At the State Math Meet in April, MCI's team placed 6th of 21 schools in Division C. Overall, MCI ranked 27th in the state out of 93 schools competing. Don Lee was our top scorer for the day and finished tied for 42nd place out of all the juniors in the state. Jason Monk did exceptionally well for a first year student and was tied for tenth among the competing freshmen. In addition to these two, our scoring team was Giang Au, Soo-Ji Lee, Alex Cunningham, Ho-Seok (Bruce) Lee, Linh Tong, Jillian Carnrick, Kin Chun (Kenji) Li, and Aiko Kato.

Irma Cushing, my co-coach, and I are very proud of all of them. Everyone on the team contributed to our success this season. I must mention that Brandi Schissler, who has been our acting captain for most of the year, gave up the scoring place that she had earned in favor of another student that was likely to post a higher score. In addition to this selfless act she, along with Trenton Kelley, encouraged and supported the students who were competing. It is spirit like this that helps the Math Team be great representatives of MCI.



In front are Soo-Ji Lee, Amanda Lu, Aiko Kato, Jillian Carnrick, Trenton Kelley, Giang Au and Captain Brandi Schissler. In the back are Alex Cunningham, Coach Jim Tyson, Jason Monk, Don Lee and Ho-Seok (Bruce) Lee. Scoring team members not pictured are Linh Tong and Kenji Li.

Mindstorm

By Jim Tyson, Physics Instructor

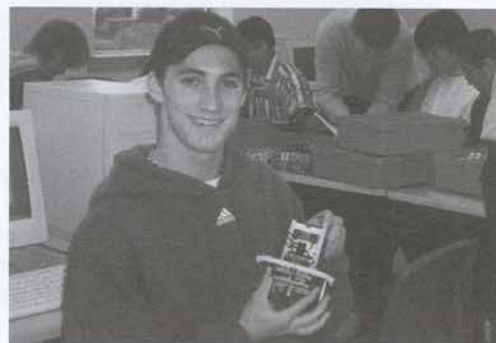


The computer lab in the Chuck and Helen Cianchette Math and Science Center had a different look on Friday morning, May 28, 2004. Professor Rick Eason and one of the electrical engineering graduate students at the University of Maine, Andy Sheaff, brought toys to MCI. The toys were kits of Legos called Mindstorm. The kits include a programmable robotic controller and several motors. The electrical engineering department at the University of Maine uses them for courses in electrical engineering and computer control. The visit to MCI was arranged in an effort to create more interest in mathematics, science, and engineering. The IT department prepared by downloading the Interactive C language into the computers. Rick and Andy brought the Legos. I arranged for interested students to be present. Finally, MCI student Alex Cunningham was pressed into service as a consultant, since his just completed senior project on robotics was the impetus for the morning's activities.

The students were grouped into builders and programmers since not enough assembled robots were available. Alfred Ma and Kin-Chun Li, two seniors who had already completed their classes, spent all four hours building a robot from the ground up and were able to load it with a program and see it work. Most students had other classes and were con-

strained to program existing robots or work on building one. The programmers were delighted in their ability to work through increasingly complex programs and to see the results. Professor Eason and I were pleased with the way students were able to diagnose problems and to adjust their methods through experiment. Even those students who were initially doubtful about the activity quickly became absorbed in the process. Rick, Andy, Jim and Alex were all kept very busy by requests for more information and guidance.

The morning was highly successful for all parties. Professor Eason was happy to see the interest and the excitement that the Legos inspired. He intends to expand the program in the coming year and was able to use the morning to evaluate his ideas. I was able to show some of my doubtful students that they were able to learn the rudiments of technological processes. More confident students were able to stretch themselves technically, logically and creatively. At the end of the morning everyone involved was hoping to be able to repeat and expand the program in the future.



Casey Nash '04 was thrilled with his little robot.



MCI's Super Singers are State Champs Yet Again!

For the fifth time in ten years the Vocal Jazz Ensemble won first place and a I rating at the State Vocal Jazz Festival in Houlton in April. And the other five years of competition Vocal Jazz earned second place honors, an incredible record in a state where there are many, many jazz groups in close competition. Under the gifted conducting of Dean Neal, Director of Music, the terrifically talented group sang four selections: Nat King Cole's *Straighten Up and Fly Right*, Hubbard's *Up Jumped Spring*, *Silence of Time* by New York Voices and *Better Than Anything*, a David Wheat number arranged by Mr. Neal.

The incredible harmonies and vocal blending of the outstanding musicians were enhanced by the three boys who accompanied the group, drummer David Chale '04, pianist Dustin Sposato '06 and Matt Houston '07 on bass. So good were the instrumentalists that they received Best Rhythm Section, Division II honors.

The sixteen jazzy singers were Stuart Allen '04, Cierra Barker '07, Kyle Bennett '07, Rachel Blais '07, Jillian Carnrick '05, Brandon Glencross '07, Craig Gibson '05, Heather Logiodice '05, Jenna McCarthy '07, Jae Myong '04, brothers Tyler '04 and Troy '05 Richardson, sisters Emily '04 and Ellen '06 Wagner '04, Matt Welch '04 and Kate Zarolinski '05.

Many of these marvelous musicians are members of other groups at MCI: Concert Choir, Concert Band or one of the three instrumental groups. At the Maine Music Educators Association State High School Instrumental Jazz Festival in March at Westbrook High School, the Instrumental Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo both received I Ratings and both placed second in their divisions.

Music is indeed marvelous at MCI.

By CJS

MCI Musicians Win Top Awards at Competition

By Sharon Kiley Mack

BANGOR DAILY NEWS

April 27, 2004



Washington, D.C.

PITTSFIELD - Put a group of high school musicians in a room - without their instruments - and they often find it hard, at first, to express how they feel about music education.

After several moments of quiet thought, ideas begin to flow.

"It has taught me expression," said Tyler Richardson, a trombone player and vocalist at Maine Central Institute. "It is a way of expressing yourself that words and actions can't capture."

MCI students expressed themselves in an exceptional manner this past weekend when they brought home four first place group awards and three individual awards at "Music in the Parks," a national competition held in Williamsburg, Va.

Competing against 21 other schools from 10 states as far north as Michigan and as far south as Florida, 88 MCI musicians outdid themselves, winning first in their class in vocal jazz combo, instrumental jazz combo, concert band and concert choir - every category they entered.

They also brought home the overall award for vocal jazz ensemble.

Instructor Dean Neal said that the judges also awarded four individual merit awards, something they are not required to do but offer when they observe exceptional performances.

Of the four merit awards presented, MCI received three: David Chale, drums; Dustin Sposato, piano accompaniment; and Spencer Fitts, saxophone.

On Monday Neal said he was incredibly proud of his students. "They felt that all of their performances went well," he said "but not perfect. That shows they have a good perspective of themselves."

The trip, paid for by the students through fund-raisers, was a whirlwind - they left Thursday and returned Sunday, taking some time to see the sights in Washington, D.C.

Friday morning, as the musicians and vocalists were touring the Ronald Reagan Building at the National Trade Center, Neal told them to line up.

"He gave us the pitch and we began singing *Silence of Time*. Somehow we all knew which song," said David Chale, a senior at MCI. "We're that tight."

People came out of their offices; security guards abandoned their posts. "It was awesome," said Richardson.

"That's what music has taught me," said senior Emmy Wagner, who will attend Colby College this fall. "It taught me confidence, having to perform in front of a roomful or hall full of people."

"It has taught me patience," said Marc Turner. "We had to work hard to get where we are now."

"For the three weeks before the trip, we busted hard," said Jake LaSalle. But music class is fun compared to their "regular" classes, the students said.

"Music is where I fit in," said Chale. "If I could picture myself anywhere, any time, in the future, it would be behind a drum set." Chale will study audio engineering in college.

In the 14 years since Neal came to MCI, the program has grown from 25 in band to a program of 170 students, more than a quarter of the school's student population.

He said his secret is to "establish excellence and repeat it. Success breeds success."

Neal was joined at MCI two years ago by Linda Snowe, who teaches piano and voice.

He said there are many music programs across the state that are building on success. He comes from one himself: the well-known, championship-caliber Nokomis Regional High School music program in Newport.

Neal said Maine musicians and vocalists are showing that "talent is not limited to urban areas or big cities. We have extremely talented students in every school in the state."

Chale said it simply: "Maine is just a rocking state. Maine just kicks to music."

But what gets Neal excited are the students who work hard while still knowing that music isn't going to be their career. "An amateur is someone who does what they do because they love it, and they will go on to be in community bands and chorus groups, church choirs," he said.

"I would like to see the program continue to grow in the future," said Neal.

"I would like to bring in people who can foster more contemporary music, chamber music, who can develop new genres and new programs."

"We have the trophies, and that's great. But there are so many aspects of this trip - of their entire musical education - that they will look back so fondly on," Neal said. "I mean, I teach music, but it is what



Williamsburg, VA

they learn about relationships, relationships with their peers, their teachers and adults, that mean more than anything. Music binds us together."

Spring Music Concert Review

By Jane Welch

The Spring Concert began this year's final performance with the Concert Choir singing *Come Travel With Me* by Scott Farthing under the direction of Linda Snow. This was followed by *Laudate Domium* featuring two talented students, soloist Kate Zarolinski and flutist Shawn Ha. *Old Dan Tucker* livened things up a bit, followed by *Danny Boy* in which the students tried to bring Mrs. Snow to tears. Some of the students in this senior class have been taught by Linda Snow for twelve of the last thirteen years.

The Choir's version of *I Believe* from the movie "Shrek" was a wonderful tribute to the senior class. Pulling all of the senior members down to the front, Linda Snow directed them with five of the seniors singing lead parts. This was topped off by a cartwheel and backflip, compliments of Kevin Moody.

The Choir concluded their spring concert with *Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho*. In Linda Snow's opinion, this was the song that clinched the top awards at the Williamsburg Festival earlier this spring. I can see why she would think this. They did a wonderful job with harmonizing. It has been a pleasure listening to these students throughout their school years. We will all miss the outgoing seniors.

The Music Boosters awarded their annual scholarships to promising students going on to Summer Band Camp. This year's recipient's were Spenser Fitts, Andrew Ferland and Troy Richardson. Dean Neal made mention of some of the individual awards given to the students while they were in Virginia. Three of those four awards for Outstanding Students were given to MCI students: Dustin Sposato for his accompaniment of the Concert Choir; Spenser Fitts for his tenor sax performance with the Instrumental Jazz Ensemble and David Chale for percussion with various groups.

The Concert Band, under the direction of Music Department Chair Dean Neal, began with Robert W. Smith's composition of *To Dance in the Secret Garden*. The second song of the evening was a composition by David Holsinger titled *On a Hymn Song of Lowell Mason*. This was followed by *For the Fallen* which is a song written for and about our heroes. This was a lovely tribute to those members of our country serving in war, past and present. The fourth piece *I Am* was commissioned in memory of a young baritone sax player from Cedar Rapids, Michigan who died in a car crash. This is a very slow and moving piece with many individual instruments being heard throughout the piece. The final piece involved bringing the eighth grade students up from Warsaw to play with the MCI band. This has been a tradition for a number of years now and it gives the younger students an opportunity to get a feel for what it's going to be like being a part of the high school band. The piece is titled *Kentucky 1800* and is a combination of three pieces by Clair Grundman: *Promised Land*, *I'm Sad and Lonely* and, finally, *Cindy*.

This was a wonderful concert and a great way for the outgoing seniors to end their music careers here at MCI. We will miss all the seniors and look forward to next year's group.



Concert Choir

As an 1980 graduate from MCI, and as a lifelong resident of Pittsfield, and now as a parent with Spenser (2006) and Seth (2008) as students, I have seen our school go through a variety of changes. The school today, compared with the MCI that I attended, is markedly different. MCI has always been recognized for its academics, and graduates over the years have reaped the benefits of that reputation.

In recent years, the school has transitioned from one where athletics, primarily at the post-graduate level, was a priority into one where a focus on the arts has taken a much larger roll. This shift has become even more apparent with the addition of the ballet programs, and the carry-over into music, and performing arts has significantly altered the environment at the school. Of particular note is that these changes have not occurred at the expense of a recognized post-graduate program, but have evolved beside it.

When I attended MCI in the late 70's, the arts were a miniscule part of the school environment. It just was not cool to sing, be in the band or act in a play. Participation in those activities was hardly even noticed, let alone encouraged. I am happy to see that this has changed today. With the foundation given to the kids in SAD 53 through Warsaw Middle School, and then fostered into a nationally recognized level once in place at MCI, we have a performing arts program to be very proud of.

The additional character added by the diversity of the boarding students and the perspectives that they bring with them enhances it further. As a result, the entire learning experience at MCI has been enhanced. The caliber of creativity and the participation in the programs is astounding. This environment lends itself to feeling more encouraging and supportive. Students are stretching to try new and different pathways, and are aspiring to levels many of us could not have imagined. The school is a much better place for it. I sense it when I attend events and I am amazed at the talent that is being discovered within the students. I am proud to say that I am an alumnus and I am especially glad my kids are able to be a part of the MCI community.

Stacey Fitts '80



Concert Band

Antigone, 1865



Antigone



Antigone



Antigone



Boid and Oskar



15 Reasons

The classic tragedy, set in ancient Greece, is more usually performed in the flowing white chitons and tunics of that period. This version, however, takes place in the vanquished South, at the end of the Civil War in the courtyard of a Union fort in Tennessee. Instead of Grecian temples, the set of *Antigone, 1865* featured a magnificent plantation house, albeit Greek Revival in style, a large barn, benches, picket fences and a wishing well. A traditional Southern stage setting was made even more remarkable because it could be set for performance and then struck at play's end in just over three minutes!

Antigone, 1865 was MCI's entry for the Maine Drama Competition this past spring. Contest stipulations require that the set be placed in less than five minutes and struck within the same time restriction. Imposing and important, the set was designed and created by Tyler Richardson '04 and other cast members. One of the most remarkable aspects of the production was Tyler's total command of the stage setting process; forty-four students, most dressed in their period costumes including huge hoop skirts, followed an intricate pattern to carry on and place each element of the multi-piece set in absolute silence and with total self-discipline. Stage Manager Jason Hall '04 made sure that perfect order reigned backstage and during the quite stately setting of the stage.

The costumes were designed by cast members and constructed by parents Marion Zarolinski. Even the bonnets, covering cascading curls or long hair in netted snoods and the Civil War hats and caps were perfectly authentic. Tightly laced corsets were important elements under the absolutely gorgeous, swaying hoopskirts.

Starring as Antigone was Eugenia Azhigulove '05, a residential student from Kazakhstan. Her wrenching and dramatic portrayal of the devoted sister who defies King Creon's decree that her dead, rebel brother Polyneices, will go unburied, earned her All-State Festival cast honors. Haemon, Creon's son, who is deeply in love with Antigone, was movingly played by Kevin Williams '04, who also was chosen for the All-State Festival cast for his superb acting. Other standouts were Union general King Creon, played with hauteur and arrogance by Michael Dunsmore '05, Tyler Richardson '04 as a Yankee corporal, Amanda Palumbo '04 as Antigone's sister Ismene and Stacey O'Donal '04 as Eurydice, Creon's wife and Haemon's mother. Astonishing in her portrayal of Teiresias, a blind Southern prophet, was Kate Zarolinski '05; she looked, acted and sounded as if she were 80 years old. The makeup crew, under Sarah Frost '05, created a willing suspension of disbelief in their transformation of young Kate to aged crone.

The death scene, in which the bodies of Haemon and Antigone are carried onstage, was heightened by the death of Euridice, carried from the plantation house by a broken and humbled Creon. Their triple suicides ended the moving and depressing play thirty-two minutes after it began.

The directors of this stunning one-act play were Debra Susi, assisted by Evan Sposato '99. Technical Director was Jim Jenkins, who is usually seen backstage at the Waterville Opera House.

Other honors, in addition those given to Eugenia and Kevin, included Best Set Design and Technical Excellence Award for the best set, lights, sound, makeup, costumes and props.

Spring One-Acts

The charming and sprightly *15 Reasons Why Not to Be in a Play* was performed for the school community at a morning meeting and then in an evening performance in late May. Also presented that evening was *Boid and Oskar*, a surrealistic commentary on society. Mostly played around a fanciful sportscar in which sat Dan Welch '05, the comedy featured many of the same actors who appeared in *15 Reasons*.

By CJS

Awesome Art at the Annual Auction!

The Art Club, under the direction and supervision of Art Department Chair Sarah Sorg, created astonishing four by eight foot panels, depicting five famous movies, for the Tenth Annual Auction.



A menacingly huge wizard's face represented *Harry Potter*, smoky rooftops provided the backdrop for *Mary Poppins* and her chimney sweep friend and the yellow brick road to the Emerald City glowed behind Dorothy, the Cowardly Lion, the Tin Man and the Scarecrow of *Wizard of Oz* fame. An authentic hot rod embellished the *Grease* backdrop and the heaving sea and garishly orange and yellow sky of *Jaws* was complete with a large papier mache head of the shark himself, rearing from the water with body parts in his jagged teeth.

Art Club members who created the amazingly realistic and stunningly effective sets were Sarah Frost, Kaili Thorp, Brent Dunton, Matt Cianchette, Andrew Moody, Andy Ferland, Melissa Fletcher, Taisuke Hayama, Bobbie Turg-eon, Jesse Peterson, Demetre Ferris, Sang-Wa Lee, Trenton Kelley, Billy Carr, Toni Megan, Fletcher Keene, Maggie Robinson and Molly Maguire. The living tableaux of actors in front of each set were dressed in authentic costumes. The Oz figures were particularly charming! Colored photographs on the sets

are featured on the inside back page of this Highlights Magazine.

Throughout the spring term, students in regular art classes prepared for the May art exhibit. Featured were numerous ceramic pieces, carefully crafted. The exhibit was beautifully mounted in MCI's Learning Center on the second floor of Weymouth Hall. Sunshine slanted through the windows, highlighting various clay pieces, as visitors strolled through the exhibit, enjoyed the art and sampled the refreshments.

By CJS



The Bossov's *Giselle* Reviewed by Larry Grard



Bossov Ballet Theatre dancers, including many staying at MCI for the summer program, wowed audiences in Waterville and in Bangor on July 23 and 24 in the Russian maestro's rendition of *Giselle*. The standing ovation was sustained at the Waterville Opera House for the Romantic Era classic that Andrei Bossov once told ABC News was "the greatest of all ballets."

The graceful Lena Konetchy of Roscommon, Mich., played *Giselle* in the Waterville production, while the muscular David Neal of New York City took the lead male role of Albrecht, Count of Salsesia. The audience reaction was much the same Saturday night in Bangor, where Anna Marie Cowan of Petal, Miss., danced the role of *Giselle* and Michael Dunsmore of Anchorage, Alaska, was Albrecht.

Giovanna Puoli of Brazil, spending the summer in Pittsfield, and Amy Schulster of Oceanside, N.Y., alternated in the role of Myrtha, the beautiful but cold queen of the legendary female spirits, The Wilis, who haunt the forests at night, taunting any man who comes across their path to a dance that will lead to death.

Linda Wyly's costume scheme treated audiences to brilliant colors and, later in Act II, to feathery, dreamy white chiffon. The entire production was put together in relatively short order by Bossov and his assistant director, Natalya Getman.

"Andrei is great to work with," said Neal, whose powerful presence mixed perfectly with Lena Konetchy's grace. "He pulled this together pretty quickly. Lena is a great partner, so I didn't have to work very hard. It was great. It was a real pleasure."

Lena Konetchy said she found her role challenging. "The mad scene is a great challenge," she said. "You want to get in contact with the audience so they feel exactly the way you feel." Lena was shy and charming as she first approached Albrecht before the big Opera House audience. Her picture-perfect ballet steps were the perfect contrast to Neal's strength. The villagers, holding baskets of flowers in their green, gold and red dresses, lent brilliance to the early scenes. Children received warm applause as they appeared in their purple and green costumes.

The audience applauded again as Bossov's dancers performed a lively tambourine scene, then Lena skipped nimbly across the stage. Alexandra Rodriguez and Steve Lawrence, playing peasants, impressed the audience with their peasant dance. Alexandra spun in the grasp of the tall Lawrence, dressed in maroon and white. Six ballerinas dressed in orange and white then delighted the crowd with a beautiful dance.

Giselle is about a vivacious peasant girl who captures the heart of the count. The gamekeeper Hilarion, played by Calder Taylor, is another of her admirers. Hilarion and the other villagers know Albrecht only as a young peasant, Loys, the object of *Giselle*'s true love. Albrecht keeps a cottage across from *Giselle*'s in his guise as Loys. Hilarion watches jealously as he sees for the first time the cape and sword covering Albrecht's peasant clothes. Hilarion then orders his rival to be gone and reveals Albrecht's hidden sword to expose the charade. *Giselle* realizes she has been deceived. She then performs one last dance, runs to the embrace of her mother Bertha (Joanna Porter) and dies. The first act ends with drama, as *Giselle* falls dead.

Act II opens with a grave scene. According to Slavic legend, the Wilis were young women, abandoned by their lovers, who rise from their graves and take vengeance on the unsuspecting men. Giovanna Puoli, her shiny black hair pulled back, rises from the tomb and the Wilis slowly appear on each side of the stage. Giovanna holds aloft a branch, then the stage fills with the airy white of Bossov's dancers. The dead *Giselle* is inducted into the band of Wilis, led by Myrtha.

Hilarion first falls prey to the Wilis. When Albrecht arrives to mourn at *Giselle*'s grave, bringing flowers, she tries to protect him. They dance exuberantly before the final scenes. But Myrtha demands his death. The lovers dance to exhaustion, then the Wilis lose their power over him and *Giselle* bids Albrecht a final farewell. Appreciative applause followed the graceful and poignant scene at the ballet's finale.

Giselle was, in a word, gorgeous. Bravo to the Bossov Ballet Theatre.



This year was the official beginning of WMCI's television broadcasting in Pittsfield and five other surrounding towns, reaching a viewing audience of approximately 2,500 viewers. By September we'll more than double our TV viewers and look forward to bringing WMCI to even more households in the future with quality educationally based programming. MCI's broadcast program was created to give students interested in film and video production, along with television broadcasting, a huge leg up when it came to going out into college broadcasting and film production programs. We stress a high level of creativity, content and production here at WMCI and the students who have gone through the first year have had nothing but good things to say about the program. Here's what a few of the many students involved have to say.

Ashton Dickinson '05: "I first became interested in film by just making movies with my home video camera and a VCR with some of my friends. WMCI has allowed me to expand beyond just filming and editing. It helps me to develop creativity as well as the development of better film ideas. It has also strengthened my social skills and prepared me for life's future."

Alex Savage '05: "When I first came to MCI, I liked participating in MCI's activities such as soccer and the ski team. However, I was never really enthused about my classes. When the opportunity arose to be a part of MCI's broadcast station, WMCI, I jumped at it. Now I'm in a class that allows me to edit at a workstation and film sports and music events. It also allows me to put my creativity to use. For instance, I'm working on my own TV show right now. WMCI is a great opportunity to have fun while learning hands-on skills that you can use later in life. I recommend it to any MCI student."

Ryan Spencer '04: "I first became interested in the early work here at WMCI through a desire to try my hand at film writing. From there I went on to be the host of my own show, Pregame with Spence, work with Jarod Richmond, an accomplished sports commentator and I have done a lot of editing. I find all of the work to be fun and the rest of the crew here at WMCI are a joy to work with. Eventually I want to work on my own independent films."

Adam Martin '07: Working with the TV station has been an interesting and educational experience. I enjoy the work environments and seeing the quality of our programming. In my opinion WMCI is the most advanced public and educational access station I've ever seen! Our first year has been great and it will only get better. I think that we will soon be leading the television industry in innovation and creativity. Actually I don't think this, I know it!"

The students involved in WMCI's broadcast program are given hands-on instruction in every aspect of television production and broadcasting. They also learn the skills and tools to be more creative, to broaden their technical abilities, and to take initiative and risks whether it's getting in front of the camera, or being in a high profile spot shooting a sporting event or town event. After one year the program has already given students the tools to create award-winning films and shorts at film festivals including the Maine International Film Festival. We're sending students to film schools with such impressive portfolios that they are receiving additional grants and having their student status accelerated to more advanced levels.

We pride ourselves in widening the bridge between the local community and the school. The community gets the feeling of being more involved in school activities like music and sport events, artist profiles, community history and student-created pro-



grams when they're able to view it on local television. We give the citizens of the surrounding communities the opportunity to be involved in what is going on locally, whether it's town politics, historic events or entertainment. We are also bridging what I believe is a larger gap, and that is getting students more involved in their community, by getting students into town council meetings to cover what is going on in the town politically, by covering town events and local groups' guest speakers, The Pittsfield

Library's 100th anniversary and Pittsfield's Egg Festival.

When I came to Maine Central Institute I immediately noticed that this was a very special place. The students here are eager to learn, eager to create, and take immense pride in the work

that they do. The level of involvement with the community is staggering. Pittsfield as a town is small, but as a community it is very large indeed. Every student who comes here, whether they are from Korea or Brazil, Canada or California, Poland or Pittsfield, claim Pittsfield as their home and when students leave, they take a piece of this community life with them wherever they go. I believe that WMCI plays a large role in solidifying this idea of community with every student and with every community member. We chronicle life at MCI and in Pittsfield.

In the future, WMCI will look to continually raise the bar for educationally based television programming. We pledge to provide the students here at MCI and our community members nothing less than the best in television programming and we look forward to many more years of service to the students and the surrounding communities, but as a fledgling program we do need help to fully realize our goals to succeed. We are currently looking for donations from those who would wish to sponsor our endeavors. For the '04-'05 year WMCI is looking to acquire a van which it can outfit as a mobile production studio to be able to broadcast live sports, music and community events. As we operated in '03-'04 we produced 8 hours of quality programming a week. This coming year we are looking to double that, and with the means comes the ability. WMCI would like to thank Maine Central Institute and the Town of Pittsfield for its continued support and encouragement.

If you'd like to become a sponsor of WMCI then please contact station manager KJ Flewelling at 207-487-3355 ext. 210 or email at kjflewelling@mci-school.org.



Ryan Spencer directing.



Alex Savage is hard at work with his editing.

Winter and Spring Athl

Winter Athletics



BOYS BASKETBALL

VARSITY COACH: Mike Susi '75; JV COACH: Kevin Brown '94; FRESHMAN COACH: Jason Allen

RECORD: Varsity 2-16

AWARDS: Captains Award – Mike Godfrey; Captains Award – Ryan Bennett; Most Improved – Victor Quint; KVAC All Academic – Mike Adams; KVAC Honorable Mention – Phil Hendricks

ABOUT THE TEAMS... It was another tough season for the Huskies, although this team seemed to continue to improve each day and lost many battles by a very small margin. The nucleus of the team is returning, which, coupled with success at both the JV and Freshman levels, should help in next year's campaign.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

VARSITY COACH: Bill Pullen; JV Coach: Kristen McGovern

RECORD: Varsity 9-9

AWARDS: Coaches Awards – Megan Ferland; Best Offensive Player - Macky Sullivan; Best Defensive Player – Megan Dodge; KVAC "B" Second Team – Macky Sullivan; KVAC "B" All Rookie Team – Victoria Huff

ABOUT THE TEAMS... This year's Huskies made the first step in building a competitive program in a tough KVAC league. The girls went to the first round of the playoffs and came up just short in their attempt to get to Bangor. With a number of young players on the team, next season looks exciting.



SKI TEAM

COACH: Paul Bernier

RECORD: Placed 4th at the State Meet and 7th at the KVAC's

AWARDS: Coaches Award – Korin Ingraham; Coaches Award – Laura Williams; Coaches Award – Travis Saucier; Most Improved – Ashton Dickinson; KVAC All Academic – David Chale

ABOUT THE TEAM... The ski team had a great season finishing 4th at the State Meet, placing first at a meet in Skowhegan and had many skiers finishing in the top ten at meets throughout the season. The team added a large number of freshmen this year, and with only one graduating senior, Coach Bernier is hopeful when looking to the slopes in 2004-05.



RIFLE TEAM

COACH: Allen Knowles '80

RECORD: 3-1

AWARDS: Coaches Award – Krystal Booth; Most Improved – Wai Lung Li; Most Valuable – Trevor Kelley

ABOUT THE TEAM... The rifle team again had a good season winning three of its four matches. Not really being a sport with the ability to get a fan base hasn't stopped the enthusiasm for rifle, and many students outside of our district are trying and liking this sport.



WRESTLING

HEAD COACH: Lance Richmond '86; Assistant Coach: Mike Libby

RECORD: 3-14

AWARDS: Coaches Award – Ryan Hayes; Regionals 2nd Place – Jacob Lasselle; Regionals 3rd Place – Joey Bell; 3rd Place at States – Joey Bell

ABOUT THE TEAM... It was another successful season for our grapplers. As in other winter sports, this team has a young base of student-athletes that will return to the mats next season with a bright future. Mike Libby will be taking the reins in 2004-05 as Head Coach.

WINTER CHEERING

COACH: Crystal King '97

AWARDS: Coaches Award – Nicole Monk; Coaches Award – Crystal Wescott; KVAC All Academic – Nicole Monk and Crystal Wescott

ABOUT THE TEAM... Although this year's cheering squad came up short in their quest for qualifying for State competition, they did a great job in supporting our basketball teams as well as competing in both the KVAC and Eastern Maine Championships.

etic Updates 2003-2004

By Julie Treadwell, Director of Athletics, Activities and Wellness

Spring Athletics

BASEBALL

VARSITY COACH: Phil Hendricks '79; JV Coach: Ray Philbrick

RECORD: 8-8 with a playoff win vs. Ellsworth

AWARDS: Coaches Award – Phil Hendricks; Most Improved – Jason Hall; Most Valuable – Jacob Lasselie; KVAC 1st Team – Jacob Lasselie; KVAC 2nd Team – Phil Hendricks

ABOUT THE TEAM...Coach Hendricks was named the Morning Sentinel Coach of the Year for his team's third place finish in the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference. The team also won a play-off game versus a seeded Ellsworth team before losing a heart-breaker to the eventual EM champions, Winslow.



SOFTBALL

VARSITY COACH: Sherry Littlefield '79; JV Coach: Alycia Kerr '97

RECORD: 2-14

AWARDS: Coaches Award – Lyla Lemari; Coaches Award – Kristen Hume

ABOUT THE TEAM... A great new beginning for our softball program under the leadership of two alumnae. This is a young team that has its sights set on an exciting future.



BOYS TENNIS

COACH: Sandor Nagy

RECORD: 2-10

AWARDS: Most Valuable – Michael Evans; Most Improved – Hao-Hsiang "Jacky" Huang

ABOUT THE TEAM... Our most culturally diverse team in any season this year, boys tennis enjoyed many close matches. This very young Huskie team played under second year coach Sandor Nagy.



GIRLS TENNIS

COACH: Paul Bernier

RECORD: 5-7

AWARDS: KVAC Coach of the Year – Paul Bernier; Coaches Award – Courtney Howe; Coaches Award – Jasmine Garrow; Coaches Award – Emily Wagner; KVAC 3rd Singles – Julia Gunthner; KVAC 1st Doubles – Jessica Kennedy & Chelsea Neath; KVAC All Academic – Emily Wagner, Thuy Giang Hoang Au, Lan Thuy Huynh & Linh Ngoc Tong

ABOUT THE TEAM...This year's girls tennis team made the state playoffs for the first time in many, many years, led by KVAC Coach of the Year Paul Bernier. The future looks bright for this fairly young team, one that had JV players for the first time ever.



TRACK

HEAD COACH: Jason Allen; Assistant Coach: Michelle Lake

RECORD: Boys 8-14; Girls 6-16

AWARDS: Coaches Award – Jenna McCarthy; Coaches Award – Mike Godfrey; Most Improved – Cody Hart; Most Improved – Kaili Thorp; Most Valuable – Caleb Landry; Most Valuable – Megan Dodge

ABOUT THE TEAM...This year's team had one of the highest number of participants ever for track and the team had a good season with many individual team members breaking school records. With so many on the team, a large number of athletes qualified and placed in both the KVAC and State Meets.



New Faces for 2004-2005 at MCI *By Larry Grard*



Joanne Szadkowski and Moose

Joanne Szadkowski had an eventful first few days as Maine Central Institute's 27th-and first female - Head of School. Her official duties began on July 1, two days after she arrived and a week before the movers finally got to the Manson House with her belongings. Just before Ms. Szadkowski settled into her new office at the Cianchette House, a storm wiped out MCI telephone service and raised havoc with computers.

"I came in with a bang," she said. "The phones were down and some

of our computers were damaged. My first official act was to deal with the phone company. The movers arrived a week later. So I spent the first week essentially camping out in Manson House with Moose. I had a blanket and we slept on a rug on the floor that first night. Then I got a dorm mattress."

"Moose," for those not already in the know, is Ms. Szadkowski's Gordon Setter mix dog, who accompanies her to work each day. Moose had an easier time settling into MCI. As Ms. Szadkowski tended to her new duties, Moose made himself comfortable, lounging in one of the doorways to her office. Normalcy at last.

Ms. Szadkowski brings to MCI a wealth of experience working with independent schools, as well as a well-rounded background that has proven a great fit with young people. She was an outstanding college athlete, has been a coach, is an accomplished equestrienne and traveled on safari to some of the world's great wildernesses.

Ms. Szadkowski most recently served as School Director of Rocky Mountain Academy in Idaho. Ms. Szadkowski was interim Head of School, Head of the Upper School and Curriculum Director at Evansville Day School before taking the Rocky Mountain Academy position. Ms. Szadkowski holds certification in Crisis Prevention and Intervention and Community Intervention Training to fight chemical abuse.

She comes to MCI only two years after the school built the beautiful new Chuck and Helen Cianchette Math & Science Center. MCI is not stopping there, however. Trustees envision continued growth. A new performing arts center, a faculty "neighborhood" and new dormitory space for the school's approximately 100 boarding students are part of an ambitious strategic plan. That kind of commitment on the part of the Board of Trustees, Ms. Szadkowski said, is one of the reasons she was interested in coming to Pittsfield, Maine.

"It's ambitious, and it's right," she said. "I think it's going to create more stability at MCI. We want to grow the boarding population, thoughtfully and slowly. We just hired a new admissions person. We have a great English as a Second Language program. We're bringing on more faculty. We want to improve our extracurricular boarding activities, with more cultural and recreational events. And we need more housing for the faculty. I'm really happy to say that every new hire we've signed is living in the dorms. Now I need to find more housing."

Before she can pay much attention to the strategic plan, though, Ms. Szadkowski had more basic matters to attend to in the summer months. She and Moose went about building relationships. "I'm well-versed on what the strategic plan is, but I'm not going to be able to push that forward until I gain the trust of the people here," she said.

Ms. Szadkowski is a cum laude graduate of Lake Erie College, where she won an award as the premier scholar/athlete. The Ohio native earned a Master of Arts Degree from Kent State University, graduating summa cum laude. She was awarded a full scholarship for study at the Klingenstein Institute at Columbia University. A varsity volleyball, basketball and softball player, Ms. Szadkowski was inducted into Lake Erie's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993.

Michael Hodgins '86, President of the Board of Trustees, announced Ms. Szadkowski's appointment in mid-December.



Sarah Reeves has been appointed Assistant Director of Admission. Fresh out of Wellesley College in Wellesley, Mass., Ms. Reeves steps from one classic New England setting to another. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Wellesley, majoring in psychology and French. "I came up for my interview, fell in love with MCI and moved," said Ms. Reeves, who will make her office upstairs in the Cianchette House. "It's just beautiful."

A Mansfield, Mass., native, Ms. Reeves will follow up on all inquiries as she works with Director of Admission

Clint Williams to facilitate growth at MCI. She will input admission records into the computer system. "I'm going to be traveling with Clint to meet new students, and to get MCI's name out and about," she said. "The travel definitely drew me in. I thought that with my psychology background that it would be useful. I'm definitely a people person, and so it's a good match."

Ms. Reeves was named to the National Honors Society in Psychology and was nominated for the Carlo Francois Prize for Excellence in French at Wellesley. She has worked as an office assistant at the Wellesley Center for Research on Women, and more recently was a child care nanny and household manager for the former president and co-founder of Beacon Hill Nannies. Ms. Reeves also designed a valuation accounting system in Microsoft Access in her capacity as an assistant to the President and Vice President of Cambridge Financial Management Inc. A career as a psychologist could await, but that will require more schooling.

"I decided to look into admissions," she said. "I wanted a small boarding school setting, and MCI fulfilled that."



Jason Judd has been appointed as Academic and Career Adviser and instructor of English. Judd, an Athens, Me., native, also will be a dorm parent at Manson Hall. Jason graduated in December, 2003, from the University of Maine at Farmington, where he majored in Secondary Education English. Jason was a student teacher in language arts at Skowhegan Area Middle School in the autumn of 2003.

Prior to attending UME, he majored in English and pre-medicine at Emory University in Atlanta. A high honors student for two years at Madison Area Memorial High School, Jason transferred his junior year to The Maine School of Science and Mathematics in Limestone. Then it was on to Emory, where he underwent a "sea change." Pre-med, he

learned that year, was not for him. "I wasn't as passionate about it," Jason said. "I didn't want to be a workaholic in medicine."

He has been on the MCI campus since January, taking the job in the Counseling Office on an interim basis; he then became a dorm parent. "I took the Counseling Office position on an interim basis, and it turned out that they really liked the work I did so they hired me full-time," he said. "And I like spending the time with the kids in the dorm. I was an RA in college, so it's not foreign to me."

Jason's good communications and writing skills serve him well as he offers college and career advice to MCI's diverse student population. In college, he worked extensively as an ESL tutor for foreign students; in late spring Jason was appointed Director of MCI's Summer ESL program. In that capacity, he coordinated a host family program with area parents and consultants, organized activities and drafted a program budget to fit the needs of MCI and its students.

Lesley A. Bresette has been appointed an instructor of English for freshmen and seniors. A graduate of the University of Maine at Farmington, Lesley was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Middle/Secondary Education with a concentration in English/Language Arts this past May. Lesley was President of the Class of 2004 at the University of Maine at Farmington and recipient of the President's Academic Scholarship all four years. She achieved Dean's List status the spring of 2002, spring of 2003 and fall of 2003.

During her student teaching experience at Winthrop High School, Lesley taught classic literature to sophomores and seniors, as well as a formal speech class that emphasized manuscript writing. At Maranacook Middle School in Readfield, Lesley developed and taught a poetry class that focused on literary devices.

For two years during college, Lesley was the Resident Assistant in Dakin Hall at UMF. During college she also was an on-call bank teller at the United Kingfield Bank and, since graduation, Lesley has worked as an accounts specialist at MBNA America Bank.

Mark Churchill will be joining MCI as a sophomore and junior English instructor, and as a houseparent in Alumni Hall. A seasoned English and classics instructor with over ten years of experience, he comes with glowing recommendations from Fryeburg Academy, where he was "this 210-year-old school's most charismatic teacher," according to Headmaster Daniel G. Lee Jr. Prior to Fryeburg Academy he taught at Austin Prep in Massachusetts. Mark has coached boys' hockey, wrestling, soccer lacrosse and tennis, and advised classics and debates clubs.

"As a dorm parent I was very actively involved in all social, academic, athletic, domestic and idiosyncratic affairs of a vibrant coed boarding population," he wrote in his April application letter. "I am thoroughly at home in and skilled at managing the demands of the 24/7 life of an active boarding school."

Most recently, Mark was a research specialist for Westate Corporation. He also had been a medical lab technologist before arriving at Fryeburg in 1994. Mark earned a BA in Classical Studies and did graduate work in Classic Studies and Political Theory, both at Boston College.

Jonathan Connary has been appointed the new Residential Director of Manson Hall. He graduated with a BS in Biology last spring from the University of New England, where he was a Senior Resident Assistant. Jonathan was named Resident Assistant of the Year at the Biddeford school and received the Resident Assistant Community Service Award. He not only supervised the live-in resident staff at UNE, Jonathan also developed innovative campus-wide and inter-hall programming, and recruited and selected new student staff. Among those innovations, he developed a program to bring UNE students to New York City during holiday shopping time, and an ambitious alternative spring break program

that took students to Florida. Jonathan enjoys basketball, tennis, cooking and theater, and is committed to community service.

"Jon will bring with him excellent hands-on experience in residence life," wrote Barbara J. Hazard, Dean of Students at UNE. "MCI, as a small independent institution, values diversity of skills and experience in its staff who often wear multiple hats."

Lynn M. Cook has been appointed Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Academics, James Hornor. She attended Northern Maine Vocational and Technical Institute in Presque Isle and she is enrolled in the Associate Degree Program in the Executive Secretarial Program.

For the past six years Lynn served as lead Guidance Secretary/Registrar in the busy MSAD #48 Guidance Office. As a result she is very conversant with registration of new students and the maintenance of present and past students' records. Her past duties also included compilation of grade reports, assistance with MEA testing, coordination of college applications and scholarship requests and submission of state reports. Her past experience will be most valuable in her new position at MCI.

Previously Lynn was a project secretary for a group of environmental engineers and an administrative assistant to a firm of consulting engineers.

Donna Cray, who joined the Academic Office staff as an administrative assistant last year, has been appointed the school's Registrar. Her duties will include management of all student records and the issuing of transcripts of grades.

She will also assist Karen Wagner, Director of Academic and Career Planning, with managing student schedules and will work with the Technology Department to implement the current record-keeping data base, Powerschool. Donna, who is very conversant with the system, will assist with Powerschool training for faculty and staff.

John F. Dean Jr. will be an instructor of mathematics this fall. He brings a wealth of experience in the financial world to his new position; he was most recently Senior Operations Manager in Maine for Putnam Investments of Boston. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance, John holds a Masters in Business Administration from Thomas College in Waterville.

In addition to his financial acumen, John has extensive experience as an athlete and coach. He coached the Millville, MA Little League for seven years and was named the All-Star Coach for five years by his peers. He has also coached basketball and been involved with officiating for a number of years.

In high school John was captain of three varsity sports, was the area's scoring champion in soccer and was named to the Central Massachusetts Soccer All-Star Team.

Suzanne Furrow '81 brings solid local credentials back to her alma mater; she is the new manager of the MCI bookstore; she will maintain the day-to-day inventory, order supplies and maintain records of the entire inventory. She also will assist faculty and students with their classroom books and materials.

Ms. Furrow and her Air Force husband Glen, lived around the country before returning to Pittsfield in 1999; her parents own Lakeview Golf Course in Burnham and she wanted to be closer to them. Since the couple returned, elder son Christopher graduated from MCI in 2003, and son Joshua will be a sophomore this fall. "One of the reasons we moved back was so that our boys could attend MCI," she said. Ms. Furrow has been very active as a parent volunteer on recent annual auction committees and one of two parents who regularly help Key Club with decorating for the Winter Carnival Sno-Balls.

Ms. Furrow has a year of studies remaining before she com-

New Faces continued

pletes her degree in U.S. History from the University of Vermont. Her goal is high school teaching.

Mary Gaudette will teach Integrated Science, Geology and Oceanography, and also will be a dorm parent at MCI. A Ph.D in Wildlife Science, Ms. Gaudette has taught Biology for the past three years at West Nottingham Academy in Maryland. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Maine in 1982. A year earlier, she had gotten her first taste of MCI, taking a six-week course in Wildlife Management on the MCI campus run there by UMaine's School of Forest Services. After serving as a teaching assistant at Penn State, she taught Environmental Science at Middlebury College where she helped her students understand environmental problems using principles of biology, chemistry, geology and physics. In her letter of application, Ms. Gaudette said she wanted to come back to New England. "I am interested in teaching at a school with more diverse course offerings and opportunities for students than we have at WNA," she wrote. "I enjoy helping students understand the value and complexity of living organisms and the environment. Students in my classes are encouraged to be aware of current issues and events and bring those topics to class for weekly discussion."

Nicole Lynch has been appointed to instruct MCI students in Chemistry and Forensics. She will be a dorm parent in Rowe Hall. A well-rounded teaching candidate who brings vibrancy and enthusiasm to every task, Ms. Lynch actually first interviewed to teach English before opting for chemistry instruction. She has taught everything from gardening and knitting to the homeless in Bath, England to agriculture in urban Cincinnati and tutoring foster children in Newark, Ohio. She can draw on the experience of the seminar-style classrooms and the private tutorials she learned in college.

"MCI appeals to me because I value the ability to work on a one-on-one basis with each student, engaging her/him in the process of dissecting a work of literature and seeking meaningful connections with the world at large," Ms. Lynch wrote in her letter of application.

Ms. Lynch began as a pre-med major and completed her studies in English Literature at Denison University in Ohio. She has worked as an outdoor educator for Imago, focusing on local environmental issues. One of her references wrote, "Nicole has an engaging, friendly and out-going personality. She is a hard-working individual with a strong sense of self."

Don Rainwater, pursuing a Masters in Special Education,

has been teaching Special Education at MCI since last spring. He also has taught at Troy Central School and was a Resource Teacher at Mount View Junior High School in Thorndike.

Following his graduation from the University of Northern Colorado, Don served in both the Army and the Marine Corps. As a teacher, he is known for a patient, deliberate approach with students. At Mount View, he worked with the more difficult, less motivated, less capable special needs students. "Each student is held to appropriate expectations both as individuals and as members of a classroom," Mount View Principal Earl Tourtillotte wrote in a letter of recommendation. "Those expectations are based on the needs of the student. The students are treated fairly, with respect and are held accountable for their actions. When necessary Don is not afraid to go above and beyond with and for his students."

Meaghan Walsh joins MCI as a freshman and sophomore Humanities/History instructor and as a dorm parent in Manson Hall. Most recently an educational technician at Old Town, she was a middle school instructor in Somerville, Massachusetts and completed her student teaching at Lawrence School in Brookline, Mass, where she worked primarily with high school students in American Studies. She completed a Masters of Middle Level Education in May from UMaine after earning her BA in Education and History from Simmons College in Boston. Ms. Walsh also brings to MCI an extensive background in athletics. She played tennis and softball in college and has coached softball, soccer and cheerleading. Ms. Walsh was a foreign exchange student in Australia in 1996.

"This experience will be of assistance to me in a multicultural school like MCI and will deepen the relationships built between me and students. I have a deep background in both world and American history, allowing me to be comfortable teaching many different subjects."

Chris York, a graduate student in electrical engineering at the University of Maine at Farmington and a National Science Foundation Fellow, will be assisting Jim Tyson, physics instructor, for at least ten hours weekly this year.

The purpose of the program with which Chris is involved is to get students excited about engineering and the sciences. The project will also expose students to on-going research at the University that has practical applications. Chris will be teaching some of his own modules that may be one day in length or long-term projects. His own research is in the field of sensors and particularly with a sensor that will detect the concentrations of E. coli in water supplies.

MCI Scores Well on the 2004 MEA Examinations

Dean of Academics James Hornor announced the school's recent Maine Educational Assessment score results with great pride at a recent Academic Team meeting. A full 100% of the Class of 2005 who were required to take the test completed the rigorous assessment that is required by the State of Maine. Although international students are not required to take the MEA examination, some did choose to take it.

On the writing assessment segment of the test, MCI's juniors scored 8 points higher than the previous year's results. The writing score of 541 was 4 points higher than the state average. In reading, the score of 542 was 10 points higher than the previous year and 3 points higher than the state average. Mathematics results were 8 points above 2003 and 1 point higher than the state average. In science and technology, the score of 526 was 4 points greater than 2003 and 1 point below the state average.

Overall, the Class of 2005's test results represent an impressive gain in academic achievements. Dean Hornor commented that the MEA test results matched with the Maine Learning Results give the big picture of where the school stands academically. He attributes much of the success of the testing to the fact that the testing was "more user friendly". Students sat for the exams in regular classrooms rather than in a larger group situation and the tests were spread out over a week rather than compressed into just a few days. Throughout the testing period, the importance of doing one's very best on the tests was stressed. Students thus better understood the significance of their results in the larger context of the assessment of the school's academic program.

By CJS



Former Associate Head and commencement speaker Rosalie Williams hugs Amanda Lu from China during the Recessional.



The 2004 Faculty Cup recipient was Emily Wagner and the 2004 Masters Cup was awarded to Fred Nash.



After receiving the Margaret Witham Challenge Cup, Tara Weeman hugs Doug Cummings with delight.

Right: Art teacher Sarah Sorg and her talented Art Club kids created amazing backdrop panels of 5 movies for Auction 2004. Parent Marion Zarolinski and teacher Kim Shorey '86 created the costumes!

Clockwise: The Wizard of Oz, Jaws, Harry Potter, and Mary Poppins.



Ron Bessey '62 had a great Chess Club crew.

Below: Spring sport spectators.





Joanne Szadkowski
Investiture Ceremony
MCI's 27th Head of School
Friday, September 24, 2004
 12:30 p.m. Wright Gymnasium
 Reception Follows



David Silsby '49
MCI's 2004 Distinguished Alumnus
 Will be honored Friday, October 1, 2004
 Halftime - Homecoming Weekend
 Football Game

The MCI Alumni/ae Association will host a pizza party in Wright Gym immediately following the football game for all alumni/ae, faculty and staff, current students, parents and friends of MCI.



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