

Maine Central Institute ALUMNUS

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Pittsfield, Maine



Tolling the victory bell in celebration of a major fund-raising accomplishment are trustee Dean Homstead; S.A.D. 53 Chairman Michael Gray; Mrs. Phyllis Wright; Kim Paresson, MCI Student Council President; and Headmaster Cummings.

Wright gym nearly funded

With more than \$826,000 raised in contributions, the campaign to fund construction of Maine Central Institute's new Wright Gymnasium is nearly complete.

Named for the Wright brothers, Carl, Clifford and Neil, the gymnasium was started with a groundbreaking ceremony in December, 1985. Construction was begun in earnest last summer and has proceeded through the fall and

winter. Plans are being made for its use starting next September. Funds spent to date on the project total \$427,000. Nearly \$355,000 remain available for construction, with another \$100,000 needed for completion of the gymnasium.

Fund raising for the gym received a much needed boost last summer with the anonymous donation of a \$150,000 one-for-one matching gift to be completed before

the end of the year.

That match was completed, with more than \$142,000 toward the match being given or pledged by MCI alumni and friends in the 500 Circle campaign conducted in November and December. That sum, combined with the \$64,000 raised from July to November, produced a total of \$206,000 raised toward the match during the last half of 1986.

The 500 Circle is comprised of
(continued on page two)

Pledge earns MCI sweater

Bill Hamlin was amazed that the MCI telephone volunteer had his telephone number. When he heard the purpose of the call, he was astonished.

The caller was campaigning for the MCI 500 Circle, an organization of donors of \$1,000 or more to the Commitment Fund, the school's capital campaign.

Hamlin, a 1952 MCI graduate and a retired school teacher, initially thought a donation of \$100 was more within his range. However, when the caller explained that a pledge of \$100 a year for five years would be matched immediately by the anonymous donor of the \$150,000 matching gift, Hamlin expressed interest.

"You could get a lot more money from me if you could get my letters back," Hamlin joked during the conversation. He explained that in

(continued on page three)

from the Headmaster. . .

Since July, Douglas C. Cummings has served as Headmaster at Maine Central Institute. Prior to coming to MCI he was Assistant Headmaster at Foxcroft Academy in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine. He has a master's degree in education from the University of Maine.

The new headmaster, his wife Lori, and their three children make their home in the Manson House, the headmaster's residence on South Main Street in Pittsfield.

Greetings, alumni! It is with pleasure that I introduce myself as your Headmaster at MCI.

Since my message at the Alumni Reunion on August 2nd, a great deal has been accomplished at your alma mater.

As a part of my speech to those present at the Reunion I offered a challenge to complete the new Wright Gymnasium within one year.

It pleases me to announce that we have now raised more than \$826,000 for that project. Since July 1st we have raised more than \$360,000 for construction of the Wright Gymnasium.

It is apparent that as a result of the tremendous alumni support for this project it will be very nearly completed by Alumni Reunion, 1987. I take my hat off to everyone involved in helping to make this a reality.

This has been a growth year for MCI in many other ways as well. For example, our admissions office has been restructured in such a way that I feel it can be a great deal more productive in developing the boarding program. At this point things look good for next year.

Our Board of Trustees has been extremely receptive to and supportive of my recommendations for the growth of MCI. By September, both Rowe and Manson Halls will have been totally renovated with new flooring, ceilings, lighting, doors, lounge furniture and furniture for students' rooms. The beds, desks, bookcases and chairs for the students' rooms have been donated by Ethan Allen, Inc. New fire and smoke detection systems for the dormitories, as well as for all other buildings on the MCI campus, have been donated by the Edwards Company, which had earlier made a substantial gift to the Commitment Fund. These tremendous contributions, the combined value of which exceeds \$100,000, are indicative of the support given MCI by the local community.



MCI Headmaster Douglas C. Cummings

(continued on page 3)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

(continued from page one)

donors who make gifts or pledges of \$1,000 or more to MCI. It takes its name from the goal of 500 donor-members. The goal for the year-end campaign, however, was for 100 charter members of the 500 Circle and \$100,000 in new gifts and pledges.

With trustees, alumni and faculty members volunteering their services to make telephone calls under the direction of campaign chairman Nick Susi ('67), the effort was a tremendous success, raising \$142,000 and bringing nearly 70 new members into the 500 Circle.

Counting Cianbro Corporation's earlier in-kind donation of Weymouth Hall renovations, nearly \$1.3 million have been raised in the capital campaign that was begun in 1979. Originally the campaign goal was \$1.1 million for construction of the gym with a swimming pool, renovation of Weymouth and Founders' Halls and the dormitories.

The dormitories are currently being renovated with separate funds augmented by a recent bequest.

One matter the trustees are pondering is that of the renovation of Founders' Hall and ways of funding such a project. That project, however, will be part of a future capital campaign and has been dropped from the current effort, The Commitment Fund.

The trustees' plan is to complete construction of the gymnasium without borrowing any funds. The additional funds needed are to be raised through large leadership gifts, rather than through continued solicitation of the alumni.

With an additional \$100,000 the gymnasium can be completed, but with another \$150,000 to \$175,000 many of the necessary extras—more and better equipment and furnishings—can be provided. The more that is raised beyond \$100,000, the less the new gym will be a barebones facility.

SWEATER

(continued from page one)

"Peanut" Fowler, Bill Hamlin and Jerri LaValle reminisce.

his last few weeks as an MCI student his varsity letters for track and his cherished letter sweater were taken from him when he was caught smoking in his dorm room. Hamlin graduated, but his letters and his block "M" sweater, garnet with black trim, were never returned.

"That was 35 years ago," Hamlin told the caller, "and it still bothers me."

Thinking fast, the caller offered a deal to Hamlin. "Give us a pledge for \$1,000 and I'll get an MCI sweater for you," said the caller. (It should be explained at this point in the story that the caller was Jim Martin, Director of Alumni and Development. Having worked at MCI for less than a year, Martin had no idea what he was getting into, thinking that it was just a matter of getting a sweater in Hamlin's size and sewing on the "MCI" letters now in fashion.)

While Hamlin thought over Martin's proposition, his wife, Karlene, stood in the background admonishing, "It had better be a gold-plated sweater." After thinking it over for a night, Hamlin called Martin's office the next morning to agree to the arrangement:

a 500 Circle pledge in exchange for an MCI championship sweater earned 35 years ago.

Meanwhile, Martin had discovered that the sweater he had promised wasn't something he could buy off the rack. In fact, he couldn't buy it anywhere. His only hope of matching the old-style sweater was to find someone who could create a pattern using an existing sweater, borrowed from Dr. Richard Boisvert ('62).

At the suggestion of Jane Woodcock Woodruff ('64) Martin consulted Jerri LaValle, a Pittsfield woman who has a knitting machine with which she knits custom items. Searching around, they found a yarn that was a near-match to the traditional garnet color of Boisvert's sweater.

LaValle, whose two grandchildren attend MCI, and her friend, Marguerite Coolbroth Fowler ('47), set up a pattern in Hamlin's size using Boisvert's sweater as a guide. Donating their services and the yarn, the two women delivered the completed sweater to the MCI alumni office in early February.

Proudly wearing his MCI sweater, along with the white bucks and dungarees that were vogue among students of the early '50s, Hamlin visited the campus in March. An educator who has taught at all levels from grade school to graduate school, Hamlin was clearly impressed by what he saw in returning to MCI.

From his postgraduate year at MCI, Hamlin had gone into the Navy and then to the University of Maine where he earned both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. He later received a doctorate in education from Wayne State University in Michigan.

Hamlin talked of his professional philosophies while visiting the campus, remembering the dedication of the MCI faculty when he was a student. He attributed much of his success and his career achievements to the educational foundations he laid while a student at MCI. After touring the campus and visiting with

faculty and students, he was pleased to note that today's faculty continues the tradition of professional dedication and commitment that meant so much to him as a student 35 years ago.

One memory of MCI that stands out for Hamlin, besides the smoking incident that cost him his letters and his sweater, is that of Maurice Earle, Dean of Boys. Earle, he recalls, made him stay up late many a night until his studies were completed. "He knew our lessons as well as our teachers did, and he knew when we finished with them. If they weren't finished, we didn't go to bed," Hamlin remembers. "That was good preparation for college studies."

Asked if he learned any other lessons from his year at MCI, Hamlin grins wryly. "I don't smoke anymore," he says.

HEADMASTER

(continued from page two)

As part of the renovation project, Alumni Hall will be totally rewired, its stairwells will be restored and three student suites will be redecorated and refurbished. The dormitory improvements are expected to improve our recruiting results markedly.

On the academic side, we have initiated advanced placement programming in all core areas, English, math, science and social studies. Our senior humanities class is serving as a pilot for this project. We hope that our students will soon be able to earn college credits for advanced placement courses they have studied at MCI.

From a broader viewpoint, my goal has been to provide everyone involved with MCI the leadership necessary to allow the school to be the very best it can be. Since my arrival, MCI's alumni have done more than their part to make that possible, and for that, I'm grateful.

I look forward to meeting you at Reunion in August.



MCI Alumni eagerly awaited chef Richard McCorkill's roast beef buffet.

Highlights of Reunion '86

Despite the humidity and threatening skies, well over 300 MCI alumni returned to the campus August 2nd and 3rd to participate in Alumni Reunion activities.

The events began early Saturday morning with registration in the library where alumni gathered to view the display prepared by Susan (Smith) Norris ('73) and reminisce with old friends.

Class agents met in the home economics laboratory with Alumni and Development Director Jim Martin. After meeting Doug Cummings, the new headmaster, and hearing the welcoming remarks of Alton Cianchette, president of the trustees, they discussed plans for the coming year.

The Alumni Association's annual business meeting was also held Saturday morning, with Sherman Lahaie ('60), Ted Susi ('70) and Patrick McGowan ('74) being re-elected president, vice-president and assistant treasurer. J. Dominique LaChance ('31) was elected as a new member of the Executive Committee. Patricia (Wright) Pellegrino ('61) and Pamela (Houston) Brooks ('65) were

re-elected. Ronald H. Friend ('65) was elected as the Alumni Trustee.

Special class gatherings for most of the anniversary classes were held during the afternoon. Meanwhile, members of the golden anniversary class of 1936 enjoyed a special luncheon on campus that was followed by a reception in the library where the headmaster presented them with golden anniversary mugs and certificates.

The 50-year class had been raising money for this occasion and at the banquet held on Saturday evening, class agent Evalene (Pendexter) White presented Headmaster Cummings' with a check for \$851. The class asked that the money be used to purchase an ice maker for the school cafeteria.

The banquet, held under a large tent on the driveway between the library and Founders' Hall, concluded Saturday's events. Gladys Tarbell Shorey ('12) was honored as the oldest alumni in attendance, while Eunice (Fletcher) Perkins ('36) took the honors for traveling the longest distance to attend. She lives in southern California.

The Alumni Association's MCI rocking chair raffle was won by Sylvia Snow Berry ('42). A new raffle, a trip to Hawaii, was won by Robert B. Shumway ('51). With funds raised through the sale of raffle tickets and profits from the reunion, the Alumni Association has decided to underwrite the cost of installing telephone lines for the annual fund phonathon. The remaining funds will be donated to the gymnasium fund.

The weatherman's cooperation ended Saturday night, shortly after the banquet and festivities came to their close. By Sunday morning the skies had opened. Yet, downpour notwithstanding, several brave alumni and friends competed in the golf tournament at the Johnson W. Parks Golf Course.

J.R. Cianchette, Tookie Russell elected to MCI Hall of Fame

Maine Central Institute honored two of the school's best friends as the 1986 inductees of its Hall of Fame. The inductees were Malaka "Tookie" Russell, longtime coach of girls' sports at MCI, and Joseph R. Cianchette, who was inducted posthumously.

While she is neither an alumnus nor a faculty member, no one is more dedicated to MCI than Tookie Russell. Since joining the coaching staff in 1958, she has coached her teams to numerous league titles in field hockey, basketball and softball. Tookie and her players have received countless individual awards over the past 29 years.

This year Tookie's granddaughter, Holly Stevens, a member of MCI's junior class, is one of the top-rated softball pitchers in the entire Northeast. Her daughter, Malaka ('64), Patricia Stevens ('65)

(continued on page five)

HALL OF FAME

(continued from page four)



"Tookie" Russell accepts induction to the MCI Hall of Fame. and Kathy Butman ('70) are all MCI alumni.

Joseph R. Cianchette was a strong supporter of MCI for many years. He served as a trustee of the school during the 1950s and '60s, and was the principal donor of funds with which the science building was built. It is named in his honor. J. R. Cianchette operated a large construction company that was based in Pittsfield. His four children are MCI alumni. They are Joseph R. Cianchette, Jr. ('45), Edward ('50), Sally Dwinell ('51) and Mickey House ('54). His granddaughter, Karen (Cianchette) Carville is an MCI alumnus ('74) and is head of the school's Business Department.

Mrs. Estelle Cianchette accepted the award for her late husband.

Florida alumni meet Headmaster



Headmaster Douglas Cummings, his wife Lori and Carl Cianchette at the St. Petersburg gathering of Florida alumni.

Once again, Carl Cianchette ('37) and Marcia Hodson ('63) did an outstanding job organizing the fifth annual Florida Alumni Reunion. Headmaster Douglas Cummings and his wife, Lori, were pleased to have the opportunity to attend and meet with the Florida contingent.

The gatherings were held at the same location as last year, Bradford's Coach House in St. Petersburg, on Saturday, February 14, and Chris' House of Beef in Orlando on Sunday, February 15. There was a good turnout in St. Petersburg (56) but only eleven in Orlando. Any suggested ways to attract more alumni to either location would be greatly appreciated.

A special thanks goes to Frank Milan ('18) for his contribution of two handmade chairs. In St. Petersburg, Frank's chair was raffled. In Orlando, the chair was

auctioned to Marguerite Shute ('42). Marguerite is now only one chair away from owning a full set. The money from the Milan gifts was presented to Headmaster Cummings at both gatherings.

Headmaster Cummings presented an informative talk at both locations on the current status of things at MCI, as well as his goals for our school for the future. He accompanied his presentation with a newly done slide show of MCI's facilities and student body.

Special thanks are owed to all the of the alumni who attended the Florida reunions. Plans are already being made for next year's gathering in hope that they'll be the biggest and best yet.

Wanted: notes for *Alumnus* magazine

The *Alumnus* magazine, MCI's major alumni publication, is scheduled for printing and mailing in June. We in the Alumni Office are busy now gathering items of interest to the school's alumni. If you have any news to share, please pass it on to your class agents, or to the MCI Alumni Office, Founders Hall, Pittsfield, Maine 04967.

Make plans now for Reunion '87

For all classes ending in "2" and "7", this is your lucky year! The Alumni Office has already received inquiries about reunion plans. We all know how time flies, so it would be wise to begin planning for the festivities. Please feel free to contact the MCI Alumni Office (207) 487-5915 for information, names and addresses of classes members, or any help we can provide in organizing your class reunions.

Annual Fund will benefit from springtime campaign

Ever since its founding more than 120 years ago, Maine Central Institute has maintained high standards of excellence in which its alumni, students, faculty and administration take great pride.

If MCI is to continue its traditional excellence, if it is to continue serving its students and community, if it is to continue making history for another 120 years, its financial needs must be met.

Now that the capital campaign for funds with which to build the new Wright Gymnasium is reaching its conclusion, it is time to re-establish MCI's annual giving campaign. Once the school's only fund-raising effort, the annual appeal used to generate as much as \$50,000 each year.

Unlike contributions to the capital campaign, The Commitment Fund gifts to the annual fund aren't used for "bricks and mortar." Used at the discretion of the trustees and administration (unless they are restricted by their donors to a particular purpose), annual gifts help to defray operating costs, provide support for an outstanding faculty, provide student financial assistance, buy textbooks and maintain a sound physical plant.

Maine Central Institute's operating expenses this year are approximately \$1.7 million. Its operating revenues are more than \$1.6 million. Because they help MCI to balance its operating budget by reducing that deficit, annual fund gifts are especially important to the school.

Operating under State charter as a private school, MCI can't go to local voters to ask for the operating funds it needs. Instead, it must rely on earned income and on the generous support of its loyal alumni and friends.

The goal for this year's annual fund is \$30,000. That represents a

50% increase over last year's total for annual gifts. At first that might seem overly ambitious, but last year's campaign was extremely low-keyed. With annual giving having been played down in favor of the capital campaign in recent years, total annual giving still averaged approximately \$20,000. This year's goal is ambitious, but with your help it is attainable.

The 1987 annual giving appeal will be made this spring through a mailing to all alumni and a follow-up phonathon using students and alumni volunteer callers. You can help make this year's campaign a resounding success with your generous response. Each and every gift is important. Regardless of the size of your gift -- \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, or \$1,000 -- your participation as an active annual contributor is what counts.

New computer aids Alumni Office

The Alumni and Development Office advanced into "high tech" gear last fall, with the installation of a new Macintosh Plus computer. Features of the system such as word processing, recordkeeping and graphics make it possible to record data, and to store and maintain alumni files more efficiently.

The 500 Circle campaign, last fall's big fund raising effort, was facilitated by the use of the Macintosh for letter processing, printing and mailing. This issue of the *Alumnus* newsletter was designed and typeset on the new computer, saving hundreds of dollars and several weeks of production time. The new computer is also used for other school administrative work, such as admissions office and sports recruitment mailings, and graphic work for various student activities.

When the records were transferred from the old computer to the new one, some records might have been inadvertently scrambled. The Alumni Office would be grateful if you would bring mistakes to our attention.

Help of alumni sought for admissions

Although MCI is a private school with a small boarding program (100 students), several factors have increased the difficulty of filling our dormitories. Improved independent school programs, increased competition among schools, and a decline in student populations are all challenges that admission departments must confront.

Alumni support is crucial to any admissions office success. Our loyal alumni can help us contact good citizens and students who will contribute to the quality of boarding life and the classrooms of Maine Central Institute.

We need you to talk to your friends and neighbors about MCI. A strong reputation for academic excellence, along with improvements in our boarding program and facilities, make our school a fantastic investment in the future for our young people. Spreading the news is the best way to make people aware of MCI.

We would appreciate any direct referrals you can make to us. If you know of any students, grades eight through twelve, who would benefit from an MCI education, please send their names and addresses to Doug Ferguson, Admissions Officer. He will then be able to make direct contact with the prospective student.

With your interest and help, we will fill our dormitories with capable students who will contribute to the quality of life at Maine Central Institute.

Chuck Cianchette speaks at Reunion



Chuck Cianchette, president of the MCI trustees, speaks of his plans for the school's future. Cianchette told those attending the 1986 Reunion that renovation of Founders Hall will be the next major project undertaken.

New programs in store for MCI

Maine Central Institute prides itself on its fine academic programs, and this year some new courses have been added to further enhance the quality of the MCI education. In keeping with our tradition of academic and athletic excellence, we now offer some unusual and interesting courses.

MCI's first golf school will take place this summer at J. W. Parks Golf Club. The program offers young golfers a unique experience: one five-day course of concentrated instruction from several highly respected New England PGA professionals. The emphasis is on individualized instruction, with a low player-to-pro ratio, for serious junior golfers. Dean of Students Michael McGuire is director of the Golf School.

For boarding and day students,

(continued on page eight)

New gym becomes a reality



Construction continued despite last winter's record snows.

It's really happening! MCI's long-awaited Wright Gymnasium is at last a reality, with 95% of the building's exterior complete. According to Cianbro Corporation's Steve Seekins, project manager for the gym, work on the \$1.2 million building is progressing smoothly. Steve recalls the opinions of some people that the gym "would never be built", and indeed it has until recently been a slow process. Construction of the building began in December, 1985. In late 1986, a major fund raising effort organized by the Alumni and Development Office brought in much of the remaining capital necessary to wrap up the project. School officials now anticipate completion of the facility in time for use in September of this year.

The new Wright Gymnasium, named in honor of brothers Carl, Clifford and Neil, will vastly improve the capabilities of MCI's athletic programs. In comparison to this new building, MCI's venerable 50-year-old Parks Gymnasium could, in its entirety, fit within the lines of the new gymnasium court. The Wright Gymnasium will enable MCI to offer diverse and improved interscholastic programs and intramural sports competition to its student athletes, an estimated 40%

of the student body.

In addition to \$826,000 raised through the Commitment Fund, support totaling more than \$30,000 in in-kind donations, volunteer labor, materials and equipment has come in to the project. Donations include: electrical materials from the Bodine Co.; crane service and equipment from Cianbro Corp.; welder rental from Cormier Equipment Rental; sewer-line installation by Stetson & Watson; piping from the Johns Manville Co.; steel fabrication from Maine Cascade Ironworks; gravel and excavation from Clarence Cookson; excavation work by Frank Woodworth, Inc.; concrete and equipment from Dragon Products; concrete reinforcement rod from Barker Steel; foundation waterproofing materials from JayKay Sales; drilling and blasting from Maine Drilling & Blasting; lifting equipment, Belgrade Masonry; water line installation, Yankee Builders; and manhole covers, Gagne & Sons.

Individuals who have donated labor to the project include George Newhouse '54, Torrey Sears '87, Spencer Seekins '87, Charles Cianchette '78, Thomas Cianchette '71, Paul Bertrand '59, Greg Wright '64, David Ross '75, Bill Ball '63,

(continued on page eight)

NEW PROGRAMS

Continued from page seven

the development of an equestrian program at MCI adds a new dimension to our school's standard course of study. The young riders will receive intensive private instruction in all phases of English riding, including jumping and dressage. Students may board their own horses, or learn with highly trained school horses. Learning to properly care for horses is an important part of the equestrian program, and is designed to develop in our students a sense of responsibility and discipline.

School officials are excited about the enthusiastic response to these new programs, and look forward to working with our young people.

Dorm renovations part of MCI campus improvements

Another major building project going on right now on campus is the renovation of all dormitories. Extensive remodeling work started January 1 of this year on the dorm rooms in Rowe Hall. All rooms in Rowe and Manson Halls will be completely painted, new ceilings and door frames put in, and over 1,500 square yards of new carpeting installed in the two buildings. At the present time, residents of Rowe Hall are being housed in Manson, while work is in progress. All students' rooms, apartments and the dorm recreation room will receive facelifts, and new floors and ceilings will be installed in the cafeteria kitchen and dining room.

In Manson Hall, all bathrooms will be re-designed for more privacy, and the recreation room will receive cosmetic treatment to brighten the place for our dormitory students.

Under the direction of project manager Steve Seekins ('66), plans are underway for a major re-wiring operation at Alumni Hall. The building will receive complete new electrical wiring throughout, in addition to some cosmetic upgrading.

WRIGHT GYM

(continued from page seven)

Steve Seekins '66, Doug Cummings, David Goucher, James Hinton, and Wayne Quint. Lionel Kelley and Elmer Leonard '39 designed an economical, energy-efficient heating system.



Maine Central Institute

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