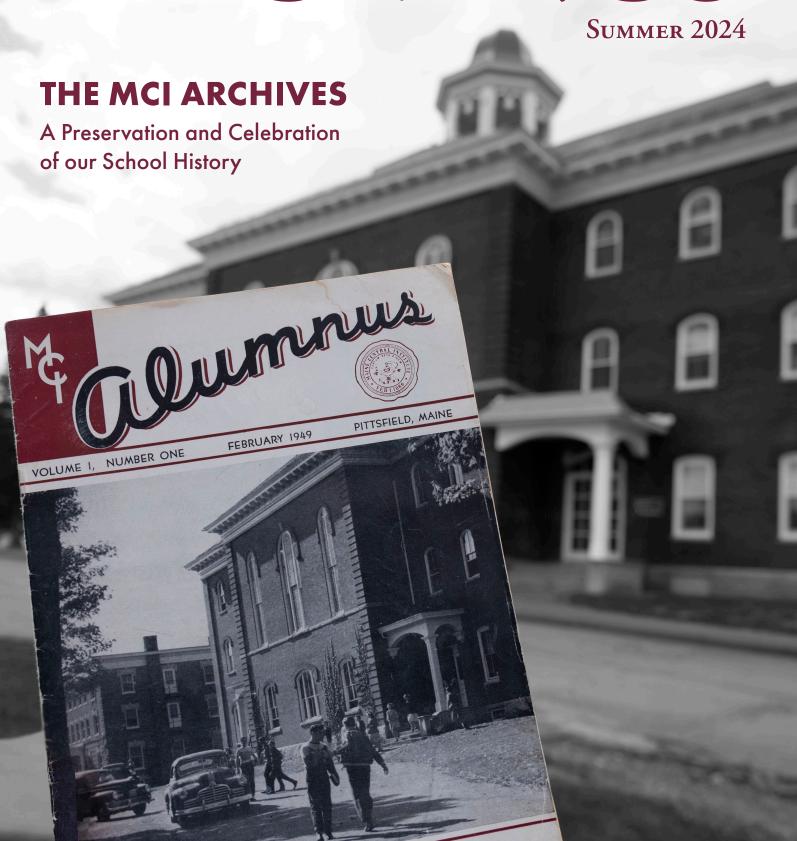
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The first edition of the Alumnus Magazine is unearthed and on display from the MCI Archives (story on page 12)

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by Brayden Rollins '17

## Family History

A current senior observes the differences in school culture, athletics, and more through conversation and comparison with her family and personal experiences at MCI. by Grace Cooley '24



#### MCI Through the Years - A Gordon Summers of STEAM - MCI's New Summer Staple

Summers at MCI are busier than ever before as over 100 students visit Maine for scientific, artistic, technological, and experiential learning opportunities.

by Brayden Rollins '17

Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Maine Central Institute,

I very much hope that you enjoy this Summer 2024 edition of the Maine Central Institute Alumnus magazine. We had so many positive comments regarding the new look and feel that we inaugurated last year, that we have endeavored to maintain this style moving forward. In this edition you will find keynote stories on featured alumni from Burnham, our increasingly important and successful Dual Enrollment Diploma Program STEAM Camp, some notes on our historic archives, a reflection on MCI from the perspective of an MCI senior and her family, and other wonderful stories.

Indeed, were I to identify one common thread found here at MCI, that is perhaps best represented through the pages of this magazine, it would be the very tangible sense of connectivity between all members of the school family, no matter what stage of life, or where in the world they currently reside. This sense of belonging, I am convinced, is our 'Special Sauce,' and the outcome of the many shared experiences and very hectic lifestyle experienced while a student here. For instance, a cursory glance at individual calendars over just the last few months is testament to the rapidity and intensity of MCI events and activities and includes, in addition to normal classes, residential life, and athletics, some of the following - Advanced Placement Examinations, Maine Model United Nations Conference, Founders Weekend (now a calendar fixture), International Food Festival, Visual and Performing Arts Awards, Underclassmen Awards, Budget preparation and issuance of faculty and staff contracts, hiring of new colleagues, NEASC re-accreditation Foundation



and Program Team visits, Alumni Receptions, Sebasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce Dinner, Dow Global Alumni Series online gatherings, Choral/Music Concert, Admissions Office 2024-25 Travel Planning, Spring Bossov Ballet Performances, Audit meetings, Patterson Lecture with former Director of United Space Alliance Orbiter Production and Operations - Edward Polewarczyk, Manson Essay Night, Energy Renewal Lock-In, CulinArt Catering Contract, Somerset County Technical Center Graduation Night, Software reviews, Board of Trustee weekend, and more.

This hustle and bustle all culminated in the hectic, but incredibly rewarding graduation week and Commencement ceremonies, and I can report that on June 2 we successfully launched 75 new graduating Seniors into the world. Of these, 34 students are going to 4 year colleges, 20 students are going to 2 year colleges, and 4 students are going to trade school. The remaining students are going directly into the workforce, taking a gap year, returning home to finish high school in their home country, or are undecided. This level of school-wide cooperation and engagement is surely our return on investment, and most assuredly is, from start to finish, absolutely a team effort requiring continuous coordination and fine tuning.

An important highlight from the above would have to include the successful completion of MCI's 18-month long Self-Study, and subsequent Foundation and Program Team visits comprised of peer administrators and teachers from across New England, that has led to our re-accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Perhaps the most prized aspect of working in an independent school is, indeed, our independence. We are free to teach what we believe our students most need to learn in a manner of our own choosing. This freedom stimulates the creativity and flexibility that make the MCI learning experience effective and rewarding for student and teacher alike, and wholeheartedly rests upon the sturdy and precious foundation of our NEASC accreditation, which is now confirmed until 2034.

A second outstanding feature of the past twelve months has been the meteoric growth of our Dual Enrollment Diploma Program in association with 16 Taiwanese partner schools. The 2023-24 academic year saw some 273 Taiwanese students enrolled in this three year synchronous teaching program with an MCI online faculty spread countrywide. Almost as large as our on-campus student population, 54 of our Taiwanese students graduate this summer and become MCI alumni. The required four week summer STEAM Camp is featured in this magazine, and together with our six week summer Bossov Ballet Theatre immersion experience that will culminate in a performance of Romeo and Juliet at the Collins Center for the Performing Arts in Orono, means that our campus is now hardly ever closed over the course of a year - which is a good thing!

Clearly, there is a great deal going on at MCI, but we cannot rest on our laurels, and our focus and actions must always be forward oriented in support of continually improving the student experience. We cannot do anything about yesterday, but we can predict MCI's future by creating it ourselves, and as of writing we have in our possession Sasaki/Cianbro front lawn plans and costings, HVAC quotes for existing buildings, UMO Engineering Capstone reports with ideas improving the upper and lower portions of the campus, are in constant liaison with Gorilla Palmer architects who are considering Route 11/110 renovation plans, and have a 5 year buildings and grounds deferred maintenance capital expenditure plan. As we consider the critical year ahead, our intent is to coordinate and tie together all of these disparate data points under the umbrella of a continually active, and therefore adaptive, strategic planning methodology that updates our mission, outlines priorities, reduces vulnerabilities, and identifies funding requirements to achieve objectives. In so doing, we are definitely going to need help from our entire MCI extended family, so please stay tuned for additional updates as together we move forward and deliberately pivot toward strategic planning with the intent of shaping MCI's future.

Very sincerely,

Mr. David Pearson

Head of School dpearson@mci-school.org



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## Valedictorian Addison Verrill and Salutatorian Catherine Carter lead the Top Ten for the Class of 2024



Valedictorian Addison Verrill of Pittsfield, Maine.

Addison Verrill is the daughter of Cory and Jessica Verrill of Pittsfield, Maine, and is the Valedictorian for the Class of 2024. She was the recipient of numerous undergraduate academic awards during her time at MCI, including awards in French I, Band/ Choir, Honors English I, Earth and Space Science, French II, Honors History II, Biology, Algebra II, Physics, French III, and AP Humanities III. Verrill was selected as Manson Essayist in 2023 and received the George M. Parks and Williams College Book Awards her junior year, as well as being selected as an Expert Speaker at Ella Night her sophomore and junior year. Verrill was a member of Cross Country and Indoor Track for three years, Outdoor Track all four years, and captained all three her junior and senior year. She also participated in Instrumental/Vocal Jazz and Drama, earning Silver Awards last year in the former and a Class B



Salutatorian Catherine Carter of Pittsfield, Maine.

Regional Championship in the One Act Festival this past spring. She was the president of Student Council and an active member of National Honor Society.

Catherine Carter is the daughter of Kelley and Christine Carter of Pittsfield, Maine, and is the Salutatorian for the Class of 2024. She was selected as a Manson Essay finalist her junior year, and received an undergraduate award in French II her sophomore year. Carter has been a dancer at the Top Hat School of Dance for many years, receiving numerous dance competition awards and honors. Carter is a very kind soul and is passionate about helping others, with the long term goal of becoming a psychologist and helping adolescents.

#### Addie Verrill Receives MPA Principal's Award

Addison Verrill of Pittsfield, a senior at Maine Central Institute, has been selected to receive the 2024 Principal's Award, Head of School David Pearson announced. The award, sponsored by the Maine Principals' Association, is given in recognition of a high school senior's academic achievement and citizenship.

"As I routinely visit Maine Central Institute theatre productions, music festivals, Model United Nation conferences, athletic meets, student panels, themed dinners, clubs, activities, and classes - in fact the whole panoply of independent school life - one gets a true snapshot of student

involvement in all that we offer, and one of the most committed and engaged students at MCI is our 2024 Valedictorian, Addison Kendall Verrill," said Pearson. "Not only does Addie's omnipotent presence make our school experience better for everybody, but she has no sharp edges and is universally liked and respected by faculty, staff, and peers alike, for the simple reason that she is a kind and genuinely helpful andthoughtful human being. As a four-year senior, Addie's list of achievements is impressive by any standards, but far beyond this, it is her can-do attitude, leadership by example, and unflagging school citizenship that makes

this year's MCI Maine Principal's Award recipient a recognition so richly deserved by Addison Verrill."

Verrill, Pearson, and other award winners and their principals attended an Honors Luncheon at Jeff's Catering on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. The Honors Luncheon recognizes these outstanding students with the presentation of an individual plaque and the awarding of ten \$1,000 scholarships in the names of former Maine principals and MPA Executive Directors: Horace O. McGowan, Richard W. Tyler, and Richard A. Durost.



Olivia Varney is the daughter of Scott and Rochelle Varney of Pittsfield, Maine. She received academic awards in Spanish, Honors English II, PE II, and Piano. Varney received KVAC All Academic honors in four sports and was All Conference First Team in Soccer for three years. Varney holds the school record for most goals (101) and most goals in a season (51). She was Maine Soccer Coaches All Star Northern State Team for two years, KVAC First Team for tennis, and KVAC Player of the Year for soccer. Varney was in Key Club, NHS, Student Council, Jazz Band, and more.



Ceara Plourde is the daughter of Rhonda Woodman and Alan Plourde of Pittsfield, Maine. She was the recipient of the undergraduate award for Earth and Space Science her freshman year, and was inducted into the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Honor Society her junior year for excellence in visual art. She has also been a member of the Girls Lacrosse team during her time at MCI. Plourde has been on the highest honor roll all quarters since her sophomore year. Her long term goal is to one day become an art teacher and inspire others to think and express themselves.



Minhyeok (Mino) Kim is the son of Taechu Kim and Heeseon Kwon of Cheonan, South Korea. He has had perfect attendance the past two years, and has received undergraduate awards in ESL his sophomore year and Statistics his junior year. Kim was also the recipient of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute award his junior year. He was a member of the Golf and Cross Country teams, NHS, Student Council, Garden Club, Cultural Diversity Club, and Math Team, to which Kim got 5th place at the Maine State Math Meet.



Madison Gillis is the daughter of Jason and Amanda Gillis of Pittsfield, Maine. She participated in Field Hockey and NHS, though she is most known for her MCI skiing career. Gillis placed 17th in the giant slalom and 11th in the slalom her junior year at KVAC's. She was recognized as KVAC 2nd Team Alpine Skiing and KVAC All Academic her junior and senior year. Gillis finished 21st in the Class B Slalom and 20th in the Class B Giant Slalom her senior year, finishing her career 1st for Slalom and 2nd for Giant Slalom at Big Rock's Tom Chasse Memorial Race.



Yeseul (Ashley) Hwang is the daughter of Shin-Ae Choi and Yong-Nam Whang of Seoul, South Korea. She received academic awards in Calculus AB and Guitar II. Ashley had perfect attendance her junior year and was a prefect her senior year. She was on Cross Country and Cheerleading, earning KVAC All Academic honors. Ashley was also a member of NHS, Key Club, Student Council, Math Club, and Concert Band. Ashley has volunteered frequently at the Seoul Station Supporting Center and Dogok Happy Village reading English to elementary students.



Jayden Todaro is the daughter of Anthony and Amanda Todaro of Pittsfield, Maine. She was the recipient of undergraduate awards in Health her sophomore year and Project Management her junior year. Todaro was selected as a Manson Essay Finalist, achieved highest honor roll every quarter here at MCI, and was honored by the National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program. Todaro was involved in Key Club, French Club, and Ski Club during her time at MCI, and she is very proud to be a first generation high school graduate.



Maxine Pallante is the daughter of Joseph and Denise Pallante of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She received academic awards in Bossov Ballet, Spanish II, and Game Design. Pallante was selected as a Manson Essay Finalist, was inducted into the VPA Honor Society, received the Saint Michael's Book Award, and became a prefect her junior year. She was a member of Student Council, Student Ambassadors, Key Club, Dorm Council, Youth and Government, Senior Officer of NHS, and co-head delegate of Model UN.



Anna Ortiz is the daughter of Wladmir Ortiz of Cali, Colombia and Kelty Doherty of Portland, Maine. She was runner up for Manson Essayist last year, was one of the founders of the Boxing Club, and was a member of the Garden Club and Model UN. Her junior year Ortiz was selected as part of the Keller-BLOOM program on marine research, the Washington Youth Summit on the Environment focused on different environmental careers, and the Joint Science Education Program focused on arctic science education through Dartmouth College.

| CAMPUS NEWS |



### Seniors Shine as MCI Athletics Continue to Grow

Every year there is a certain discourse or theme surrounding our athletic excellence at MCI. Last year there were the numerous individual and team achievements and championships, this year it was the incredible showing by our senior athletes across multiple different programs and seasons. In the fall, senior Olivia Varney cemented herself as one of the greatest girls soccer players in the history of the program. Varney played with an aggressive fire, capturing the school record for most goals in season (51) last year on her way to securing the school record for most goals overall in an MCI career (101). She was named KVAC All Conference First Team, Maine Soccer Coaches Association Northern Class C Regional All-Star along with fellow seniors Skyla Dean and Heather Nelson, and was named KVAC Player of the Year her junior year. From the pitch to the fairway, the MCI golf program also enjoyed the continued success of senior Owen Moore. While Moore didn't quite capture the State title he achieved last season, he still tied for 2nd overall in the State Class C Championships, 1 stroke back of the winner. Moore then shot a 77 at the New England Championships in Connecticut to finish tied for 26th and cap off another storied career in golfing at MCI.

The winter months brought on even more senior athletes who decided to go out with a bang. Skyla Dean, the lone senior on the MCI girls basketball team, was an offensive and defensive threat that led her squad to the #10 seed and a prelim match against Erskine Academy, who they had lost to twice during the regular season. In an overtime thriller anchored by Dean's 24 point performance, the Huskies defeated Erskine and booked their ticket to the Cross Center, where they lost to the eventual state champion Old Town. Cheering on our basketball athletes were the MCI cheerleaders, who competed in the KVAC and regional championship for the first time in years. This group was led by many friendly faces including senior Genevieve Ouelette, who was selected to represent the East in the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic this summer. On the slopes, our lone skiier senior Madison Gillis had another strong showing at the state level, finishing 21st in the Class B Slalom and 20th in the Class B Giant Slalom. She finished her skiing career placing 1st for Slalom and 2nd for Giant Slalom at Big Rock's Tom Chasse Memorial Race, ending her career by receiving KVAC 2nd Team Alpine Skiing and KVAC All Academic honors. In Indoor Track, senior Amya Braley was runner up in the shot put (31-3.75) and Heather Nelson was runner up in the pole vault (7-6) at the KVAC meet.

At the state meet, even more seniors stepped up to the challenge as senior Owen Moore got 6th place in the Class B Shot Put, Nelson tied for 8th in the Class B Pole Vault, Braley got 6th in the Class B Shot Put, and senior **Addie Verrill** finished 8th in the Class B 2 mile.

While this is already an overwhelming amount of senior accomplishment in the winter, the main storyline to come out of the winter season was the continued excellence of the MCI wrestling program and seniors Isaac Keresey and Keith Cook. At their only home meet of the season, the Husky Winter Classic, Cook (138) and Keresey (157) each took tournament wins in their respective weight classes. On January 20 in Brewer, Keresey notched his 100th career win, a stunning feat for any student athlete. At the KVAC meet later that month, Keresey and Cook battled their way to the finals and runner-up finishes. At the Class B North Regionals in Fort Kent, both Keresey and Cook once again pinned their way to the finals, but they didn't stop there. Isaac Keresey was named your Class B North Wrestling Champion at 157 pounds, Keith Cook was named your Class B North Wrestling Champion at 138 pounds. Both were also State runners-up as the two continue the winning history of our MCI wrestling program.

Moving forward to the spring, our seniors have stepped up in more ways than one. The boys tennis team enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in program history, bolstered by the terrific teamwork of seniors Brady Rogers, Cole Allen, Landon Ross, and Hudson Holmstrom. The four carried the team to the Class C Southern Maine Finals, ending their career 35-8 overall and ushering in a new age of tennis excellence at MCI. Our school also offered a new athletic program this spring in partnership with the Maine Special Olympics: Unified Bocce. Three seniors (Amya Braley, Skyla Dean, and Isaac Keresey) decided to step up as partners to make sure the program had enough participation and support for our Unified athletes. On May 14, junior Shelby Jordan, sophomore Paisley Bauerle, and freshman Selena Ackerman led their Bocce squad in their first ever home match held right on front campus. It was a great example of seniors continuing to support their fellow underclassmen and support the athletic future of the School, and that's really what our athletic programs are all about. Sports are about community and bringing together all our MCI Huskies and athletes. Under the leadership of this year's senior class, our underclassmen are in good hands as they continue to build upon our athletic excellence at MCI for years to come.

### Bossov Ballet Theatre: A Year in Review



Bossov Ballet Theatre is one of the premier offerings here at Maine Central Institute, and it's for a good reason. BBT at MCI is both a performing company and an international pre-professional ballet school that gives students the experience of performing on stage with large casts of older and younger dancers in an invaluable opportunity for aspiring dancers. Throughout the school year, Bossov Ballet Theatre holds a number of dazzling performances that continue to captivate audiences year after year. From last year's summer performance to this year's Summer Intensive that's in full swing, let's take a look at all that BBT has achieved this past school year.

The ballet season at BBT never truly stops, as the summers are the prime time for dancers to hone their craft and continue to learn under the leadership of Artistic Director Natalya Getman. Last year's sixweek Summer Intensive concluded with a performance of *Carmen* and *Chopiniana* at the Collins Center for the Arts in Orono, where audience members were immersed into the exquisite melodies of Chopin and vibrant harmonies of Georges Bizet and Rodion Shchedrin. The melding of these two elegant and passionate ballets into one production was a match made in heaven, and it showed.

"I don't know if other summer programs exist where the dancers put together a full production and dance in that production on a real stage," said Getman. "It's almost impossible to make that happen, and I'm very proud to say that this program offers that unique opportunity to be part of a full production... the word intensive speaks for itself, it is a very comprehensive training they get here."

As the summer came to a close and the school year officially began, BBT immediately starts to work on new material in the hopes of being able to share their work with the MCI community in the first few months of the school year. MCI's Cultural Heritage Day is the perfect event for BBT to showcase their development as they celebrated the diversity and unity that makes our school so unique, followed by performances for the Board of Trustees and Parents Weekend utilizing the beautifully renovated Powers Hall as their studio and performance space.

As the autumn colors fade and fall turns to winter, the most wonderful time of the year peeks around the corner and Bossov Ballet's most widely regarded production is on the horizon: The Nutcracker. From December 8th through the 10th, audience members were treated to the enchanting story of Marie and her mysterious journey to the Land of Magic, where toy soldiers, dancing mice, delicious treats, and the Sugar Plum Fairy are brought to life by the magic of Uncle Drosselmeyer. Getman strives to create new choreography each year to keep the show fresh in what is a classic holiday tradition for many viewers and their families.

"The Nutcracker performances hold a special place in the hearts of many because of its timeless charm with a magical atmosphere," explained Guillermo Franco, associate with BBT who was also part of the cast. "This year's group of dancers are very dedicated, collaborative, extremely hard working, and committed. Each dancer brought a unique flair to their role, showcasing the troupe's diversity and versatility."

The spring is often the busiest season for schools, and the same holds true for Bossov Ballet. Getman traveled to Mexico to run a workshop in Santiago de Querétaro at "Pointé Academia de Danza" in search of new aspiring dancers while the rest of the troupe geared up and got ready for their spring performance entitled Musical Dialogues: Journeying through the Pulse of Sound. Towards the end of May and also on graduation weekend, this production highlighted the connection between movement and music, painting a picture of the auditory landscapes illustrated by our Bossov Ballet dancers. It was an elegant close to a beautiful school year, but there is always more to discover just around the corner.

With Summer Intensive 2024 currently running on campus through the end of July, Bossov Ballet Theatre continues to push forward with their upcoming summer performance of *Romeo & Juliet* and *Paquita* on July 26 and 27 at the Collins Center for the Arts. We have enjoyed watching all that Bossov Ballet Theatre has achieved in performance and growth this year, and we look forward to watching them enjoy another successful year starting this summer and going into the upcoming school year!

| CAMPUS NEWS |

#### Patterson Lectures Return as Edward Polewarczyk Emphasizes Impact of Space Program

On May 2, Maine Central Institute welcomed Edward Polewarczyk to campus as the newest guest in the celebrated and acclaimed Patterson Lecture Series. Polewarczyk took the time to share with our MCI students, faculty, and staff the incredible lengths that himself and others have gone through in order to further the Space Shuttle Program and put our country's men and women into orbit.

"Starting in 2008, MCI instituted the Patterson Lecture Series, and it has featured over the years a whole host of luminaries that have come to our campus," said David Pearson, Head of School. The Patterson Lecture Series was established by Gregg '69 and Elaine Patterson, who have a passion for speaking and wished to bring distinguished speakers to campus to widen the breadth of knowledge in our students.

Esteemed guests such as Senator Susan Collins, Senator Angus King, astronaut Captain Stephen Bowen, Major General John Libby, Secretary of the Navy Jim Webb, Colonel Mike Wyly, and many



Edward Polewarczyk addresses the MCI community gathered for the first time in Powers Hall.

more have graced our MCI campus over the years leading up to Polewarczyk's lecture. Ed Polewarczyk joined the space shuttle program in 1974 in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, where he was in charge of the atmospheric revitalization system, fuel cells, and many other systems. He eventually found his way to mission control in Houston, Texas before joining the United

Space Alliance as the Technical Director for Orbiter Upgrades in 2000. Polewarczyk soon became the Director of Orbiter Production and Operations in charge of preparing the orbiter to fly to 2020 and beyond. During his speech, Polewarczyk described the aspects of putting a vehicle into space, the operations that take place on the ground to make that a reality, and the advantages that are part of our society as a result of the space program.

"There are a number of benefits from the space program that are part of our culture and we don't even recognize them anymore," explained Polewarczyk.
"Instantaneous communications from all over the world are because of the space program... as a result of the [Apollo 1] fire, the space program developed incredible techniques to make things super clean, and over decades those cleanliness techniques have worked their way into the hospital operating environment... every time we go to space we learn something, and we benefit from it."

In his retirement, Polewarczyk currently represents District 47 in the Maine House of Representatives, which he describes as "one incredible adventure." Polewarczyk's address was not only the first Patterson Lecture to be held in the newly renovated Powers Hall, but it was also the first time that the entire school community has gathered in this central space on our campus. MCI looks forward to welcoming even more distinguished speakers like Polewarczyk to our campus in the school years to come as we continue to strengthen the legacy of the Patterson Lecture Series.

#### Andrius Ksikvas joins MCI as Director of Enrollment



It is with great pleasure that Maine Central Institute welcomes Andrius Ksikvas to the role of Director of Enrollment Management, which he assumed this past January. Ksikvas will be responsible for managing all facets of the enrollment management process in the School's effort to attract, enroll, and retain a diverse and dynamic student population. Our boarding population has always been one of the factors that makes MCI so special, and the future of our residential program at MCI is in good hands.

"Andrius comes to us with a wealth of student recruitment experience and is highly skilled in international student recruiting, international admissions, study abroad advising, enrollment management, financial aid, and recruiting campaigns via social media and email," explained David Pearson, Head of School. Ksikvas previously served for 7 years as Associate Director of International Recruitment at the University of Maine Orono, and prior to that served for 6 years as Assistant Director of International Admissions at Husson University. He is fluent in Lithuanian and English, and is proficient in Russian, Polish, and German.

If you happen to see Andrius around town or around campus, please give him a nice Husky welcome as we look forward to this next chapter in our boarding program here at MCI!

#### Dow Global Alumni Series Welcomes Panels of Accomplished Alums



The panel of the inaugural Dow Global Alumni Series featuring Jessica Libby, Lydia Buchert '09, Brad Newhouse '84, and Patrick Jordan '82.

This past February in partnership with Board of Trustees President Mike Dow '84, the MCI Alumni Office launched a new event lineup and form of outreach entitled the "Dow Global Alumni Series." Hosted by our current Board President, the event offers a digital forum through Zoom in which panelists are invited to provide their own professional background or discuss specific topics or subjects. These events are open to not only our alumni and friends, but to all current students, faculty and staff, and anyone in the extended MCI community.

"I would be remiss not to say that this was Mike's idea, this was something that Mike felt very passionate about getting going," explained **Tom Bertrand '90**, Assistant Head of School for Advancement. "Especially doing so for the reason of providing an opportunity for our students to see what is out there for an

opportunity for them... that's what this is about."

The inaugural Dow Global Alumni Series welcomed Jessica Libby, Lydia Buchert '09, Brad Newhouse '84, and Patrick Jordan '82 to discuss careers in the field of science. The second Dow Global Alumni Series this past April welcomed Adam Pomeroy, Troy Preble '84, Jason Cummings '98, and Joo Yi '98 to discuss technology and its effect on global connection. The hope is that these events and their accessibility through Zoom will allow alumni and friends to easily connect back to the School while also offering a worthwhile discussion for current students and faculty.

We will keep you posted on when the next Dow Global Alumni Series will welcome a new panel of experienced guests as we look forward to what this new, exciting event series will bring.

#### Cory Bridger '92, Ken Connors '77, Mandy King '93 to be Inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame

We are pleased to announce that Cory Monday Bridger '92, Ken Connors '77, and Mandy King '93 will all be inducted into the Maine Central Institute Athletic Hall of Fame this coming fall.

The MCI Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2010. The criteria for selecting an individual for induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame is based on one or more of the following: outstanding athletic achievement at MCI; outstanding athletic achievement beyond MCI; outstanding contribution to the MCI athletic program; meritorious service to the MCI athletic program. Every year the Athletic Hall of

Fame induction ceremony takes place on the Saturday of Homecoming Weekend.

This year, Homecoming will take place on October 10-12, with the Homecoming parade and competitions taking place on Thursday, followed by the football game on Friday and other athletic competitions on Saturday morning/afternoon. The Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place on October 12 in the Savage Family Dining Room. More details on the event and our inductees will be revealed at a later date, but congratulations to Cory, Ken, and Mandy on your outstanding achievement and recognition!



#### Recent Alum Emma Burr '23 Makes History, Heads to NCAA Division III Nationals

It's safe to say that anybody who has followed recent MCI athletic achievement knows the name Emma "The Blurr" Burr '23. Just one year ago, Burr dominated the high school indoor/outdoor track scene with numerous individual and team accomplishments. Now in just her first season as a Thomas Terrier, Burr is continuing to cement her legacy and dominance as she booked her ticket to the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the first athlete to do so in program history.

Coming into this season, Burr had some lofty expectations as she joined the Thomas College women's team. Burr was coming off a senior MCI season where she captured a team title and 3 KVAC titles in indoor track (55 meter, 55 hurdles, 200 meter), two Class B State Championships in indoor track (55 hurdles, 200 meter) a team KVAC championship and 4 individual titles in outdoor track, and three Class B State Championships in outdoor track (100 hurdles, 300 hurdles, 200 meter), setting State records for both the 100 hurdles and 300 hurdles. Burr is forever in the record books as a Husky, but it's clear that her goal was to sprint even further and harder into her collegiate career.

And sprint she did. Burr burst onto the college scene, not letting the first year get away from her as she set off to make her mark on the Thomas College Terriers. By the end of her first year, Burr set a combined total of 35 school records in the indoor and outdoor track seasons. She qualified for a total of 10 events at the New England Championship, and set 5 conference records at the North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Championships. For her efforts, Burr led the women's track and field team to their first ever NAC title in program history and was awarded the 2024 NAC Women's Track Athlete of the Year. Her performance was dominant enough that she was invited to compete at the national level, and all of this occurred in just her first year in collegiate competition.

"A goal of mine was to go to nationals, but I didn't think that I would do it my freshman year, I'm hoping I can do it each year after this," Burr told the Morning Sentinel. "It's really for the experience of the future, I'm not putting any [pressure] on myself... I'm going in to have fun and



Photo courtesy of Rich Abrahamson, Morning Sentinel.

compete with all these great athletes. I'm just going to try to [set new personal records]."

Once again, Burr delivered. From May 23rd through the 25th at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium in Myrtle Beach, Burr gave it her all and finished 18th in the nation in the Division III Women's Heptathlon, ranking 2nd in the nation among first-years

in the event. Burr set two PR's and tied two PR's, setting the school record yet again for the 200 meter. Her first year as a Terrier completely blew away any expectations for her following a dominant MCI career, and we look forward to seeing what else she will accomplish in the seasons to come as part of the Thomas College Track and Field program.

#### Lost on a Mountain in Maine Premieres this July at MIFF



Photo courtesy of Great Mountain LLC.

At long last, it seems like the **Donn** Fendler '44 story will officially hit the big screen. *Lost on a Mountain in Maine* is based on the best-selling memoir featuring the harrowing story of Fendler's survival for 9 days on the edge of Mount Katahdin at just 12 years old. Fendler would eventually

attend Maine Central Institute, graduating from our school in 1944 and receiving the Distinguished Achievement Award in 2013 before his death in 2016 at age 90.

The film was produced by Sylvester Stallone's Balboa Productions, written by Luke Paradise, and directed by Andrew Kightlinger. The team just announced that the film will be making its world premiere at the Maine International Film Festival in Waterville on July 13th, with a national release in theaters across the country scheduled for later this fall.

"This is a 40-years-in-the-making passion project that captures the essence of my parents: family, hope and grit," executive producer Dick Boyce said in an interview with ScreenDaily. Boyce's parents had read him the book as a child, and it's only fitting that this film finally has the chance to reintroduce so many new people to Fendler's story and triumph. We look forward to seeing one of our proud Huskies and his story hit the big screen at MIFF this summer, and hopefully coming to a theater or screen near you this fall!



# Norbert Young Jr. '66 recognized as Trustee Emeritus for Years of Service

It is with great pleasure that Maine Central Institute recognizes Norbert Young Jr. '66 with the honor of Trustee Emeritus for his years of service to the School and to the MCI Board of Trustees. Norb was recognized on Friday, June 14 surrounded by his greatest supporters, the current Board, and his fellow Trustee Emeriti. Anyone who knows Norbert Young Jr. knows that he and his family are synonymous with the greatest ideals of our school, and his years of service on our Board and beyond are more than deserving of the title of Trustee Emeritus.

The title of Trustee Emeritus is an honor that is currently held by only 13 distinguished trustees with the inclusion of Norb into this exclusive club. Just last year, Susan Smith England '73 and Michael Hodgins '86 were recognized for their achievement during the Founders Celebration, so it is only fitting that the "Champion of Founders" was next in line for this illustrious honor. The distinction was developed solely for the purpose of recognizing the wonderful contributions by former members of the Board of Trustees at MCI.

The criteria for inclusion are that the former Trustee must have made major contributions to MCI in the areas of work, wealth, and wisdom, and must have served on the Board for a minimum of ten years. There is an expectation that the former Trustee will no longer serve on the Board in the future as a token of appreciation for their dedicated service.

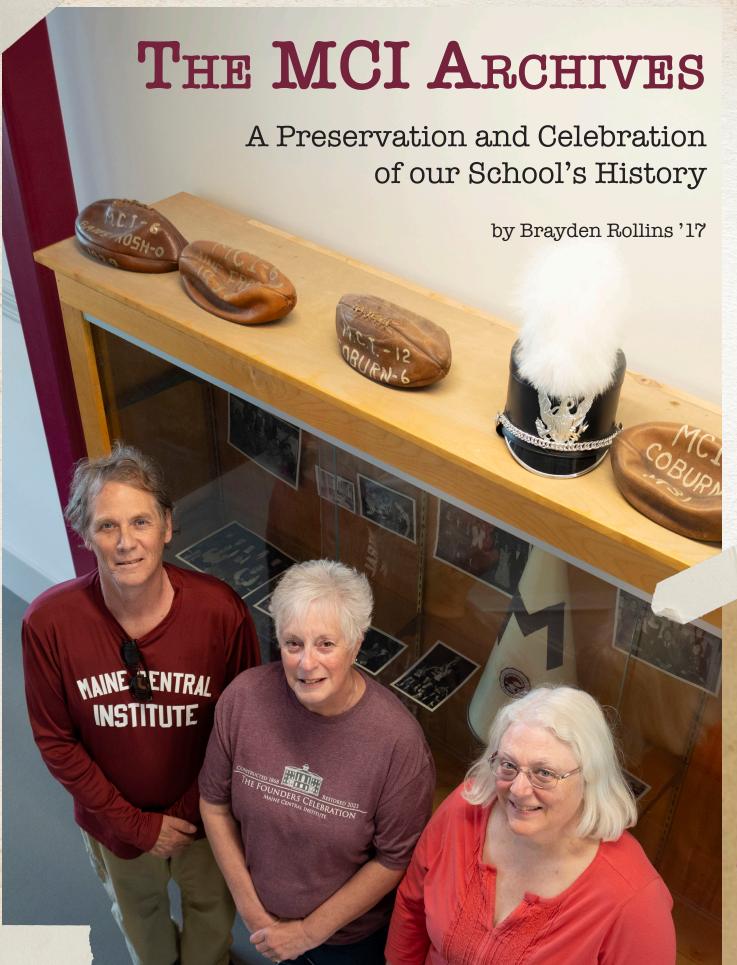
The son of two respected MCI faculty in Norbert Young Sr. and Maple Young, Norbert Young Jr. served on the MCI Board of Trustees for 22 years, 11 of which he served as President. During his tenure, Norb was instrumental in making sure MCI moved in the right direction and led with the same drive and passion that his parents had for the School all those years ago. He most recently served as the Campaign Chair and Project Supervisor for the renovation of Founders Hall, an immense responsibility and effort that our school will benefit from for generations to come.

"You can't even buy the services that we got from Norb to renovate Founders," remarked current Board President Mike Dow '84 at the recognition ceremony.

"Thank you Norb for everything you have done, I'm not even touching the surface of what he's done for us... we have so much to thank him for."

When reflecting on his commitment to MCI over the years, Norb stressed that it's not about campus improvements, it's about the people that make our MCI community special and make MCI such a special experience that so many alums share. "MCI is important not for the buildings, although I've invested a lot of time and energy into them, but it's really because of the faculty," said Norb. "And today's faculty is just as dedicated as those 40, 50, even 60 years

Norb and his wife Christine recently helped establish the Norbert Sr. and Maple Young Fund for Excellence, named in honor of his parents, in order to help further develop and support our dedicated faculty. Anyone who has been touched and affected by MCI over the years has been touched by Norbert Young Jr. We as a school owe him a great deal for what we have achieved, and we congratulate him for his deserved honor and recognition as Trustee Emeritus.



We as humans have a natural urge to reflect, to be nostalgic, to look to the past in hopes of enlightening our future. In the grand history of Maine Central Institute, many alumni and friends have collected and arranged their own personal belongings, but the central history of our School is housed in the belly of our oldest building: The MCI Archives.

It is difficult to summarize and abstract the entire history of an institution into one concise narrative or one complete story. As is the case for Maine Central Institute, which was founded in 1866 and has 158 years worth of individual students' stories, 158 years worth of past tales and records, 158 years worth of school history. Recording and managing our school history is no small feat, yet it is a responsibility that has been carried on by many throughout the years. MCl's history means so much to so many people, and as past alumni and friends have collected and donated their collections to the School, an accumulation and assortment of photos, documents, and more has grown and developed into what we now know today as the MCI Archives.

The MCI Archives was not born out of nothing. People have a natural desire to hold onto things from their past, but it takes a special group of people to network and connect with alumni to make sure that their personal history and the history of MCI as a whole is not lost along the way. The Alumni Association has been instrumental in keeping and protecting the history of our School, a thankless job that often goes overlooked. As mentioned previously, it takes a special person to hunt out our school's precious remnants and to realize that we need to preserve our current history in order to better inform our future. MCI has been lucky enough to have several of these exceptional people over the

years, but none have been more instrumental to the MCI Archives than Alice Shaw Patterson, Class of 1948. Regarded as the lone steward of the MCI Archives from its earliest inception, Alice has made an indispensable contribution to MCI and our shared history, and for her efforts she will be recognized at the dedication of the MCI Archives in the newly renovated Founders Hall at this year's Reunion.

While Alice's work and impact is insurmountable, the current MCI Alumni Association is working hard to make sure that all her work was not done in vain. Under the leadership of the newest regime, the MCI Archives have relocated and transformed into something that Alice and all MCI alums would truly marvel at. So let us admire and appreciate the work of Alice Patterson '48, let us recognize the work that the current Alumni Association and others are doing to make sure the archives live up to their potential, and let us look at the future of the MCI Archives and why it is essential to look to the past in order to inform our future. There have been many students that have passed through the halls of our campus. Some think about their time here every day, or every month, or maybe hardly at all. But we are all connected through this great school, and that complex and intertwining story is told through our MCI Archives.



An understanding of Alice Shaw Patterson is fundamental to comprehending the scope and influence that Alice had on the MCI Archives and thus on MCI as a whole. A Pittsfield native, Alice grew up on the south side of the tracks leading to Detroit. Her father worked in the woolen mills in the area, and was a graduate of MCI himself in the early 20th century. As she attended MCI, Alice was in awe of the education she received and the friends she made along the way. Classmates like Liz Whalen '48, Helen Esty Cianchette '48, and P'Nut Fowler '48 were all dear friends that she kept in touch with long after she graduated.

As she settled down in Pittsfield and raised three future MCI alums herself (Patrick '68, Gregg '69, and Eddie '74), Alice began to become even more invested in the MCI experience. "My mother... I think hard work was at the core of who she is and was," explained Gregg. "At home even, she was a collector... I don't think she could ever throw anything out, those things are part of who she was."

Her son Gregg recalled fondly the memories of cleaning through Alice's house once they finally sold it and finding all the treasures she had collected along the way. It makes sense that with her affinity towards collecting, Alice thought the best way she could contribute to her alma mater in a positive way was to acquire photos and pieces of memorabilia that were important to the history of the School. Alice slowly began to gather those first pieces of the MCI Archives in the boiler room of Manson Hall, since that was the only space that was available. Many have stories about how the photos and documents would overwhelmingly tower through their cubicles, the whole space bursting at the seams with the pieces that Alice and others acquired. What looked like a mess to some was exactly what Alice was striving to do: to continue to build our archive by whatever means necessary, in the hopes that one day someone else would be able to effectively organize and present her life's work.

"We all want to be part of a continuum, we all want to be part of something larger than ourselves, so it was meaningful for my mother to make a contribution like that," said Gregg. "What you want to do is touch history, I think that's the reason that she archived at MCI or at home and didn't want to throw anything out... she wanted



Alice Shaw Patterson '48, as pictured her senior year of high school at MCI and years later as she was a faithful servant to Maine Central Institute and the MCI Archives.



The boiler room of Manson Hall, which acted as the home of the MCI Archives for decades.



to be part of something bigger than Alice Shaw Patterson."

Anyone who met Alice knows that she was indeed more than just a person. She was a force of nature, she was a hard worker, she was goal oriented. If she noticed something wasn't in its place or someone was doing something wrong, she would tell you. She was practical, she was independent, she volunteered all those hours to the Alumni Association without holding an official title because she didn't want to get caught up in all the noise. She knew what she liked, she knew what she was passionate about; she was passionate about MCI and preserving our school's history of excellence. For all that she did for MCI over the years, Alice was inducted into the MCI Hall of Fame in 2009, and passed away having lived a full and fulfilling life at the age of 92. Alice left behind decades of work and thousands of pieces that she collected over the years in the MCI Archives, and while Alice's work will always be commemorated and appreciated, the MCI Archives still have room to grow. The nature of an archive is that it is always growing, so it was time for another group of special people like Alice to step up and truly realize the potential that the MCI Archives have to offer.

Coming into the 2010's, it started to become clear that the MCI Archives as they stood in the boiler room of Manson Hall were not in a viable position for the future preservation of our school's history. The space was being used for storage amongst other things, and the piles of material were getting more and more burdensome and disorganized by the day. When he took the helm as President of the Alumni Association in 2014, Milton Webber '71 had a deep love for the history of the School and found it fascinating how many pieces were preserved over the years. 16mm films of sporting events, original paintings, and more have stood the test of time, yet it was still a daunting task to not only maintain the current MCI Archive, but continue to add to it. Milton did his best to keep up with the yearbooks and in recent years made an effort to utilize student representatives to gather current memorabilia. Even with these strides, it was still an immense amount of work that really put into perspective how important people like Alice were to the whole operation.

"Some of the old photographs have no information on them at all, so we're somewhat struggling in regards to identifying a photo from 1905 or whenever it might have been taken," said Milton. "It was tough to find people to do the work... but I'll tell you, when Buddy Ingraham took things on we have such a better and more visible presence here at school and around town."

Milton was and will always be a devoted and proud MCI alum and leader, but the MCI Archives needed a team just as strong and dedicated who are willing to do the work to get things

back in order and embrace the capabilities that this essential MCI resource had to offer. It just so happened that MCI was in line to embrace a substantial change with the revitalization of Founders Hall, and the two projects naturally seemed to meld together into

The renovation of Founders Hall would include a multitude of work surrounding the building's basement, which used to house the school's rifle range. This newly repurposed space was ripe for the taking for the MCI Archives, as it made sense for the collective history of the School to be housed in the original building where it all began. The climate-controlled space was set, maintenance built shelves to store the various pieces, and now it was just a matter of who would step up to the plate and make sure that the project followed through. Buddy Ingraham '75 assumed the role of President of the Alumni Association in 2022 just as the Founders project was coming to a close, and Tom Bertrand '90 followed shortly after in the spring of 2023 as he took on the new role of Assistant Head of School for Advancement. These two, amongst countless other individuals and helpers, really ushered the MCI Archives into the state that they are in now, and it's all because they both realize how important our archives are to our MCI community.

"People talk about it, when I talk with alums they want old copies of their yearbooks, they want a chance to look back on their time here and reflect," explained Tom. "Our school has been around for over 150 years and there's been a lot that has



Buddy Ingraham '75, Dianne Debay '69, and Vera Bryant '74 look through an old yearbook as they prepare to fill the Archive case in Founders.

14 Maine Central Institute

Alumnus 2024 15



Alumni Association President Buddy Ingraham, Vice-President Vera Bryant, and Secretary Dianne Debay have been invaluable assets in organizing and displaying the MCI Archives so that more people can take part in our school's history.

happened, the photos and the artifacts tell a almost see her sitting there, she had such a story about the school."

On Spring Community Service Day last year, a number of students aided Tom, Buddy, and other members of the Association with the transportation of dozens and dozens of boxes full of MCI treasures from their old home in Manson Hall to their new home in Founders Hall. With the MCI Archives finally in a space suitable for the staggering amount of memorabilia that are housed there, it was time for the current regime to roll their sleeves up and get to work realizing Alice's vision for the archives.

"We have done a lot of organizing down there, from 1866 conception to present," said Buddy. "A lot of our paintings and pictures we want preserved, to stay upright and not stacked and getting damaged... once that stuff came over it really drew new life into the archives, when I sit down there and I think and I paw through this stuff, Alice really comes to mind. I can

love for it."

As it stands today, the MCI Archives are still a work in progress, as they always will be. There is still a lot of work that the Alumni Association is doing to make sure that the archives are organized and that each piece is in its rightful place, as well as removing any pieces that have no rationale for being in the archives in the first place. Once the MCI Archives are in tip-top shape, the future of the archives are defined by two main tenets: awareness and accessibility.

It's great that the archives have finally found a comfortable home, but if nobody can enjoy the wealth of information that they provide, then what was the point? In the early phases of the Founders renovation, Tom mentioned this to Lead Architect and Trustee Tim Archibauld '84, and the two discussed a display case on the first floor of Founders that would allow the MCI

Archives to be enjoyed and admired by all current students and members of the MCI community. The display case, which will be rotated out quarterly every three months with new pieces and photos, is a huge step forward in opening the MCI Archives to new eyes and fresh perspectives.

Along with building awareness, accessibility and especially digital accessibility is a huge future project for Buddy and his team in the archives. Once they have a setup in place, the goal is to begin scanning and digitizing all of our MCI Archives. The objective is to not only effectively preserving our oldest and most fragile pieces, but also to create an online digital space where alums can view the entire MCI Archives from the comfort of their own home. As our new MCI alums are born and intertwined in an increasingly digital world, our MCI Archives should reflect these same worldviews. With clear goals and plans in sight, it's not a matter of if Buddy and the

rest of the Alumni Association will achieve their dreams for the MCI Archives: it's when. It may take some time to get the resources and manpower to achieve these goals, but the MCI Archives only get stronger and more pronounced every day. There will soon be a day where the archives are finally recognized, appreciated, and enjoyed as much as they rightfully should be.

In learning about and researching the MCI Archives, I left with two main realizations: the first, is that we as humans and as MCI alums are inherently sentimental people. We long for the glory days of high school, and thus the archives likely would have formed on their own volition purely through the shared love and admiration for a place we all called home at one point in our lives. Very few people want to forget their time at Maine Central Institute, so the MCI Archives and the preservation of our shared history is one of the backbones of our institution and an aspect of our school that nearly everyone can identify and rally behind. However, while the archives are a culmination of all of our shared experiences, it takes those special few people to see through the fog and discern what pieces, messages, and stories truly matter.

The second realization I came to was that the MCI Archives mean a lot to many different people, but in different ways. For Tom, it's about the excitement that the archives bring when connecting with alumni and friends and its ability to let people reflect on their time at MCI. For Milton, it's about securing our future and making sure that no matter how much MCI changes over the years in the 2030's, 40's, or into the next century, that we always

have something to look back on and remember what MCI used to be like in decades past. For Gregg, it's about bringing the archives alive and using the materials not only for preservation, but for teaching, telling stories and reexamining the experiences that led you to where you are now.

And lastly, for Alice, it was about the people. No matter how many things she collected, it was always about the people. Every Reunion, Alice would meet and mingle at the luncheon or any other event, clinging onto every word of every story any MCI alum would tell. While Alice did so much to collect and archive thousands of pieces over the years so that our current leadership could continue her legacy, I believe that she knew there was much more to the archives than just a collection of photos and memorabilia. We as MCI alumni are a living archive. Without our own experiences and without our own stories, it's just a stack of paper sitting in a basement. The people, the MCI alumni and greater MCI community, are where the true meaning lie. So as we reflect on the MCI Archives, from their humble beginnings in the boiler room with Alice to their hopeful future housed in Founders Hall, it's important that we each look back at our own MCI experience and determine what the MCI Archives might mean to us. As I personally reflect on what the MCI Archives mean to me after going through this entire journey, I am reminded of something that Buddy mentioned as we both reflected on this School and the distinct feeling you get when pondering the influence of MCI:

"It's all about having something to look back on... friendships, memories, classes, teachers... the MCI Archives are a rich history and give us a glimpse back at any time to see where the School has been and where we've grown to... we grow by looking in the mirror, and by looking at ourselves we can see how far we've truly come."



# REUNION 2024

# FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2024 Alumni Association Golf Scramble

JW Parks Golf Course 8:00 – 9:00 am Registration 9:00 am Shotgun Start *Rain or shine!* 

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

\$100 / Person \$400 / Team \$550 / Team & Sponsor

#### Hall of Fame/Distinguished Achievement Awards Celebration

Savage Family Dining Room 4:30 – 5:30 pm Registration/Social/Dinner 5:30 pm Awards Celebration

Join us in recognizing the achievements of Hall of Fame inductees and Distinguished Achievement Award Recipient.

\$40 per person Cash Bar available

#### Alumni Association Party – RIFF JOHNSON '99 LIVE IN CONCERT

Boutelle Savage Lawn, Front Campus under the Tent 7:00 pm

Riff Johnson '99 will be live in person under the tent as we honor the <u>Class of 1999 celebrating their 25th Anniversary.</u> Suggested donation at the door of \$10 per person. *Cash Bar available*.



## Saturday, August 3, 2024

Blaine K. Littlefield '99 Memorial Walk

8:00 am Registration 8:30 am Start

#### **Reunion Registration**

8:30 – 11:30 am - Savage Family Dining Room 11:30 am – 1:00 pm - Under the Tent

#### Reunion Breakfast

Savage Family Dining Room 8:30-10:30 am Enjoy a relaxing full breakfast as you gather with friends and classmates (vegetarian options available). \$15 per person

#### Class Agent Meeting

Ella Powell Room 9:30 – 10:15 am

#### **Alumni Association Meeting**

Ella Powell Room 10:30 – 11:30 am

#### Dedication of Alice Patterson '48 Archives

Founders Hall 11:30 am

#### Founders Hall Tour

Outside Founders Hall 11:45 am

#### Reunion Luncheon

Boutelle Savage Lawn, Front Campus under the Tent 1:00 pm

Sponsored by the Alumni Association, join us on Front Campus for lunch with friends and classmates as we honor the <u>Class of 1974</u> <u>celebrating their 50th Anniversary</u> (vegetarian options available). \$35 per person

Cash Bar available

#### Class Gatherings (Years Ending in 4's and 9's)

Various Locations

3:00 pm

Reunite with friends and families from your graduating class! Check with your Class Agents or call the Alumni/Advancement Office at 207-487-5915 for more information.

#### Class Displays

Powers Hall – Founders Hall 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

#### MCI Bookstore

Powell Library 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

# Join us for Reunion Weekend!

Friday and Saturday, August 2-3, 2024

Register Online at www.mci-school.org/alumni/reunion, scan the following QR code, or use the attached form below.

This year we will be honoring classes with graduating years ending in 4 and 9. Even if it isn't your Reunion year, we hope you'll consider returning to campus for the celebration and we hope to see you there!



If you would like a Campus Tour, please check in at Registration

Expiration Date:

Class of 1974 – 50th Reunion Luncheon compliments of the Alumni Association

If you would like to reserve a dorm room, please call (207) 487-5915.

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## MCI HALL OF FAME

#### DEAN NEAL



Music education in Pittsfield and our surrounding towns has been widely regarded and respected throughout the years, and for 30 years the success of our music program at MCI was centered around one outstanding educator: Mr. Dean Neal. Growing up in St. Albans, Dean developed a love for music under the direction of music educators Jack Clifford, Bruce Brown and Stan Buchanan in MSAD 48/RSU 19. That love of making music was further developed through studies with Chuck

Winfield, Tom Hoffman, Dave Demsey, and Don Stratton at the University of Maine and the University of Maine at Augusta. In 2020, Dean returned to RSU 19 as the Director of Instrumental and Vocal Music at Nokomis Regional High School and Music Coordinator for RSU 19 in Newport, Maine, where he manages the Performing Arts facility and now teaches Concert Choir, Vocal Jazz Ensembles, Jazz Combo, Digital Music Production, and co-teaches Stagecraft with his wife Lisa.

He previously served as Director of Music at Maine Central Institute from 1990-2020. Together with the amazing music educators in MSAD 53 and MCI, Dean helped to grow the music program through the 90's and 2000's from serving 40-50 students each year to 140-150+ students. The music program in 1990 offered Band, Chorus, and Music Appreciation that eventually grew to provide Band, Chorus, Jazz Band, 2 Jazz Combos, 3 Vocal Jazz Ensembles, Piano, Guitar, Digital Music, Music History, and Music Theory and Songwriting. MCI's instrumental and vocal jazz ensembles became recognized and respected across the state and New England through outstanding performances at State jazz festivals and the Berklee College of Music Jazz Festival, reaching a high point in 2018 when the Vocal Jazz Ensemble Caravan won first place in the college festival. Dean has served as a guest conductor for numerous regional and state honors bands and jazz choirs, notably the New Hampshire All State Jazz Choir twice and Maine All State Jazz Choir. Dean has held MMEA and KVMEA Executive Board leadership positions and in 2018 he was featured in School Band and Orchestra magazine as one of "50 Directors Who Make A Difference."

In the mid 2000's, Dean took his first steps in the musical theater arena and has since appeared in many lead roles at the Waterville Opera House and Lakewood Theater. He and his wife Lisa reside in Palmyra, Maine and are looking forward to building a cabin on Whites Pond in Palmyra this summer and just celebrated the arrival of their first grandchild in May!

#### Sue Haseltine '67



Sue Haseltine '67 is one of our proudest MCI alums. The daughter of MCI faculty members, Sue grew up learning from the best in Frank Haseltine '40, who taught biology at MCI for many years, and Leona Haseltine, who was MCI's librarian. Both Frank and Leona were inducted into the MCI Hall of Fame for their service to the School in 1987 and 1993 respectively, making Sue a second-generation recipient of this prestigious honor.

While at MCI, Sue was an active student, participating in Rifle club,

Debate club, National Honor Society, Girls' State, and more. After graduating valedictorian of her class in 1967, Sue studied at the University of Maine, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Science. She went on to receive a Masters and PhD in Zoology from Ohio State University and then joined the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as a researcher stationed at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC) in Laurel, MD. Sue's research on the effects of organochlorine pesticides and metals in relation to bird populations and habitats eventually led her to become the Director of Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown, ND and then to become Assistant Regional Director for Refuges and Wildlife for FWS in Minneapolis, MN. After a stint supervising land and wildlife management programs in an 8 state region, she returned to research administration, leading programs at the regional and national levels for the National Biological Service and the US Geological Survey (USGS).

As Chief Scientist for Biology and then Associate Director for Biology in the USGS, she was responsible for leading and supporting long term research programs carried out at 18 research centers and 40 Cooperative Research Units located at universities across the country. She was responsible for building long term science capacity and collaborative approaches with conservation and resource management agencies to address priorities in fishery and wildlife science, ecological change and policy issues of concern to US Department of Interior, OMB and Congress.

Sue served on the MCI Board of Trustees from 2013-2022. Her brother, Frank Haseltine '64, currently serves as a Trustee. Sue is a member of the Heritage Society and has been a longtime supporter of MCI, just as her parents were. Sue currently resides in Haymarket, Virginia, and we at MCI are beyond grateful for her dedication and support to our school throughout the years.

## DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

#### MICHAEL LYNCH '84



After graduating from MCI in 1984, Michael Lynch pursued a BS in Business with concentrations in Marketing and Management at the University of Maine and completed his MBA in Investment and Finance in May of 1989. In 1990 he became licensed in the Securities and Insurance business and began his career working in Southern Maine and New Hampshire. In 1992, Mike moved his practice back to Pittsfield where he continues to

practice today, servicing clients in well over a dozen states across the country. His practice is primarily focused on management of assets for retired people, business planning, charity fund management and 401k management all through his business Northeast Planning Associates, Inc. Mike likes to tell people, "I work with people all over the country, but choose to live in Pittsfield, America."

In 1993, Mike joined the board of Sebasticook Valley Hospital and became their Treasurer for the next 10 years. During that time, he was appointed to a committee to undertake the building of a healthcare system in Eastern Maine. After 3 years, Eastern Maine Healthcare System was born, which soon became known as Northern Light Healthcare. Mike served on the EMHS Board for 12 years, chairing the Executive Compensation Committee and the Investment Committee as well as serving on other committees. Eastern Maine Homecare was established by joining 4 state wide homecare agencies, where Mike served as Treasurer on the Board and was active on the Board for 15 years. After 32 years and over 19,000 hours of volunteer time, Mike has retired from most of his Board positions now and only serves on the Investment Committee.

In 1986 on a Christmas Break, Mike assisted Bud Jones and the Masonic Lodge with a Community Christmas Project for the kids of MSAD 53. In 1992 he joined the Meridian Lodge of Masons in Pittsfield, and for the last 15 years he has been Chairing that same Christmas Project which consumes most evenings from September through Christmas Eve, a labor of love that he shares with many other community members. For the few years that it was active, Mike served on the Board of Visitors for MCI

Mike served 10 years on the Alumni Board at the University of Maine, chairing committees and working on a task force with the President of the University and Chancellor of the University of Maine System. He was a founding member of the University of

Maine Senior Skull Alumni Interest Group and has worked as a mentor to a few University of Maine graduates entering into the investment world.

Spreading basic investment knowledge and money management techniques, Mike has taught in over 20 high schools around Central Maine through Jobs for Maine Grads (JMG) and local health classes. He has had the pleasure of assisting 3 MCI graduates recently with their senior projects. At one point in his career, Mike had thought about teaching at nearby colleges, but there are only so many hours in the day.

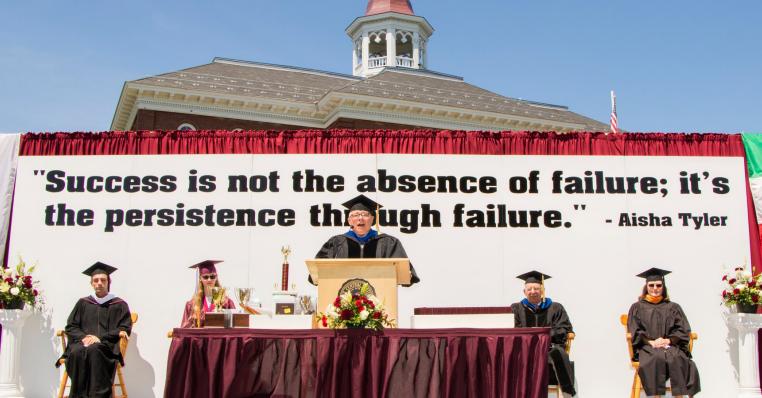
His weekends are filled with wake surfing, waterskiing, friends, family, travel, and anything that can bring a smile to another's face and his own. Mike and his wife Mareshah have recently purchased a motorhome and anticipate working remotely for parts of the next few years to see this great country of ours.

Mike describes his time at MCI as teaching him independence, giving him opportunities for leadership, and continuing his love of music and building lifetime friendships that are hard for many to understand. For more than 35 years, his squad of friends have made it a priority to get together over St Patrick's Day somewhere in the country where they reminisce about the fun they had, the great start in life that MCI gave all of them, and the opportunities available to anyone that avails themselves of said opportunities.



20 Maine Central Institute Alumnus

# **COMMENCEMENT 2024**



Sunday, June 2 marked the day that all MCI students anxiously look forward to from the first day they step foot on our campus: Commencement. There are a lot of emotions surrounding graduation from high school, as there is trepidation towards what lies beyond these walls but also a sense of excitement for the adventures that will follow. All these emotions weighed heavy on the Class of 2024; a historic class that really set themselves apart through their competitive spirit and close bond with one another. As the sun beamed down on what would be a beautiful day on the Boutelle Savage Lawn, the class marshals led their classmates down the aisle and the ceremony commenced.

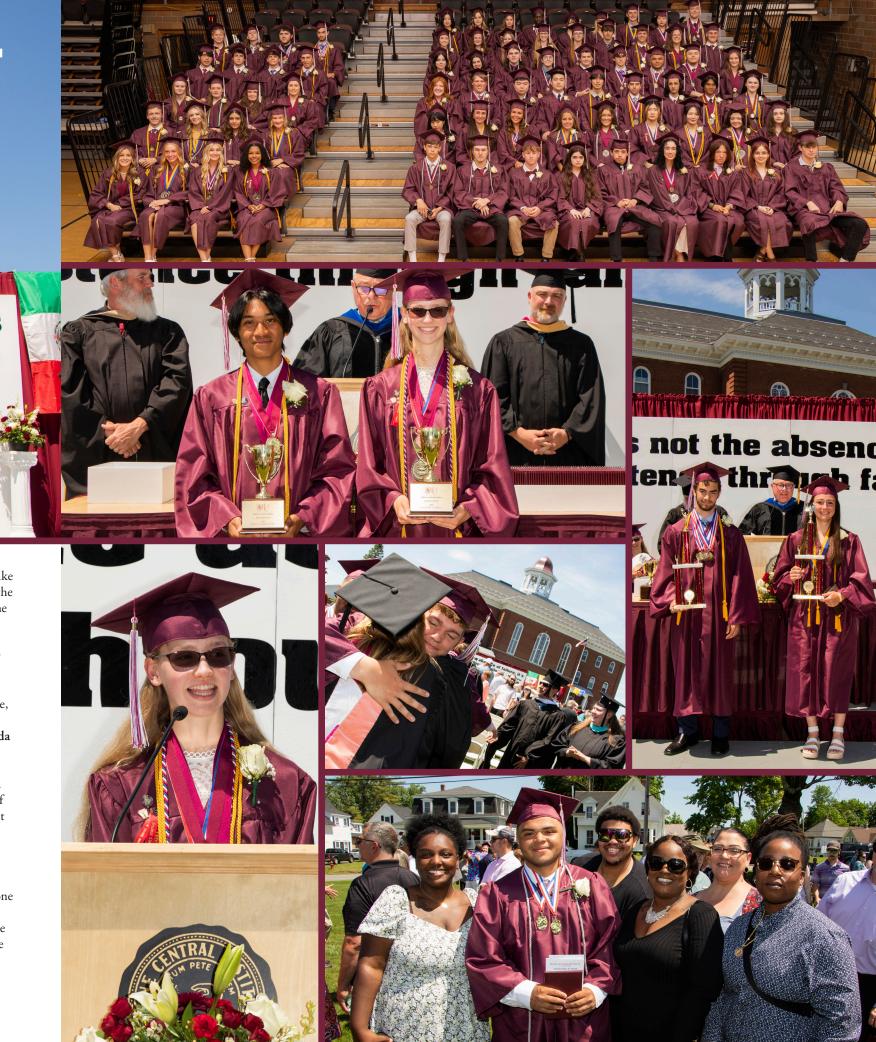
"What MCI has done for us is demonstrate our collective humanity, no matter where we're from or who we are, we're all a bunch of teenagers who care about many of the same things," senior Addison Verrill remarked in her Valedictorian address. "By taking what we've learned here about embracing differences and diversity, about understanding, about working together, about coming together, we will become the leaders of tomorrow. We can choose to be part of the solution. We will do our part to make the world a better place, just a little bit, each and every day, and the capacity to do that is the greatest gift MCI could ever provide."

Following Addie's heartwarming speech was the Commencement address by Dana N. Humphrey, Ph.D., P.E., who served as the Dean of Engineering at the University of Maine from 2006 until his retirement in 2022. In his address to the graduating class, Humphrey stressed the importance in being an outlier and using

an advantageous MCI education to solve great challenges and make the world a better place, as it is all our obligation to do so. After the inspiring remarks from Humphrey, it was time for members of the senior class to be recognized for their achievement in academics, athletics, citizenship, and more.

The crown jewel of these achievement awards are the Faculty and Master's Cups, which pay tribute to the two seniors who, in the opinion of the faculty, best represent the highest ideals of the School through a combination of excellence in academic diligence, character, leadership, involvement in school activities, and school spirit. This year, the recipient of the Master's Cup was Hein Nanda Kyaw, and the Faculty Cup was awarded to Addie Verrill. After all the awards were allocated, it was finally time for each student to walk across the stage, shake the hand of Head of School David Pearson, and receive their MCI diploma. At long last, the Class of 2024 could hold their heads high, move their tassel from the right to the left, and feel confident that MCI has prepared them for whatever roads may lie ahead.

And with that, Commencement 2024 came to a close. The Class of 2024 marched back across front campus and embraced with their family, friends, and each other as another large milestone had finally concluded. Every year, there is something remarkable about witnessing a group of students finally take that leap into the next chapter after watching them grow so much during their time at MCI. This year, with this class, it feels all that more special. Congratulations to the Class of 2024, we will miss you!





# The Boys from Burnham

HOW DAVID O' BRIEN '87 AND STACY BROWN '92 BECAME LEADERS IN GEOSPATIAL SURVEYING

by Brayden Rollins '17

Growing up engrossed in the Maine Central Institute community, it can be easy to get caught up in the "Pittsfield bubble" and become fascinated in primarily the connections MCI has to its original hometown. However, MCI's reach spans not only across the globe through our international students, but right straight down Route 100 to the rural community of Burnham, Maine. Everyone always loops Burnham and Detroit into the normal population of "town kids," but anyone who has been to Burnham or grew up there knows that it is like its own separate community of familiar faces and hardworking personalities. Many Burnham residents have passed through the halls of MCI and gone on to do remarkable things, which is exactly the company that alums David O'Brien '87 and Stacy Brown '92 have found themselves in. Currently serving as Co-Founders and President/ Vice-President of SurvTech Solutions Inc. headquartered in Tampa, Florida, we sat down with David and Stacy to learn more about the work they are doing in the world of geospatial surveying and how their Burnham roots have defined who they are as people

David O'Brien was born in Boston, but grew up his entire life in Burnham on the Horseback Road right by the Burnham golf course. His grandfather was a town selectman and a local businessman, owning a saw mill, hardware store, and chicken houses around town. "I had a pretty interesting upbringing in central Maine... the only thing I would say is we had a lot of freedom back in my day," explained David. "I'm the oldest of 7 boys and us older boys were really pushed out of the house and didn't come home until dark... I guess we were just country folk and didn't know any different."

David described how there was the Burnham Village crowd, and then there was "our side of town" where kids would hang out by the Town Hall or behind the Patterson Store and play football or baseball. David and a few of the older kids would play quarterback and throw passes to the younger kids. In fact, that was likely the first time that David ever met Stacy Brown.

Stacy's family were also Burnham natives, as he grew up right at the head of Unity Pond. Stacy also remembers his youth in Burnham very fondly, as it was just a group of guys looking to pass the time and stay out of trouble. Once he got to MCI, Stacy remarked that in hindsight it was really eye-opening how a school like MCI could stretch the boundaries of that rural atmosphere.

"Growing up in a small town and going to school in that environment, you don't realize what you have at the time," said Stacy. "Now looking back on the days at MCI, you see the opportunities you have and the different experiences that MCI brings compared to other high schools... with the dorm students and people coming from all over, looking back it was a great and unique experience."

David's fondest memories at MCI were Winter Carnival, where his classmates bonded together to compete at the highest level despite having very few athletes to pull their weight. He still keeps in contact with almost a dozen of his friends from the Class of '87 who talk every day, showing that MCI truly helps facilitate relationships that will last a lifetime.

After graduating from MCI, David went to the University of Maine to study Surveying Engineering, whereas Stacy went to the University of Maine to study Civil Engineering. Anyone who knows David

knows that he is a workaholic, so it should come to no surprise that upon graduation, David pawed through every surveying magazine he could find, scalped all the contact information from every advertiser and business, and sent over 300 letters to different firms across the country who might be interested in his services.

"It's funny, I look back on that now and I'm amazed I had the foresight to even do something like that," said David "I remember I even had some of my friends wet the stamps and seal the envelopes, I printed the letters in the middle of the night in the computer lab because I didn't want them to see me printing that many letters."

David's foresight paid off, and he soon found his way into a firm in Plant City, Florida, where he quickly moved up the ranks. It was at this time in the Fall of 1997 that Stacy, who had spent some time in Massachusetts but had moved back home in Burnham to figure out where life was going to take him, got a call from David asking if he wanted to come work down in Florida. Being able to work with David was a no brainer, and once he got a taste of the Florida air, he never looked back.

After spending a few years working at that firm, David and Stacy decided that they had the grit and determination to go off on their own. In 2004, they founded SurvTech Solutions Inc., a geospatial firm focused on the surveying and mapping of all sorts of environments utilizing the latest technology. Whether surveying the land through airplanes, helicopters, and drones, to surveying the water through boats, to even utilizing virtual reality to create 3D models of structures, SurvTech provides the basis for which many projects begin.

"If you're going to construct something, you need to know what the existing site conditions are... every step of the way on a project, surveying really is the foundation," explained David. "A lot of other professions rely on our work like lawyers, environmentalists, engineers, county officials and such... doing quality work on our end allows them to make sound decisions on their own projects," added Stacy.

Over the years SurvTech has grinded its way through an industry that is extremely competitive and reaches into a wide variety of different markets. David recalls how it took a decade to get into the mining business from when they first started attending meetings, and it likewise took 10 years for SurvTech to get their first federal prime contract in 2017 after they began federal marketing and networking in 2007. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to build the resume and break through in the surveying industry, but luckily David and Stacy have incredible work ethics that are rooted in the working class environment of central Maine living.

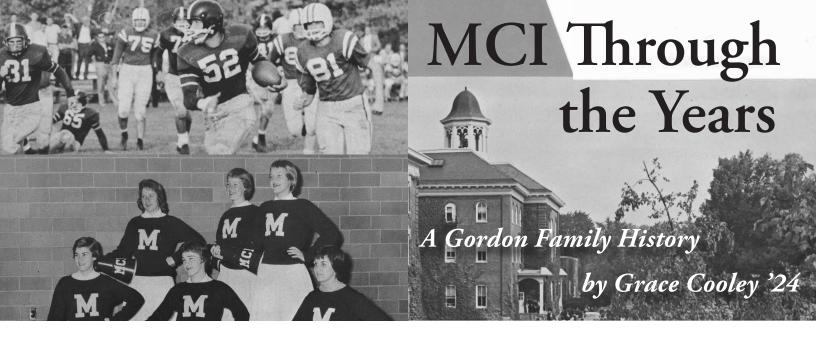
Now, SurvTech celebrated their 20th anniversary and has 6 offices with almost 100 employees. Future expansion across the country and globe is definitely in the works, as is growing their technological advancements in the fields of bathymetric (underwater) LiDAR imaging so they can keep earning federal contracts and grow the firm. When discussing their humble roots in Burnham and what their advice would be to current or future central Maine residents looking to leave the nest, both David and Stacy emphasized the importance of just taking that leap of faith, no matter how big

"Don't be afraid to take the first step... move somewhere, meet friends, build relationships and talk to people, but don't expect things to just happen overnight," explained David. "Be willing to start at the bottom and work your way up, that's what both Stacy and I did at the end of the day."

"Growing up in our time, we had this small window of what the world was being in Burnham and Pittsfield and these small communities," said Stacy. "Having those experiences but getting out and knowing that there are other options out there for you... I think just taking that chance and taking that first leap is so important."

One of SurvTech's helicopters being fitted with a RIEGL LiDAR system, which utilizes lasers to generate precise, 3D information about the shape of the subject and its surface characteristics.





### The Love, Family, & Tears of an MCI Athlete

In 1959, The MCI Football Team almost won a state title, along with Richard "Dick" Gordon '59 scoring 29 points against Farmington leading up to the close of the season. The post graduate team also did extremely well and went undefeated that same year. Over the years, the MCI Football Program has grown and changed from being all around defeated in 1958, to almost winning a state title in 1959, to winning a few state titles in the past ten years. Dick was a captain of all three teams he played on, but also dealt with many of the hardships and accomplishments teams have gone through in current years at MCI. Teams have done really well and not so great in recent years, but many of the stories that Dick told can help teammates accept that these things happen to everyone that has ever been a part of a team.

One of the stories Dick told during his interview was that they had Stearns beat on the road and he threw an interception at half back which cost them the game. One of his teammates told him before the play, "Don't throw that pass, Flash, throw it long or kick." Dick's reaction was, "No, no, I can do it" and it ended with Stearns beating them by catching the interception. In recent years, we have had similar things happen like going defeated in every game but one this year. However, this past season **Drew Shorey** '25 did score 36 points against Winthrop at home.

The cheering team of 1960 was a very different thing than what it is today. The cheering team of 1960 hardly practiced and they just got together and cheered. Carole Gordon Kershner '60 was a cheerleader and only cheered during the winter. There was no cheering team in the fall at the time, but with all the field hockey she was playing she wouldn't have had time anyway. On the other hand, she said that cheerleading was a side gig that many girls did while they played basketball, which is what Carole did during her time at MCI. Nowadays, the cheer team recently came back as a club in 2022. In 2024, they are an official MPA team that went to a competition during their winter season. The current team has a fall season where they cheer at football games and a winter season where they cheer at the majority of home basketball games. They also cheered at the Cross Insurance Center when the basketball girls went into the postseason, all while getting ready for competition.

Cross Country was brought back to MCI in recent years,

however it was huge exactly 60 years ago in 1964. Mike Gordon '64 remembers his junior year in 1963 they "had a real good team." A runner on the team named James "Jimmy" Harrington '63 went to New England's Preparatory competition that year, which was held in Orono at the Country Club, Mike says. Carole remembers softball as her favorite sport at MCI, out of all the other teams she was a part of, of course. She remembers getting really good at the game and her favorite thing was "hitting home runs." Kassie Snowman '25, the current pitcher of the MCI softball team, remembers when her new coach sent the team out on a scavenger hunt around town as part of a get-to-know-your-team event. MCI athletics have created many memories, good and bad, throughout time but the common denominator is that everything happened as a team.

# During & After the Work of an MCI Student

Especially when the final bell rings and it's no longer time to sit at your desk, many people do many different things. However, at their baseline, they are similar all the way from 1959 to 2024. Everyone enjoys going out with their friends, going to sports practices or club meetings, even going to work, and only sometimes homework gets done in the process. Carole remembers going to get ice cream sodas from Humphreys Drug Store with friends and her brothers after school. Both Dick and Mike worked in Manson Park planting, mowing, weeding, and so on. Working there for nine years ended up paying Mike's way through college at the University of Maine completely, where he majored in Chemistry. Mike said, "My uncle was the boss" when he worked in Manson Park and that "Dick worked there, Skip worked there, I worked there" (Skip was the oldest of the Gordon siblings, graduating from MCI in 1956).

After school and work, Carole and Mike remember going to watch the prepper basketball and football games. The Preppers were the fifth-year athletic program and they always had a really good team, according to Carole and Mike. Nowadays, it is a

big thing to go to football games and an even bigger deal to go to basketball games. We don't have the fifth-year program, but basketball is a big thing here. We even have a student-run Instagram where students will post when the games are, who they are against, and what the dress code for the student section is. In the earlier years that's what the Instagram did, but now the cheerleading team organizes what the dress code for the student sections are. We have had many themes such as beach, construction, white out, black out, and neon where students will dress up and cheer on their team with all their friends. Students look very fondly on their memories at MCI by remembering the friends they made along the way, whether it was friends of friends or in the student section at a basketball game.



Carole Gordon Kershner '60 pictured after winning the coveted title of Key Club Queen her senior year.

# Class Presidency & Key Club Sweetheart

Something that started even before the Gordon siblings started going to MCI was class president. Catching up with the previous senior class president, **Brady Rogers** '24, he says, "We don't have a huge campaign process" and that we "picked [class president] at the end of the year last year." There is only a class president for the senior class, but that was a different story when Mike was running for class president his senior year in 1964. At that time there was a president, a vice president, a treasurer, and a secretary. Mike ran for class president against a good friend of his from Jay, **James "Jimmy" Gould '64**, who Mike says, "Was a good choice for the class because he put a lot of effort in and he did a good job." All through Carole, Dick, and Mike's time at MCI they had a new group of class officers every year. Carole was the secretary for her class her senior year and treasurer her freshman year along with Mike who was a candidate for class president his senior year.

When Carole, Dick, and Mike went to MCI, Key Club was a men's club that did community service and would nominate a Key Club Queen every year. In 1960, the Key Club Queen was Carole who was the second ever Key Club Queen at MCI. Her brothers Mike and Dick Gordon were also in Key Club. Today, the Key Club still does a lot of community service, but it is made up of mostly women. There is no longer a Key Club Queen, but

Key Club is thriving as it did over sixty years ago. They even help to organize the conclusion of Winter Carnival, also known as the SnoBall.

Winter Carnival is the one thing that everyone remembers far after they're gone from MCI. The Gordon siblings didn't remember who won, but they remember the fun they had like the rest of students. We have many events, but faced some challenges this year since a couple events involved snow and we didn't have any snow during Winter Carnival. This is the first time in many years that we didn't have a snow sculpture competition. The one thing Mike remembered from his time at MCI was building the snow sculptures and that it "was a big competition...and it was a lot of fun."

Surroundings always affect a community. For example, when Founders Hall was renovated on the inside, it started a big yearly tradition on the weekend it had the grand reopening. There's a carnival, a dance, and a variety show. The variety show happened in past years as Night of Madness, but it was brought back as a Founders Weekend tradition that everyone is glad to have back. Most of the buildings on MCI's campus weren't there in the sixties. There was the Cianchette Science Building, Founders, Rowe Hall, Alumni Hall, and more. Now, the Cianchette Science Building is what we know today as the Visual and Performing Arts building. Founders Hall used to contain all the classes at the time, except science of course, and it even had the study hall on the second floor. The study hall was in Powers Hall, but now it is where Bossov Ballet Theatre holds rehearsal. It is not only a performance space for the dancers, but for whatever MCI event wants to claim it, such as Masardis Coffee House, the Patterson Lecture Series, or the variety show during Founders Weekend. MCI holds many memories for all of us, but most importantly, the memories are held by our friends and family that have joined the community throughout the years.



This story is created by senior **Grace Cooley '24**, who wrote a series of articles based on her grandmother Carole Gordon Kershner '60 and great uncles Richard "Dick" Gordon '59 and Mike Gordon '64. The story compares their time at MCI to hers, and was written as part of Cooley's senior project.



fastest growing and most exciting program at our school in quite some time, our summer STEAM Camp has exploded the past couple years into an offering that is truly unique for hundreds of participants across the globe.

To understand how the STEAM Camp flourished into what it is today, we must first have a brief understanding of the Dual Diploma program at MCI. When asked to picture an MCI Husky, many people would picture an adolescent from Pittsfield, Burnham, or Detroit or an international student living in our dorms. In reality, our student population is much larger than one would think. "The Dual Diploma program at MCI allows students at a swath of schools in Taiwan to earn

That's where the summer STEAM Camp comes into

A requirement of the program is that each student must spend four weeks in the month of July on our MCI campus for our annual STEAM Camp experience. The purpose of this camp is to provide an English-immersion environment based around experiential learning to supplement the MCI education the students have already been given, all while taking in the sights and scenes of Maine as a whole. The camp presents the best that MCI has to offer in a condensed format, allowing participants to truly live out the traditional MCI experience. After a few years of testing the waters, the inaugural camp was



held the summer of 2022, which was widely celebrated and quickly gathered momentum. The camp doubled in size and scope last year in 2023, and has grow even more heading into activities this July with 115 students representing 15 schools in attendance.

The summer STEAM Camp's curriculum is centered around the fields of science, art, and technology. Students are enriched with modules focused on Robotics, Music, 3-D Printing, Theater, Aviation, and more. New additions to the curriculum this year include a class on Architecture and Maine Studies as the camp's offerings continue to grow and develop. All of these exploratory sessions aim to enlighten our students in new and exciting ways while always connecting back to the immersive English environment that is completely uncharted territory for many of our participants.

"My favorite class was creative writing because it was a challenge for me," said Chih-Ning Liu, a junior at last year's camp from Private Chien Tai Senior High School. "I have seldom written creatively before... the teacher encouraged me a lot and I felt confident and continued to write more... in this class I improved a lot in my writing skills."

When the final bell tolls, the STEAM Camp participants are treated to a wide variety of activities and trips that provide the authentic MCI and Maine experience. Weekends are always a highlight, as students get to travel across the state and beyond in search of fun and excitement.

Often times these trips are in coordination with BBT's Summer Intensive or with other local students looking to take advantage of the camp's offerings, allowing our students from Taiwan to further immerse themselves and create new and exciting friendships. Weekends in the past have included trips to Camden and the Rockland Breakwater, the Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, a steamship cruise in Greenville, a Portland Sea Dogs game, and the annual trip down to Boston with tours of Harvard and MIT.

However, activities are not just limited to off-campus excursions. Any MCI alum will tell you that one of the essential pieces of the MCI experience are the class competitions like Homecoming or Winter Carnival. In an attempt to capture that same magic for our STEAM Camp participants, many of the weekday evenings are filled with team competitions as the various different teams vie for points in hopes of being crowned the victors at the conclusion of the camp.

"I think the competitions at MCI were my favorite," said Pin-Yuan Lin, a junior at last year's camp from Taichung Municipal Wen-Hua Senior High School. "Because it's not very often in Taiwan you can see some of these activities... after studying you can join the activities to compete. I think it's very good for students to use the class to learn and then also learn through activities as well."

All in all, the STEAM Camp has done an enormous amount of good for MCI and for the schools and communities that have

been involved. It has touched people that otherwise would not have had a relationship with our school, and communicating that MCI experience overseas and to new and exciting places is essential to the future of our school and MCI community.

"As an educator, I deeply feel that our relationship with MCI is meaningful and educational," emphasized Yen-Ling Chen, Executive Secretary at Shin Shing High School. "It will not only give students an additional channel to study in the USA, but also allow them to broaden their knowledge and horizons." "It is really during the Summer STEAM Camp that we can fully immerse these students into the MCI experience," added Scott Giallombardo '00, Director of Summer Programming here at MCI. "The experiences continue to be highlights in any conversation, and memories that we will take with us for many years to come!"

It's hard to truly understand and contextualize the summer STEAM Camp and how much good it has done in such little time. As you see over 100 students, chaperones, and more on our campus this July, just know that something truly special is in the works at Maine Central Institute, and it is only continuing to grow. If you are a member of our MCI alumni community or a friend of the School, you know how special of a place MCI is. The summer STEAM Camp is providing a fresh and exciting way to communicate that unique and exceptional feeling to more people, and for that we are truly eager for what's to come.

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#### **CLASS OF 1964**

**Barbara Vigue Day** writes, "Hope to see a lot of you at our 60th Reunion this year! Information on things to do and how to register are included in this magazine. Plan to come to the breakfast in the morning, and then we can meet at The Pinnacle from 1:00 - 4:00 for more time to reconnect."

#### Barbara Vigue Day Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 1966**

**Dalen Mills** wrote, "I haven't heard via email, snail mail, smoke signals, texts, cell phones, or for the Neanderthals among us, an actual telephone, from anyone regarding anything that any of my classmates want to share. (Would Mrs. Piper like my run on sentence here?)

Guess I scared them all off with my last class note? Well anyway! Hopefully we can get a good turnout at the reunion this year in August and some of us can get off of our replaced hips, knees, assorted other surgeries and head to Pittsfield in August. Please make your plans soon as it just makes it easier for the staff at MCI to plan for us all.

My wife had a broken neck last July and surgeries at ME Med Center in Portland on 7/15 and 9/6 made going anywhere except to see surgeons and follow-ups our "norm." I just didn't get to last year's reunion because of her broken neck. She's like the bionic woman now! Norby and Chris have had similar things for many, many months of similar scenarios.

While the Mills's and Young's wives aren't quite where we want them to be they are way ahead of where they were last summer/fall, I am happy to report. Liz and I head back to SWH on 5/16 and look forward to rain, cold weather, abnormally high tides, fog, and way too many tourists visiting Acadia National Park.

Bar Harbor locals have voted to limit the cruise ships to no more than 1000 visitors a day and that will actually free up some walking space in Bar Harbor. But it's still a zoo!!! 'Nuff said about that!!!!! I do have general conversations with Norby, Susan, Vicki, Linda, Kathy, Judy Webster and Rex occasionally.

What we generally start a conversation with is "How ya doin'?" Then WE sit back and listen to the latest on who HAS replaced body parts, or surgeries, friends who are either no longer here or are in living quarters that we all don't look forward to, OR JUST TRYING TO REMEMBER ANYTHING AT ALL...

I keep trying to get across to all of OUR/YOUR class of '66 to take part while you can and see classmates you haven't seen for years or even since graduation! Hope to see some "newbies" at this year's reunion.

#### Dalen Mills Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 1968**

**Dawn Peterson Cox** writes, "Sadly we lost another classmate in 2023. **Mary Ann Tilton** passed on May 28, 2023.

Great turnout for our 55th reunion last August! Lunch on campus, followed by gathering at **Ellery Hathorn's** camp on Lake Winnecook and brunch on Sunday at **Kathy (Starbird) Warburg's** camp.

Steve and Dora Miles visited us in Winter Haven, FL in February and we had a few nearby friends stop by... Karen Perry and husband Steve, Eleanor (Brooks) Richards, and Gary and Amy Fitts!

Remember reunion weekend is August 2 & 3 this year. Each year we gather as many classmates as possible even if it's not a "5" year for our class. Please reach out if you're in the area-we always have such a great time!

## Dawn Peterson Cox Class Agent



#### **CLASS OF 1970**

Wendy Murdock Esposito writes, "Well, it's now 54 years since graduation. Holey!! Just wish I could go back and get a different prom dress. Maybe one without long sleeves and a turtleneck when it still might look good. However, at this age, the long sleeves and high turtleneck would be perfect. As for what's up with me in this past year; I am still making pottery in Unity with my husband Espo. We are not working full-time anymore. We have started offering pottery classes, which has been very successful. We never had time before, and now that we want to semi retire, we added that. Haha. Last year we took our '16 camper to Florida. It was a great adventure of kayaking and hiking. Next year we are hoping to travel out west. I want to go before it's too late.

Our two grown daughters are doing great. Melissa, who is an MCI alumna, graduated from massage therapy school in June and now has her own practice in China along with being a PTA for home health care. Our daughter, Carrie, retired from teaching to raise her 2 daughters. She is now coaching soccer and track in NH. We are very proud of them. With 4 grandchildren and still working, we have a very full life. I'm grateful for that. If this is boring, it's because "Surfer" makes me do it! Have a great year."

**David England** wrote, "Hi Classmates, I hope you all survived winter and are enjoying some warm weather. Susan and I spent a long, but cold weekend in February visiting with **Wendy (Murdock)** and husband Espo at their home in Unity. We always have a great time along with lots of laughs. If you are ever in the area, stop

in and visit them at their pottery studio - Unity Pond Pottery. Their pottery is amazing. While in the area we visited with **Bill and Karen Cunningham** and had lunch with **Marcia Bickford**. Fun time! Once back home, I met **Stephen (Hoxie) Hogkins** and **Richard (Dick) Adams** for a get together in Sutton, MA. I hadn't seen Dick since our graduation in 1970. He is well and lives in Littleton, MA. We spent a nice afternoon together catching up and reminiscing about our years at MCI.

## David England Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 1972**

Pamela Terrio Provandie writes, "Skip and I became great grandparents last week when our granddaughter, Hailey, gave birth to our first great grandson, Henry Redlesvke. Hailey and her husband, Douglas Redlevske (he changed his name to Redlevske) were married in July 2021. In September we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary."

#### Pat Inman Thibault Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 1973**

**Susan Smith England** writes, "Hi friends, I hope all is well with you these days and that you are enjoying your summer and the pleasures the warm sunny days bring.

We had a great 50th reunion last August. Between classmates that came to the luncheon on campus as well as those that joined us at the class gathering after, there were about 30-35 members in attendance. We had some long distance travelers - Denise Susi, Skip Osolin, Pam Frati Eggemeyer and Pam Kelley Rogoski along with those of us who live somewhat closer or locally. It was also nice to see classmates from other classes as well.

Added to the weekend events was the recognition of PG **Craig Sargent** who was honored with MCI's Distinguished Achievement award at Friday evening's banquet. All in all, the class of 1973 was well represented at our 50th reunion. We hope that those of you unable to attend will join us for our 55th."

Richard Davis writes, "I retired in August of 2021 after 37 years of town management in Maine, the last 20 of which were in Farmington. My wife and I bought a 1900 Queen Anne house in Pittsfield in the fall of 2023 and have been doing some renovations. It's nice to be back in my hometown and reconnecting with old friends and making new ones."

#### Susan Smith England Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 1975**

Buddy Ingraham writes, "Good day class of 1975. Wow! Time sure goes by. It seems we were just marching into Parks gym and off to Suzzie's camp for our celebration and here we are only one year from our 50th! I am looking for a committee chair and people to help organize a 50th get-together. The Alumni Association takes care of the on campus activities and offers space for us to get together if needed. We as an Association have events in the Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, so keep an eye

on our FB page or the School website. We are seeing so many familiar faces at all these events, so come and enjoy!!!! Also please update your address and email, as we are heading into a digital age and this would be very helpful.

I just heard from **Kitty Rogers Trudell**, and she has moved to North Carolina in the winter and back to a new spot in NH. She has sold the big house in NH after 38 years. She has informed me that she will join the "new knees club" in June. We wish you well Kitty.

I hear from **Brian Duplisea** from time to time. He has had health issues with a close call but is on the mend and doing very well. He and his wife Lisa live in Stuart Florida and have a birds-eye view of the Annual Airshow from their new deck.

I am in touch with **Matt McGowan** and wife Julie often. They live in Waterville with their beloved dog Sir Van Morrison.





Bumped into **Ed Buzzle** a while back, and he is back in town where he grew up.

**Suzie Quint** is helping me on the Alumni Association Executive committee and looking forward to being part of the "new knee club".

Mike and Deb Susi are busy here at MCI and redoing Deb's family home in Gardiner. I gave Mike a pair of Advent loud speakers that I bought while in high school. Some of you may have had the opportunity to give them a listen in my parents living room. They always got a good work out and sounded great.

I have reached out to **Janet Carter Winchester** and she is in Etna in a
beautiful farm house on the old school
house road. Give her a toot when going by
on I 95!

I am busy as can be in retirement. I have my associate broker license in Real Estate and have been quite successful in this new venture. My office is in Hallowell but working mostly in the surrounding Pittsfield area. I am the MCI Alumni Association President and as you can see, this keeps me VERY busy. I stay involved in our community and have 2 fantastic grand daughters that I try to spend time with as much as I can. Tammy and I are still on Hamilton Terrace.

I hope to see you at one of our events or at Reunion Weekend the first weekend in August. Golf Sign up is through the Advancement Office as well as all RSVP's. Be sure to register so we have enough tables for us to all sit together! Be well and see you all soon.

Buddy Ingraham Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 1999**

Maryann Petela Young writes, "I just moved back east to NH after 20 years in SLC, UT! I work for University of Utah Health as a leadership consultant, working remotely from NH with my husband and new-born baby. Excited for the reunion – I hope we have a good turn out!"

**Claude Tozier** writes, "Had a baby boy and moved to Massachusetts last year. He's keeping me in shape!

Kid is all over the place! Looks so much like my grandfather, whom he was named after!"

**Jessica Lawton** is living life!

**DerMarr 'Slim' Johnson** says he is coaching college basketball. He has been at West Virginia University the last two years, and hopes everyone is doing well.

**Andre Williams** is director of a residential provider agency that provides care for adults with disabilities.

Shannon Ring Class Agent

#### CLASS OF 2015

Elly Arsenault writes, "After a few years in Seattle, WA, I have moved back to Eastern North Carolina with my partner, Cameron, and 2 dogs, Chance and Poppy. I am working for a Washington based company as a project manager with a focus in financial technology (FinTech). We spend most of our time outside of work on the beach looking for sharks teeth, or out on the water fishing! This year we are looking forward to visiting my brother, who is currently living in Norway!"

Cassie Miller writes, "After graduating from the University of Maine in 2019, I moved to Auburn, AL to attend veterinary school at Auburn University. I graduated with my Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in 2023 and moved to Three Forks, MT with my 3 dogs and 2 cats, where I work at a mixed animal general practice."

Cassie Miller Class Agent

#### CLASS OF 2021

Joseph Curtis-Hamilton writes, "Maine Central Institute has played a huge role in my day-to-day life. There's not a day that goes by where I don't mention my experiences from MCI, the education I received, and how MCI prepared me to think through difficult business problems. Shoutout to Mr. Peterson, Mr. Buys, Mr. Pomeroy, Ms. Breton, Mrs. Palonis, Mr. Robinson, Ms. Fitts, Patrick Hapworth, Coach Day and Coach Moore! You all have played a significant part in who I've become today."

**Federica Blandizzi** writes, "I am now a student of Università di Pisa, in Italy, attending the faculty of medicine and surgery, and I am expected to graduate in 2029!"

**Joshua Swift** has moved to Washington State.

Randall Starbird Class Agent

#### CLASS OF 2022

**Greta Blomer** writes, "I am doing well. I started my medical studies last year and moved from Germany to Lithuania. Soon I will be done with my second semester."

William Newschafer Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 2023**

**Riley Nelson** worked with Amanda Collamore to work on a law that was recently passed.

**Kyle Hall** writes, "I just finished up my freshman year at USM where I study cybersecurity. I am now currently doing property tax appraisal for the summer."

**Ava Smith** is working as an expeditor for Eastern Shipbuilding Group.

Montse Ruz Cuen writes, "I am glad to tell you that during my first year at college I had the opportunity to start my degree in Hawaii as a marine biologist."

Ava Smith Class Agent

If you would like to volunteer as a Class Agent for your class, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@ mci-school.org or call 207-487-5915 for information.

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

To all MCI Alumni,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Class of 2024 and welcome them into the Alumni Association. I hope in the years to come they will become involved in what we do as an association, with the School and the surrounding community.

We have built a solid relationship with the Advancement Office under the leadership of Tom Bertrand. He and Sharon Savasuk are always there to help with our needs and for advice in all aspects of our very being as an association. Head of School, David Pearson, has on many occasions offered help in whatever we need and is always a part of what we are doing. We truly appreciate his support. Thanks for the new laptop Mr. Pearson! Mike Dow, the President of the Board of Trustees, has built an ongoing relationship with us and shows his support as we lean on him and the Trustees for guidance.

We have a great Executive Committee of the Association that helps us collectively stay on course while creating new events and building relationships with all alumni, friends and family. Community and participation is what makes us a well oiled machine. We have built an outreach program for Class Agents so we can build our contacts and hear about creative ideas for each class and their agents. Nicole Steeves has done a great job as our Class Agent Liaison, with class participation, whether a class party, helping with alumni events, or just keeping the lines open to all that want to reach out with class news or class events. We are building a digital base of contacts so that we can stay in touch with all via email and or phone. If need be, a physical address is helpful. We need this so please reach out to the Alumni Office and Sharon or Nikki will make sure you are up to date.

A major project over the past year has been relocating, organizing, and beginning to catalog the Archives. Last summer we moved them from the basement of Manson Hall to the new climate controlled area in Founders Hall. We are continuing what Alice Patterson was so diligent and caring about. She, for so many years, did a great job almost single handedly collecting and storing the School's history. We have been given an area to digitally record all of the pieces that have been recently organized by year and significance.. WOW, some really cool stuff we have seen! Again, this is a work in progress and something that is so important to the School's legacy.

We are in the second year of hosting a Portland winter event, and an event at Bryant's Brewing to help with the winter blues. We always have a good crowd and tons of fun. We are active at Homecoming and have a yard sale to support our scholarships that we have just recently upped the amount to \$1000. We present all graduating seniors with a Class t-shirt at their final school meeting, as we welcome them into the Alumni Association. We also try to recognize all of the help we get from active students in their volunteer efforts for us. They are a big help in all that they do.

We are selling sweatshirts and other Alumni apparel through the bookstore. We will ship out of the Alumni office if needed as the bookstore doesn't ship. This is our way of helping them while they help us and is a work in progress. We give goodies to boarding students during mid term exams and they love them. We also do hot cocoa and goodies at Winter Carnival. We participate in the community Trunk or Treat at Halloween, which is always a hit. It is visited by over 1000 kids in the community.

Our Alumni Reunion weekend is a big event for us and for the School. Over the weekend there are several events and a schedule of those can be found on the MCI website and on our Facebook page. It begins with our Alumni Scramble at JW Parks on Friday morning with prizes, goodies and lunch. We have a new winners plaque that will be in our new office in the Alumni Office. This is a great event and we appreciate all who participate and/or sponsor the event. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year. The Awards banquet on Friday evening celebrates those being inducted into the MCI Hall of Fame, as well as the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award which is selected by the Alumni Association. We then sponsor an event under the tent on front campus on Friday night after the awards ceremony, where we recognize the 25th year reunion classes. On Saturday, we host meetings for Class Agents as well as our annual business meeting after breakfast, and then we sponsor the luncheon for our 50th Reunion Class by paying for their lunch as well as one guest. Class parties follow the luncheon and then many alums find their way to the Broken Putter on Saturday night. We are also supporting some alumni driven events during the weekend such as a 5K on Saturday, and an alumni football game on Sunday.

As you can see, we are busy year round and always striving for a way to reach out and also bring alumni and friends to campus, while building membership to the Alumni Executive Committee and volunteer base. With all of this said, thank you to all that make our association work and always a big shout out to our Maintenance Department for all of their help and support. Please look for events, send in your current contact information, and become involved in YOUR Association. We want all of our members to feel welcome and encouraged to participate in whatever way they would like.

Be well, stay safe, and see you all soon. GO HUSKIES!!!

Buddy Ingraham Alumni Association President

#### **CLASS AGENTS**

1948 - Theo Bryant 1950 - Virginia Coolbroth Landry 1951 - Robert Hutchinson

1952 - Alvah Wyman 1953 - Barry Twitchell 1956 - Forest Frost

1959 - Nancy Ross Cameron 1960 - Joan Basford Bradley

1962 - Preston Carter

1963 - Janet Viger Bryant 1963 - Marcia Sprague Hodson

1963 - Wayne Pinkham

1964 - Barbara Vigue Day 1965 - Lawrence Yeaton

1965 - Lawrence Yeaton 1966 - Dalen Mills

1967 - Sheilya Cookson Voter

1967 - Tim McGowan

1968 - Dawn Peterson Cox

1969 - Susan Furbush Ryman

1970 - Bill Cunningham 1970 - David England

1970 - Martha Lloyd

1971 - Jeffrey Knights

1971 - Laurie Fitts Loosigian

1972 - Patricia Inman Thibault

1973 - Susan Smith England

1974 - Vera Lloyd Bryant 1975 - Buddy Ingraham, Jr.

1976 - Charlie Tryder

1977 - Jodi Breau Morra 1978 - Robert Cianchette

1979 - Kathy Kelley

1980 - Belinda Lawrence LaFlamme

1981 - Suzanne Lynch Guild

1982 - Cheryl Paresson Austin

1983 - Claudelle Whitter Richardson

1985 - Karen Rollins Fraser

1987 - David O'Brien

1988 - Loren Lavalle Martin

1988 - Chris Mitchell

1989 - Nancy MacGown Monteyro

1990 - Tom Bertrand

1991 - James Richards

1992 - Sean Callahan

1993 - Kristin McCaughey Gagnon

1993 - Jennifer Kuhlmey Lebo

1994 - Courtney Cianchette Harvey

1995 - Frannie Oviatt Rogers

1997 - Terri-Jean Grant Wilkinson

1998 - Jared McCannell

1999 - Shannon Davis Ring

2000 - Hillary Stevens 2000 - Michael Thompson

2001 - Daniel Flaherty

2002 - Donna Russo Sawtelle

2003 - Ashley Holt Morency

2004 - Melissa Hussey Stinson

2005 - Sarah Frost

2008 - Tyler LePage

2009 - Brandon Wilson

2010 - Aaron Kirouac

2012 - Michaela George Klein

2013 - Courtney Fowler 2014 - Shane Hathaway

2015 - Cassandra Miller

2017 - Carter Pearl

2018 - Sydney Morton

2019 - Kendrah Willey

2020 - Bartianna Brown

2021 - Randall Starbird

2022 - William Newschafer

2023 - Ava Smith

# The Advancement Office was notified of the passing of these members of the MCI family:

Jennifer Bedard

Harold Bickmore

Joel Carr

Norma Duplisea

Erlene Frost

Peg Gray

Barbara Hammond

Reginald Knowles

Francine Kollias

Kyle Paquin

Carolyn Smith

Gerry Wright Benjamin Matthews '42

Sidney Shuman '46

Mary Ackroyd Davis '47

Ernest DeRaps '48

Philip Short '49

7 11 11 1 1/2

David Silsby '49

Mary Dysart Quint '50

Maynard Jacobs '52

George Newhouse '54

Leah Heffren Newhouse '54

Dino Frost '55

Juanita Goodrich Lovejoy '55 Avis Cookson Marcoux '55

Kenneth Cray '56

Thomas Kelly '56

Robert Billington '57 Samuel Goddard '57

Wayne Richards '57

Lois Woodcock '57 John Dudley '58

Caridad Menendez London '58

Lawrence Boyington '59

Foster Brooks '59

Raymond Cheney '59 David Choate '59

Delia Young Bickford '60

Phyllis Brooks Braley '60

Sherman Lahaie, Jr. '60 Marilyn Nash '60

Sally Scott Owen '60 Evelyn Maloon Braley '61

Allan Nickerson '61

Paul Nyberg '61 Richard Page '61

Georgie Brown Farrin '64

Robert Merrithew '64 Donna Brooks Rolfe '64

Christian Stein '65

Robert Gould '67 Brenda Thompson Seekins '67

Garret Cole '68 Mary Ann Tilton '68

Mary Ann Tilton '68 Sheila Hannigan '69

Alex Luria '69 Kevin Fitts '72

Donald Holmes '73

Bonnie Woellner '74

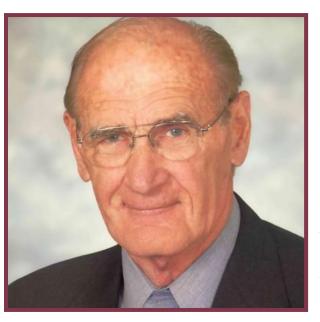
Mark Gilbert '85

Lori Stevens Leavitt '88 Todd Alley '89

Jennifer Mitchell '91 Kelli Brown Magoon '96

Timothy Nichols '06 Zachary Noble '15

## George H. Newhouse '54



George Herbert Newhouse, 87, passed away at his home on June 7, 2024 with loving family by his side. George was born on August 12, 1936 to Herbert Newhouse and Hildred Conroy Newhouse. George grew up in Pittsfield, Maine and attended Maine Central Institute along with his sweetheart, Leah Heffren. They both had the fondest memories of their young lives at MCI and were dedicated alumni.

George and Leah married after college and started their family together. After his military training ended, George returned to Pittsfield to work with his father in the egg business. George would eventually buy and expand the business. Newhouse Egg Farms was a large egg producer for decades and many young people got their summer employment by working at the farm, including his own children.

Along with running his farm, George was an active member of the Pittsfield community. He was a town selectman and served as chairman of selectman for two years. He served on the committee that established the Maine School Administrative District #53. George sat on the Maine National Bank board of directors. He was an MCI trustee for twenty years and served as President for two. He was an early member of the Pittsfield Jaycees and served as charter president. He set a great example of public service for his children to follow.

As parents, George and Leah were a constant fixture at their kids' sporting events. One or the other, but more likely both, would attend the many games and scrimmages that a family of five children can generate. All of his children attended and graduated from Maine Central Institute, so it was a great pleasure to be a spectator at MCI athletic events. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Maine Central Institute in memoriam of George H. Newhouse. The family hopes to establish a future scholarship fund at MCI to honor his memory. (Abridged obituary courtesy of Legacy.

# THE MCI ANNUAL FUND

## Thank you to our Generous Donors (July 1, 2023 - June 15, 2024)

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Margaret Susi Veilleux '63 Jessica and Cory Verrill

Peter '65 and Carole Daily Vigue '64 Deborah and Michael Violette Virtus Investment Partners Tammy Thompson Vuocolo '82

Alan Walker '59 Arlene Ward

Craig '95 and Brandi Ross Weaver '96 Milton Webber '71 and Kathy Kelley '79

Marisa Weinstein and Marilyn Buzy David '84 and Jane Welch Matthew Welch '04

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Alice Freeman

Andrea Hanson Robert Cianchette and Hillary Ginsberg

Mike and Katherine Dow

Louise Dow

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Deborah Burd In Honor of Linda Shorey

Amanda Flaminio

John Decker In Honor of Gary & Peg Peat

In Honor of Linda Shorey and John Decker

Carl and Catherine Kropf

In Honor of the Class of 1974 Susan Cianchette Koch

In Honor of Tom Bertrand

Caroline Mutter

In Honor of Maxine Pallante

Denise Pallante In Honor of Seojun Park

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36 Maine Central Institute ALUMNUS 2024 37





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Michael Savage '62
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Allen Dyer '63
Ralph Damren '64
Carole Daily Vigue '64

Peter Vigue '65
Dalen Mills '66
Anna Maria Parker '66
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