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(207) 487-5915 alumni@mci-school.org www.mci-school.org Above: The beautiful Founders Hall aglow on a brisk Fall evening (Photo courtesy of Ryan Murray)

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# FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

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

For the past 25 years, I have been teaching and learning in schools, and, as I reflect back on the many shared experiences and adventures with friends, colleagues, parents, and wonderful students, two things always stand out: first, it never ceases to amaze me how quickly each year passes by; and second, the sheer unbridled enthusiasm and zest for life of each generation of students leaves a feeling of profound confidence in the future for us all as they move forward and grasp the reins of adulthood, responsibility, and leadership. This year is no different at MCI together we have been so busy, and accomplished so much, that trying to recount it all can leave one's head spinning; and once again we see a graduating class of fine young men and women whose legacy here is one of kindness, hard work, lasting friendship, engagement, and fun, and whose futures are as bright as their dreams, hopes, and aspirations. But not just here in Pittsfield, for this year also saw the graduation of 92 Dual Enrollment Diploma students from 15 of our partner schools in Taiwan upon the completion of an intensive 3 year program of study, and a story inside recounts their unique journey to MCI alumni status. Indeed, our own June 1st Commencement ceremony was the 16th such graduation ceremony conducted this year, and Dean of Academics, Mr. Scott Giallombardo, and I were both honored to be part of Taiwanese - MCI Commencement celebrations at each partner school in

This global reality that is the modern MCI experience, both here in Pittsfield where our local and international boarding students mix and mingle, breakdown ethnocentric prejudice, strive together for social, emotional, and intellectual understanding, and strike up life-long friendships, together with our synchronous online program, is characteristic of MCI's continuous evolution over the decades. So while looking back is certainly validating and reassuring, looking forward is critical to continued relevance in positioning the school to provide the necessary infrastructure, means, and programs necessary for our students to navigate a complex and dynamic world.

In the summer of 2023, I noted in the *Alumnus Magazine* and at Reunion, "stay tuned, for there is much to do." Last summer, I recounted the successful completion of our accreditation for the next 10 years by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) within which was the intent to coordinate, "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".

To that end we asked faculty and staff, students, community members, and alumni at our recent receptions in Orlando, New York City, and Portland, "What is the MCI mission?", to which it became crystal clear that no one knew! In truth, not only is the current mission statement rather long rendering recall difficult, but all agreed that it is also rather generic and form fitting, and therefore this year it has been collaboratively revised in order to provide MCI with a new North Star by which to set our compass and navigate:

### THE MCI Mission Statement

"Maine Central Institute will inspire students to lead ethical, purposeful, and happy lives as local and world citizens."

Continuing to plan forward, this year we have also cooperatively fine tuned three MCI priorities. The first, an "MCI School of Schools," is program centric, is featured as a story in this magazine, and will see development of multiple graduation pathways within six focus areas: Math and Science; Arts and Humanities; Industry and Trades; Nature (Environment); Engineering; and Exploration. The second will see revenue diversification as MCI explores roads to enhancing student recruitment, and furtherance of our online options and summer partnership growth. The third is a focus on our core campus footprint and a renewed commitment to infrastructure improvement, which, with a large and old campus, speaks for itself in providing safe and appropriate facilities from which to deliver our program.

In the year ahead, you will hear much more about the evolution of these identified priorities, and how you might best like to support them whether through wisdom, wealth, or work, sure in the knowledge that our students will always be the key beneficiaries of all of our efforts. This brings me full circle, for daily, our students continue to make us all proud, three of whom (Heidi Dechaine '25, Abigail Rowell '26, and Gabrielle Finelli '26) this year presented with utmost professionalism at an international environment conference in Taiwan, while another recent Alum, Riley Nelson '23, has been awarded a U.S. State Department Foreign Affairs IT Fellowship, one of only fifteen students in the country. So, as I started, so I will finish - our future really is in good hands with this latest generation of remarkable young men and women.

Very sincerely,

Mr. David Pearson Head of School

dpearson@mci-school.org

## Valedictorian Jane Mautz and Salutatorian Jane Weymouth lead the Top Ten for the Class of 2025



Jane Mautz is the daughter of Alan and Kristin Mautz of Presque Isle, Maine, and is the Valedictorian for the Class of 2025. She was the recipient of undergraduate awards in Biology, Chemistry, AP Calculus, AP Literature, AP U.S. History, and Bossov Ballet Theatre. Mautz received the Saint Michael's College Book Award, College of the Atlantic Book Award, and was selected as Manson Essayist for her class. She was a prefect and member of Dorm Council, National Society of High School Scholars, Student Council where she was an Officer her junior and senior year, National Honor Society where she was an officer her senior year, and Key Club where she was Vice President her junior and senior year. Through her education and ballet experience, Mautz has discovered an interest in physical therapy and hopes to become a physical therapist specializing in neurological disorders.



Jane Weymouth is the daughter of Chris and Rachel Weymouth of Pittsfield, Maine, and is the Salutatorian for the Class of 2025. She was the recipient of undergraduate awards in AP Physics I, Precalculus, Honors History II, Earth and Space Science, Algebra II, Geometry, and Bossov Ballet Theatre. Weymouth was the recipient of the J.W. Parks Award for the highest cumulative GPA her junior year, and was a principal dancer for Bossov Ballet Theatre where she has danced for the past 15 years. She was a member of National Honor Society and also a past member of Key Club. Over the summers, Weymouth worked as a resident assistant in the dorms during BBT's summer intensives and can often times be found working at the Broken Putter at J.W. Parks Golf Course in town.

### Heidi Dechaine Receives MPA Principal's Award

Heidi Dechaine of Pittsfield, a senior at Maine Central Institute, has been selected to receive the 2025 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.

"Throughout her years at MCI, Heidi has distinguished herself in the classroom, and as a leader in the school and the community," Pearson noted in making the award. "Ostensibly quiet, deeply reflective, and possessed of a fierce intelligence and insatiable intellectual curiosity, Heidi

epitomizes the very best of us. Her recent competitive selection to participate and represent MCI at an international environmental forum focused upon global warming challenges in Taipei, Taiwan, is simply the most visible example of the intrinsic motivation, personal confidence, and desire to make a difference of this exceptional student... Heidi very much deserves this recognition, and MCI is a better school because she is a part of our community."

Dechaine, Pearson, and other award winners and their principals attended an Honors Luncheon at Jeff's Catering on Saturday, April 5, 2025. 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.

The Principal's Award is presented in more than 100 Maine public and private high schools by member principals of the MPA, the professional association which represents Maine's school administrators.



Seine Chin is the daughter of James Chin of New York, New York and Alicia Chin of Brunswick, Maine. She was the recipient of undergraduate awards in Anatomy and Physiology, AP Precalculus, AP Literature, AP U.S. History, and Bossov Ballet Theatre. Chin received the American Society for Women Engineers Award, was runner-up for Manson Essayist, and was a prefect in Alumni Hall. She was a member of Key Club, Student Council, an officer of National Honor Society, and was involved in many facets throughout MCI life and across our campus.



Noah Ward is the son of Tom and Raegan Ward of Pittsfield, Maine. He was the recipient of undergraduate awards in Algebra 1A, Spanish I, Algebra II, Piano I, and was a member of National Honor Society. Ward received the All Husky Award in soccer his junior year and Coaches Award his senior year. Ward also participated in Tennis starting his sophomore year. A fair and honest athlete, he was a proponent for both of his teams being selected to receive the Sportsmanship Award, which was received by Boys Tennis in 2023 and by Boys Soccer in 2024.



Celia Stinson is the daughter of Matthew and Melissa Stinson of Pittsfield, Maine. She was the recipient of awards in Health, PE I, Algebra II, and Junior Humanities. Stinson received the Saint Michael's College Book Award, the US Army Math & Science Award, and was an NHS officer and Manson Essay finalist. Stinson was captain in field hockey and track, was 2nd Team All Conference in field hockey as well as All Husky and MVP honors, received MVP honors in indoor track, and Rookie of the Year and Most Improved honors in outdoor track.



Grace Cunningham is the daughter of Kathy Burt and Jason Cunningham of Burnham, Maine. She was the recipient of undergraduate awards in Algebra, Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG), and Intro to Medical Concepts. Cunningham was a member of Art Club, Student Council, and National Honor Society, where she was an officer her junior and senior year. Enthusiastic about all things athletic and competitive, Cunningham was involved in Field Hockey, Basketball, Track & Field, and Fall/Winter Cheering, for which she received KVAC All-Academic honors.



Heidi Dechaine is the daughter of Ken and Nanhee Dechaine of Pittsfield, Maine. She was the recipient of undergraduate awards in Honors History I, Stage and TV Makeup, Geometry, French II, Algebra II, Chemistry, French III, and Humanities III. Dechaine was also a Manson Essay finalist and received the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal. She was a member of NHS, Garden Club, and Youth in Government. She was co-Head Delegate of Model UN her senior year and officer/President of Student Council her junior year and senior year.



David Griglio is the son of Michael Griglio and Carolyn Lompoc of Burnham, Maine. He was the recipient of an undergraduate award in Junior Humanities and is very proud of his ability to enjoy learning, especially in the field of mathematics. A Mathlete for MCI's Math Team starting his sophomore year, Griglio is always looking forward to the next problem around the corner and enjoys researching higher levels of mathematics in his free time. He is hoping that the field of electrical engineering will continue to mentally stimulate and challenge him going forward.



Hyewon No is the daughter of Seunghwan No and Eunsook Lee of Jeonbuk State, South Korea. She was the recipient of awards in Precalculus, ESL, Piano, and AP Literature and Composition. Hyewon was involved in Track & Field, Indoor Track, and Cross Country, where she received the Most Improved Award and was a captain her senior year. She was a member of Key Club, Student Council, Math Team, NHS, and was a prefect in Alumni Hall. Back home, she volunteers for the Jinan-gun Medical Center Meal Assistance program.



Hyunji Lim is the daughter of Woosung Lim and Minji Kim of Jeonju, South Korea. She was the recipient of undergraduate awards in Ceramics, Anatomy & Physiology, and was a prefect in Alumni Hall. Ji received the Above & Beyond Award in girls lacrosse her junior year. A founding member, Ji participated in both Fall and Winter Cheering and received the Most Improved Award, the Yell Leader Award, and received KVAC All-Academic honors for Fall Cheering. She was also a member of Key Club, Student Council, and National Honor Society.



Here at MCI we pride ourselves on offering a wide variety of extracurricular activities that help our students learn and grow inside and outside of the classroom, and these activities are spearheaded by our acclaimed arts and athletics programs. Whether on the field or on the stage, our Husky student athletes and artists had an amazing showing this past school year highlighted by some significant accomplishments and achievements that happened yearround in the fall, winter, and spring.

As the school year began and the fall foliage began to show, MCI athletes got right to work on putting more banners in the rafters of Wright Gymnasium. This was especially true for our eSports team, who began their year with two runner-up finishes. The Football team secured the #4 seed with a 5-3 record, their best finish since 2019, and the Boys Soccer team received the MPA Class C North Sportsmanship Award. The Girls Cross Country team qualified for the State meet behind many solid performances, and other teams continued to build their chemistry going into next year. This was a respectable start to MCI athletics in 2024-2025, and it would only get better from there.

The winter season is where our athletes and artists really started to hit their stride, headlined by the annual performance of *The Nutcracker* by Bossov Ballet Theatre. BBT's *The Nutcracker* isn't just a performance: it's a reimagining of a timeless classic brought to life by talented young artists whose passion and skill elevate every scene. Each movement sparkles with elegance, each story unfolds with grace, and these high school dancers achieve wonders

that enchant audiences year after year. On the athletics side, numerous programs excelled both on and off court. Both Boys and Girls Basketball programs saw great strides, led by KVAC Senior All Star selections Jyllian Riendeau and David Wright, the latter of which won the KVAC Slam Dunk contest in stunning fashion. However, the most celebrated basketball athlete this year was none other than Shelby Jordan, who received the Joshua Titus Spirit of the Game Award as voted on by the Maine Association of Basketball Coaches. Shelby was recognized at the Maine McDonald's All Star Game, where she also had the honor of managing the Northerm team.

The MCI Wrestling and Indoor Track programs continued their championship pedigree producing multiple star athletes for both programs. KVAC 2nd Team selection Muiin Cook captured the North Regional Championship and Class B State runner-up titles at 165 pounds, while Martina Gili is your Class B State Champion at 145 pounds and Izzy Bertocchi Class B State runner-up at 165 pounds. The Indoor Track team began their championship run at KVAC's at Bowdoin College, where Samuel Gerrie took first in the 200m dash, repeated as the KVAC champion in triple jump, and was runner-up in long jump. For the girls, Gabrielle Finelli is your KVAC champion in the 55m hurdles, triple jump, and runner-up in long jump, while Angelina Boisvert is the runner-up in shot put. The strong performance by Finelli, Boisvert, and others led to the girls capturing the KVAC Class B Indoor Track Championship. They then continued their performance at the State meet,

with Gerrie taking home state titles in the 200m and triple jump along with runner-up in the long jump. The girls team finished 6th overall behind Finelli's runner-up finish in the 55 hurdles, which set a new school record.

As the snow began to melt and winter came to a close, the busiest season of the year was upon us for our student athletes and artists, especially musicians. Spring is festival season, and that means our instrumental and choral groups were gearing up to test themselves on the biggest stage. The MCI Jazz Band won a Bronze rating at the Jazz State Festival in March, with solo recognitions going to Gabrielle Finelli for piano and vibes, Cameron Jamision on drumset, Tommy Park on Clarinet, and Owen Ashton on Tuba. The MCI Chorus traveled to UMO with choral groups from across the State to collaborate with Malaysian composer Tracy Wong, and the MCI Concert Band was invited by Nokomis Band Director Shane Cloutier to join them in a concert and clinic with Dr. Philip Edeleman, the head of the University of Maine Music Department. Our musicians were highlighted by Calista Post and Beatrix Miller, who represented MCI at the All State Festival on 1st Violin in the String Orchestra and in the SSAA Choir respectively.

Spring athletics give many of our students, especially seniors, one last chance to go out with a bang, and that's exactly what they did. The MCI Softball team had an impressive showing, ending the season 9-7 to book a prelim game against Foxcroft Academy, which they won in walk-off fashion behind Kassie Snowman's 11 strikeouts and a double, single, and run scored at the plate. The

Boys Tennis team built on their success in recent years, finishing its regular season at 9-3 and battling their way back to the Class C Southern Maine Final for the second consecutive season after not reaching the finals since 1995 prior to last year's success. In Track and Field, Angelina Boisvert is the KVAC Champion in the 100 hurdles, and Gabrielle Finelli is the KVAC Champion in the 300 hurdles. At the State meet, the girls team had their best finish in school history with a State runner-up finish led by Boisvert's state titles in the 100 hurdles and shot put as well as runner-ups in triple jump and long jump.

The MCI Drama Team also had a marvelous showing in the spring, as their production of William Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream won top prize at the Class B Central Maine Regionals, which booked them a trip to States. From there, they were chosen to represent all Maine Class B schools at the 2025 New England Drama Festival in Wolfboro, New Hampshire. As you can see, this school year was packed to the brim with achievements and accomplishments by MCI athletes, musicians, dancers, thespians, and more. As the 2024-2025 school year has come to a close and we look towards next year, it is always exciting to see what new students and programs will step up to the plate. Bossov Ballet Theatre's summer intensive is underway and summer practices and seasons have begun for many of our athletes. There are all kinds of ways that our students continue to grow and hone their skills for the future. We look forward to all that our student athletes and artists will achieve this coming school year!

| CAMPUS NEWS |

### Lost on a Mountain in Maine has Free Showing on Campus

There are few stories that have captivated and intrigued Maine children and their parents more than *Lost on a Mountain in Maine*. Read by almost all elementary school kids, the story of **Donn Fendler '44** and his harrowing survival at age 12 on the outskirts of Mt. Katahdin is beloved by many, and MCI is incredibly proud to have Donn as one of our beloved alumni. When it was announced a few years ago that *Lost on a Mountain in Maine* would be receiving a film adaptation, it was only fitting that we hosted our own public showing of the movie for all our community to enjoy.

On the afternoon of Sunday, May 4 directly following the annual International Food Festival, residents of Pittsfield and beyond gathered in Powers Hall for the showing as part of Founders Weekend, a new tradition at MCI celebrating our school's oldest and original building. There was no shortage of popcorn or excitement as attendees filed into their seats to view the latest film Lost on a Mountain in Maine, which released in theaters this past November under Sylvester Stallone's production company Balboa Productions. It took over a decade for this film to finally hit the big screen, and while Donn sadly passed away in 2016 before he could see it, those close to him know how proud he would have been to have his story shared in new ways across the state, country, and especially at MCI.

"Donn Fendler loved the people of Maine more than anything else," said producer Ryan B. Cook to News Center Maine upon the film's release. "I think to see people rally around this story and this new phase with this movie, I think would make him very happy." It certainly made his family happy, as many Fendlers were in attendance at the film's premiere and Donn's nephew, Peter Fendler '80, was in attendance in Powers Hall this past May. Peter gave a humbling and powerful introduction to the film where he shared not only some interesting facts about Donn's story and the production of the film, but also about how Donn impacted his own life forever. For many Mainers, Lost on a Mountain in Maine is a foundational story that impacts all of us at an impressionable age. Being able to see Donn's story on the screen in Powers Hall was a full circle moment, and we look forward to creating more events and moments like these in the future.



A key scene of Lost on a Mountain in Maine displays in Powers Hall as part of Founders Weekend.

## Jerilyn Underhill joins Maine Central Institute as Chief Financial Officer



It is with great pleasure that Maine Central Institute welcomes Jerilyn Underhill to the role of Chief Financial Officer, which she assumed this past November. Underhill has spent this past school year familiarizing herself with the business operations of the School as she facilitates our financial portfolio and business office resources in order to provide exceptional service to students, faculty and staff, and all members of our community.

"We have to embrace technology on multiple levels, including moving our business office to electronic documents and workflows, implementing functional email boxes, and utilizing our financial software to its fullest potential," said Underhill. "We strive to become the model for financial acumen, building trust and confidence of the MCI community along the way."

She most recently worked as an Industry Consultant at SIS LLC while previously acting as Director of Financial Projects, Planning, and Analysis at Northern Light Health and 20 years of service at Cianbro culminating in her role as Continuous Improvement Manager. While she hasn't experienced a full school year yet, Underhill already expressed how special MCI feels.

"I am amazed at the MCI community spirit. I appreciate going to work each day on campus and seeing the level of dedication, commitment and kindness amongst students, faculty, maintenance, administration - basically everyone."

## Thomas College President Dr. Jeannine Diddle Uzzi Unites the Classics and Artifical Intelligence in Patterson Lecture Series

On May 2, Maine Central Institute welcomed to campus Dr. Jeannine Diddle Uzzi, sixth President of Thomas College as the newest guest in the celebrated and acclaimed Patterson Lecture Series. Dr. Uzzi took the time to discuss the future of education with our MCI students, faculty, and staff by looking at how the past can inform our present and future in the world of artificial intelligence.

Established by **Gregg '69 and Elaine Patterson** in 2008, the Patterson Lecture Series was created to give students the opportunity to listen to invited speakers share their personal experiences and reflections, informing students' classroom learning and expanding their breadth of knowledge. Previous guests have included 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 more including last year's address by Edward J. Polewarczyk, Former Director of Orbiter Production and Operations at United Space Alliance.

Dr. Uzzi is more than worthy of being in this elite company. A distinguished professor of classics with a strong background in higher education leadership, Dr. Uzzi is committed to expanding access to college education for students and their communities. Previously, she served as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Adler University and as Provost at the University of Southern Maine. An accomplished scholar and community leader, Dr. Uzzi is deeply dedicated to fostering a culture of student success and belonging, ensuring that all students have the support they need.



"You can see from these definitions the inherent limits of AI... one comes with being human, and the other is made by human beings, it's like the difference between a lemon and a yellow fruit loop," explained Dr. Uzzi as she used the Latin etymology of the words to derive new meaning in the technological world we live in today. As a classics educator, Dr. Uzzi's Patterson Lecture was all about uniting the old and the new. As our MCI students get ready to leave campus and enter an ever-changing world, these types of lessons are critical and essential for their learning and development. Opportunities like the Patterson Lecture Series allow all our students to gain new and insightful perspectives from professionals in all sorts of fields, and it's these lessons that will stick with them for years to come.



## Director of Dining Liz York participates in Cooking Competition Leading to UN

MCI has been known for its phenomenal food service over the years, but it's not every day that one of our chefs gets to compete on the biggest stage and showcase their skills. Director of Dining Liz York recently had the opportunity to participate in CulinArt's Waste Warrior Challenge, which builds awareness for sustainable food practices to make the world a better place. Chefs were given a basket and tasked with making a meal utilizing the necessary ingredients while creating the least amount of waste, with the final two chefs in the bracket traveling to the United Nations in New York City to square off.

"I have never competed in a competition like this," said Liz. "I was most excited about the possibility of competing against a Chef that I have never met before and challenge myself with creating the best dish I can with the surprise ingredients." While Liz wasn't quite able to battle her way to the UN, it was an incredible experience and a great cause that will impact how MCI views its sustainable food practices going forward. For Liz and for MCI, food service is all about making people happy.

"I love being able to continuously learn and grow, seeing someone's face when you nail a dish is beyond words... as a Chef you are a part of people's lives through so many different situations, and making people happy and giving them that wow effect has always made it worth it for me."

### Maine Central Institute Graduates Seniors from 16 Schools in Taiwan

While MCI's traditional Commencement ceremony took place in Wright Gymnasium the first week of June, it was in fact the 16th and final graduation ceremony that MCI took part in this spring. As part of our continued Dual Enrollment partnership program, 15 different schools in Taiwan graduated their own MCI students, who received a diploma in-person from Dean of Academics **Scott Giallombardo '00** and Head of School David Pearson.

Gialllombardo was already in Taiwan in April with a group of MCI students as they participated in the 2025 Global Sustainable Student Action Summit in New Taipei City. Once he was joined by Pearson it was time to visit all the schools across the country that MCI has developed a special bond with over the past few years.

"This Dual Enrollment program is vital to our school," said Pearson. "This investment in time and energy is absolutely critical in ensuring, above all things, the tangible personal relationships that exist between us and the schools... especially parents, many of whom attended the graduation ceremonies and were absolutely delighted by the entire experience."

Schools that were visited by Pearson and Giallombardo and conducted graduation ceremonies include: Yi Ming Senior



Student from Tzu Chi Senior High School share their MCI experiences.



The MCI graduating class from Tzu Chi Senior High School - Hualienin in Taiwan.

High School, Tzu Chi Senior High School, New Taipei Municipal - Lin-Kou Senior High School, Nanshan High School, and more. These truly are MCI students and alumni, who all share a very unique MCI experience. As part of their Dual Enrollment program, all of the recent alumni have been to our campus for our Summer STEAM Camp, which further strengthens

the bonds between MCI and the many schools across Taiwan. "I wish everyone could feel the level of appreciation and enthusiasm displayed by our partner schools, students and parents," said Giallombardo. These MCI alums are part of a growing community that experience MCI in exciting ways. Congratulations to these recent graduates for all that you have achieved!

## Dow Global Alumni Series Shifts Focus to the Bossov Ballet Theatre

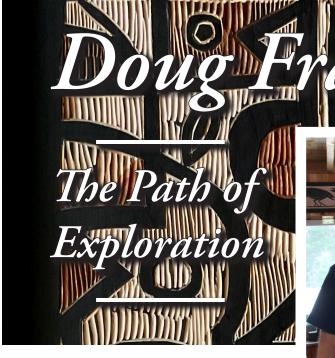
The fourth installment of the Dow Global Alumni Series debuted on Zoom this past May, featuring a host of talent from the Bossov Ballet Theatre program. "This is an event we started last year at MCI, where we talk to our really spectacular alumni from all over the world on various topics of education, and we connect them to faculty, staff, and students at MCI," said Mike Dow '84, host of the program and President of the MCI Board of Trustees. "For those who have been to this type of event before, we knew we wanted to make our way through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), and this is really our first program on the arts curriculum at MCI, so this is really exciting."

The BBT focus was headlined by three alumni dancers: **Joanna Lira Williams** '09, Natalie Kirkham Spencer '09, and **Lori Celeste Lewis '08**. Current seniors Jane Mautz '25 and Jane Weymouth '25 also joined the panel as well as artistic

director Natalya Getman, who is often described as the heart of this stunning program. Bossov Ballet Theatre is one of the cornerstones of MCI, and its tradition of excellence has stood the test of time.

"The effort is subliminal, the students that are produced by this program are outstanding," said Head of School David Pearson during the panel. "We look at things that differentiate us as an institution, and we're blessed to have Natalya here in order to put this experience in front of our students... it really is a true differentiator, it's something that really generates passion."

The Bossov Ballet Theatre program has generated a plethora of accomplished and talented alumni in a wide variety of fields, not just ballet. We look forward to holding more Dow Global Alumni Series events in the future, honing in on the programs and specializations that truly make the MCI experience unique and connecting those alumni with MCI faculty, staff, and students alike.



The relationship between an artist and their work is always a fascinating case study. For some, their work is all about self-expression; for others, it's about building that connection with an audience that really resonates with their work. For **Doug Frati** '72, it's about that feeling of the next piece around the corner, waiting to be discovered, that really pushes him to continue creating the magnificent pieces that are now known across the country and globe. With over 40 years of experience under his belt, Frati is continuing to explore and discover his work every day at his studio in Palmyra, always cognizant of his humble beginnings at MCI and always awaiting what's next around the

Frati grew up right in Pittsfield, going through the local school system and finding his way to Maine Central Institute. There he and his friend **Tim Rollins '73** both pursued their passion for art, starting and participating in a number of clubs and beginning their first forays into the creative world

"We actually both did our first art shows right in Pittsfield," said Frati. "I think we sat right on Main Street with a couple card tables and tried to sell art... when you're that age, you're really not sure who you are and what you are going to do. I honestly didn't even think of myself as an artist, but Tim basically told me one day 'You do know you're an artist now right?'"

After graduating from MCI in 1972, Frati did a lot of traveling and jumping from job to job, everything from cooking, to digging graves, to working at a golf course, and more. Eventually he found himself working with some print makers and wood workers, who convinced him to go back to school and rediscover his creative passions. Frati graduated from the Portland School of Art (now Maine College of Art and Design) in 1983, and directly following his graduation he had a large painting secured by the Portland Museum of Art for their permanent collection. There was no turning back for Frati now, he was in this for the long haul.

"You know, being an artist in Maine is tough, you've got to work three different jobs to make ends meet," explained Frati.
"But I never gave it up, I always had a studio and always had work that would be in different galleries here and there, I've been at this a long time... I've done a lot of different things, but art is the one thing I've hung on to."

Frati ended up being picked up by one of the best galleries in the state in Blue Hill, where he sold hundreds of pieces and continued to make connections in the art world. It was then that Frati's style began to evolve and take shape: inspired by his profession in carpentry and the work of artists like Bernard Langlais, Frati began to develop a unique style to his work that he described as "folk art, but not really folk art." It is this style of art that has really cemented Frati as one of the greats in the area, as his use of repurposed wood, hand tools like 100-year-old chisels and mallets,

and more has really resonated with audiences and admirers from all over the globe. Appearances on *Maine Cabin Masters* and the growth of social media have grown Frati's reach and desire to continue pushing the limits of what he can create. After exploring for years and years, Frati has found his calling as an artist, and yet there is still so much more that is unknown and ready to be discovered.

Today you're most likely to find Frati at his studio in Palmyra, or working numerous shows across the state that allow him to connect more openly with customers and get a feel for what pieces are resonating most with people. From his first art show right outside Maine Central Institute to his current ventures in folk wood carvings, there are a couple things that ring true throughout his entire range of experiences: hard work; and failure.

"Sometimes you fall flat on your face," said Frati. "The truth is in the failures and mistakes... that's when you discover the new stuff and push through that unknown... you have to believe in yourself, you have to take care of yourself, and you have to be willing to go a long way and do a lot of work to get what you want... you do get there, it's not easy, but you will get there and you might not know what the final destination is, but it will be an exciting journey."

## EXPERIENCE VIAINE. Learn about MCI's **School of Schools** and our Unique Pathways of Learning **Experiential Learning Gives** Students Hands-On **Education** in **Numerous Fields** How You Can **Get Involved in Educating the MCI Alumni of Tomorrow**

Maine Central Institute is many things: a loving home; a stage for performers; a field for athletes; a nostalgic campus of beloved memories. But first and foremost, MCI is a school, and soon there will be six of them.

MCI means a lot of things to a lot of different people. Every student that walks through the doors of Founders Hall has their own individual past, present, and future. Different students explore different avenues and interests, there are athletes, artists, performers, innovators, and more. While two students can leave MCI having experienced totally different friend groups, extracurricular offerings, and everything else that comes with high school, there is one thing that every MCI alum shares in common: we all went to school here. It sounds silly and obvious, but it is the one common thread that binds every MCI student and alum. We've all sat diligently in the desks on the top floor of Founders, or conducted experiments in either the J.R. Cianchette Building or the Chuck and Helen Cianchette Math and Science Center. While some of the buildings may not have always been around since MCI's inception, the rigor of courses and the commitment to academic excellence has rang true for generations.

MCI is a school, first and foremost. It is our job to educate the students that walk through our halls in the way we feel best fit, and that facet has been harder and harder to nail down every year. Students don't learn the same way now that they did 10, 15, 20 years ago. More and more often students know what field they want to go into after high school. They have specific passions and interests that they want to pursue and a rigid, traditional courseload does not always satisfy those needs. To address this, MCI is taking its academic offerings and model in a new direction while staying true to its roots in academic excellence and commitment

Introducing, the MCI School of Schools. Housed within an MCI education, there will be six different graduation-tracks that our students will choose from based on their own individual interests and career goals. Here, you will be introduced to these different schools within MCI, the various hands-on learning opportunities that will supplement the MCI experience, and how our alumni and community members can take part in the education of our current students. More often than not, our greater MCI community interacts with our students through athletics, performances, and other public or extracurricular offerings outside of the normal day-to-day experience of a high schooler. Now with the MCI School of Schools, we want to invite you into the classroom. We want our alumni and community members, who personally remember and appreciate their MCI education, to help us guide and prepare the leaders of tomorrow. With this new model, we are optimistic that the new students going through the MCI School of Schools with have not only the experience they need to succeed in their desired career field, but the backing of a community that cares deeply about their success.

## The MCI School of Schools:

School of **Exploration**  School of

School of

**School of** 

School of Nature

School of **Engineering** 



These students actively pursue learning in various fields like science, art and history, which allows them to connect ideas from different subjects. This is perfect for a student who is still considering what they would like to do upon graduation

Math & Science

Arts & Humanities Industry & Trades

Students enrolled in the School of ment, often through hands-on learning, data collection, and analysis of plants, animals, ecosystems, and Maine's beautiful scenery.



Nature will take courses that allow them to actively engage in their natural environ-

Students will enroll in courses that will give them a solid academic foundation in mathematics, physics & chemistry, which will help them develop the analytical and problem solving skills essential for engineering studies at the collegiate level.

from MCI.

These students are often STEM enthusiasts and appreciate logical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical approaches to viewing the world around them, pursuing careers in engineering, medicine, research and computer science.

These students focus on academic disciplines like literature, history, philosophy, art history, music, theater and languages, which explore the human experience, culture, expression through critical analysis and interpretation.

These students learn the skilled trades and prepare for service occupations like producing, processing, repairing and maintaining products. Students enrolled in this school may or may not participate in MCI's vocational program at SCTC.

To fully understand MCI's six new schools, we must go all the way back to its inception. Over the past several years, it has become more and more common for students to become disengaged with their overall educational experience. All students have been expected to fulfill the same graduation requirements in the same exact way, and this rigidity does not adapt to the varying ambition in each individual MCI student. Overall, it seemed as if our students were being limited by the traditional system, and that their passions were not being fully addressed or fostered. Something needed to change.

"The goal is to engage more students in their learning by providing an academic program that fits their aspirations," explained Scott Giallombardo '00, Dean of Academics. "Students learn best when they are actively engaged in their learning. Too many students have sat in classes of little interest, simply to fulfill a requirement. This new model gives them more flexibility to enjoy learning in areas and topics of interest."

After months and months of planning and meetings with committees, faculty, and

task forces to determine the best solution, MCI's School of Schools was born. This coming Fall, all MCI students will be asked to "Experience MAINE" through five different Schools of study: Math & Science, Arts & Humanities, Industry & Trades, Nature, and Engineering. These Schools are broad and far-reaching with the goal of fulfilling all of our students passions, whether it be toying in the chemistry lab, delving into historical literature, pursuing a skilled trade, enjoying the Maine wildlife, and more.

These Schools allow students to not only cater their own academic experience towards their interests, but to also earn their MCI diploma with a variety of different graduatuion requirements depending on their course of study. For students who are unsure of which School they would like to be a part of, there is the **School of Exploration**: a more traditional diploma pathway that will give students a variety of different courses and experiences that will prepare them for whatever comes next.

Six different schools now make up MCI's curriculum, but it doesn't stop there. Each School within this new academic

model is extremely comprehensive and wide-ranging, meaning that there are still a number of ways that students can have individualized offerings within the Schools themselves. If a student is a member of the School of Math & Science but knows they wish to pursue the medical field, they can specialize even further and choose the Health Sciences "Pathway." These Pathways are designed to do just that: give our students even more liberty to pursue their goals and passions.

Currently, students can join the Health Sciences Pathway, the Aviation Pathway to pursue their Private Pilot Certificate, the Business and Marketing Pathway to understand business concepts, the Global Studies Pathway to explore government and politics, and the Visual and Performing Arts Pathway to develop their creative mediums. More Pathways will be added depending on the academic interests of current students and feedback from recent graduates.

"That's the beauty of the School of School's model," Giallombardo elaborated. "It allows more focus and engagement when wanted, but does not limit the flexibility to explore when needed... I hope that

students continue to develop a deep love of learning, and that they become more engaged in their aspirational pursuits because of the MCI experience."

So what does this mean for MCI and the tradition of an MCI education? Many alumni will describe their academic experience at MCI in the past as rigorous, thorough, but essential in preparing young adults for post-secondary learning and the real world. So why change anything? In short, the field of education is fluid, constantly in motion and trying to catch up to the latest trends. Students today know what they want, and they want a head start in pursuing their purpose. The MCI School of Schools satisfies this urge, and it will produce the next generation of MCI alums eager to take on whatever lies ahead.

At first glance, this sort of model may seem like a lot, and it is. However, this sort of initiative does not happen without a number of partnerships and programs that help make this a reality and give our students real, hands-on experience in these fields... And that's where you come in.





A town academy located in rural Maine that aims to provide a multi-faceted and multi-school education to both local and international students is a tall ask. It is only possible through a variety of partnerships and support from our local community and beyond. Giving MCI students a specialized experience through the Schools and Pathways requires dedicated and targeted courses and hands-on learning that will fufill student desire. **Experiential Learning Opportunities (ELO's)** are just that: supplemental offerings to a student's normal courseload that will provide them with skills they can take into the workforce or on their own personal journies. These offerings hinge on partnerships with outside businesses and organizations, which are critical to the growth of the School of Schools model. Picture how our partnership with Somerset Career Technical Center (SCTC) has provided MCI students with vocational skills for years: now imagine that sort of hands-on experience for dozens of other career fields and professions. It's a riveting concept, and it's gotten students, faculty, and community members alike excited and talking about whats to come.

"This innovative approach not only benefits students, but also opens doors for alumni, community members, and businesses to actively participate in enriching educational opportunities, thereby strengthening our school community," explained **Tom Bertrand '90**, Assistant Head of School for Advancement at MCI. "By broadening the scope of educational opportunities, ELO's allow us to tap into the expertise and resources of our community beyond the traditional classroom. Internships, guest teaching, mentorships, and meaningful volunteer roles focused on education are just a few impactful ways community members and alumni can engage with students and enrich their learning experience."

There are a number of ELO's and partnerships that are already set up for the coming school year, and many more on the way. Members of the School of Industry and Trades will have the opportunity to learn from Augusta Electrical JATC or the Cianbro Institute, members of the School of Nature will hit the trails with University

of Maine 4-H, and members of the Health Sciences Pathway will be able to shadow at Eastern Maine Medical Center. This is just the beginning when it comes to Experiential Learning Opportunities, as the possibilites are endless. As long as there are businesses and organizations that have a committment to quality and are interested in mentoring their future workforce, there will always be room for more ELO's at MCI.

Once again, this is where you come in. Maine Central Institute has a wonderful community of alumni and friends with a wealth of knowledge and experience in fields and trades all across the spectrum. MCI is evolving how it tackles education with a focus on preparing the workforce and world leaders of tomorrow,

and our local community members are the key to providing this new and exciting form of instruction. The time is now to become an active participant in the MCI experience and the education of our students; an experience that many MCI alumni miss dearly and wish they could recapture. If you have a business or are an expert in a field that fits within one of our Schools or Pathways, please do not hesitate to reach out to Scott and the Academic Office. MCI is looking for more internships, job shadows, and experiential days that can be added to our growing list of Experiential Learning Opportunities. You could find yourself on the list below one day, and you would have made an invaluable contribution towards the education of our MCI students.



## **Augusta Electrical JATC**

Students will participate in a comprehensive five course program for advanced placement into an apprenticeship or prepare for technical college. Skills include construction health & safety, tools & materials, blue print reading, green construction, financial literacy, and more.



## **University of Maine 4-H**

Students gain valuable hands-on learning experience in a variety of natural and environmental activities. 4-H programs are grounded in the belief that students learn best by doing. Students complete hands-on projects in areas of science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement.



## The Cianbro Institute

Over the course of eight day-long visits to the institute over four months, students will experience the trades through hands-on, foundational learning with instructors from the Cianbro Institute. When finished, students will have better understanding of the construction industry.



## **Eastern Maine Medical Center**

Over the course of four months, MCI students will have the unique opportunity to job shadow at Eastern Maine Medical Center, giving them valuable hands-on learning through a variety of professions in health care, specifically at a major medical center in the state of Maine!

## WHERE WILL YOUR MCI PATHWAY GUIDE YOU?



When I talk with alumni about what made their MCI experience meaningful, two themes consistently emerge: the strong relationships they built with teachers, coaches, dorm parents, and mentors who taught them life lessons beyond the classroom—and the memorable moments they shared with classmates, both on and off campus. The Pathways model allows alumni and community members to play a more active role in shaping those same experiences for today's students.

- Tom Bertrand '90, Assistant Head of School for Advancement



This is the future of academics and education at MCI. The School of Schools recognizes the diverse interests and goals of students, the Pathways give multiple unique avenues and offerings within each School, and Experiential Learning Opportunities offer students interactive and real-world experience to carry with them into their future. All MCI students have already picked their School of choice and have signed up for courses in the Fall that reflect this School and their current interests. We are extremely excited for this incredible new chapter in MCI education, and it is only possible through dedicated contributions from our commu-

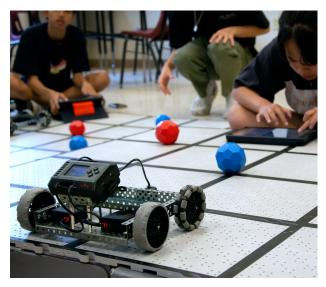
There is no limit to the amount of ELO's or community involvement that will aid our curious and thriving student population. If your business is not local or halfway across the world, maybe there are opportunities for online partnerships. If your organization is not focused on one of our Schools' areas of study, maybe there is room to expand our curriculum even further. We are open to collaborating with all members of our MCI community to provide the best education for our students. Too often in the past, there has been a divide between students and alumni. You are an MCI student, you're in the classroom and soaking in all

that you can in the little time you're here. And then you graduate, you become an alum and your relationship with the school can change from actively engaging, to actively reminiscing. So many alumni go off to college, start their new life and career and stay connected to their alma mater, but in a way that can sometimes feel incomplete. It is the student expreience that is so hard to recapture, that is so important to who we are as an institution, and that is why we are opening our doors to the limitless potential and possiblilites that lie with our alumni and community.

As we look towards our community to give back to our student experience, remember that our students are also giving back to you. MCI students will be working and contributing towards business in the area and beyond now more than ever, and this work is a precursor to all of the exciting things this young generation will achieve in the decades to come. Maine Central Institute is many things, and for many of our alumni and community members, it is a place remembered. However, MCI is synonymous with the future more than it is the past. We hope you'll join us for the ride as we ask you the same question we'll ask all of our MCI students:













## REUNION 2025

### Friday, August 1, 2025

### 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 5:00 – 6:00 pm Registration/Social/Dinner 6:00 pm Awards Celebration

Join us in recognizing the achievements of Hall of Fame inductees and Distinguished Achievement Award recipients. \$40 per person

Cash Bar available

## Alumni Association Party – ALEX BERTRAND '16 PERFORMING LIVE

Broken Putter Grille Room - JW Parks Golf Course  $8:30-11:00\ pm$ 

Alex Bertrand '16 will be performing live at The Broken Putter as we honor the <u>Class of 2000 celebrating their 25th Anniversary</u> and <u>Class of 2015 celebrating their 10th Anniversary</u>. Suggested donation at the door of \$10 per person. *Cash Bar available*.



### Saturday, August 2, 2025

### Reunion Registration in Founders

8:00 – 10:00 am - Founders Hall (Southeast Entrance)

### Class Displays

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

#### MCI Bookstore

Weymouth Hall - Lower Level 9:00 am – 11:30 am

### Class Agent Meeting

Founders Hall - 2nd Floor 9:00 am

### Alumni Association Meeting

Founders Hall - 2nd Floor 9:45 am

### Founders Hall Tour

Founders Hall - 1st Floor 10:30 am

### **Reunion Registration Under Tent**

Boutelle Savage Lawn, Front Campus under the Tent 10:30 – 11:30 am

### Reunion Luncheon

Boutelle Savage Lawn, Front Campus under the Tent 11:30 am

Sponsored by the Alumni Association, join us on Front Campus for lunch with friends and classmates as we honor the <u>Class of 1975</u> <u>celebrating their 50th Anniversary</u> (vegetarian options available). \$35 per person

### Class Gatherings (Years Ending in 5's and 0's)

Various Locations

1:30 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.

## Join us for Reunion Weekend!

Friday and Saturday, August 1-2, 2025

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 5 and 0. 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

Class of 1975 – 50th Reunion Luncheon compliments of the Alumni Association

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

First Name: Mai				Class Year:	
Spouse/Guest/Children name(s	s) - include ages of o	children:			
Mailing Address:		Town:	State:	Zip:	
Email: Event	Phone	(required):			
Event	Fee		# Attending	Subtotal	
Friday: Alumni Association Golf Scram	ble \$100				
Friday: Awards Celebration	\$40				
Saturday: Reunion Luncheon - Adult	\$35				
Lunch - children	\$10				
On-site Accommodations	\$35/nigh	nt per person or \$50/nigh	nt couple		
Please include a donation to the <b>MCI</b> A Contributions support students, Reunion, H		ng MCI's mission			
			•	Total:	
Payment:					
*Please make checks payable t	o Maine Central Ins	titute			
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Expiration Date:	CVV code:	Signature:			

## MCI HALL OF FAME

### Gregg Newhouse '81



Gregg Newhouse '81 is a dedicated and deeply valued member of the Maine Central Institute (MCI) community. A natural leader, Gregg graduated from MCI in 1981 as the recipient of the prestigious Master's Cup. He followed in the footsteps of his father, George Newhouse '54, who served with distinction on the MCI Board of Trustees, including four years as Board President.

Continuing the family legacy, Gregg himself served on the Board of Trustees for nearly 20 years. During his

tenure, he played an instrumental role in numerous decisions and improvements that have shaped MCI into the school it is today.

Professionally, Gregg earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Maine. He went on to become a licensed Professional Engineer, advancing from project engineer to Senior Project Manager before founding The Newhouse Group alongside his wife, Laurie. Their Virginia-based consulting firm specialized in commercial, residential, and industrial land development, environmental engineering, construction surveying, and construction management.

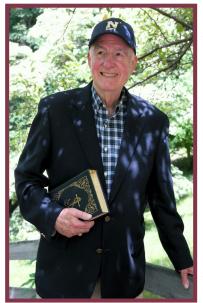
Currently, Gregg serves as the Senior Vice President and Construction Services Practice Lead at ATCS, a multidisciplinary firm providing innovative solutions in transportation, construction and program management, traffic engineering, and environmental planning. In this role, Gregg leads ATCS' construction-related projects, guiding teams and clients through successful project delivery with technical expertise and strategic oversight.

Outside of his professional accomplishments, Gregg has built a rich and fulfilling life with Laurie, his wife of 29 years. Together, they are the proud parents of two children, Sophie and Samuel. The Newhouses share a love for travel - especially throughout Europe - and Gregg is an avid golfer and sports fan. He loyally supports the Patriots, Bruins, Celtics, and Red Sox, and he and Laurie are working toward their goal of visiting every Major League Baseball stadium.

Those who know Gregg describe him as passionate, hardworking, and always willing to go the extra mile. His commitment to MCI has been unwavering, and the school community has been truly fortunate to benefit from his leadership and service.

Thank you, Gregg, for your many years of dedication — not only as a Trustee, but as a steadfast supporter and advocate for MCI. Your impact is lasting, and we are deeply grateful.

### WINN PRICE



Born into a Navy family in the Territory of Hawaii, Winn has maintained strong ties to the service throughout his life. He grew up in 15 states, including Maine, before following his father, Walt (USNA '42), to the U.S. Naval Academy. His naval career took him across Northern Europe and around South America, serving on multiple ships and as Aide to the President of the Naval War College.

After further service, Winn joined the Naval Reserve and earned his MBA from Harvard

Business School, where he then worked in Career Development and Admissions. His path soon connected him with Maine, when he was recruited to open Bath Iron Works' first Washington, D.C. office. He later moved to Bath, spending 14 years at the shipyard in program management and business development, notably as Deputy Program Manager for the Aegis Cruisers.

Retiring from BIW as the VP of Business Development, Winn began to transition to education. He served on a Naval Academy Board of Visitors team reviewing the institution and then spent four years at a successful Maine business startup, where a colleague inspired his focus on education. In 2001, Winn joined MCI as Dean of Students, learning the ropes with the help of Rosalie Williams (then Associate Head of School), Head of School Doug Cummings, and his future fiancée, Leigh Hallett. He later served as Co-Interim Head of School with Jim Hornor, an opportunity to learn still more about school administration. For years he also taught "Economic Literacy" and "Ethics/ Leadership," finding a true passion for engaging with students in the classroom.

Winn left Maine mid-2008 to lead the Miller School of Albemarle in Virginia during a transitional period there. Upon completing his work in VA, he was glad to come home to Maine, intending to focus on writing and travel. He penned the first volume in a planned historical fiction series (with robust editorial support from Rosalie Williams) and several walking tours across the UK and Ireland.

In 2021, MCI Board Chair Norb Young called Winn back to active duty as Interim Head of School during the search for a new head. That process concluded successfully with the selection of David Pearson. Winn loved returning to the school but welcomed David with enthusiasm. Since his latest retirement, Winn continues to enjoy time with MCI colleagues and former students, volunteers with local organizations, follows Navy sports avidly, and pursues his research and writing.

## DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### Andrea Cianchette Maker '75



Andrea Cianchette Maker '75 has enjoyed a long and successful career in the world of Maine public policy and other related fields. The daughter of Chuck and Helen Cianchette, Andrea watched her father's construction company grow throughout her childhood and anxiously awaited the opportunity to make her own mark on the world. She received her Bachelor's in Business and Economics from UNH in 1979, interning under Bill Cohen. She then attended the University of

Maine School of Law, where she earned her Juris Doctorate and became a lobbyist representing clients in the Maine legislature on a number of issues. She became the Regional Director of Public Affairs at Champion International Corporation Paper until 2000, where she continued to provide substantial government relations and public policy related services as owner of The Maker Group in North Yarmouth.

In 2006, Andrea became the Vice President of Corporate Affairs at Martin's Point Health Care, where she developed a community relations programs, led the organization's rebranding initiative, and positioned the organization as a fast-growing, intelligent and progressive health care services organization. After a couple years serving as the Project Manager for the launch of Project Login, now known as Educate Maine, Andrea became a Partner and Chair of the Government Relations Practice Group at Pierce Atwood LLP, where she served for over 10 years. At Pierce Atwood, Andrea advanced agendas and created solutions in Maine public policy or government relations arenas including lobbying, networking, state procurement, and state agency

In 2014, Andrea became the Co-Founder and Co-Chair of FocusMaine, a private sector led initiative catalyzing growth in Maine food and biotechnology sectors as well as developing related workforce talent. Since November of 2023, Andrea has been operating as the President of FocusMaine as she works to accelerate the creation of quality jobs and increasing revenue in these two globally competitive and high-growth sectors. In her free time, Andrea enjoys bicycling, hiking, painting, and rowing, the latter of which won her a silver medal in the Head of the Charles Regatta in 1976 and a gold medal in the National Women's Rowing Association national competition in 1978. For these efforts and more, she was inducted in the MCI Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018.

### MIKE BOLSTER '75



Mike Bolster graduated from Maine Central Institute in 1975, and not long after did he become the founder of what would become one of the most recognizable and reliable services in the region. When you see that bright red, you know it's Bolster's. In 1975, with just a pickup truck and a relentless work ethic, Mike Bolster launched Bolster's Rubbish and Recycling. From long weeks on the road to unwavering dedication to his family and community, Mike laid the foundation for what

would become a cornerstone business in Burnham, Maine.

What began as a couple pickup trucks collecting rubbish and sawdust grew into one of the region's most trusted names in waste management. As a local, family-owned and operated business, Bolster's Rubbish has always put customers first. Their reliable and efficient trash removal services are customized to the unique needs of homeowners, business owners, contractors, and municipalities alike. It's hard to believe that the business started with just a pickup truck, to their first packer truck in 1976, their first large rolloff truck added in 1995, and everything in between. In 2017, Bolster's moved into a new, modern facility to support growing demand.

In 2018, Mike was honored with the Spirit of America Award, presented by the Burnham Select Board in recognition of Mike's outstanding contributions to the town and for building a business rooted in service, integrity, and local pride. The Bolster name is very much an MCI family, as Mike's wife Shenia Huff Bolster '83, daughter Sarah Bolster Ross '99, and son Matthew Bolster '08 all attended and graduated from Maine Central Institute. Now led by Matt Bolster, who is also Co-Chair of the Planning Board for the Town of Burnham, the company continues to deliver the same great service the community has trusted for over 50 years.

Mike Bolster's vision, grit, and community spirit transformed a single pickup into a trusted, full-service operation. Today, Bolster's Rubbish and Recycling is not just a business—it's a symbol of what dedication, family values, and hometown pride can achieve. Thank you, Mike, for not only celebrating 50 years since MCI, but also 50 years of service, leadership, and legacy.

22 Maine Central Institute Alumnus

Alumnus 2025 23



## **JASON ALLEN**

### Athletic Director, Humanities Teacher, Coach

## What stood out to you about MCI and its community when you first started here?

"Honestly, the big thing that stood out to me when I first got hired here was that they were going to give me a place to live in addition to teaching... I was living with my parents at the time so that sounded great to me, sign me up. The other thing that I kind of remember and the longer I've been here, the longer it sticks out, is that the faculty at that time, and maybe it's just because I was 23 at the time, but everybody seemed like they had been here a long time. Tanya Kingsbury, Ron Bessey, Earl Anderson, Ed Miller... I just remember thinking about how this is going to be really good because I have all these veteran teachers who I can turn to and get support from."

### Are there any teachers or coworkers that brought you out of your comfort zone?

There are so many, but Pete Dog (Steve Peterson) and I had a great relationship. He's very quirky and he would have his moments, but everybody likes Pete and we worked really well together. We had one of those classrooms in Founders with the big double doors to make it one big space, and while we didn't always open them up to share, we definitely liked to collaborate. Sometimes I'd be in the middle of teaching a lesson with the door open, and suddenly here comes Pete barging in like

Kramer from Seinfeld... or he'd just hear something going on and know what I was teaching, and want to come in and chime in. And I would sometimes do the same thing to him, it was just a great teaching relationship we had all those years."

## What are the differences between coaching and teaching, and how can they inform one another?

"I think there's a lot of similar areas. I think my teaching and coaching styles were always pretty similar. I've never been the kind of teacher to stand up in front of a class and just lecture. I always leaned more towards projects or essays where I would tell you what I need you to do, here are the things that I think will help you do it the right way... and just go do it. And that's coaching really, let me guide you and give you the skills to be able to succeed on your own, you can't hold your player's hand while they're competing, and in a sense that's really how I taught in the classroom."

### What's something that people would be surprised to know about you?

"I think when students first interact with me, many might feel that I have this nononsense vibe and look... Heidi Cook used to call it the "level gaze." I could give you that look across the room and tell you to knock it off without saying anything. But I think many people who get past that first reaction or exterior know that I'm funloving, caring, someone that's looking out for your best interest... that I'm really not that guarded, there's more than just the rough exterior."

## What trends are you noticing in the world of student athletics, and what do you see for the future of MCI athletics as a whole?

"I think one of the biggest things is the rise of club sports and other outside organizations... it's like it's not enough to just play for your high school anymore. There's also specialization, more and more students are playing one sport primarily year round and playing in clubs and its much more about the individual than it is the team. We're all chasing the bright lights, and the next big thing, and if I specialize and play one sport, I'm going to get more exposure and potentially get seen by a college, that sort of thing."

## What is one takeaway that you hope your students or student athletes would have after having you as a teacher, coach, and mentor?

"I would hope that the one takeaway would be that I always cared for my students and players and their success. While I might have been demanding, both as a teacher and a coach on certain things, the reason for it was because I wanted them to be successful, and cared how they went about being successful. I wanted to make sure I did my part so they could achieve all they set out to do."

### **Jason Allen**

- B.S, Secondary Education, University of Maine at Farmington
- Employed since 2000, tied for longest tenure at MCI
- Began teaching English/History to vocational students
- Coached five different athletic programs
- Met wife Alycia '97 as dorm parents in Rowe Hall





"Always choose integrity. Choose principle over convenience, truth over illusion, and honor over expediency... the future depends on you. Congratulations to the Class of 2025, I wish you all the best as we travel our separate ways, exploring diverse environments, and undergoing challenges but surpassing them in the same manner... with integrity."

- Jane Mautz, Valedictorian for the Class of 2025



"MCI is located in the midst of supportive communities who recognize the transformative importance of education that is international in outlook and program, and cosmopolitan in appreciation of different races and cultures... in other words, we are more than the bricks and mortar you see around you. We are a collective intelligence that is so much stronger because of one another."

- David Pearson, Head of School













# THE MCI BOARD **OF TRUSTEES**

## A Tradition of Volunteerism, **Working Behind the Scenes**

The Maine Central Institute community is not only comprised of our diverse student body, but a wealth of dedicated faculty, staff, alumni, and more that care deeply about the lives of our students and the preservation of our School. Many students past and present think fondly of that teacher believeing in them or that alum that connected them back with the School, but there is another whole group of MCI community members that are vital to the success of Maine Central Institute. The MCI Board of Trustees is a group of dedicated volunteers who dedicate their work, wealth, and wisdom to our School and our students with the goal of continuing the authentic MCI experience for generations to come. The 20 members on our current Board are a group of diverse MCI alums and community members that are motivated to give back to MCI in any way they can. We are all members of the MCI community thanks to the work of the Board of Trustees past and present.

For some, public service and governance is a way of life. It's just something that feels right to do, but there are also many that don't understand the intricacies of serving on a Board or specifically the Board at MCI, since it is often a thankless job that does a lot

of work behind the scenes. The MCI Board of Trustees is governed by its bylaws, just like any non-profit, and these bylaws help inform the Board's committee structure, term limits, and officer structure that allows the Board to have the authority to make major moves such as real estate transactions, capital campaigns, and other long term commitments. It is the Board of Trustee's job to sustain the financial well-being of the School, to devise a strategic plan for the future, and to support the Head of School who handles the day to day operations of MCI.

"This board is highly collaborative, transparent, and positive... this is not a board that is divided by acrimony or anger or frustration," said Mike Dow '84, current President of the Board of Trustees. "It's a hard working group of people who are trying to give guidance and support to the people that run MCI... We are striving for a diverse board from different walks of life, different life experiences, and different professional areas of knowledge."

Members of the Board include the School's official architect, Tim Archibald '84. There are financial professionals like Paul Pietranico '88, Carter Pearl '17, and Marty Quint '05 who help with endowment

























The list of Board of Trustee Presidents from years past, as disaplyed in the Kinney Conference Room: Harry Rowe (1930-1966), Boutelle Savage (1966-1970), Herbert "Spike" Leonard '35 (1970-1972), Michael Savage '62 (1972-1975), George Newhouse '54 (1975-1979), David Higgins Jr. '51 (1984-1986), Alton "Chuck" Cianchette '48 (1986-1989), Peter Vigue '65 (1989-1992), Michael Fendler '70 (1992-2001), Michael Hodgins '86 (2001-2007), Scott Carter '73 (2007-2009), Norbert Young Jr. '66 (2009-2022), Michael Dow '84 (2022-Present).

management and other financial planning and advice. There's a board-certified psychologist in Allen Dyer '63 who has run team-building programs for the Trustees. There are MCI coaches in Kyle Holmstrom and Mitchell Hallee '15 as well as members like Bob Bryant '78, Matt Stein '93, and Charles Jeffers '83 who have supported alumni and admissions events. There are essential local contacts like Natalia Hall '99 who serves on local government, Kristy Hapworth '09 who helped negotiate the contract with the district, and Craig Weaver '95 who is helping us partner with the town of Pittsfield. Erik Updyke '77 has used his engineering knowledge to help with our infrastructure planning, and Joo Yi '98 has done international events for us while living in Korea. L. Ross Fitts III '78 and Frank "Tom" Haseltine '64 both come from long lines of MCI alums. Lastly there's Deb Rozeboom, a previous MCI teacher who has just rolled off the board and dedicated decades of service to the School. There are a total of nine committees that are able to specialize and focus on different aspects of the School, such admissions, advancement, buildings and grounds, education, finance and investment, and more.

"I joined the Board because I want to give back to the place that helped me evolve into the person I am today," explained Hallee, who joined the Board back in 2021 as a young alum. "When it came to the classroom, the court or fields, or anywhere around the small town, it felt like family... My years at MCI helped me not only achieve a great education, but also life skills that you usually learn through and after college. The MCI experience is a one of a kind, and I am thankful to be able to give back in multiple ways."

For current president Mike Dow, it was almost a rite of

passage. Dow's mother Louise served on the Board over 30 years ago, and while he eventually didn't live in the area anymore, Pittsfield and MCI always felt like home and was that special, formative place that was worthy of dedicated service. Dow and his fellow trustees are now tasked with paving the way for MCI's future which is littered with exciting opportunities and highlighted by the innovative School of Schools and Pathways model.



We're very focused on academic programming, and that commitment to excellence and quality is very important to us...

"There's a very personal connection to the School and everything that we do is to try to create that environment that allows for that connection to occur, that's the thing that we're trying to preserve," explained Dow. "I can't say enough about how dedicated and talented this Board is, how much effort and energy they put into their work and how much they want MCI to be successful for the next 150+ years, that's the longterm mindset in this group... and they're not doing it for money, or fame, or notoriety, or anything like that... we all care deeply about MCI, and want to do everything in our power to see this school succeed."

Michael Dow '84, President Kyle Holmstrom, Vice-President Martelle Quint '05, Treasurer **Timothy Archibald '84 Robert Bryant '78** Allen Dyer '63 Craig Dionne '86

L. Ross Fitts III '78 Natalia Hall '99 Mitchell Hallee '15 Kristy Hapworth '09 Frank "Tom" Haseltine '64 Charles Jeffers '83 Carter Pearl '17

Paul Pietranico '88 **Deborah Rozeboom** Matthew Stein '93 Erik Updyke '77 Craig Weaver '95 Joo Ohk Yi '98

#### **CLASS OF 1951**

Norman Nelson writes, "I just wanted to personally thank you for your kind service, especially the young lady at the registration table, at Saturday's Alumni Luncheon. I was in the area with my daughter for a 90th birthday celebration for my sister-in-law. My daughter and I felt it would be a good idea to take some time to walk through the campus, and see all the improvements made in the last 74 years."

"I grew up just outside of Boston and graduated from North Quincy HS in 1948 as a 17 year old. I went right to work in a factory for the next two years, and felt it was enough, and I wanted to further my education. I had spent those two years working, and playing semi-pro football, basketball and baseball at night and weekends. Semi-pro sports were big in those days. A friend of my father in Quincy told him of MCI. Mac and his wife Beth McCausland graduated from MCI together in the 20's or 30's. I got a scholarship, and the end of August 1950 I was on my way to MCI as a 19 year old PG student!"

"My reason for some back history is to inform you that this move was my first lifechanging event of my life. I met a young girl who was a senior town student. In short, we became a couple and graduated together on June 10, 1951. We married on June 29, 1951 in Quincy, MA. Well, that year completely changed my life direction. That girl, Julie Reynolds, who was the 1951 Class Historian. I had the privilege to play football, basketball and baseball for MCI, and it ended up the best year of my life and set the direction of my future, which in 1948, was pretty much stalled. We were married for 39 years, as she passed in 1990. What I'm trying to say, as I look back on the past 74 years is a huge "Thank You" to MCI for my life long experience that I will never forget. During these past years and before, several of my wife's siblings have been MCI students. Thank you, MCI for these memorable years."

Robert Hutchinson Class Agent

CLASS OF 1959
Janice Cianchette Hawkins, David
Pattee, Judie Mercier Vacchina and

Nancy Ross Cameron enjoyed lunch at summer reunion. There was a Dick Gordon siting at the breakfast meeting. Donna Richardson Glenn and family will be returning to Maine for a summer vacation. Martha Menendez Mourkas family returned from AZ for a holiday visit. Sophia Kellis is enjoying retirement in Mt. Vernon ,WA. Joan Hefferen Bradstreet keeps busy with volunteer work. Red MacMichael reports that he has twelve grandchildren and five great grandchildren, that is enough for his own basketball team!

Nancy Ross Cameron Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 1963**

Erick Johanson writes that he recently met with the remaining living members of the class of 1967 Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets regimental staff in Blacksburg, VA. They also met with the current cadet regimental staff and the entire Commandant staff including the new Commandant (retired Marine Corps Major General Seely). They also observed an entire Corps Reveille one morning; special Gregory Guard drill performance; and campus tour of the cadet upper quad including the new cadet living quarters and new military science building. The VTCC had an outstanding program for us on our return to the campus. The VA Tech Corps of Cadets is the number one ROTC unit for both the army and navy for all universities in America and one of the top air force units.

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

### **CLASS OF 1964**

Ron Kinney writes "Still residing in Avon Ct. It's been my main residence for many years. Always return after stints in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York and California. Have been vacationing in Florida, the Carolinas and other warm places for the winters and visited MCI alumni Ben Doody at his winter home this year while in Florida. Recently attended Pittsburg Pennsylvania wedding of my grand niece, Erica Vuocolo, daughter of Tammy Thompson Vuocolo. Tammy is an MCI grad."

Greetings! Here's an update on our 60th Class reunion on August 3, 2024 at the Pittsfield Ski Pinnacle catered by Mike **Dugas**. Some of our class also attended breakfast and lunch on the school campus. A special thank you to the following classmates who helped support our 60th class reunion and later afternoon lunch: Carole Daily Vigue, Tom Savage, Jeff Hathorn, Joe and Karoldene Barnes, Jane Woodcock Woodruff, Steve Barnes, Ed Toulouse, Crystal Hunt Cyr, Ben Doody, Frank (Tom) Haseltine, Lowell Martin, Bob Menucci, Pat Dow, Barbara **Vigue Day.** We enjoyed looking through scrapbooks and photos from 1960 to 1964 that Jane brought.

At our get-together were **Joe and** Karoldene Barnes, Steve Barnes, Carleen Cianchette Carlson and JC, Frank Chaffin, Rita Flood Bubar, Frank Dunton, Paul Garabedian, Bob Menucci, Mike Gordon, Carl Curtis, Ralph and Roberta Damren, Carolyn and Buzz Belanger, Pat Dow, Jeff Hathorn, 'Tom' and Anne Haseltine, Crystal Hunt Cyr, Marlene Hunt Wade and her husband, Ron Kinney Ben Doody, Brian McMann, Lowell Martin, Glenda McMann Weymouth and George, Leon and Lee Southard, Ed Toulouse, Ron Farrin, Rae Philbrick and Jim Tozier, Linda Tozier Dean and her family, Bob Mercier and wife Linda, Jane Woodcock Woodruff, Greg Wright, Shirley Vigue Humphrey. A special thank you to **Steve Barnes**, who brought the handsome black 1964 Olds.

We also heard from Connie Baxter Marlow, Joe Knox, Richard Withee, Linda Eastman, Dot Creasy Ackerman, Malaka Russell, Pat Elkins Pratt, Joan VanDerveer Gould, Jim Scribner, Linda Snowdeal Brown, Jim Gould and Bonnie McGaffin Baker.

Hope we will have a great turn-out for the 2025 Reunion on August 1 and 2!

Barbara Vigue Day *Class Agent* 

#### **CLASS OF 1965**

**Glenn Hinckley** passed December 31, 2024 of Parkinson's and Parkinson's Dementia. He often spoke of his school friends from MCI, and was sad that he had

not kept in touch. There was a Celebration of Life at the Universalist Church of West Sumner, Maine (04292) May 10, 2025. Glenn's 'sweetheart' of 20 years, Linda Smith.

Lawrence Yeaton
Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 1966**

Dalen Mills writes "I am going to have to step down as class agent. My wife's issues with cancer, two major surgeries with broken neck, another fall recently that has led to another broken neck, a hip replacement, another fall resulting in broken ribs and a lacerated kidney, and assorted other issues have me being her live in caretaker, friend and husband. Her most recent fall has her in a cervical neck collar for the next 3 months and our plans to be in SW Harbor are very unlikely for this summer and being in downtown Florida is much more realistic (love hurricanes, hot as hell, humidity off the charts) Why wouldn't one love Florida in the summer and fall? So, participating in the Reunion Weekend is not something that I can likely do and I will miss it. Also, I am just really tired and I don't have the time, or more to the point, the will, to continue as class agent. I've made several pleas to the class of '66 to take part in the Reunion Weekend seemingly to no avail. We have a diminishing core of classmates who have shown up but several have passed away or have their mates pass away and don't come. I don't think that I can stimulate anyone of the class of '66 to all of a sudden, after almost 60 years since graduation, and life, after MCI, into coming to the reunions. 2026 will be our 60th year and I truly hope that fact, if you are still alive and reading this, will have you going to our 60th. God willing, I hope to be there to enjoy the event with as many classmates as possible. Dalen, out....."

#### Class Agent Needed

#### Class of 1970

Martha Lloyd writes "Fun family trip to Italy last summer. First, Jim and I spent a week in Florence to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. What a lovely place that is! Art everywhere and gelato shops every few blocks! Then we traveled to the Ravenna area for another week and

met up with our daughter and her Hong Kong Dragon Boat team, plus our son and daughter-in-law, who live in the Seattle area, to watch LOTS of dragon boating at the Club (as opposed to national teams) World Championships. FUN! We stayed in Cesenatico, Italy, right on the Adriatic Sea. Ate lots of fresh and delicious food, and enjoyed our kids' and the other fans company."

David England writes "Susan and I have had a busy winter. We moved from RI. to Maine. We now live in Topsham. I am still enjoying retirement and a part time job working at a local hardware store. Susan and I are looking forward to exploring the state of Maine more in depth. I am looking forward to our upcoming 55th class reunion. I hope that as many of you who can attend will join us at this year's event."

Bill Cunningham reports he still enjoys xc skiing every chance he gets during the winter months – mostly at Quarry Road in Waterville that has excellent trail conditions most of the season due to its snow-making system. However, his favorite area to ski is on a loop from his house down the old "sliding hill" and athletic fields behind MCI and up the rail trail to a loop around the golf course. He says skiing this area on a cold, clear winter day as the sun is rising always brings back a lot of fond memories of his xc ski team days at MCI.

This is our 55th Class Reunion and there are lots of chances for some "quality time" hanging out with your old classmates from your MCI/Warsaw days at the Reunion Weekend August 1-2. Members from the Classes of 1969 and 1971 are also invited to join us at our informal 55th Reunion meet up at the Broken Putter on Saturday afternoon 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm. Hope to see many of you in Pittsfield at these fun events!

Bill Cunningham David England Martha Lloyd Class Agents

#### **CLASS OF 1972**

Pat Inman Thibault writes, "Hello to all you '72- and "looking fine -ers" out there! must say that it has been a lonely few years of being Class Agent. I really thought that

all we needed was for one of us to declare as Class Agent and everyone would just start filling up the pages of the Alumnus with us. Oh well... Anyway, my husband retired from Portland High School in 2017 and I retired from Greely High School in 2018. Our first and so far only grandchild was born later that year - good timing, I'd say. He is living with us now so that he can attend school in our district. After a few years of not getting up at 5 am in post retirement, we are now back on school schedules! Some days I tell myself that I might as well go back to teaching and then I come to my senses! Phil and I loved our careers but we also love not having lessons to plan, papers to correct, and summer workshops to attend. There is one other thing that I would love: hearing from and reading about the graduates of the Class of 1972. I have e-mails for some of you but not all (that is a hint to send your e-mail to me). You can send your news directly to the school or to me (plit1954@yahoo. com). And please remember that Reunion is always the first weekend in August. The year doesn't have to end in a "2" or a "7" in order to attend and see old friends. The Saturday luncheon is going to start earlier (11:30 am) so that class get-togethers can start before 1:30 pm. Have a wonderful summer, please get in touch and send us your news!"

What a pleasure it was to find a note from **Bob Morrison** in my inbox! He writes that he is a mostly retired mechanical engineer, living primarily in the mid-coast region of Maine. He went on to say that he recently had dinner with **Doug Frati** in Belfast, ME. If you haven't seen Doug's amazing work, check it out at Instagram @doug\_frati\_art.

Wendi Susi St. Clair writes that she retired last December after 42 years at CM Almy. She was married for 43 years until her husband's death in 2022. Two of her children still live locally and one is in Massachusetts. She is lucky to have three grandsons - Parker 22, Levi 14, and AJ 6. She has been able to spend time with some of her childhood friends (Shirley, Candy, and Candy), a great thing to be able to do. She doesn't have any major plans, just seeing where retirement takes her.

Wasn't it great to read about some of our classmates? Maybe next time more of you

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will share what's been going on in your lives. You can send me info any time and I'll compile the notes or you can send it directly to the Alumni Office if you prefer.

### Pat Inman Thibault Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 1973**

Dawna DeBeck Brasier writes, "Doing well. Living in Dexter, Maine. I have 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Semi-retired as well. Working at Reny's in Dexter, Maine 2 days a week. Hello everyone!"

Susan Smith England writes, "Greetings classmates, Winter has passed and now we can begin to enjoy some delightful spring weather and look forward to what summer has to bring.

I am sorry to share with you the passing of Tom Quint last fall. Not only was Tom our senior class president, he was a great supporter of our class reunions over the years. He was always willing to lend a hand in any way possible and I'm fairly certain Tom never missed a reunion!

Recently, while on vacation in Santa Barbara, CA, Lynn Cianchette had the chance to meet and visit with **Denise Susi** and her husband, Eric.

Pam Kelley Rogoski writes that she made the Big Move back to Maine in November with a cross-country jaunt combined. Upon her return, she survived her first snowstorm in 12 years and remembered how to use a shovel. She is very happy to be back in Pittsfield. Welcome home, Pam!

Like Pam, **David and I** were busy moving during the first few months of 2025. We purchased a condominium in Topsham. It feels good to be back in Maine once again."

### Susan Smith England Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 1974**

We had a fantastic time celebrating our 50th reunion last August. We filled 3 tables at the reunion luncheon at school and then had a fun time at the party at Jim and Pam **Dunphy's** house. The following classmates attended either or both of the functions:

Donna Baker Dunton, Brian Bane, Cressell Bickford, Terry Booth, Laura Cianchette, Susan Cianchette Koch, Jeff Crate, Patti Davis Buck, Jim Dunphy, Leverett Fernald, Scott Hammond, Duska Hikel, Donna Huff, Priscilla Jones, Ivy Lary Yeo, Vera Lloyd Bryant, Bob Matthews, Debbie Morra Lemus, Pat McGowan, Sylvia McNichol, Dan Nash, Ronnie Rollins, Myron Sobey, Keith Thompson (attended grade school with us but did not graduate from MCI), Terry Thornton (attended grade school with us but did not graduate from MCI), Dorothy Wilkins Anderson, Frank Woodworth, Randa Wright. Randa traveled from Costa Rica to join us. She wins the prize for coming the furthest. There is no actual prize but we were happy that she made the trip.

Johnny Kosnow writes that he is a writer, author of nine books, a 4-time World Powerlifting Champion. He has a 35 year career at Maine Health, and is a Planning Board Member, a private pilot, and has been in 400 races.

### Vera Lloyd Bryant Class Agent



### **CLASS OF 1975**

Nancy Ballard Harrison writes that she is still working part-time as a CRNA. She enjoys anesthesia clinical ca and educating future CRNAs. Hobbies are traveling including medical mission trips to Philippines, Kenya, Bolivia, and Honduras - and Sailing (not around the world, but all over the world!).

From **Bud Ingraham**: Here we are 50 years later looking to celebrate this milestone! I

Department. **Kevin Bryant** is always a big help and I see he and Vera often. Janet Carter Winchester is still in Etna and I toot my horn when going by on So. Interstate 95. I have heard from **Kime Holman** and he is hoping to come for our reunion. Please bring Brad and others from NYC! Dave Barden is in the area and I see him at the grocery store from time to time as well as Rick Merrithew.

have been working with a few classmates

to have a 50th celebration. I am looking

forward to seeing everyone and hear of

their successes over the past 50 years. I

know many are telling their grandchildren.

Over the years bringing us to graduation,

we were a class that felt each other's pain

and reveled in each of our successes. We

triumphs as a class or individually.

turnout for our reunion.

showed up when needed and celebrated our

I have spoken to many classmates over the

past few months and it looks like a great

Brian Duplisea has had his share of

health issues but is finding his way to

Maine for reunion. Francine Randall

Mathew is living in SW Harbor and will

her long time home in NH and moved to

NC and will summer in NH. I have heard

from Karen Reynolds McGrady and she

will attend and doing well. Of course I see

Matt McGowan and Mike Susi as they

his wife Deb's family home. She is still at

MCI with a major role as head of the Arts

are helping with Reunion Plans. Mike

has moved to Gardner and remodeled

be attending. Kitti Rogers Trudell has sold

On a somber note, we lost Mark Huffer

this past year. I saw Mark on occasion and we talked fondly of time gone by.

I am asking all to come to our 50th reunion and participate in the golf tournament on Friday, August 1 beginning at 8 am. Friday evening the Awards Ceremony will take place in the Dining Room at 5:00, where our very own Mike Bolster and Andrea Cianchette Maker will each receive the Distinguished Achievement Award. After that, in conjunction with the Broken Putter, we will have live entertainment with Alex Bertrand singing his heart out. If you have never heard him, you are in for a real treat.

Follow the planned events for Saturday August 2nd and join us for the annual meeting and the luncheon under the tent. All 50th class celebrants and a guest are paid for by the Alumni Association. After the luncheon we will make our way to Bryant's Brewing for our 50th class celebration with live music by the band Middle Ground. Really good so bring your dancing shoes! The setting is on Moose Pond or now Great Moose Lake. Drive up to 1009 Great Moose Drive, Hartland, ME. Light hors d'oeuvres provided and the band paid for by generous classmates. Bryant's Brewing is owned by fellow alum Bob Bryant '78 and boasts craft beer and select fresh roasted coffee. It is in a picturesque setting and goes from 2 to 5 pm. Then please join us all for a night at J W Park Golf course and the Broken Putter for live music provided by **Leon Southard** and Dirty McGurdy.

Let's give a good show for the Class of 1975!!! Go Huskies!!!!!

### **Bud Ingraham** Class Agent

### **CLASS OF 1979**

From Kathy Kelley: Happy spring to you all! In November, Dena Frost Hall and I flew with my sister, Pam Kelley Rogoski '73 to Arizona and moved Pam back to Maine where she is living with Milton Webber '71 and I. We had a wonderful, fun adventure driving across the country back to Pittsfield. We are enjoying having Pam with us!

We love to visit with our 5 children who

all live in Maine from Berwick to Bar Harbor. I continue with my Hospice nursing - Healthcare has changed so much since the beginning of my career. It can be frustrating, but I am fortunate to enjoy what I do, but look forward to retirement in the next year. I enjoy reading the posts that my classmates have shared – so many memories of the great time we had growing up in this town!

### Kathy Kelley Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 1990**

**Jon Hinton** is working for the State of Maine Judicial Marshals and is a proud grandfather of 2.

### Tom Bertrand Class Agent

### **CLASS OF 1996**

This past year has been hectic to say the least. :) I am still the class agent for 1996 and will be reaching out soon to start planning our 2026 Reunion.

Last fall I was elected to the Pittsfield Recreation Committee. I am giving back by coordinating the volunteers who run the concessions for all our rec events. All three of my amazing children have benefited so much from our town rec it feels good to be able to give back. I have joined forces with MCI and am offering Community Service hours for students who help out. The kids love seeing the high school students involved.

In December, I also changed jobs. I am now the Director of Customer Success for Unifyed, an India-based EdTech SaaS company. We build student portals and mobile apps for Colleges and Universities. I am thankful to work from home most of the time and able to get the kids to all of their activities. I am also one of only 5 US employees. This means I get to travel throughout the US to be on campus and train administrators how to use the content management system and leverage the technology we build. I truly enjoy teaching how to leverage the system and putting my masters in Adult and Higher Education to work. I always enjoy catching up and will try to post where I am going in our 1996 Alumni Facebook Group.

### Carrie King Dionne Class Agent

### **CLASS OF 1997**

Travis Fitts continues to enjoy life on the West Coast, where he resides in Menifee, CA with his wife Samantha and daughter Amiia. Travis has been a factory manager onboard a commercial fishing vessel for the past 24 years. When Travis is not out to sea, he enjoys family gatherings, traveling back to the East Coast visiting family and friends and playing golf. Hopefully he will be able to make it back for our 30th Reunion!

**Jennifer Inman Crouse** writes, "Hard to believe that we are quickly approaching out 30th reunion! I looked back over the last few class notes and I find it sad that none of us are adding anything. I wonder about where you all have gone in life and what you all have made of your lives. It's nice that we have modern technology to keep some of us connected, and I enjoy seeing where you all are and what you are up to. I currently live just outside of Philadelphia in Delaware County – lovingly referred to as Delco here! I am married to a wonderful woman and we are quickly approaching the empty nest part of life. Our youngest, Gage, will be graduating in 2026. Our oldest, Damien, is married and gifted us with 2 beautiful grandchildren. He lives 45 minutes away and we see them frequently! Seth, the middle child, is living in Maine with his beautiful girlfriend and all their fur babies. It's strange to be entering this part of life where we won't have a kid in the house and we are free to travel and explore our own pursuits. I work for the County as Director of Older Adult Protective Services. Extremely rewarding, but often times sad work. I'd love to hear more from my fellow classmates and where each of you are in life. Maybe 2027 will be the year more of us show up at reunion."

Tamara Norris Mann writes, "I have been living in Perth, Western Australia for the past 9 years. I have worked in the dental industry in various roles for over 20 years. I run a free community costume library out of my home, to help spread my love of Halloween here in Australia (It's working!). I also collect monarch and queen caterpillars for the local schools, spreading my love of insects to children (That's also

### | CLASS NOTES |

working well!). I have 6 stick insects and 3 leaf insects as pets. I love my garden and grow around 15 varieties of fruit, lots of veggies, dozens of native Australian flowers, and much, much more."

Marti McNichol Allen is busy down in Southern Maine with her husband Nate and 2 children, Adrianne and Austin.

Marti is currently employed as the President of Casco Federal Credit Union.

When she is not busy with her children and their immersed sports schedule, she likes to take time to spend at her family camp on Morrill Pond.

Aric Friend and his wife Katie, live in Worcester, MA with their 3 children, Henry (14), Annie (13), and Margot (10). Aric has been a financial advisor for the past 20 years helping people pursue financial goals. After MCI, Aric graduated from Nichols College with his bachelors and master's degree. While Aric was working on his master's degree, he was also coaching at Nichols College. He has been with Merrill Lynch since 2022. Aric continues to stay connected with local sports through high school football refereeing and as an active board member. He held the positions of Vice President and President of the CMCFO refereeing board for central Massachusetts. He enjoys being able to return to Maine to see family and friends when time allows but most of his free time is spent at fields and sporting events with the kids

#### Michilyn Duplisea-Goldman writes,

"Hello everyone, I wanted to share some amazing news with you about my son, Riley Nelson, Class of 2023 alum. Riley applied for a fellowship through the US Department of State. This is a national fellowship and a life changing opportunity Only 15 are chosen, and I am thrilled to say that Riley is officially one of those 15. He will spend next summer (2026) in Washington DC as an intern, the following summer he will be assigned to a US embassy or consulate abroad for five years. His role will be a foreign affairs diplomatic technology officer. Here, he will work alongside the best of the best. The education provided him throughout his time at MCI helped him achieve his dreams. As his mom, I couldn't be more proud!"

Terri Jean Wilkinson will be going into her last year of coaching Field Hockey for MCI, getting her oldest through his first year of college (he is also an Alumni of MCI, Class of 2024). Her middle child will be a senior and her youngest going into 4th grade. Terri Jean currently manages the Academic Testing Center at Colby College and is excited to transition to Charleston, SC after her senior in HS graduates in 2026.

### Terri Jean Grant Wilkinson Class Agent

#### **CLASS OF 1999**

Natalia Mayhew Hall is living in Pittsfield with her husband, Ben Hall '01, and their 2 children ages 13 and 11. She is working as an Associate Vice President at Northern Light Health and serving on the Pittsfield Town Council and MCI Board of Trustees.

**Shannon Davis** writes, "I hope all my 99'ers are doing well! I currently live in Madison and have started my Master's in HR. My daughter just turned 10 and I have 3 beautiful future step- daughters (all teenagers). I love thinking back to our high school years and sure do miss those that I have lost touch with!"

### Natalia Mayhew Hall Shannon Davis Class Agent

#### Class of 2004

Melissa Hussey Stinson writes "I have been working for the State of Maine for 9 years in the Office of Child and Family Services. I will be celebrating 20 years of marriage to my husband Matthew in January. My oldest daughter Celia graduated from MCI on June 1st and my youngest Abby is finishing 3rd grade. We are very busy with sports as my daughters participate in travel field hockey on top of school and rec sports. Last year was my first year as the assistant MCI field hockey coach and look forward to this fall season."

Melissa Hussey Stinson Class Agent

## AND A NOTE FROM A FORMER MCI TEACHER:

Peter Oliver's 1980 novel, *Democracy in America*, is now available to readers online at Kindle. Mr. Oliver taught mathematics and English as a second language at Maine Central Institute from 1995 to 2006. The novel is a mystery set in the months leading up to the 1980 New Hampshire presidential primary, a time when American presidential elections were conducted with integrity, civility, love of country, and a soupçon of crime. *Democracy in America* was written at a lakeside camp in Weld, Maine

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.



To all Alumni,

I hope this letter finds you well. We have had a great year and are looking to another well attended Alumni weekend in August. We have some wonderful nominees for Hall of Fame and Distinguished Achievement Awards that go to show that Alumni do great things in life, with it all starting here at MCI, while still showing love for our school as well as the community.

We have had a very exciting year with added events to bring alumni together and to enjoy each other's company from all classes. We had our Winter Event at JW Parks (Broken Putter) this year with simulated golf, live entertainment provided by Aaron McCannell, and light appetizers. The Advancement Office had a NYC event at the Times Square Edition Hotel which was elegant and so welcoming to alumni, hosted by Haley Ingraham Lambert, Executive Director of Sales and Marketing.

We then went to our Portland Event at DiMillo's on February 22. We provided fantastic food and desserts, cash bar and free parking. Attendance at this winter event grows every year. The DiMillo's have been exceptional to work with. Another Advancement Office event was in Orlando on March 8, which was a perfect get-away to enjoy alumni and friends while grabbing a break from the Maine winter. Hosted by Jeff Hazell '79 at the Boston Lobster Feast.

We also had our Spring event by the lake at Bryant's Brewing hosted by Robert Bryant '78 on April 27. Bob is also on the Board of Trustees. Attendees enjoyed live entertainment by recording artists Richard Bryant and Doug Frati. Always impressive!!! We have such a good time at all of these events, and it is encouraging to see them grow!

Founders Day this year on May 4th, we had a showing of the movie *Lost On A Mountain in Maine*, the story of Donn Fendler '44 and hosted by Peter Fendler '80 (Donn's nephew), produced by Sylvester Stallone and has been in the making for years. At the last Senior Class Meeting, we give special T Shirts to all Seniors while welcoming them all as the newest alumni, and at graduation, we give a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving senior who furthers their education past MCI. We also have a Yard Sale that provides partial funds for this scholarship.

We have been planning Alumni Weekend since September the previous year. A lot of work goes into this and it is always a great time. Our Alumni Golf Tournament is a good way to start the weekend and we also provide live entertainment by Alex Bertrand '16 at JW Parks immediately following the Hall of Fame and Distinguished Achievement Awards. Please check our website and look for information in any of our publications.

Homecoming is always a good time and hopefully we win all sporting events that go on over the weekend and Athletic Hall of Fame recipients are announced. We then have Trunk and Treat for Halloween and give treats to thousands of children in the town parking lot. It has been a pleasure to work closely with Tom Bertrand and Sharon Savasuk in the Advancement Office as well as Head of School David Pearson and Trustee President Mike Dow.

We have been making huge progress with the archives as we have received some welcomed guidance from Robert Cianchette '78. We, with the Advancement Office, have established the Golden Club (50 Year and over alumni). Lunch provided by the school on a monthly schedule.

I want to thank all Alumni Executive Committee members for giving of their endless hours of time and efforts to make this a very well oiled machine. Vera Lloyd Bryant VP, Dianne Debay Secretary, Kristyn Plamondon Treasurer, Milton Webber Past president, Nicole Cianchette Steeves Class Agent Director, Daniel Mack at Large, and many other volunteers as well.

We are typically fundraisers and want alumni to participate in events and reminisce of days gone by, but please do not forget our alma mater on Day of Giving. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in August and as always GO HUSKIES!!!

MCI Alumni President Bud Ingraham

### CLASS AGENTS

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

1967 – Timothy McGowan 1968 – Dawn Peterson Cox

1969 – Susan Furbush Ryman 1970 – David England

1970 – Martha Lloyd

1970 - William Cunningham

1971 – Jeffrey Knights 1971 – Laurie Fitts Loosigian

1972 – Patricia Inman Thibault

1973 – Susan Smith England

1974 – Vera Lloyd Bryant

1975 – Ralph Ingraham, Jr.

1976 - Charles Tryder, Jr. 1977 – Jodi Breau Morra

1978 – Robert Cianchette

1979 – Kathy Kellev

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 – Frances Oviatt Rogers

1996 - Carrie King Dionne

1997 - Terri-Jean Grant Wilkinson

1998 – Jared McCannell

1999 – Shannon Davis

2000 – Michael Thompson

2000 – Hillary Stevens

2001 - Daniel Flaherty

2002 – Donna Russo Sawtelle

2003 – Ashley Holt Morency

2004 – Melissa Hussey Stinson

2005 – Sarah Frost Robertson

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 - Kendra 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:

Sunny Brown

Harlan Emery

Betsy Ferguson Keith Havey

Elizabeth Oliver

Richard Walker Rosalie Williams

Perino Almonte '42

Theo Bryant '48 Richard Getchell '49

Shirley Sedgwick Pease '50

Maxine Young Gorten '51

Robert Knowles '52

David McGaffin '52

Patricia Buxton Whitten '52

Eugene Cropley '53

Joyce Elkins Cronk '54

George Newhouse '54 Richard Bishop '57

Jeannette Ouellette Chandler '57

Roland Frost '58 Fred Pinkham '58

Anita McConnell Whitley '58

Seymour Burch '59 Stella Hustus Smith '59

Marilyn Pinkham Testa '59

Sherman Lahaie '60 Brian Cianchette '61

Richard Humphrey '61

Ernest Stein '61 Wayne Hall '62

Jucy Knox Corbin '63

Thomas Kelley '64 Glenn Hinckley '65 Sheilya Cookson Voter '67 Sally Cookson Clark '69

John Sprague, Jr. '69

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Mark Susi '70 Alan Alton '71

Kevin Fitts '72

Thomas Quint '73

Jon Cianchette '76 Ted Holmes '78

Stephen Kennedy '77

Lisa Nickerson '86 Randy Kitchin '87

Karen Quint Jackson '88

Kevin Braswell '98

Benjamin Latham '12 Paul Raye '24

ROSALIE WILLIAMS



Rosalie Curtis Williams, 86, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones on January

She was born and raised in Maine, the wife of the late Dr. Peter H. Williams and the mother of two sons, Daniel and Jeffrey. She graduated as valedictorian from West Paris High School with the class of 1956. Following her graduation from Bates College in 1960, she taught middle school and high school in Massachusetts, Indiana, Michigan, and Sierra Leone, West Africa, where she and Peter were Peace Corps volunteers.

Returning from Africa, Rosalie and Peter trained Peace Corps volunteers at Indiana University and ran teacher-training workshops in Jamaica for two summers. In 1977, Rosalie embarked upon her twenty-five year career at MCI, where she taught English and Latin and coached public speaking. In 1999, she and Peter spent a semester teaching English and speech at Beijing Polytechnic University in China. At MCI, she was chair of the English Department and co-chair of the Humanities Department. She later held the position of Director of Studies and retired as the Associate Head of School in 2002.

She is survived by companion, Michael LeBlanc; her two sons: Daniel Williams and wife Christina and Jeffrey Williams and wife Nichole; three grandchildren: Lou-Anne O'Banyel (Kevin), Deedra Jensen, and Jaime Jensen; six great-grandchildren: Kadin Braley, Amya Braley, Morgan Jensen, Maddox Bane, Lachlan O'Banyel and Izabelle O'Banyel; in addition to a cherished community of friends and family. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Peter Williams; her parents, Roy and June Curtis; and her brother, Baxter Curtis.

### Bob Knowles '52



Robert "Bob" Elwood Knowles passed peacefully at his home in Unity, ME, Saturday, January 11, 2025. Bob was born in Winslow, ME, on April 15, 1934, to Marian (Booker) and Guy Elwood (Ed) Knowles.

At a young age, Bob and his brother moved to Hartland, ME, to be raised by their grandparents. He attended Maine Central Institute in Pittsfield, ME, and was a proud M.C.I. alum, graduating with the class of 1952. In 2022, Bob was inducted into the MCI Hall of Fame. With the guidance of his mentor, Dr. Paul Briggs, Bob attended Johns Hopkins School of X-Ray in Baltimore, MD. After completing his program at Johns Hopkins, he served in the U.S. Army. He then returned to Hartland where he operated the Blue Moon Roller Rink.

In 1960 he married Rae Jean, his wife of 60 yrs. That same year they took over the operation of Unity Raceway, thus began his first career, a 20 year endeavor promoting Unity Raceway, Spud Speedway and Speedway 95. Bob was inducted into the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame in 2008 and in 2021, because of his efforts, the Knowles family was the first recipient of the Bob Morris Legacy award recognizing their contributions to motor sports in Maine.

In 1971, Bob founded Maine X-Ray which grew to serve the imaging needs of all New England states. In 1981 he and Rae Jean, along with two special brothers, Gary and Rich Donoghue, founded White Mountain Imaging which continues operations today.

Bob and Rae Jean purchased their first property in Southwest, FL, in 1977 which began a life long love of Marco Island. They watched the island grow and change through the decades. In 1988 they became members of Hideaway Beach. After selling Maine X-Ray, Bob realized that retirement was not for him. This led to his last career which earned him the name "Bob the Builder." His last spec house was completed in 2023 at the age of eighty-nine.

Bob served on the board of X-ray Marketing Associates (XMA) and on the board of Independent X-ray Dealers Association (IX-rda). In 1994, he was awarded the IX-rda E.G. Baldwin award in honor of his leadership, generous support and dedicated service to the X-ray industry. He was also a founding director of Merrill Bank and served on the board of GAC Chemical Corporation in Searsport, ME. Bob was a member of the Star of the West Masonic Lodge #85 in Unity and a member of the Anah Temple for more than 50 years, as well as a member of the Royal Order of Jesters CT #150 in Bangor.

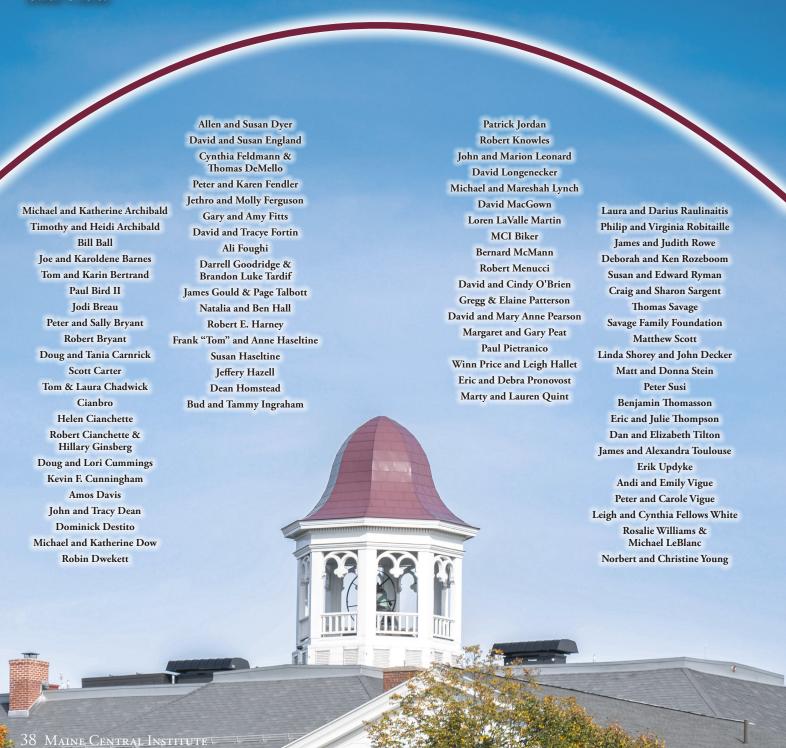
To read the full obituatry, head to https://obituaries.bangordailynews.com/obituary/robert-bob-knowles-1092541682

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## THE BELL TOWER CIRCLE

Atop majestic Founders Hall, the bell tower has long symbolized strength and the pinnacle of MCI excellence. It remains a constant reminder, near and far, that MCI is "home."

To honor donors whose generosity reflects the values represented by this iconic landmark, The Bell Tower Circle has been established. Membership in The Bell Tower Circle celebrates those who contribute \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund during the fiscal year. The following donors are members of the 2024-2025 Bell Tower Circle:



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Donna Liimatainen '82

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Scott '00 and Abbie Giallombardo Erin Fitts '02 Todd and Corrie Johnson Kemp '02 Laura Robison '02 Melissa Stinson '04 Marty '05 and Lauren Quint Cody '06 and Megan Hart '05 Korin Ingraham Moore '07 Lewis Fitts IV '08 Patrick '10 and Kristy Huff Hapworth '09 Nigel '12 and Michaela George Klein '12 Mitchell '15 and Haley Tibbetts Hallee '14 Gregory Vigue '16 Carter Pearl '17 Brayden '17 and Lexi Rollins '16 Emily Canham '18 Kasandra Grover '18 Jackson Leonard '22

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Linda Shorey '69 and John Decker
William '70 and Karen Cunningham
David '70 and Susan Smith England '73
Ted and Brenda-Jo Littlefield Crabtree '74
Michael and Pamela Newhouse Dufour '77
Erik Updyke '77

Katherine Burden Thomas '89

Leigh Hallett '89 and Winn Price

Craig '77 and Sherry Mayhew Littlefield '79
Gregg '81 and Laurie Newhouse
Brent '82 and Donna Newhouse
Michael Lynch '84
Bradley '84 and Kellie Newhouse
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N. Blake Bartlett
Ron Bessey
Scott Carter
Bethany Collier

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Josée Shelley Katherine Burden Thomas

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In memory of Harold and Ernestine Carson

In memory of Bob Knowles
Joan R. Ames
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Michael and Helen Gallagher
Michael and Wendy McCarty
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