

SPRING 2011

# LYNN

MAGAZINE

FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LYNN UNIVERSITY



KEITH C AND ELAINE JOHNSON WOLD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

## WELCOME TO OUR WOLD

Lynn's new home  
for the performing arts

10 | Far From Home

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## This place we call 'home'

Kevin M. Ross  
President

This issue's theme of "home" brought to mind an e-mail I received early in my presidency from a young alumnus. He wrote to thank me, the faculty and staff for his productive and memorable time at Lynn. He mentioned that he had just returned to visit campus with a friend and fellow Lynn graduate. As they drove into the entrance, they looked at each other and proclaimed, "We're home."

I call this place home, too. True, any president might say the same of his or her university, but I actually *grew up* here, not long after my father became president and my mother started Pine Tree Camps. My exploits across campus—running in the hallways, swimming in the lakes and climbing the trees—are all too well documented.

While the alumnus who wrote me—and those of you reading this message—can't claim roots here quite as deep, this campus is as much his and your home as mine, if not more so. You can be certain that to be worthy of the name "home" by you is an incredible honor to all of us who work at Lynn. And whether you studied here when we were known as Marymount College (1962 to 1974), the College of Boca Raton (1975 to 1990) or Lynn University (since 1991), I hope you'll always call us "home."



MARK FALCONE



# LYNN MAGAZINE

## Editor's Note

### Home pages

Home—such a simple word, yet one that evokes so many meanings: shelter, safety, roots, comfort, familiarity, belonging. The collection of stories in this issue of *Lynn Magazine* touches on many of those definitions. From our cover story on our new home for the performing arts to our closing Alumni Close-Up profile of Dan Martinez '94, '97, whose career has taken him far from his real home in the Pacific Northwest to Iraq, we examine "home" from varied perspectives.

You'll also read about the comforts of home in a student's dorm room, the taste of home in the caf, Lynn's "home improvement" through sustainability initiatives, international students who call Lynn home, five successful home-grown communication alumni, baseball alumnus Tommy Kahnle whose new home field is that of the New York Yankees, and more.

The common thread behind all these stories, of course, is Lynn University, a place all of us—whether as alumni, parents, friends, faculty or staff members—have come to know and love as our "other home."

Speaking of which, I'd like to acknowledge Andrea Brunstein Schwartz '00, '03, who, as this magazine's art director, has been the best of creative collaborators. She's been the Rodgers to my Hammerstein, the Strunk to my White, the Jekyll to my Hyde. On Jan. 9, she married Dr. Steven Schwartz, and she now calls Riverdale, N.Y., home. I'm happy to report, however, that her name will remain at home on our masthead, as we continue to work together across the miles, thanks to the marvels of publishing technology.

*Liz* —Liz McKey, editor

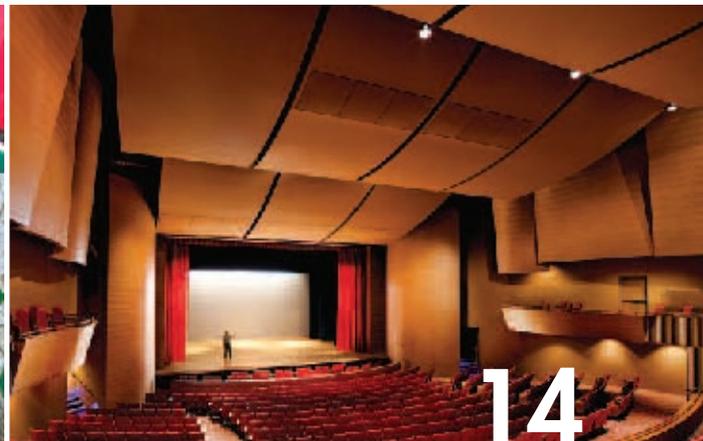
**Growing up with the university:** A young Kevin Ross (right) and his sister, Ellen, take a walk outside their family's apartment in Trinity Hall in 1973. After becoming president of then-Marymount College in 1971, Donald E. Ross, wife Helen and their two children resided on campus for a brief time.

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International students constitute nearly a quarter of Lynn's enrollment. A look at what draws these young scholars from so far away and how they adjust to life here.
- 14** **A NEW HOME FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**  
The new Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center signals a new era for the arts at Lynn and in South Florida.
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Little did these five communication whizzes know how their paths would continue to cross after graduating from Lynn.



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**On the cover:** With the opening of the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center last spring, Lynn University is home to South Florida's newest state-of-the-art venue for cultural and civic events. (Photo courtesy of Robert Benson)

## Lynn University Mission and Vision Statements

**Mission** - to provide the education, support and environment that enable individual students to realize their full potential and prepare for success in the world.

**Vision** - to be recognized as one of the most innovative, international and individualized small universities in America

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# Furthering a legacy of caring at home

On the first anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti and claimed the lives of two Lynn professors and four students, the Lynn University community joined together to continue their legacy of service in the first annual Knights Unite Day of Caring.

Professors Richard Bruno and Patrick Hartwick, along with students Stephanie Crispinelli, Britney Gengel, Christine Gianacaci and Courtney Hayes, along with eight other students, were participating in a "Journey of Hope to Haiti" 2010 January Term class when a massive earthquake struck in the late afternoon on Jan. 12. They spent the last hours of their lives visiting and caring for children there.

Inspired by their example, Lynn University designated Jan. 12 an annual

## To contribute

The Lynn University Remembrance Plaza will serve as a place to honor the legacy of those who served on the 2010 Journey of Hope to Haiti. To donate, send your gift to the Lynn University Office of Development, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton, FL 33431, call 561-237-7875 or visit [our.lynn.edu/giveplaza](http://our.lynn.edu/giveplaza).



SOUSA ARCHITECTURE



ELIZABETH HAWKINS



JIM WILSON

**Acts of caring:** Lynn community members remember those lost during a moment of silence (far left); campus volunteers make sandwiches for The Caring Kitchen to use as after-school snacks for children.

day of service and remembrance. This year, faculty, staff and students donned blue-and-white Knights Unite t-shirts and spanned the campus and local community helping those in need. Whether it was preparing meals to be sent to orphanages in Haiti or cleaning beaches, Lynn community members carried out the charge given by President Kevin M. Ross at the beginning of the day: “Please live today in the spirit of those who were lost and have an impactful day.”

There were moments for reflection, too, with a Catholic Mass and an interfaith service.

In the afternoon, the campus community reunited for an unveiling of the plans for the Lynn University Remembrance Plaza to serve as a permanent tribute to the 2010 Journey of Hope. Then, at 4:53 p.m., the time of the earthquake, hundreds gathered to bow their heads, listen to the six chimes and quietly remember “our six.”

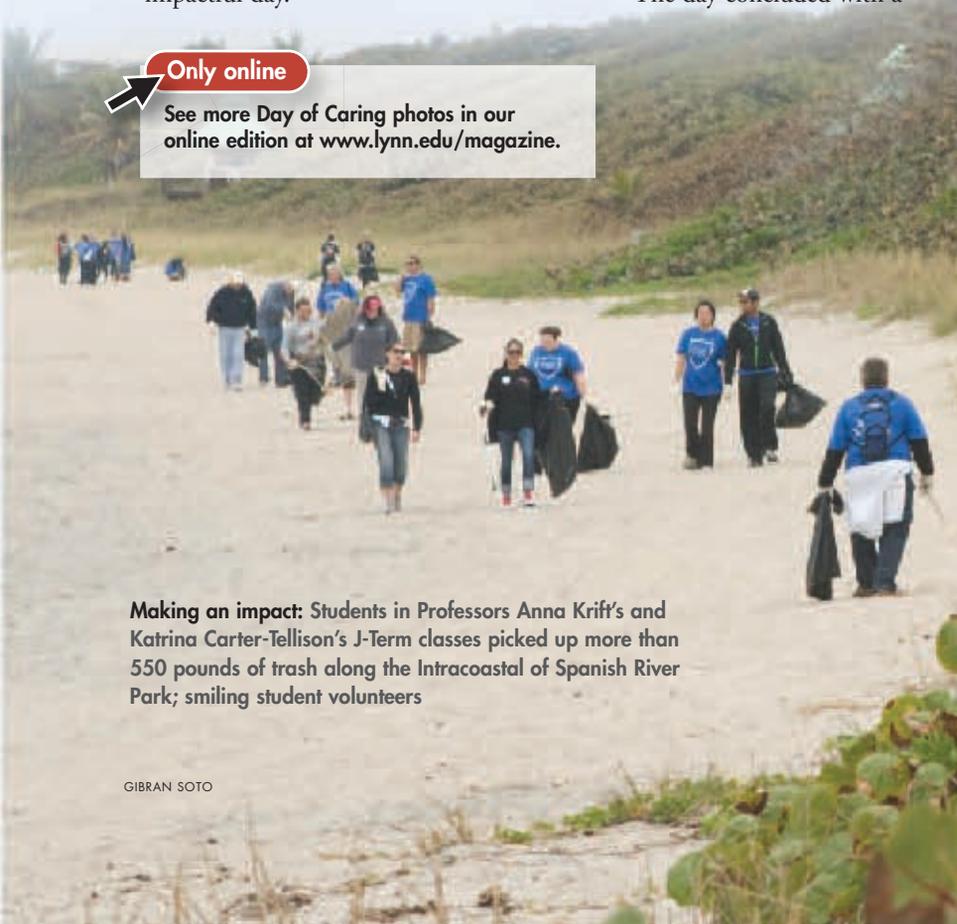
The day concluded with a

Celebration of Life featuring Haitian food, arts and music.

Said Phillip Riordan, vice president for student life, whose division was instrumental in planning the day, “By all accounts, we had an amazing day. I am positive that Dr. Hartwick, Dr. Bruno, Christine, Britney, Stephanie and Courtney are smiling upon us for a job well done.”

**Only online**

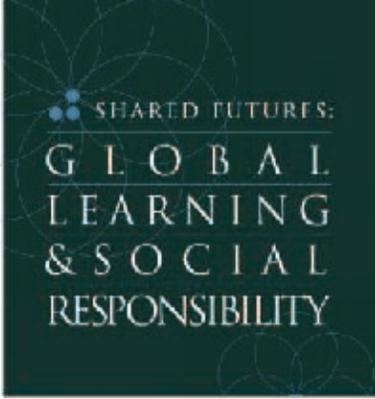
See more Day of Caring photos in our online edition at [www.lynn.edu/magazine](http://www.lynn.edu/magazine).



**Making an impact:** Students in Professors Anna Kriff’s and Katrina Carter-Tellison’s J-Term classes picked up more than 550 pounds of trash along the Intracoastal of Spanish River Park; smiling student volunteers



ELIZABETH HAWKINS



SHARED FUTURES:  
GLOBAL  
LEARNING  
& SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY

## Lynn is one of 32 institutions selected for national project

Lynn University is one of 32 U.S. colleges and universities chosen by the Association of American Colleges and

Universities (AAC&U) to help lead a national effort to revise general education curricula.

The project, titled General Education for a Global Century, is spearheaded by the AAC&U “to better prepare today’s students with skills and knowledge essential for socially responsible citizenship.”

The AAC&U is the leading national association concerned with the quality, vitality and public standing of undergraduate liberal education. It comprises 200 member institutions—including accredited public and private colleges and universities of every type and size.

The honor is the latest from the AAC&U recognizing

Lynn’s innovative core curriculum, the *Dialogues of Learning*. The AAC&U featured the Dialogues at two of its national meetings and in the January/February 2010 issue of its national publication.

“Out of more than 140 institutions that applied, Lynn was one of only 32 selected to be a part of this curriculum and faculty development project, which is part of AAC&U’s Shared Futures initiative,” says President Kevin M. Ross. “Other participating institutions include Carnegie Mellon University, the College of William and Mary, Haverford College and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.”

In his notification letter to Lynn, Kevin Hovland, AAC&U director of global learning and curricular change, stated, “While there were many outstanding candidates—making the selections process a challenging one—your campus rose to the top due to the innovative approaches to global learning and general education you described in your proposal.”

## Lynn serves up a taste of home

*(Warning: Lynn Magazine accepts no responsibility for your appetite running amok while reading this article.)*

In our fast-paced, digital world, the home-cooked meal may have gone the way of the horse and buggy. But still, when students go to college, the concept of a cafeteria usually conjures images of institutional, bland, unappetizing and mass-produced food.

Not at Lynn University.

In contrast to the fast food courts found at super-sized universities, Lynn’s cafeteria, affectionately known as “the caf,” dishes up a potpourri of delectable choices.

The Home-Cookin’ station serves up hot meals, but there are also paninis, pizza, the deli sandwich bar, the grill where those hot dogs and hamburgers sizzle away, the chop-chop salad bar, Asian bowl stir fry, and Sunshine cuisine—under 500-calorie selections for

the health- and diet-conscious.

Though students have been coming through the cafeteria doors for almost 50 years, their tastes have not changed



**Five to 10 percent of students are now vegetarians. Hence, this year’s new Vegetarian Market station has proved to be quite popular.**

much. For most, it’s the tried and true basics: hamburgers, pizza, French fries, macaroni and cheese, chicken noodle soup, and for dessert, the good old chocolate cookie.

But what has changed is the addition of vegetarian offerings. Five to 10

percent of students are now vegetarians. Hence, this year’s new Vegetarian Market station has proved to be quite popular.

Though Lynn’s student population has a strong international flavor, with almost 25 percent hailing from other countries, our student diners gravitate not toward “cuisines of the world,” but instead to American fare.

And for dessert, the icing on the cake, so to speak, is the soft-serve ice cream, which is five times more popular this year than last (its inaugural year). Flavors like peaches and cream, red raspberry and even pumpkin were introduced to supplement the standard vanilla and chocolate, but guess what? Our students like vanilla.

Only online 

Get the recipe for Lynn’s famous macaroons in our online edition at [www.lynn.edu/magazine](http://www.lynn.edu/magazine).

### CAF STATS | Lynn’s cafeteria serves per day:

- 500 hamburgers
- 8 cases of French fries
- 30 dozen eggs
- 6 cases (800 lbs.) of bananas
- 25 pizza pies (200 slices)
- 2,000 chocolate chip cookies



JONI WEBB



**"Wow factor":** Lizzy Webb transformed "plain" (below) into "pretty" with a little imagination and good taste.



## The comforts of home: one cool dorm room

Why settle for "blah" when you can have "beautiful"? That's the thinking of first-year student Lizzy Webb, who with her roommate, Jonna Marchese, has used a pink, brown and white color scheme and eye-catching accessories to transform their room in the Lynn

Residence Hall into a stylish and comfortable home away from home.

The ideas were Lizzy's, and she comes by her creative flair naturally. Her mom, Joni, is a talented Houston-based interior designer with an award-winning blog called *Cote de Texas*,

which includes a post about Lizzy's room at Lynn (<http://bit.ly/hrHiyg>).

**Only online**

See more views of Lizzy's room in our online edition at [www.lynn.edu/magazine](http://www.lynn.edu/magazine).

## Lynn's QEP takes shape

This academic year, Lynn University has been engaged in the reaffirmation of accreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)—an activity that takes place every 10 years.

Key to that process is designing a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to improve student learning. After consulting with the university community, including alumni, Lynn selected The Citizenship Project: Commitment to Community as its QEP topic.

The Citizenship Project will debut during Lynn's 2012 January Term, the 2 ½ weeks between the fall and spring semesters, and will involve all first-year students.

The project will feature a symposium speaker and a day of Lynn service called the Knights Unite Day of Caring on

Jan. 12, the anniversary of the Haiti earthquake that claimed the lives of four Lynn students and two faculty members during a humanitarian course there in 2010. In addition, students will participate in three days of fieldwork with three local community partners for 12 hours of service. Finally, there will be a Style Your Sole Party



with TOMS Shoes, whereby students will decorate 300 pairs of the popular brand of shoes and donate another 300 to people in need.

Lynn's QEP is co-chaired by Vice President for Student Life Phillip

Riordan and Associate Professor of International Relations Anna Krift.

"The Citizenship Project," Krift says, "will be a perfect bridge between Lynn's *Dialogues of Learning* core curriculum courses in the fall and spring semesters. Our fall courses focus on the theme of Self and Society, and the spring courses explore Justice and Civic Life."

Adds Riordan, "This first-year experience also will be paired with co-curricular experiences throughout the year."

By the project's end, students should be able to:

- identify examples of citizenship
- articulate the benefits of citizenship to both the individual and society
- demonstrate a positive shift in attitude toward the value of citizenship
- demonstrate an increase in the belief that through citizenship, one person can make a difference.

And those are valuable lessons indeed.



### A+ for Lynn's academics:

Lynn University was the focus of a major article in the Feb. 2 edition of *Inside Higher Ed*, an online news journal read worldwide. The nearly 3,000-word piece, "Ramping Up Rigor" by Dan Berrett (<http://bit.ly/eePtsa>), highlighted Lynn's innovative core curriculum, the *Dialogues of Learning*, and strategic goals. "Some institutions from outside elite Northeastern enclaves have taken deliberate steps to increase academic rigor, sharpen their students' critical thinking and analytical reasoning, and expose them to richer subject matter. Take, for example, Lynn University..." Berrett noted at the article's outset before detailing Lynn's work in creating the *Dialogues*.



**He knows Lynn:** Double-alumnus Gareth Fowles '99, '01 is Lynn's new vice president for enrollment management. In addition to his B.S. in business administration and M.B.A. in international business from Lynn, he holds an Ed.D. degree from Vanderbilt University. At Lynn he has served as director of alumni affairs, director of regional development and special assistant to the president. While a student at Lynn, the Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, native played for the Fighting Knights men's soccer team.

**The big 4-0:** Kristen Moraz-Migliano '97, '00, was honored as one of South Florida's brightest minds under the age of 40 this summer in the 2010 edition of the *South Florida Business Journal's* "40 Under 40." She is one of only 50 female athletic directors of 289 NCAA Division II intercollegiate athletics programs and a former member of Lynn's women's basketball team (1993-97).



**Literary liaison:** John Daily, instructor of English in the College of Liberal Education, drew upon his research into correspondence between famed author Ernest Hemingway and legendary German actress-singer Marlene Dietrich for a paper he presented at the annual American Literature Association conference last October. The paper, titled "Hemingway's Mysterious Woman in *Islands in the Stream*," cites many of the letters, which remain unpublished.



**A better blend:** Blended gasoline research carried out by Khalique Ahmed (below), College of Liberal Education science department chair, with assistance by Jacob Levenson, a volunteer summer student from Weinbaum Yeshiva High School of Boca Raton, was accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed international journal *Petroleum Science and Technology*. Ahmed and Levenson suggest the blending of gasoline with butanol instead of ethanol because of butanol's higher solubility, lower corrosivity and higher caloric value.



**Partners for justice:** Jill Levenson (below left), department chair and associate professor of human services, and Debra Ainbinder, associate professor of psychology and graduate program director for the M.S. in Applied Psychology, are partnering with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office on a community safety project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. The professors are conducting risk assessments on all registered sex offenders in Palm Beach County. Based on their input, the sheriff's office will design plans to prevent repeat offenses.



## Welcome (back) home

For a president who grew up on this campus, the new university residence truly brings him back to his roots.

In the spring of 2009, Lynn University acquired an official residence for its president just a short walk away from campus, in the neighboring Boca Bath & Tennis community. The home is a welcoming space for President Kevin M. Ross to host alumni, parents, friends and university guests.

The residence, officially called the University Home, is located directly across from the E.M. Lynn Residence Hall and the baseball field. So far, there have been no reports of Fighting Knights' frequent home run hits landing in the backyard.

**Lynn hospitality:** President Ross greets parents at a reception at the University Home.



## LYNN 360

Seen and heard from around the campus

The **flag of Gibraltar** is the newest addition to Lynn's circle of flags representing the countries of our past and present students. • Lynn's **Students For The Poor** partnered with Food For The Poor in October for a hunger walk on campus. The event raised more than \$70,000 that will feed 2,000 children for a year. • Junior Stephanie Hammerman led the second annual **Disability Awareness Month** on campus—an event she created to build awareness about “different abilities.” • November was a month of feasts—and not just Thanksgiving. The sixth annual **Founders Day** on Nov. 3 included canoe challenges, a family picnic and festival, and golf cart parade. On Nov. 11 Lynn celebrated **Veterans Day** with a Red, White and Blue Barbecue and recognized our own veterans. • January Term speaker and **One-Week Job Project** founder Sean Aiken spoke to students about lessons learned while working 52 jobs in one year to find his passion.

His career of choice at the year's end?

Teaching.





## HOME IMPROVEMENT: Lynn unveils sustainability plan

**Purple means "green":** President Ross and Big LU (center), joined by campus community members, cheer as the reclaimed water valve is turned on as part of Sustainability Day. Reclaimed water pipes are purple in color.

Lynn recently unveiled its comprehensive sustainability plan and formed a committee that includes students, staff, faculty and city officials to implement it. The plan outlines five focus areas with actions to be completed by 2030:

- energy systems: reduce campus carbon emissions by 50 percent
- water systems: reduce building water use by 40 percent and reduce overall site water use by 30 percent
- landscape and ecology: increase native planting on campus to more than 40 percent of all plants
- solid waste: reduce waste taken off site by 50 percent
- community: commit to a new

campus-wide sustainability policy

Says Tom Heffernan, dean of administration, "Although cost savings is one part of the overall plan, the real goal is to reduce our overall greenhouse emissions by 50 percent."

Lynn has already started implementing the plan. The university has installed reclaimed water pipes, enabling it to connect to the city's reclaimed water system for replenishing the campus's seven lakes and for irrigation—instead of pumping water from South Florida Water Management.

"Connecting to the City of Boca Raton's reclaimed water system will save us a tremendous amount of

money on electricity, even though we will begin paying for the water," Heffernan says.

In addition to electricity savings, Lynn is making more environmentally friendly purchasing decisions. Off the list are Styrofoam cups and bottled water, and on are 98-percent recyclable carpet squares and recyclable mattresses.

This past Oct. 20, Lynn celebrated National Campus Sustainability Day with a campus awareness campaign encouraging biking or carpooling to campus; turning off lights before leaving rooms; and making double-sided printing the default setting for all university printers.

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough spoke of the lessons and pleasures of understanding history before a capacity audience in Lynn's 750-seat Keith C. and Elaine Johnson

World Performing Arts Center on the evening of Nov. 17, 2010.

McCullough, also an acclaimed essayist and narrator, visited Lynn as the keynote speaker at the university's

Dively Frontiers in Globalization Lecture Series. The series is made possible by a generous grant from the George S. Dively Foundation and is sponsored by the R.A. Ritter Foundation and Warren Holtzman.

"We are, I'm sorry to say, raising generations of Americans who are historically illiterate, and it's not their fault," McCullough said. "It's our fault, and we've got to do something about it."

Calling history part of the joy of life, he added, "To deny our children and grandchildren history and the enjoyment of history is to deny them part of the pleasure and adventure of life. It would be as if to say there is no painting, no music, no theatre, no poetry, no literature."

Among his recommendations were to value and support our teachers, whom he called "the most important citizens we have." He also advocated reading, especially history. "It's full of what we all want most: ideas."

He drew a distinction between learning and information. "Information isn't learning. If it were, you could memorize

*The World Almanac* and be educated.... Learning is about ideas, the human condition and human nature. And you turn to history for the best lessons of all about human nature. History is about people; that's why it is so endlessly interesting."



Look to history for answers, says Dively lecturer

**David McCullough**

# Ask the Professor

A Five-Minute Interview with a Lynn Professor

## ROBERT WATSON, AMERICAN STUDIES

**Robert Watson** is a professor and coordinator of the American Studies program in Lynn's College of Liberal Education. He also is a prolific author and widely known media commentator and community activist. He joined Lynn's faculty in 2007 after teaching at other universities around the country for 15 years. He holds a B.S. from Virginia Tech, an M.P.A. from the University of West Florida and a Ph.D. from Florida Atlantic University. Last May, he earned the Outstanding Teacher of the Year award, which is voted by undergraduate students.

### Have you always been interested in history?

Yes. When I was a kid I grew up near Valley Forge and Gettysburg in Pennsylvania. Valley Forge was the pivotal moment in the Revolutionary War and Gettysburg for the Civil War. As a little kid I walked around the battlefields on weekends.

### What do you enjoy most about teaching?

First, the students. I have future doctors, attorneys, business leaders, schoolteachers and many other professionals in my class. I have a responsibility to help them think critically, grow up and prepare for life and their careers.

Second, I have the ability to do not just one job, but many other things. I write books, do a column for the newspaper, commentary for television and radio, convene town halls, and conduct workshops for schoolteachers. By teaching and understanding students, I become a better writer because I know my audience. By writing, I become a better teacher because I am doing in-depth research and I can tell you many things about a certain event or war or leader. And through media commentary, I can share with you what is happening in the real world.

### How would you describe your teaching style?

Informal. I think students learn best when they are at ease and they are having fun. If they have anxiety, they shut down and don't concentrate. I love history, so I try to convey my passion in the classroom. I don't just read out of the textbook. Instead, I like to make learning collaborative. I make my students debate, role-play, read real-world cases and get up in front of the class. I encourage questions.

### If you could have dinner with three people, past or present, who would they be?

Harry Truman, Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama. I've already told my wife when we go to heaven—I'm sure she'll go and I'm pretty certain I will, too—she needs to speak to Mrs. Truman and Mrs. Lincoln, so I can have my hour with their husbands. I already have my questions ready. I'm going to tell them, since they were both hated during their presidency, "You guys aren't going to believe it, but everyone loves you today."

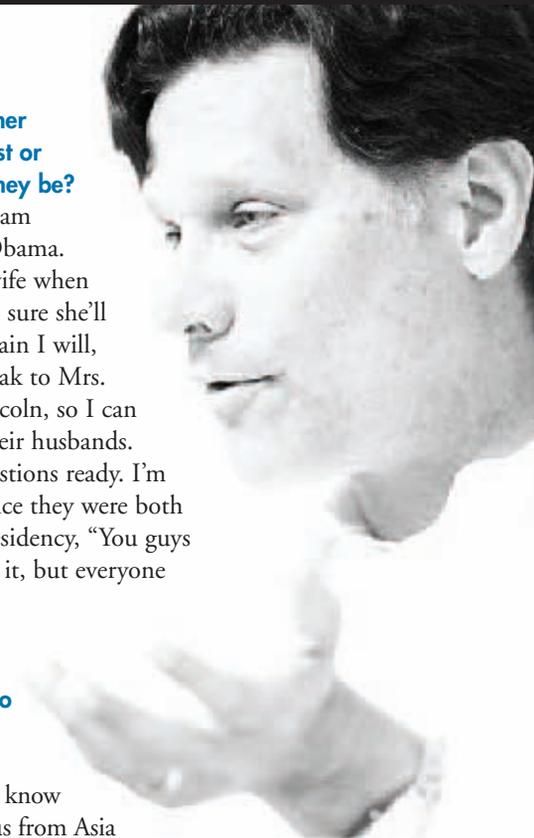
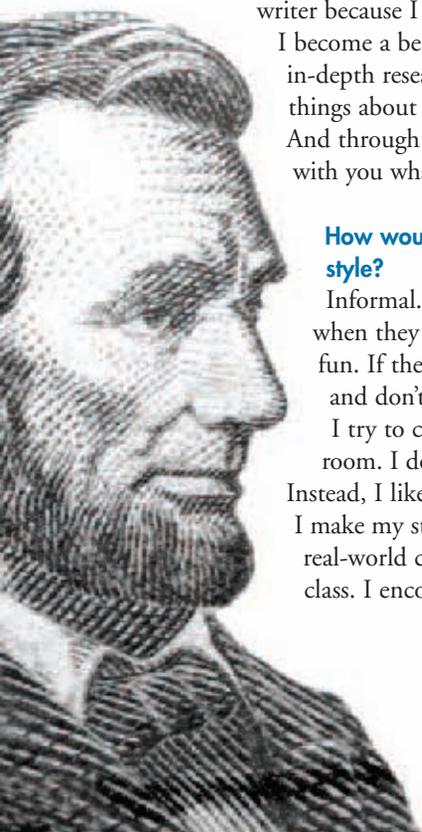
### If you could give a few words of advice to students, what would they be?

Try everything. Get to know that student on campus from Asia or Africa. Join a club. Go see a theatre show on campus. Read that book the teacher talked about in class. If there's a teacher you like, go up, talk and ask for advice. In college, the best lessons are taught outside the classroom. It's the experience of meeting new people and trying new things, spreading your wings. The most successful people are not those who had a narrow focus; the most successful people are renaissance people who have a wealth of experiences, understand cultures and meet other people. You don't want to be just a good worker, you want to be a good citizen. Experiences are what shape you, not just your classes.

—Dayna Carrano



Dayna Carrano '10 graduated from Lynn University last December. She grew up in Delray Beach and attended American Heritage High School. She plans to pursue a master's degree in criminology at the University of Florida. From there, she hopes to attend law school in New York City. "I have had Dr. Watson for several classes during my time at Lynn," she says. "He is both an amazing teacher and an inspiring mentor."



A young man with dark hair, wearing sunglasses, a white short-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and a black backpack, is walking from left to right. He is positioned in the lower right foreground. Behind him is a row of tall silver flagpoles, each flying a different national flag. The flags include Argentina, Spain, Brazil, Australia, Colombia, and others. The background shows a modern building with large windows and some trees. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

A HOME  
AWAY FROM

# HOME

*By Debbie Stern*

Leaving home and going away to college is stressful enough when you're just a few states over or a few hours away, but imagine coming from clear across the world to an unfamiliar place—a place not just physically far away, but culturally worlds apart from everything you know.

**O**ne of Lynn University's distinctions is its significant proportion—nearly 25 percent—of international students.

*U.S. News and World Report's* "America's Best Colleges" issue consistently ranks Lynn first for having the highest percentage of international students among master's degree-granting institutions in the South.

What draws these students to Lynn, and how do they make that transition and acclimate to life in the United States, life at Lynn and life as a U.S. college student?

## Getting here

While most American universities offer study abroad opportunities, for international students, coming to America is their "study abroad." And when the opportunity presents itself, most don't hesitate. Study abroad is the prevailing mentality overseas.

In 1996, at the age of 20, Andreia Brunstein Schwartz '00, '03 came to Lynn from Brazil with an open heart, not knowing a soul, and immersed herself in her new environment.

"Coming to Lynn was like a blind date that turned into a marriage," she says.

She graduated with both undergraduate and graduate degrees from Lynn, and worked in Lynn's Office of Marketing and Communication for 10 years. She recently married (for real) and moved to New York, leaving this place she called home for almost 15 years to start a new chapter in her life.

Stefano Papaleo '96, '00 came to Lynn from Italy also not knowing what to expect, but he says, "It became my life." While pursuing his M.B.A., he worked as a graduate assistant in the Office of Admission, which put him on the path to his current position as director of graduate and evening admission.

Through his job, he's able to pass on his own experience to potential students—for example, Andrea Piorico and Luca Sabatini, whom Papaleo recruited from Italy in 2009.

"The biggest hurdle is making the decision," says Papaleo, "leaving friends and family and making the leap into a new country, new culture and educational system."

But, Sabatini, who never even thought of going to college, was happy to leave Italy for a more stabilized country, he said. After both young men, who have been friends since childhood, visited Lynn University during a vacation, the deal was sealed.

"We fell in love with this beautiful place," says Sabatini. "My father grew up here and always told me of his memories of his early years of life in the U.S. Thanks to him, I went to an international school and learned to speak English."

For Latif Kanoo, from the Middle Eastern country of Bahrain, the draw to Lynn was the sports management program. His education counselor introduced him to the idea, and he came to visit on a tourist visa and made his decision. And for Andrea Berkov from the Czech Republic, who had been to this country a few times before, it was for the tennis program.

Other international students were on more familiar turf. Alfonso Salvatore lived in the States for seven years before he moved to Puerto Rico. Tammy Reyes was born in the United States and lived in Miami before moving to Nicaragua at the age of 8. And Alonso Navarro from Mexico came as a tourist, having visited New York and Orlando.

"I had an idea how the country was, but it's not the same as living here," says Navarro.

So, whether they had never set foot on American soil before or had lived here for a time, or whether they came for a specific program or the beautiful climate, the decision to be a Lynn University student in the U.S.A. was only the beginning of their journeys.

## Culture shock

For most international students, the first priority upon arrival on campus is to get acclimated. And the person who is here to help is Lisa Ward, Lynn's international student services coordinator. She became interested in this line of work as a student worker at her alma mater, Temple University.

"I've always been interested in other countries," she says. "And I found helping people very rewarding."

Her traits are the perfect combination needed to guide these students through not only the maze of international documentation and paperwork, but also the many cultural adjustments.

She knows every one of Lynn's international students. They look to her for help and advice, both professional and personal. "I'm like a one-stop resource guide and life coach," she says.

According to Ward, their top cultural adjustment issues are the following:

- social (making friends)
- diet (earlier eating times, different food)
- driving (adjustment to rules of the road)
- homesickness (separation from family)

- language/communication
- financial stress (restricted employment opportunities, financial aid)
- academics (pressure to excel, student-faculty relationship)

Though all students have major adjustments to make when thrust into college life on their own, students from around the world have the added stress of adjusting to an entirely different way of life. And their sentiments—from dating customs, meal times and rules of the road, to communication and academics—echo Ward's list.

"It was a big culture shock," says Kanoo. "A lot of people didn't act the way they would act back home."

American social life—a big part of college life—presents a huge disconnect for most international students.

"They do things completely different here," says Piorico. "Americans are so serious. They divide everything into steps," he explains. "There is step 1, hang out; step 2, go on a date; step 3, a second date; step 4, final judgment! We leave more space for improvisation."

But with the cons, comes a big pro: "Girls like us more because we're foreigners," he says with a smile.

"In Nicaragua, you either have a very serious relationship or just hang out with a bunch of people. There's no dating around," says Reyes.

She says her best friends are international students because they have similar mindsets. "You don't have to explain how it is. You'll see a table of Latin Americans in the caf; they all hang out together, gravitate to each other."

All agree dining times are much different here. "For the first few weeks I would miss meals because I'd come for dinner at 8 p.m. and the caf would be closed," recalls Schwartz. "I didn't realize the hours were so early." And she couldn't believe the cafeteria's all-you-can-eat policy. "I gained 15 pounds my freshman year."

But Reyes actually lost weight during her first year. "I usually just eat hamburgers," she says. "Food is a ritual in Latin America. Here, you eat to survive. My mom is from Peru, where they have amazing food."

And for those who might complain about Florida drivers, apparently you haven't been driving in Italy lately. "Here it is too organized with strict rules," says Piorico. "We drive 200 miles per hour, we park everywhere."

Even day-to-day communication can get tricky. "There's this term, 'hang out.' It's not in my vocabulary," he adds.

For Reyes, some of the communication



**In their element:** (clockwise) international student services coordinator and one-stop resource Lisa Ward; Latif Kanoo at Super Bowl XLV as part of a J-Term course; lifelong friends from Italy Luca Sabatini and Andrea Piorico; Tammy Reyes with communication professor John Bennardo and at her “Latin American table” in the caf.

is familiar. She writes in her Lynn student blog, “Being in an English-speaking country, it amazes me that Spanish is spoken in so many parts of South Florida. At Aventura Mall, my friends and I automatically asked the sales clerk a question in Spanish. Unconsciously, I expect people to understand me when I speak to them in Spanish, and when it isn’t the case, it surprises me!”

Sometimes, pronunciation is the issue. Schwartz’s co-workers loved to make fun of her calling the Little LU bobblehead, a “bubblehead”—a different meaning entirely. And years ago, when she was a counselor at Pine Tree Camps, she asked the kids if they wanted to play “Dr. Goose”—aka Duck, Duck, Goose.

Even nonverbal cues differ. “We shake hands; they do this bump,” Piorico says demonstrating with a closed fist.

During Thanksgiving break, Reyes experienced an eye-opening American ritual, “I was at the mall 30 minutes, tops, before I decided that Black Friday was way too dark for me to handle.”

But for all the cultural differences, Lynn’s international flavor and diversity has its rewards.

## Diverse campus

“I like being at such an international school. I’m not the foreign one,” says Reyes.

“I had so many diverse roommates—students from America, Ireland, Italy and Indonesia,” says Schwartz. “And you could be at lunch with people from five different countries. That’s amazing!”

Says Navarro, “I felt welcome since the beginning. The international environment surrounds Lynn. We’re all in the same situation when we come, so everyone is welcoming to each other.”

Yet, Ward points out, “They have to learn some of the cultural differences. Like when an American acquaintance takes your phone number and says they’ll give you a call, do not be disappointed when they do not call you.”

And because it can be embarrassing or confusing, Ward says a lot of international students don’t want to talk about their

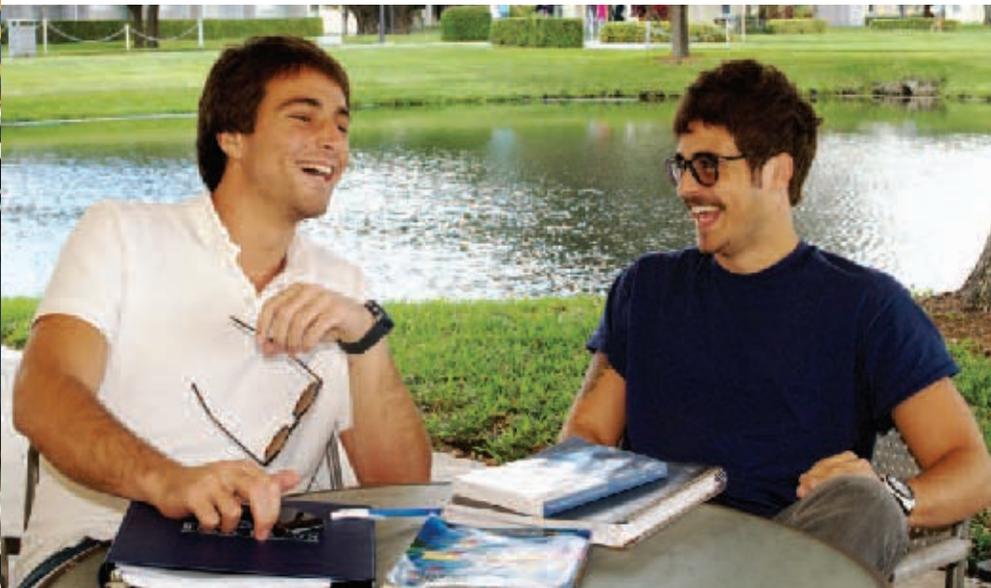


adjustment problems. For this reason, she plans on starting one-on-one cultural adjustment sessions this spring as yet another way to help them cope with culture shock.

But beyond the social nuances and cultural differences, what really matters to international students is academics.

## Education is No. 1

According to a report by the higher education consulting firm Noel-Levitz, the chief reason international students come to the United States is to get an education, so academic quality is of utmost importance. They also want to learn in a safe environ-



## The world comes to Lynn

Lynn University's "circle of flags" at its entrance (shown on page 10) represents the nationalities of its past and present students, and currently is 132 strong. For academic year 2010-11, Lynn's students hail from 82 nations. The top five countries represented include:

- |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Canada         | 4. Brazil   |
| 2. United Kingdom | 5. Colombia |
| 3. Venezuela      |             |

ment, receive proper guidance from advisors, and be able to get to classes easily. And they did not place much value on campus life activities.

"They come here to study and learn," says Ward.

"I'm doing well here," says Sabatini, who is an honors student and qualified for Lynn's three-year degree program. "It's a good learning environment, and it makes you want to study and do well. Being

housed on campus, you don't need to drive; you wake up and go to your classes. It's all right here. It's like a little paradise."

Reyes wanted to study journalism here in South Florida because of the local Latin American influence.

"The student-teacher relationship is very different," says Ward. "They are used to a more formal approach and not a one-on-one."

Many international students pursue

M.B.A.s so they can take the business skills and entrepreneur mindset back to their home countries to help build their economies or launch social entrepreneurship enterprises. Recent M.B.A. student Kuda Biza ('09, '10), a Zimbabwe native, for example, is using his education to build a business that will help educate children in Africa.

Though campus activities may not be of major concern, many international students come here to pursue athletics.

Athletics are taken very seriously here, said Kanoo, a soccer player. "They follow you, have your picture taken, list your stats."

"In my country I couldn't play tennis and go to school," says Berkov.

And Schwartz played on the very first volleyball team at Lynn.

### A package of support

The first couple of weeks represent the biggest adjustment, says Papaleo. "Some feel lost and may even doubt their decision, but after a few weeks, for most it feels like home."

There is great support at Lynn—from other international students, academic advisors, and a host of services and resources provided by International Services such as international orientation; special sessions for Conservatory of Music students; access to an immigration attorney, tax sessions and Optional Practical Training workshops; help with the Department of Motor Vehicles, Internal Revenue Service and Social Security; an international and domestic health insurance advisor on campus; career workshops for writing resumes and securing internships; and counseling services.

Beyond the institutional support, there is Lynn's caring community. "When my father passed away, Lynn sent flowers, and my roommates paid for my plane ticket home," says Schwartz. "It felt like family."

As cliché as it sounds, all believe that America is truly "the land of opportunity" and a place they now call home.

Reyes and Papaleo both proclaim, "This is my home away from home." [LYNN](#)

ROBERT BRANTLEY



CAROLINA GONZALEZ ATIENZA



JOHN EMERSON



# A NEW HOME

FOR THE PERFORMING

arts

By Liz McKey

## How can mere bricks and mortar be so magical?

The answer lies within the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center—  
Lynn University's magnificent new venue for cultural and civic events.

Much more than a building, it is a work of art that inspires,  
uplifts and transforms all who enter its doors.

ROBERT BRANTLEY



JINSEF: JOHN EMMERSON

**A stage of our own:** Conservatory of Music and drama students are inspired to deliver their very best in the spectacular new Wold Center; (inset) lead donor Elaine Johnson Wold.

**O**n March 18, 2010, a new era began for Lynn University and South Florida, as the ribbon was cut for the region's newest and most state-of-the-art performing arts center.

Doing the honors was none other than lead donor Elaine Johnson Wold, who contributed \$8.3 million toward the center that bears her and her late husband's name.

From the project's outset, she said, "It has been a long-held dream of mine to provide such a superb venue that is warm, inviting and transforms the cultural offerings in our community."

By all accounts, her vision has been realized—not only for the community, but for Lynn University, its students and its performing arts programs.

Conservatory of Music Dean Jon Robertson, who has seen and performed in concert venues worldwide, says simply, "It is an absolute jewel."

Asked what the center means to the conservatory's students and artists-faculty, he draws an analogy: "It's how you feel when you're wearing a magnificent gown or suit tailor-made of the finest material. You walk differently. You look different. You feel different. In a sense, you are different. There's a magic—

an intangible quality that makes you transcend, that makes you bigger, better. That's what this hall does."

Adam Simpson, faculty member in the drama program, agrees. "My students have always worked hard, but with this facility, it's like they respect themselves more and they respect the art form so much more. It's because of the building... It makes you want to take pride in your work, take ownership and really become the best artist that you can be."

Says David Jaffe, dean of the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn College of International Communication, "The Wold Center raises the bar for our academic programs in the college. Naturally, we view the Wold through the lens of Lynn University's mission to 'enable...students to realize their full potential and prepare for success...' professionally."

Jan McArt, director of theatre arts program development, points to the "marvelous energy" within the building, which hosts performances by the drama program, conservatory and the two series she produces, Libby Dodson's Live at Lynn Theatre and Live at Lynn Jazz Multimedia Concert Series. "There are sounds coming from every corner of this place," she proclaims with her own characteristic energy.

**Beautiful and functional:** (below) the center's stunning lobby with its custom-made chandeliers; (right) the de Hoernle Scenery Shop, where students learn the craft of set building



ROBERT BRANTLEY

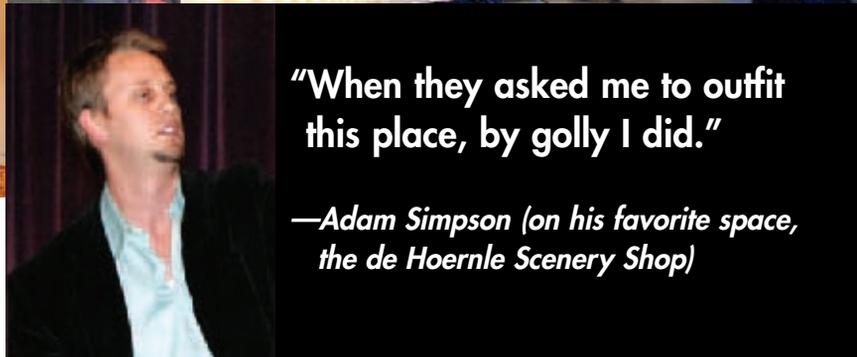
## CAREFUL ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Designed by noted architect Herbert S. Newman, who also designed the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Library, the Wold Center was created with meticulous attention to detail. From its majestic, light-filled lobby to its 750-seat main theatre with its curved walls made of cherry wood to resemble the interior of a violin for superb acoustics, the building is at once welcoming and awe-inspiring.

Elaine Wold personally selected the lobby's six crystal chandeliers, which are oval versions of the famed starbursts at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. She also saw to other important details like the lobby's gold pattern on red carpeting (to hide footprints) and the women's restroom with three times as many stalls as the men's.

In the main theatre, each comfortable red upholstered seat affords generous leg room and a perfect sightline of the stage. A custom-built acoustical shell added to the stage in December has made the already wonderful acoustics spectacular.

Further fulfilling Elaine Wold's vision for a center that is warm and inviting are the ample gathering spaces: a salon, a refreshment center, terraces and terrace gardens, and a spacious lobby that lends itself to small chamber music concerts or lecture demonstrations. (For a listing of these and other named spaces, see the listing on page 17.)



**"When they asked me to outfit this place, by golly I did."**

**—Adam Simpson (on his favorite space, the de Hoernle Scenery Shop)**

## SMALL SPACE, BOUNDLESS CREATIVITY

Smaller, more avant-garde productions have an ideal venue in the Wold Center's Schmidt Family Studio. "The studio is the laboratory of an actor," Simpson says. Here, you can do a show that maybe has only three people in it and speaks to an issue or the human condition. Theater is about the human condition, and a studio provides the opportunity to do theater in its purest, rawest form."

He continues, "Learning to effectively use a studio is a challenge for most students because they come from a high school that has only a proscenium—a main stage—that is one-sided. But with a studio, you can have one, two, three, four sides. Or, you can make an octagon or any shape, or have the audience in the middle and the actors on the outside. So now we can train our students to think outside of tradition in order to create something new and exciting."

For the 2010-2011 season, his students are putting the studio to ample use, with 14 productions, from a cabaret series called Knight Lights to a play reading series.

Students in other communication programs also are stretching the limits of their creativity in the studio, says Jaffe. "Students in digital animation

will use the studio for motion capture, where students don special body suits with numerous sensors that are used by 12 cameras to capture their movements and mount those movements on digital characters. The result is an animated production. And, the film program will use the same studio as a sound stage for shooting interior movie scenes."

In its totality, he says, the Wold offers "a broader and much more sophisticated stage or laboratory for our students to build the skill sets they need for professional success."

## BEHIND THE SCENES

To find Adam Simpson's favorite part of the Wold Center, one must venture far—past the studio, the green room, the costume room, the dressing rooms, the prop storage area, and offices. Located directly behind the main theater's backstage, it's the de Hoernle Scenery Shop, where the sets are built.

"It's every man's dream," he says, stretching his arms in the vast space equipped with building materials and almost every tool imaginable. "When they asked me to outfit this place, by golly I did."

His enthusiasm for the space reflects his passion for technical theater, which he describes as "the lights, the sound, the set—everything outside of

the actors and the director, the backstage stuff...For every actor you see on stage, there are five crew members backstage making it happen.”

In the Wold Center, Simpson finally has this important space for teaching the craft of scenery making under one roof with the studio and main stage.

## A GIFT FROM THE HEART

Another artist's passion has found a home in the Wold Center, too. It's Jon Robertson's own Steinway grand piano, which he and his wife, Florence, donated to Lynn. The piano was built in the 1960s, and Robertson had the instrument completely rebuilt by Steinway & Sons.

How did Robertson, an accomplished pianist with three degrees from The Juilliard School, part with such a precious possession? He explains, “You know how sometimes a thought comes to you, and all of a sudden it's the right thing to do? Florence and I talked about it, and she said, ‘It makes absolute

sense. For such a beautiful instrument not to be played as much as it should? Let's give it to the conservatory.’ Here, I feel like a father with 103 kids, and now my kids will have an opportunity to play a fine instrument in a beautiful hall. So, it was our joy to do that.”

## IMMEASURABLE IMPACT

In less than a year after its doors have opened, the Wold Center has already established Lynn University as a premier venue for the arts and civic events by hosting Broadway greats Bernadette Peters and Mitzi Gaynor; a Haiti benefit concert by the band Dashboard Confessional; former Assistant Secretary of Education Diane Ravitch; a congressional candidates' debate; author and historian David McCullough; community forums; and Lynn's own Transitions Conference focusing on students with learning differences, now in its second year. That's not even counting the 64 performances by Lynn's Conservatory of Music, Drama Program and Libby

Dodson's Live at Lynn theatre and jazz series for the 2010-2011 season. And it's only the beginning.

Adam Simpson can't help but express his gratitude. “A thousand thank-you's to all who made this possible—to Elaine Wold and all of our donors,” he says. “I don't want to say it's changed our life because that's too cliché, but it has changed our perspective on education, both for faculty members in the way we teach, and for students in the way they learn and care about learning. It's completely changed my whole approach to pedagogy and, I think, made me a better teacher.”

Adds Jon Robertson, “Everyone in the conservatory is encouraged and blessed that we have an opportunity to play in such a magnificent place. The quality of our playing, the quality of everything we do has now taken another step forward. That's what art does for art...and this building is a work of art.” [LYNN](#)

## Those who shared the vision

Lynn's new performing arts center was made possible by generous friends who funded its construction and endowment:

### Named Spaces

The Wold and Johnson Families — lobby  
 Mary Ann and Harold Perper — orchestra and mezzanine seating  
 Christine E. Lynn — salon  
 The Schmidt Family — studio  
 Gail Wasserman and Family — terrace  
 Benjamin Olewine III — entrance garden  
 The Gerrits Family — star dressing room  
 George and Wilma Elmore — east terrace  
 Janice V. Middlebrook — box seats (left)  
 The Comparato Family — control booth  
 Yvonne S. Boice — box office  
 The Craske-Long Family — refreshment center  
 Mary Anna Fowler — star dressing room

Louis and Anne Green — green room  
 Henrietta Countess de Hoerle — scenery shop  
 Marjorie and Frank Grande Family — terrace garden  
 Herbert and Holli Rockwell — terrace garden  
 Donald and Helen Ross — terrace garden  
 Robert and Robin Muir — theatre prop storage  
 Christopher and Deanna Wheeler — costume room  
 Mark and Marilyn Swillinger — director of theatre arts program office  
 Margaret Mary and John Shuff — theatre manager office  
 Arnold and Marlene Goldstein — mezzanine lobby and elevator  
 Hillel Presser — mezzanine lobby and elevator  
 Wayne and Shelly Jones — administrative office

### Endowment Gifts

Elaine Johnson Wold  
 Jamie and Stephen Snyder  
 The Family of Robert Wood Johnson Jr.  
 The Marszalek Family  
 Keith C. Wold Jr.  
 Martin Richards  
 Dr. and Mrs. Sidney R. Wold  
 The Family of Mary Wold Strong  
 In Memory of Dr. and Mrs. Karl Christian Wold  
 In Memory of J. Seward Johnson Sr.  
 The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation  
 Woody and Suzanne Johnson  
 Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones  
 In Memory of Ruth Dill Johnson



### About the sculpture

“Through Poppied Fields,” the life-size aluminum cast sculpture adjacent to the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center, was specially acquired for the site.

The sculpture was created by Seward Johnson, brother of Elaine Johnson Wold, and unveiled and dedicated on March 25, 2010, exactly one week after the Wold Center's dedication.

The artist was inspired by two Claude Monet paintings. His sculpture consists of two figures: a woman and a boy, Monet's wife and son, standing in the breeze atop a grassy, poppy-covered hillock.

The sculpture was acquired by the Cultural Enrichment Fund at Lynn University through the generous support of Elaine Johnson Wold.

Jesse Leed



Daniel Markell



Jarred Weisfeld



Greg Gerosky



Jason Bergenfeld



Five go-getters, one school and a lot of hard work... The result? Five successful careers in the entertainment industry. Little did Lynn communication classmates **Jesse Leed '03, Daniel Markell '02, Greg Gerosky '03, Jason Bergenfeld '02 and Jarred Weisfeld '01** know how their paths would continue to cross in their

# LYNN NETWORK

By Liz McKey

**A**fter what he calls a “four-month job interview”—a trial job with 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. workdays—**Jesse J. Leed '03** has good news: He’s been named director of development at Ryan Seacrest Productions in Los Angeles. It’s a plum position that will allow him to create, develop, pitch and sell shows. And it’s one of only a handful of full-time positions at the company founded by the famous *American Idol* host and young entertainment guru.

It’s been quite a journey from Leed’s first days as a Lynn freshman 11 years ago. A native of New York, he moved to Wellington, Fla., when he was 11. By high school, he knew he wanted a career in the television industry. And

after learning about Lynn University’s Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn College of International Communication (CIC), he knew it was the path to his dreams.

“I had heard about the new communication program, the new building and the new studio,” he says. “Lynn had all this gear and equipment. It was full hands-on. I jumped right in.”

Leed admits he was fortunate to have cousins in the industry who helped him get his start, even while he was still at Lynn. “In my senior year, I was a production assistant on the Super Bowl halftime show, *Victoria’s Secret Fashion Show* and the Emmys—these really big multi-cam, live shows.”

After Lynn, he headed out to L.A. and, again with the help of his cousins,

got his first gig. “I think it was *Iron Chef*,” he recalls. “That was a lot of fun. I think I still have spices from that show.”

From there, the gigs kept coming, and he was hired by The Gurin Company to work full-time as part of its development team. As he explains, “There are two sides: production and development. There’s the logistical/money part, and there’s the creative/development part. I was hired by Gurin because they knew I had the skills—skills that I originally learned at Lynn, like shooting and editing—that would be useful to them on the development side.... Anyone can think of a show [concept], but you’ve got to know if it’s feasible in terms of time, cost and logistics.”

**Where it all began:** (left) the Lynn College of International Communication (CIC) on the third floor of the Lynn Library

## A cast of three

Flash back to Lynn University, 1999. In one of his first communication classes, Leed was assigned a partner for a film project—a guy from New York named **Daniel Markell '02**. They immediately hit it off.

“We were of similar minds,” recalls Markell, today director of development for Cineflix Productions in New York. With additional offices in the United Kingdom and Canada, Cineflix produces factual and unscripted programming worldwide. In his job, Markell creates new shows and formats, and finds brilliant characters with amazing stories to tell. “I travel like a madman,” he says, “but I am always finding myself in some really remarkable situations with very unique people.” He also shoots, produces and directs the presentation reels that are used to pitch the shows.

They are all skills he began honing at Lynn, including in that first class project with Leed. Because it required them to toil away after hours at Leed's apartment, another friend soon entered the mix: Leed's roommate and fellow communication major from New Jersey, **Greg Gerosky '03**.

Now, fast forward to today, and Gerosky is head of post-production at Reveille Studios in Los Angeles. The company is part of The Shine Group, owned by Rupert Murdoch's daughter, Elizabeth, and its logo graces the credits of such shows as *The Office*, *Master Chef*, *Family Guy*, *Ugly Betty* and *The Biggest Loser*.

“The post side is a lot of technical work, but it's also a lot of managerial,” Gerosky explains. “A large part of my job is tracking the money, but it's also trouble-shooting, coming up with workflows and figuring out the most efficient way to get things done. And I'd say Lynn prepped me for that in a large way.”

He recalls how he, Leed and Markell worked on freelance projects together outside of class. “We were just a very proactive group of kids. We made local commercials and did a TV show for the Boca Raton Police Department...

Through those projects we learned start-to-finish how to produce, edit, direct and write.”

After graduation, Gerosky roomed with Leed again out in L.A., and just as his cousins had helped him, Leed helped Gerosky land his first production assistant job. “After that, I just kept working, working and finding new opportunities,” Gerosky says.

In addition to his work at Reveille, Gerosky composes music for TV through his company, In the G. His ultimate goal is to compose for film—as he describes it: “to work in front of a 90-piece orchestra and be the creative voice behind a sound track to a movie.”

## 'Bergy' makes four

**Jason Bergenfeld '02**, or “Bergy” as he's called by his friends, came on the Lynn scene in his junior year, transferring from another college in L.A. He had already worked in the industry since the age of 18, including interning for Kopelson Entertainment on the Academy Award-winning *Platoon*. He remembers meeting Leed, Gerosky and Markell in his first media class at Lynn. It was a somewhat rocky start—with Markell especially.

“We were all kind of one-upping each other,” Bergenfeld says. “Each wanted to be the lead point of the conversation.”

Markell agrees, stating flatly, “Bergy and I did not get along at all.”

After a night on the town, the two more than mended their differences. “By the time we left the restaurant,” Bergenfeld recalls, “we were arm-in-arm saying, ‘You're going to be my close friend for the rest of my life.’ And from that day on, we've stuck together. Now we're best friends.”

Today Bergenfeld is managing partner at The Xonger Network, formerly known as C4 Pictures and maker of the hit movies *Barbershop 1* and *Barbershop 2*. He's also involved in a number of additional ventures, including a new company called IGEN, in which he's partnering to create an interactive digital network for captive audiences.

## The 'mover and shaker'

Also part of their network is a fifth friend—one who actually preceded them at the CIC and, in some ways, raised the performance bar for everyone: **Jarred Weisfeld '01**.

Weisfeld came to Lynn in 1997 from New York. Like the others, he had a strong sense of direction and was drawn to Lynn by the CIC's facilities. “When I first visited and saw the equipment that had just been installed, I was mesmerized,” he said. “I realized that's where I needed to be. And I enjoyed every class that I took.”

Around the college, Weisfeld was known as a serious, talented guy, Markell says. “Jarred's always been a mover and shaker. While other people might sit around talking about and writing scripts for films they wanted to make, Jarred was legitimately producing Lynn University TV shows, making full use of all the amenities that were offered to us... He got the work done, and he, above everybody, really hit the ground running after college.”

Case in point: at 22, Weisfeld was the youngest executive producer at Nickelodeon and had created a show for VH1. After working extensively in TV and executive producing several shows, he and a business partner, Ian Kleinert, formed Objective Entertainment, a multifaceted literary management company in New York.

“We represent over 250 celebrities for books,” Weisfeld explains. “We also produce television shows and documentary movies.”

He's particularly proud of Objective's bestselling authors, including Ian Halperin (*Unmasked: The Final Years of Michael Jackson*, a No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller), Michael Savage (*Trickle Up Poverty*, a No. 2 *New York Times* bestseller) and Theo Fleury (*Playing with Fire*, a No. 1 Canadian bestseller).

From the Michael Jackson book, Weisfeld executive-produced a documentary film, *Gone Too Soon*. The project led to a serendipitous collaboration with Gerosky, whose parent company, Shine, was the film's distributor.

"I got the call sheet and saw Greg's name [as producer]," recalls Weisfeld, who worked on the film from New York. "That's how I found out that we were working together.... When Greg and I went to school, I knew he was into audio engineering, but I had no idea that he was a post-production wiz."

Working from L.A., Gerosky proved to be an invaluable asset to the project. "He made sure that I was able to see cuts," Weisfeld says. "He's a genius at what he does. Without him, I can tell you that that show wouldn't have aired on time."

The movie, in fact, was released on June 25, 2010—exactly one year after Jackson's death—and has been seen in 58 countries.

### Lynn ties that bind

These days, the five's meetings are mostly dictated by geography: Weisfeld and Markell regularly see each other in New York, and the others—Gerosky, Leed and Bergenfeld—do so in L.A.

As they continue to climb the career ladder, they're finding—like Weisfeld did on the recent documentary—that their industry is, indeed, a small world. And it's great to have friends in that world.

Says Markell, "We've all pushed each other and rooted for each other along the way. We get really excited when the others get great jobs. To this day, when one of us does something great, we call each other and celebrate."

"I'd say every week I'm still in contact with everybody, and we're always helping each other," Gerosky says. "We don't get to see each other as often as we'd like, but we always know that any of us can reach out to anyone and ask a favor."

Adds Weisfeld, "It's fun that it's worked out this way, and it's great that we all found our niche. I think that everybody's happy, and, really, that's all you could ask for." LYNN

**Only online**

Read more about these grads in our online edition at [www.lynn.edu/magazine](http://www.lynn.edu/magazine).

## Insiders' tips for success

### Jarred Weisfeld '01:

"The most important thing is to intern. Besides that, develop a group of friends like we did and use the studio [at the CIC]. Make short movies. Make documentaries. Make TV shows."

### Greg Gerosky '03:

"A lot of people come here [Hollywood] expecting to be directors or producers. You don't start at the top; you start on the night shift as a PA [production assistant].... Get the job, work your butt off and take on more responsibilities. Don't become complacent."

### Daniel Markell '02:

"Be ready and willing to work.... Check your ego at the door. Every job in this industry is an opportunity to display a level of competency and prove that you can progress to the next level."

### Jason Bergenfeld '02:

"Stick with it. For every 10 people who I knew when I was starting out, maybe one or two are still in the game. That's because it's a hard business. You've got to stay focused. If you like what you're doing and you're passionate about it, your dreams will happen, I guarantee."

### Jesse Leed '03:

"While you're at Lynn, get in there and get your hands dirty. Learn the cameras, how to edit, what it takes to structure a show. Watch the credits; learn what people it takes to produce a show. Then, use your connections and resources to get a PA job. All you need is one 'in.' ... Then work really hard and show you have tenacity."

## It's an ace: Lynn's new Perper Tennis Complex

Excellence begets excellence. Lynn University's championship women's and men's tennis teams are enjoying their third semester in their new home: the beautiful Perper Tennis Complex, dedicated in January 2010.

Named for lead donors Mary and Harold Perper, the stadium includes six lighted courts, covered center-stadium seating and a digital scoreboard.

It's a fitting home for one of the country's most successful tennis programs. Led by Head Coach Mike Perez for 22 years, Lynn tennis has garnered seven national championships—six by the women's team (1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2001) and one by the men's (2007). Perez' teams have achieved more than 700 victories, and off the courts, they've ranked at or near the top of Lynn athletics' grade point average lists, year after year.

In addition, Perez has amassed an impressive list of coaching honors, among them NAIA National Coach of the Year in 1993, 1995 and 1996; Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year in 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2008; Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame Coach of the Year in 2002; and NAIA Coach of the Decade for the 1990s.

Of the new complex, Perez says, "It's one of the finest facilities in the nation in Division II. It's a wonderful facility from a physical standpoint, but beyond that, it's a tribute to our tradition, all the tremendous student-athletes we've had over the years and our enormous potential for the future. Our donors believed enough in our student-athletes that they were willing to make possible a facility that equaled our players' achievements."



## Fans score more features with new website, LynnFightingKnights.com

Fighting Knights fans have something new to cheer about: a totally revamped athletics website, LynnFightingKnights.com. The new features include:

### FRONT PAGE

complete with top stories, highlight videos, a rolling scoreboard, a top navigation bar and a new composite schedule for the entire year.

### AUDIO AND VIDEO

top-quality audio and video coverage via the Game Central platform. Listen to games on the road or at home, watch SSC home contests for men's and women's soccer, volleyball and men's and women's basketball, and chat live during the game with other fans.

### EXTRAS

interactive pluses including a new Lynn University Athletics YouTube Channel, [www.youtube.com/LUFightingKnights](http://www.youtube.com/LUFightingKnights), with an extensive library of videos, interviews and highlights.

### Gifts from home:

**Knights are  
No. 1  
to soldiers**

For the second straight year, Lynn University's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee earned first-place honors from the Sunshine State Conference

for collecting items to support a charitable cause.

Again assisting Any Soldier Inc., 170 Fighting Knights donated 4,122 items to U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. That was nearly triple the amount collected by the second-place holder, Barry University.

# A new home field for TOMMY KAHNLE



## When did you first realize that you had the talent to play professional baseball?

When I redshirted my freshman year at Lynn. During the spring, I was able to get my fastball velocity up to 95 mph.

## Why did you choose to pursue your baseball career at Lynn?

I chose Lynn because it was down south, and I didn't want to play baseball in the north anymore; I wanted a new scene.

## What was your most memorable moment at Lynn?

When I was on the mound to close out the 2009 National Championship—the only one in Lynn baseball history.

## What has been your most exciting experience in playing baseball thus far?

My first professional outing for the Staten Island Yankees. After I walked off the mound following my first recorded inning, I thought to myself, "This is what I've wanted."

## How has your work regimen changed since you have been playing for the New York Yankees?

I have started to work harder since becoming a Yankee because you only get one chance at this.

## What is the best part about being a Yankee?

Meeting all the new players and being a part of the best organization in professional baseball.

Last summer, Fighting Knights star pitcher **Tommy Kahnle** signed with Major League Baseball's New York Yankees and was assigned to their minor league affiliate, the Staten Island Yankees. He was a fifth round selection in the amateur draft — making him the highest-drafted Knight in Lynn baseball history.

In his years at Lynn, Kahnle helped lift the Knights to unprecedented heights. He powered Lynn as a relief pitcher in the 2009 NCAA Division II National Championship and was named the South Region and National Tournament Most Outstanding Player. He posted a 1-0 record, five saves, 0.00 earned-run average and 12 strikeouts in 12.2 innings in the postseason as a redshirt freshman. As a sophomore, Kahnle led the Knights in ERA, strikeouts and opponent's batting average. He tossed the program's third no-hitter, the first in 11 years and second by just one pitcher.

Recently, Sports Information interns Edward Quinn and Carl Gorman caught up with Kahnle to talk about life before and in pro baseball.

## What was the draft process like?

It was a relief...It is a very long process, and when it's over, it's like a weight has been lifted off your shoulders.

## What is the toughest part about being a professional baseball player?

The long days at the baseball field every day and traveling everywhere by bus. I usually get to the baseball field around 12:30 p.m. and don't leave until 10:30 p.m.

## Was it always your dream to play professional baseball?

As a little kid, I had sights on becoming the next great quarterback in the NFL.

## What was your family and friends' reaction when you were drafted by the Yankees?

They were all ecstatic because mostly everyone I know is a Yankee fan, and they all hope one day I will be on the mound in Yankee Stadium.

## Who has been your biggest inspiration?

My family. Everything I try to do in baseball is to make them proud.

## Aside from baseball what do you enjoy doing?

I'm a big football buff, which includes the Philadelphia Eagles and Notre Dame Fighting Irish. I also like to go out with my friends, and I enjoy music and video games.

## What do you think it takes to become a professional baseball player?

Heart, talent and hard work.

## What have you learned about yourself as a player since playing professional baseball?

I've learned that everything rests in my hands. If I want to make it happen, I have to try the best I can.



## Being with family, coming home

This magazine's theme of "home" speaks to the heart of what the Connections section is all about: the feeling we share of being part of the Lynn family, whether as an alum, a donor or a friend; and alumni coming home—returning to the campus that served as a "home away from home" during their college years.

The Wold Performing Arts Center has given us some especially welcoming spaces. This year alumni returned to campus for the annual Alumni Holiday Reception, enjoying its fabulous and elegant lobby. The Christine

E. Lynn Salon hosted a very different kind of reception—an intimate gathering of friends and family who shared the meeting of scholarship donors Tom and Mary Hannigan and recipient Jose Negron. Their story shows how strangers become family through the power of connection.

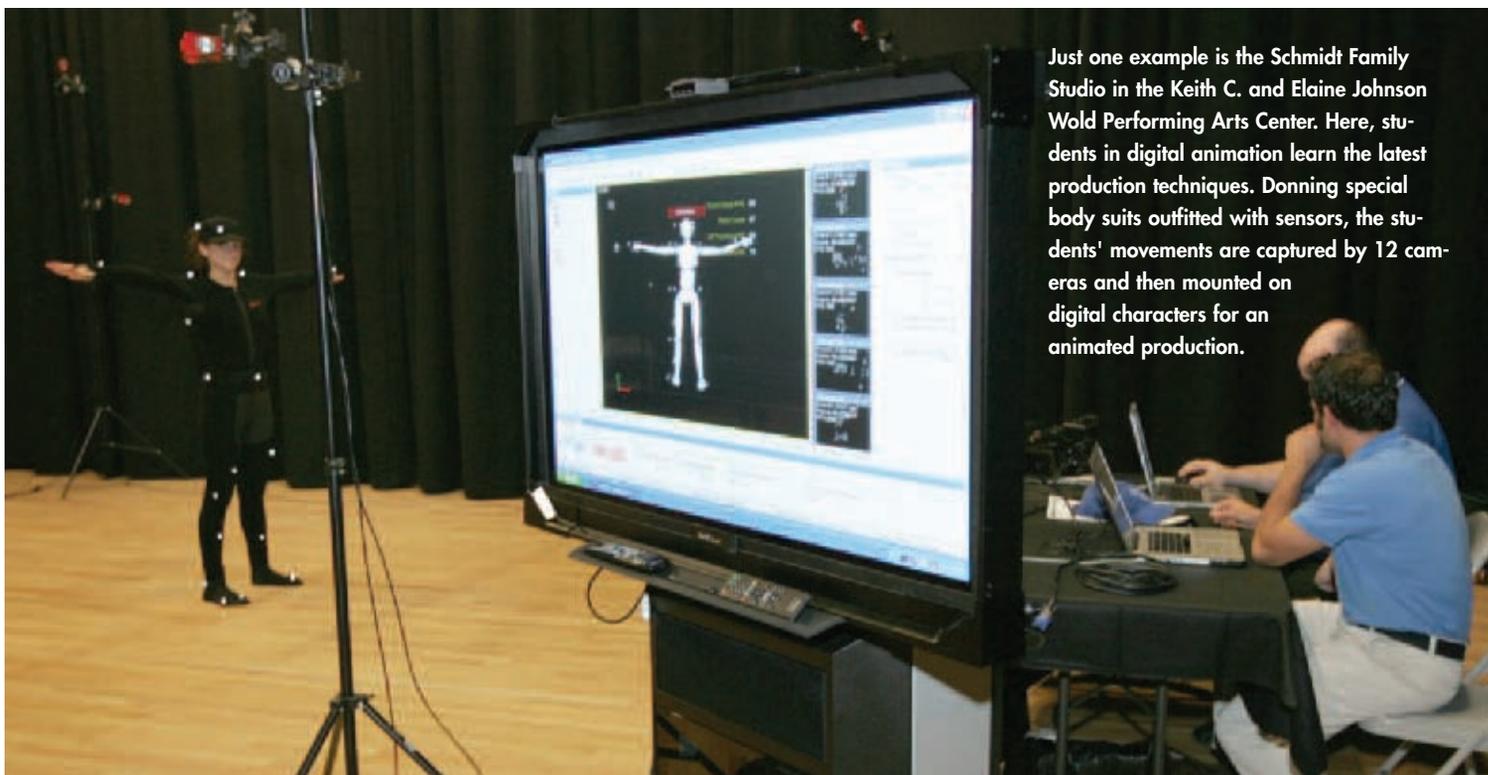
A final comment—when our alumni can't come "home," we go to them, holding regional receptions and informal gatherings in areas where groups of alumni live and work. These Lynn on the Road events are important in helping to keep the Lynn family con-

nected—as is clearly demonstrated by increasing attendance at "home" events like Alumni Weekend and "away" events, and by our steadily improving alumni giving rate.

As ever, we remain grateful to those alumni and friends who steadfastly continue to support Lynn University in helping to fulfill its mission and its vision.

Judi Nelson  
Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs

## Donor dollars keep Lynn on the leading edge



Just one example is the Schmidt Family Studio in the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center. Here, students in digital animation learn the latest production techniques. Donning special body suits outfitted with sensors, the students' movements are captured by 12 cameras and then mounted on digital characters for an animated production.



Mary Hannigan (left) and Judi Nelson look on as Tom Hannigan (seated) meets scholarship recipient Jose Negron.

## Former FBI agent helps Lynn vet

Originally from Allentown, Pa., Tom Hannigan joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1975 after flying Army helicopters in Vietnam. He suffered a traumatic brain injury when his helicopter crashed during a flight evaluation in 1991. He retired as a result of his injuries in 1992.

In recognition of J. Edgar Hoover's pursuit of excellence in educational standards for the FBI, former agents of the FBI and friends donated funds to establish a perpetual scholarship in his name. Each year, one member of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI from each of eight national regions is selected to choose a college or university to receive the J. Edgar Hoover Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is preferably awarded to a student in a law enforcement curriculum.

Hannigan was chosen for the Florida region scholarship in 2010. He selected Lynn University to receive his portion of the funds because of his fond

memories of two Lynn alumni who helped him with his physical therapy during rehab. Hannigan's wife, Mary, contacted Lynn to inquire if there was a student in need who was studying an area of law enforcement. She requested it be a veteran if possible. Jose Negron fit the bill.

After 22 years as a U.S. Army paratrooper, the 47-year-old Puerto Rican native and grandfather is now a serious college student. Negron is motivated to succeed by his goal of becoming the first person in his family to earn a college degree. He expects to receive his bachelor's degree in criminal justice in May.

Meanwhile, he has another important responsibility. Along with his wife, Mildred, he's taking care of a granddaughter. Her mom—the Negrons' daughter—is in her second combat tour, first Iraq and now Afghanistan. She returns home this summer, just in time to congratulate the new college graduate.

## Professor funds batting cages in her brother's memory

There's a special impact a gift has on the university when it comes from one of Lynn's own.

Sindee Kerker, associate professor of criminal justice in the College of Liberal Education, saw that she could answer a need of many of her student-athletes and honor her late brother, Michael Kain, at the same time. Kain, an avid baseball fan, volunteer team manager and a statistician for a high school baseball team in Long Island, died unexpectedly in 2010.

In a desire to leave a legacy remembering her brother and honoring his passion for baseball, Kerker gifted Lynn with funds to build the Michael Kain Batting Cages. She also inspired other members of her family and friends to contribute to the project.

The batting cages were dedicated on Feb. 8 with the entire baseball team, students, faculty, staff, and Kerker's family and friends in attendance. Later that day, Kerker's son, Matthew, threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the home opening game against Florida Tech. The Knights trounced Tech, 16-5.



Baseball coach Rudy Garbalosa, Sindee Kerker, President Kevin M. Ross and softball coach Mandy Harris

**TO GIVE  
OR NOT  
TO GIVE.** **THAT IS  
OUR  
QUESTION.**

Please take a moment to complete a brief online poll at <http://our.lynn.edu>. We promise, it'll only take a minute – or less.

# SCENES FROM LYNN ON THE ROAD

The year 2010 brought Lynn on the Road alumni receptions to three states on the eastern seaboard.

The trek began in **Washington, D.C.**, where Betsy '02 and Matt '99 Jaeger hosted their fellow alumni at the Congressional Country Club in September.

**Boston** was the next stop. Chef/owner Jose Duarte '95, '98 opened his restaurant, Taranta, to accommodate alumni in October. Duarte has received the 2008 City of Boston Green Business Award and Waterford Crystal Chef of Chefs Award at the Food and Wine Week in Houston, Texas, for his eco-friendly restaurant.

The last stop for Lynn on the Road 2010 was Nikki Beach Midtown in **New York City** for a reunion of tri-county area (New York, New Jersey and Connecticut) alumni.

## Washington, D.C.

1. Betsy '02 and Matt Jaeger '99, Katy Adams '03
2. Karen, Edgar and Edgar B. Nunley '08
3. Matthew Heller '01, Tara Adams '09, Chris Byrne '07, John Gosnell '09, Leah Thomas '05
4. Maureen Noonan '68, Barbara Post '68, Matt Jaeger '99, Pat Milton, Margaret Widmayer

## Boston

5. Angel Valchinov '03, Christine Glynn, Tara and David Getchonis, John Glynn
6. Haillie MacNeill '07, '08, Laura Maguire, Jeff '05, '06 and Cianna Winnick '06
7. Jean Nezivar '08, '09, Alyssa Greenwood '98, Eva Crowell '95, Brian Austin '04
8. Julie Mehne, Josh Garson '07, Steven Larkin '08, Jesse Redstone '08



Washington, D.C.



## Boston



## CONNECTIONS



## New York



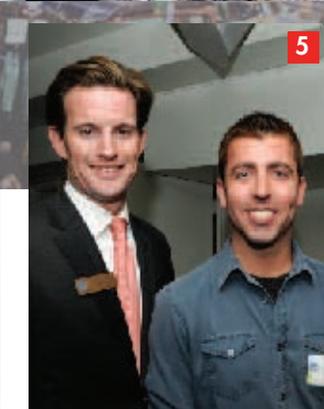
### New York

- 9. Kayla Gish '09, Betina Rodriguez '09, Elizabeth Hubbard '09, Angela Ranelli, Marisa Jankowski '09
- 10. Matt Roos '08, Helen and President Emeritus Donald Ross
- 11. Shira Blumenthal '09, Shira Grauman '09
- 12. Sharman Peddy '70, Jackson Peddy '08

CONNECTIONS

**New York, cont.**

- 1. Alexander Tchobanov '04
- 2. Jared Katzman '04 '05, Roberta Fedorko '78
- 3. Christopher Walsh '05, Justin Hanke '05, Eric Keating '04
- 4. Betsy Moreno '01, Willie Bryant '02
- 5. President Kevin M. Ross, Robert Cullen '03



**New York, cont.**

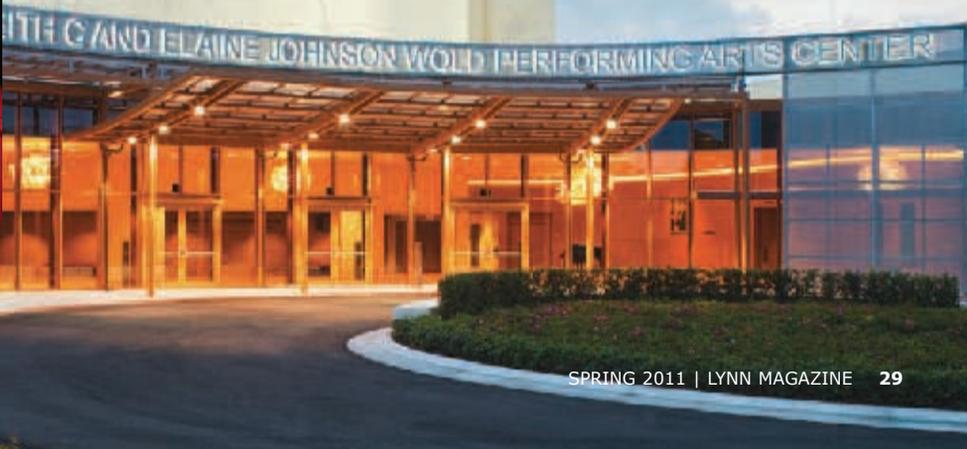
**Alumni spread cheer in new Wold Center**

Alumni gathered from across the nation to ring in the season together at the 2010 Alumni Holiday Reception, held for the first time on campus in the new Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center (see the feature story about the center beginning on page 14). To view more photos from these and other events, see the Photo Gallery at [our.lynn.edu](http://our.lynn.edu).

- 6. Neil Solomon '07, '10, Sara Sharrer '09, Michael Glazer '09
- 7. Jennah Ackerman '09, Jacqueline Kramer, Lindsay Ackerman '09
- 8. Armando Castillo '09, '10, Jon Roos '08, Carole Dodge '08, Nathan Dodge '08
- 9. Marcella Mucci, Stefano Papaleo '96, '00, Lawrence Spain '96, Raymond Simonet '93, '96, '06
- 10. Kevin Rafferty '81, Mary Ann Crosta '81, Barbara Cambia '81
- 11. Gabriella Arien '10, Erica Wells '10, Melissa Gans '10
- 12. Kevin Rafferty '81, Matt Roos '08, Masha Baysar '04, '06, Derrick Acklin, Dina Bajramovic '06
- 13. Melissa Roberts '07, Larissa Witherspoon '07, Carissa Calderone '07, Kelly Burlisan, Kailen Gonzalez '06, Christie Schade '09
- 14. Brandon Appel '07, Faith Jacobson, Matt Rubin '07, Rich Lindor '09, Ricardo Mantalvan
- 15. Julissa Caballero '05, Denise Fraile '06, Tonya Henning

**Florida**







## From "A" to "Z" ...from Aspen to Zimbabwe, here are updates from Lynn alumni worldwide.

### 1979

**Kenneth F. Wentworth** is the owner of North River Fuel Inc. in Hanover, Mass., which provides and distributes home heating oil and diesel fuel. It's the second company he's built from the ground up. Ken also is the father of twin daughters who are both pursuing graduate degrees: Sarah, who's studying at Boston University to be a nurse practitioner specializing in pediatric oncology, and Lauren, who's pursuing a master's degree in education at the University of New Hampshire. Ken completed the Boston Marathon last April in support of the Hole in the Wall Camps, which was started by Paul Newman and provides free camps for children with serious medical conditions. Ken was inspired to make the run by his daughter Sarah, who has served as a counselor for the camps for three years.

### 1989

**Rick Schanzle** manages the foundations and grants department at Food For The Poor in Coconut Creek, Fla.

### 1990

**Pamela (Benowitz) Hart** is the founder and creative director of Plant Trees 4 Life ([www.PlantTrees4Life.com](http://www.PlantTrees4Life.com)), based in Aspen, Colo. With a mission of offsetting the impact of deforestation, the organization plants trees to honor people and events. Hart's goal is to plant 1 million trees in 10 years.

### 1992

**Joseph A. Sorantino** is the owner of Cocoa Expressions, an online personalized chocolate business ([www.cocoaexpressions.com](http://www.cocoaexpressions.com)).



### 1993

**Russell Rowan Mogell** is the CEO of Seven Sourcing, a West Berlin, N.J.-based global importer of promotional and premium products for the ad specialty industry. His company was

recognized by Promotional Products Business (PPB) magazine as one of only 12 2010 PPB Rising Stars for their talent, ambition, persistence, leadership and originality. He and wife Mary Anne have a 4-year-old son, Jack.

### 1994

**Karen (Sarrica) Fijalkowski** teaches fourth grade at Wading River Elementary School in Wading River, Long Island, N.Y. She has taught there for 13 years and previously taught for three years at Mary McLeod Bethune School in the Harlem section of New York City. She and husband Sean have two sons, Sean Mark Jr. and Jack.

**Tiffany North** has joined The Arc of Palm Beach County as director of education and therapeutic programs. She is a "triple alumna," earning her bachelor's, master's ('97) and Ph.D. ('03) degrees from Lynn.

### 1996

**Stefano Papaleo** and wife Jill became parents of a son, Luca Maximus, on March 12. Stefano, who also holds an MBA ('00) from Lynn, is director of graduate and evening admission at Lynn.



**Jakob Lorentzon** is an account executive at Opera Software in Stockholm, Sweden. The company is the developer of the Opera Web browser.



### 1997

**Kristen Moraz-Migliano**, Lynn's athletic director, experienced several milestones last spring and summer. On May 30 she was married to Andrew Migliano at the First Presbyterian Church in Delray Beach, Fla. Just prior to that, she earned a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from Capella University. She also holds an M.B.A. ('00) from Lynn.

### 1998

**Courtney A. Field** is an account executive at InterCall, the world's largest conferencing provider, in Chicago.

### 1999

**Luis M. Gonzalez** has joined Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management as part of a four-member team to expand the firm's coverage of Latin American markets. Based in Miami, they serve ultra-high net worth clients in Venezuela and Colombia. Luis has held previous positions at Barclays Wealth, Lehman Brothers and American Express.



## 2000

**Andréia Brunstein** and Dr. Steven Schwartz were married on Jan. 9 at B'nai Torah in Boca Raton. They reside in Riverdale, N.Y. Andréia also earned an M.B.A in international business from Lynn in 2003.

**Nancy J. Santiago** is a senior career services specialist at DeVry University in Miramar, Fla.

## 2001

**Edward P. Rinda** has launched a new business venture, Big Kahuna Travel (<http://bigkahunatravel.net>). His company is a web-based personal travel agency specializing in cruises, tours and corporate travel.

## 2002

**Jennifer H. O'Hanlon** sold her store, Trilogy, and is now working with Alene Too in Boca Raton. The boutique offers personal shopper services as well as clothing, jewelry and accessories.

**Jeff Wile** has created Linen Finder, Inc. ([www.linenfinder.com](http://www.linenfinder.com)), an online search tool to find linen suppliers to get competitive quotes for restaurant linen, medical linen, party linen and uniform rentals. Jeff also holds an M.B.A. degree ('03) from Lynn.

## 2003

**Lauren A. Maiorisi** and her twin sister and fellow Lynn graduate, **Lisette Maiorisi**, own and operate Lisette Lauren Events, a wedding and event concierge business based out of, but not limited to, South Florida. Lauren and Lisette have worked within the fashion industry for more than 10 years, including Gucci, Max Mara,

Theory and Little Switzerland. Since creating Lisette Lauren Events in 2006, they now typically book four to six weddings a month. Lauren also is active in the South Florida arts, providing public relations and philanthropic support for artists Stephen Gamson and David Banegas.

## 2004

**Gregory A. Brown** is a South Florida area scout for the Houston Astros. His territory also includes Puerto Rico. Greg has had a multifaceted career in baseball after playing for Lynn from 1999 to 2003. He played professionally with the Florida Marlins, then served as director of baseball operations for Perfect Competition, an athlete performance institute in Davie, Fla. He then was assistant baseball coach and assistant to the athletic director at Broward Community College, also in Davie. He, wife Shairin, daughter Kennadi and dog Slugger reside in Tamarac, Fla.

**Hilary L. Greene** has joined Strategic Marketing Inc., a full-service advertising, marketing and public relations agency in West Palm Beach, Fla., as an account executive.

## 2005

**Suzanne King** is assistant principal at Boca Raton High School. She also earned an M.Ed. ('05) and a Ph.D. ('10) from Lynn.



Newly wed Lisa Wackenhut '05 and Jonn Shipp

**Lisa R. Wackenhut-Shipp** was married on April 10, 2010. She is a psychosocial rehab program advisor for the dually diagnosed at Archways Behavioral Health in Fort Lauderdale. She also earned an M.S. in Applied Psychology/Counseling ('10) from Lynn.



## Juan Camilo

**Tamayo**, director of undergraduate admission at Lynn University, was awarded the Michael Maybury Award at the

Council of International Schools Forum in Monaco on Nov. 18, 2010, for his "high level of service and leadership." In the presentation, he was noted for "his inclusive and passionate personal style that endears him to all those he touches." He received a standing ovation by the 500 people present at the conference.

**Yi Zhang**, has joined the piano faculty at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. Zhang is a former member of the piano studio of Roberta Rust in the Conservatory of Music.

## 2006

**Ana Flavia Zuim-Moretto** is a full-time lecturer at the University of Miami Frost School of Music in Coral Gables, Fla. At Lynn, she was a member of the piano studio of Roberta Rust in the Conservatory of Music and was one of the first recipients of the Master of Music degree in piano performance.

## 2007

**Christopher D. Breton** is in his second year at Stetson University College of Law. He is specializing in international business, corporate law and securities. In the top 20 percent of his class, he was invited into the legal honors fraternity Phi Delta Phi.

**Gareth Johnson**, a violinist and composer who holds both bachelor's and master's ('10) degrees from the Conservatory of Music, was named 1st Place Laureate in the Senior Division at the 13th Annual Sphinx Competition, held in February 2010 in Detroit. The honor includes a cash prize of \$10,000 and a recording contract with Naxos. More details can be found on his website, [www.garethjohnson.org](http://www.garethjohnson.org).



**Daniel B. Furtado '08**

is currently a student in the doctoral program at the University of Houston Moores School of Music.

**Samantha A. Davis** is group sales manager for the New Jersey Devils hockey team, based in Newark.

**Daniel B. Furtado** accepted a piano faculty position at Barry University in Miami Shores, Fla. He earned a Professional Performance Certificate in 2008 and a master's degree in 2010, both from the Conservatory of Music. Furtado also holds a teaching position at St. Andrew's School in Boca Raton.

**Nicole (Clos) Holland** and Steven Holland were married March 7, 2009, at the First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale.

**Ajitha Kaimal** was named housekeeping manager for Ocean Palms in the Palm Beaches, a new property of Marriott Vacation Club International.

**Chelsea J. McCarthy** is attending the Illinois Institute of Art in Chicago.

## 2009

**Michael Griffith** (below) reports that he has been working steadily since graduation, first as an intern at Maryland Public Television on the show *MotorWeek*. After that, he lived in the Philippines for five months while he worked for Bigfoot Studios as a segment producer for two TV pilots and a first assistant director on numerous commercials. He's now back in Maryland working for WMDT 47 (ABC) as a master control operator.



**Bernard Londoni** is a regional analyst-Africa for iJet Intelligent Risk Systems, a provider of global intelligence, business resiliency services, and risk management solutions to more than 450 multinational corporations and governments. He resides in Arlington, Va.

**Ariana Z. Neustein**, accepted a position with the Jewish Service Corps, working in Cordoba, Argentina.

**Sam D. Rivers** is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree at Parsons The New School for Design in New York City. His first public exhibition was at the Katzen Arts Center at American University in



**Matthew R. Kutz** is the author of a new textbook, *Leadership and Management in Athletic Training: An Integrated*

*Approach*, published by Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins. After earning his Ph.D. from Lynn, Kutz joined the Athletic Training and Clinic Management Program at Bowling Green State University (Ohio) as director of clinical education.

**Kevin Wilkins** is working in West Africa through a fellowship with the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help. The organization helps improve the lives of people in sub-Saharan Africa by addressing the problems of poverty and illiteracy. Currently based in the Republic of Ghana, Kevin is monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of adult literacy programs, in addition to carrying out other projects. He recently completed service with the Peace Corps in the Republic of Senegal.

## 2008

**Krume Andreevski** was awarded second prize in the 15th annual piano competition of the Chautauqua Music Festival in upstate New York last summer. He



**Nicole (Clos) '08 and Steven Holland**



Matthew Prickett '10

Washington, D.C. He works as a mentor and administrative liaison to incoming master's students, helping them to make the transition from undergraduate to graduate school.

**William M. Sutton** has been working and traveling steadily since earning his M.B.A. from Lynn in 2010. Until last November, he worked with congressional campaigns across the United States in conjunction with the political group Revere America. He then moved to San Francisco for a few months to work for a real estate company. In December, he journeyed to Australia, where he plans to look into pursuing another M.B.A. at Bond University in Sydney.

## 2010

**Jessenia Arias** is searching for her birth parents and has created a blog noting her efforts and experiences at [www.yourbloodismyblood.com](http://www.yourbloodismyblood.com). She is also working on a book and video documentary, and is helping other adoptees and their birth parents to reunite. Last November, she fulfilled a lifelong dream by moving to Japan.

**Nojoud K. Al Hakeem** is a graduate student at Florida International University pursuing studies in public health with a specialization in epidemiology. She plans to attend medical school in order to earn an M.D. or Ph.D.

**James J. Bissett** moved back to New York's Long Island to follow in his father's footsteps in running the family businesses: Bissett Nursery Corporation, the largest horticultural distribution center in New York state, and Atlantis Marine World Aquarium.

**Kristin Marie Grey** has been working as a guest relations hostess during an internship at Walt Disney World Resort. She reports that she has been able to learn from the best in the hospitality industry. After completing her internship, she plans to pursue work at a museum in her historic hometown of Philadelphia.



**Christine Johnstone** is applying to medical schools in Florida and other states. She plans to decide upon a school in

the early spring and to begin her studies in the fall of 2011.

**Sabrina A. Klein** is a graduate student at Boston University, pursuing an M.A. in international affairs with specializations in security studies and Europe.

**Katherine O. Lacey** is a project manager and executive assistant to the CEO at Iron Investments, a holding company in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**Matthew Prickett** joined the Miami office of Crispin Porter + Bogusky as an assistant integrated editor after earning his master's degree from Lynn. One of the most awarded agencies in

the world, CP+B also has offices in Boulder, Los Angeles, London and Gothenburg, Sweden. A recent assignment had Matthew trekking across the United States as part of a "King of the Road" promotion for Burger King, whereby the King gives away Kinect for Xbox 360 during a cross-country bus tour.

**Gene E. Prousnitzer** is a graduate assistant for the men's basketball team at the University of Arkansas at Little



Rock, where he is pursuing a master's degree in sports management. His ultimate dream is to become a college basketball coach.

**Jeffrey S. Pupo** is vice president, investments with UBS Financial Services in Boca Raton, where he works with a team of financial advisors in managing high-net worth clients' assets.

**Brandon E. Resnick** is vice president of sales for Cardio Crusaders, a heart health program.

**Matthew Shearman** is a college leadership associate at JM Lexus. Each year the company chooses two college graduates for the 18-month program, which allows participants to experience sales, human resources, finance, accounting, service and marketing. At the end of the program, he will enter a management position suited to his strengths and ambitions.

**Michael J. Sheppard** is enrolled in a dual degree program of the University of Malta and George Mason University,

pursuing an M.A. in conflict resolution and Mediterranean security from the University of Malta and an M.Sc. in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University.

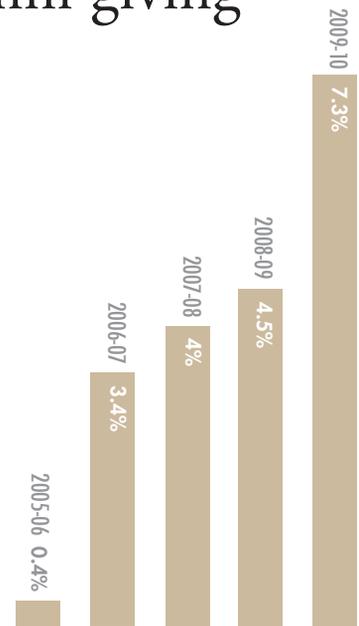
**Thomas A. Wilson** presented the results of his dissertation, *Workplace Aggression, Organizational Justice and Intention to Leave Among U.S. Telecommunications Workers*, at the 7th International Conference on Workplace Bullying & Harassment in Cardiff, Wales, on June 2010.

## Moving on up: alumni giving

Alumni giving is on the rise at Lynn University. This achievement is important because tuition alone doesn't cover all the cost of educating a student. Also, foundations and corporations look at the alumni giving rate when making decisions about their philanthropic choices; and *U.S. News and World Report* uses alumni giving as one of many factors when ranking schools.

"Lynn's growing alumni giving rate is a sign that alumni believe in the mission of the university enough to make a gift," says Judi Nelson, vice president for development and alumni affairs. "Contributions of any amount make a big difference in improving the alumni giving rate."

Please consider making a personally appropriate gift at [www.lynn.edu/supportlynn](http://www.lynn.edu/supportlynn).



In just five years, alumni giving has increased significantly.



**Alumni,**  
do you have children planning to attend Lynn?  
There's a new benefit just for you...

**Lynn now offers a 10 percent tuition discount to children of alumni.**

For more information, visit: <http://our.lynn.edu/legacydiscount>

or contact: Financial Aid

Phone: 561-237-7185

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## Stay Connected through OurLynn...

Whether it's a job change, move, promotion, marriage, birth/adoption, travel or other milestone, OurLynn is the place to share your news.

1. Go to [www.lynn.edu/alumni](http://www.lynn.edu/alumni) and log in to OurLynn.
2. Go to "Stay Connected."
3. Click on "Read/Post Alumni Notes" and "Add/Edit Notes."
4. Go to "Add New Note" and select from 3 options:
  - "Newly married!"
  - "New baby!"
  - "Alumni news"
5. Type in your note, and click "Submit."

Alumni notes are considered for publication in *Lynn Magazine* based on the quantity and variety of submissions and available space. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of printed alumni notes. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

And while you're logged on to OurLynn, be sure your profile is complete. Says Debbie A. Rowlands '08, "I just updated my profile and added contact information. I see lots of people I would love to catch up with, but nobody has any contact information listed. Remember to include this information if you want others to find you!"

Questions or need help? E-mail [alumni@lynn.edu](mailto:alumni@lynn.edu) or call 561-237-7748.

### Photo Policy

We accept high-resolution (300 dpi) digital photos. Submit images by e-mail to [lynnmagazine@lynn.edu](mailto:lynnmagazine@lynn.edu). Please caption by noting the people, place and occasion. All people in a photograph must be identified.

## Remembering our alumni and friends

**Doris Borkoski** '71 of Baltimore, Md., passed away June 18, 2010.



**Edith Comparato** of Boca Raton passed away March 11, 2010. With her husband, Anthony, she was a loyal friend of Lynn University. Her philanthropic work was extensive over her 30 years in South Florida.



**Kyle Conrad**, a Lynn University student from Jensen Beach, Fla., passed away Dec. 11, 2010, as a result of injuries suffered from an accident. A senior majoring in sports management, he was a member of the men's soccer team and excelled both in the classroom and on the playing field. He was the first student-athlete in school history, from any sport, to garner First Team ESPN Academic All-District accolades three times and was an ESPN Third Team Academic All-American last season. He finished his career with 100 career points, only the fourth player in Lynn history to accomplish this feat. Kyle was remembered at an on-campus service on Feb. 3.

**Gustavo Cordova** '08 of Cartagena, Colombia, passed away Dec. 31, 2010.

**Kathy Kuester** '67 of Tallahassee, Fla., passed away April 2, 2010. A native of Philadelphia, she lived in Tallahassee since 1989. She worked for the Florida Department of Transportation for more than 30 years, starting as a bridge tender while attending college and ending her career as manager, work program development and operations.

**Carl Lindstrom** of Boca Raton passed away July 21, 2010. A loyal friend of Lynn University, he was the founder of Lindstrom Air Conditioning.

**James Robert McVay Jr.**, M.D., of Boca Raton passed away April 17, 2010. A native of Kansas City, Mo., he moved to Boca Raton in 1971 and was an attending physician at Boca Raton Community Hospital. A fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, he retired in 2000 after 50 years of practice.

**Constance Pennacchio** '71 of Lyndhurst, N.J., passed away on July 29, 2010.



**Edith Rueger** of Wynnewood, Pa., passed away on Aug. 26, 2010. Both she and her late husband, Boris (Bob), were loyal friends of Lynn University, supporting and volunteering at the Conservatory of Music.



**Glenn Toscano**, a faculty member in the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn College of International Communication from 1995 to 2008, passed away April 4, 2010. Born and raised in Worcester, Mass., he was a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

**Patricia Weinstein** '71 of Englewood, N.J., passed away on July 20, 2010.



## A long way from home

How far would you travel for your dream job? For **Dan Martinez '94, '97**, it's halfway around the world—or 7,015 miles, to be exact—from his home in Washington state to Al-Anbar, Iraq. This is the third year of his appointment with the U.S. Department of State's Iraq-Provincial Reconstruction Team. Their mission: to help Iraqis achieve self-reliance following the U.S. transfer of control back to the province in October 2008.

That same month, Martinez began his assignment at the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, Va. It was on to Al-Anbar to work as a senior advisor in development.

As his title suggests, Martinez' focus is economic about reestablishing the effectiveness of institutions, "both in the public and private sectors as well as the ways in which they conduct themselves—things like transfer titles, business registration and land registry."

It's a job he's well-suited for. After earning two degrees from Lynn—including a Master of Professional Studies in management, he worked first in master planning component for Arvida, then in technology and business development for a growing mortgage company. Next, he established GFD Holdings, specializing in international real estate development consulting.

As the global real estate market faltered, he looked for his next opportunity. The Department of State posting caught his eye. "It read very much like my resume," he recalls. "The only part that didn't match was that it was in a war zone."

The "zone," Al-Anbar, was Iraq's largest and formerly most anti-American province. The conditions have since improved, but Martinez and his colleagues take the proper precautions, living on a secured military base and traveling in military helicopters and armored vehicles.



The work is intense, but satisfying, he says. "We work six or seven days a week. I engage directly with provincial government leaders—the governor, deputy governor, head of the provincial council and director generals."

Of course, he can't help but miss his wife, home and certain everyday comforts. He ticks down a list: "Fresh berries.

Vegetables. Good meat. Fresh flowers. High-speed Internet. High-definition cable."

He has been able to visit the States every few months, and frequent phone calls and social networks help bridge the miles.

Still, there are adjustments—like the constant togetherness with coworkers. "At home, I didn't live, eat, work and play with everybody that I worked with, 24/7," he says. "Here, you're always together. It's good, but it can also create a few challenges."

And don't forget the climate difference. "It's 130 degrees here in the summer," he says.

The importance of the job makes it all worthwhile. "My wife and I understand the importance of this mission—why I'm here," he says.

Come September 2011, his mission will be complete. Then, what's next?

"Continuing in government service," Martinez says without hesitation. "I'd like to stay on with the Department of State. It's a wonderful organization."

—Liz McKey

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**POWER NAP:** Shaded by a majestic royal palm tree, a student relaxes to “recharge her batteries” between classes. The hammock is one of several tucked in peaceful spots around the campus.

Photo by FJ Gaylor