

SUMMER 2008

# LYNN

MAGAZINE

FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LYNN UNIVERSITY

## FOCUS ON PERFORMANCE

Conservatory of Music trains  
tomorrow's master musicians

8 | Invincible Grads

18 | Creative Alumni

36 | See the Principal

## Lessons for Living

Kevin M. Ross  
President



KARIN MARTINEZ

Never underestimate the power of Lynn students.

I was reminded of this truth as I read “Degrees of Difficulty,” the story (beginning on page 8) about our seven graduates who overcame an array of challenges to earn their degrees.

Looking back on the academic year just concluded, I’ve witnessed the same diligence and dedication among so many of our students. Let me share some examples.

Last spring, hundreds of our students participated in Relay for Life on campus, raising more than \$30,000 for cancer research. They did it by walking and playing Twister, tug-of-war and other games for more than 14 straight hours.

Other students were inspired to give back after participating in academic programs abroad—one of the hallmarks of a Lynn education. In one case, psychology students returning from Vietnam and Cambodia were so moved by the region’s poverty that they raised more than \$22,000 to provide vocational training and food for young people in Cambodia. The gift was delivered personally in late May by Lynn students on a subsequent study abroad program to Cambodia and Thailand. In another instance (which you’ll also read about in this issue on page 3), a group of students spent their spring break in Haiti, traveling with Food For The Poor. Also motivated by their experience abroad, they are raising funds to help build a village in Haiti.

Students like these prove that we are succeeding in our mission at Lynn—to provide the education, support and environment that enable our students to realize their potential and prepare for success in the world. At their young age, our students have already learned that a big part of “success” means helping others in need, whether they’re here in our community or across the globe. I’m proud of our students, and as alumni, parents and friends of Lynn, you can be, too.



### Editor’s Note

## Creativity’s in the air

One of the perks of working at a university is the chance to see students’ work—in concerts, plays, fashion shows, literary readings, symposiums, design exhibitions and other events. Like the bright flowers that dot the campus, our students’ creativity blossoms in every corner of Lynn, especially in the spring as the academic year draws to a close.

In the last few weeks alone, I’ve witnessed a dazzling display of students’ original work at the Spring Student Film Festival, a poetry coffeehouse, a Liberal Arts Student Symposium, and a portfolio exhibition by seniors in the graphic and visual communication program.

More creativity awaits in these pages. You’ll read about the outstanding faculty and students in the Conservatory of Music...the imaginative alumni who express themselves in photography, advertising, graphic design and jewelry making... and seven remarkable graduates who showed true ingenuity in earning their degrees, despite tremendous obstacles. I know you’ll find inspiration in their stories.

And I hope you’ll be part of a future story of ours on “cool jobs.” Do you have an unusual job that you love? We want to know all about it. See our inside back cover for details.



Liz

—Liz McKey, editor

Who are these wee people? See story beginning on page 18.

# ( FEATURES )

## DEGREES OF DIFFICULTY

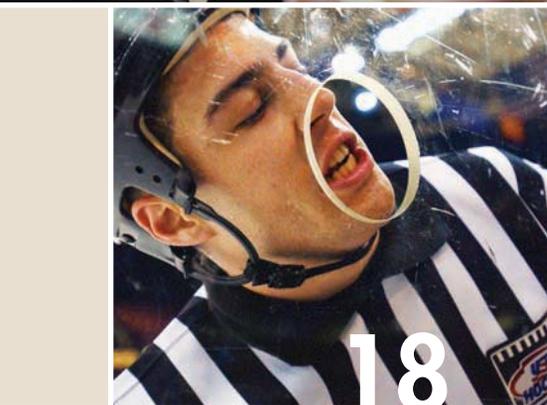
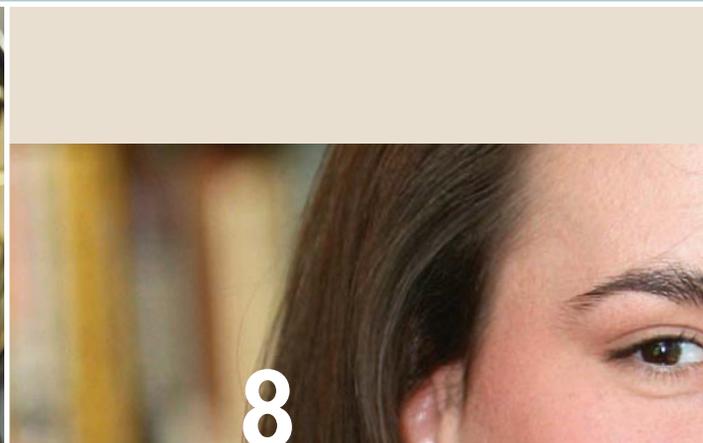
**8** It would have been easy to quit, but these seven graduates didn't let financial, health, learning or personal challenges stand in their way of earning a Lynn degree.

## COMPOSING A MASTERPIECE

**14** Just three years after the arrival of Jon Robertson as dean, Lynn's Conservatory of Music has taken center stage in classical music education.

## WORLD OF CREATIVITY

**18** A photographer, a graphic designer, a jewelry maker and an advertising executive—meet four alumni who discovered their creative and professional calling while at Lynn.



# ( DEPARTMENTS )

- 2 On Campus
- 7 Ask the Professor – Michael King
- 24 Sports
- 26 Connections
- 32 Class Notes
- 36 Close-Up – Aurora Francois '04

**On the cover:** Jon Robertson, dean of the Lynn University Conservatory of Music, conducts the Lynn Philharmonia Orchestra at a recent concert. Performance training is a hallmark of the conservatory. *Photo by Gina Fontana.*

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## Ross College joins Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate

The Donald E. and Helen L. Ross College of Education has been invited to join some of the nation's largest and most highly regarded universities and education programs participating in the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED). The project, which exists under the banner of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, is engaged in a multiyear, comprehensive re-imagining (and rewriting) of the discipline's top professional practice degree, the Ed.D.

Lynn is one of only a handful of independent universities in the project group that includes flagship

**"It's a great opportunity to begin moving toward a program built for practitioners..."**

institutions like the University of Connecticut and University of Kansas, as well larger private universities including Vanderbilt University and Rutgers. Lynn, the smallest institution engaged to date, is joined on the project by two other Florida institutions, the University of Florida and the University of South Florida.

The CPED's goal is to "reclaim the education doctorate and to transform it into the degree of choice for the next generation of school and college leaders." The Ross College had been participating in the project as an observer since fall 2007 and was invited to apply for membership shortly thereafter. The college was approved to join the membership in late February.

By joining the group, the Ross College is publicly signaling its intention to build a practitioner's Ed.D. program at Lynn. The college currently offers a bachelor's degree in elementary education, along with an M.Ed. in education (exceptional student education) and an M.Ed. in educational leadership (with three tracks: higher education administration, school administration and school administration with ESOL endorsement).

It's a degree that the college's dean says will be very important to educators, and the schools they serve, across the South Florida region.

"We feel very fortunate to be participating in the project," says Dean Patrick Hartwick, who joined the university in the summer of 2007 in part to begin examining the feasibility of an Ed.D. program. "It's a great opportunity to begin moving toward a program built for practitioners—a program that will pay dividends almost immediately for participants and especially the schools and systems in which they're working."

If all goes as planned, Hartwick expects the college to begin enrolling its first doctoral students in the fall of 2009. And rather than complete research-heavy dissertations (as they would in traditional Ed.D. and Ph.D. programs), Hartwick says the students will focus on capstone projects centered on needs and issues in the student's home school, school system, college or university.

## A good read

On a quest for thought-provoking writing, photography, drawing and abstraction? Look no more. The eleventh issue of *Quest*, Lynn University's literary and arts journal, was published last April.

Edited by John Daily, instructor of English, the issue is the first to have an ISSN number from the Library of

Congress and to include color graphics and art complementing the authors' literary themes.

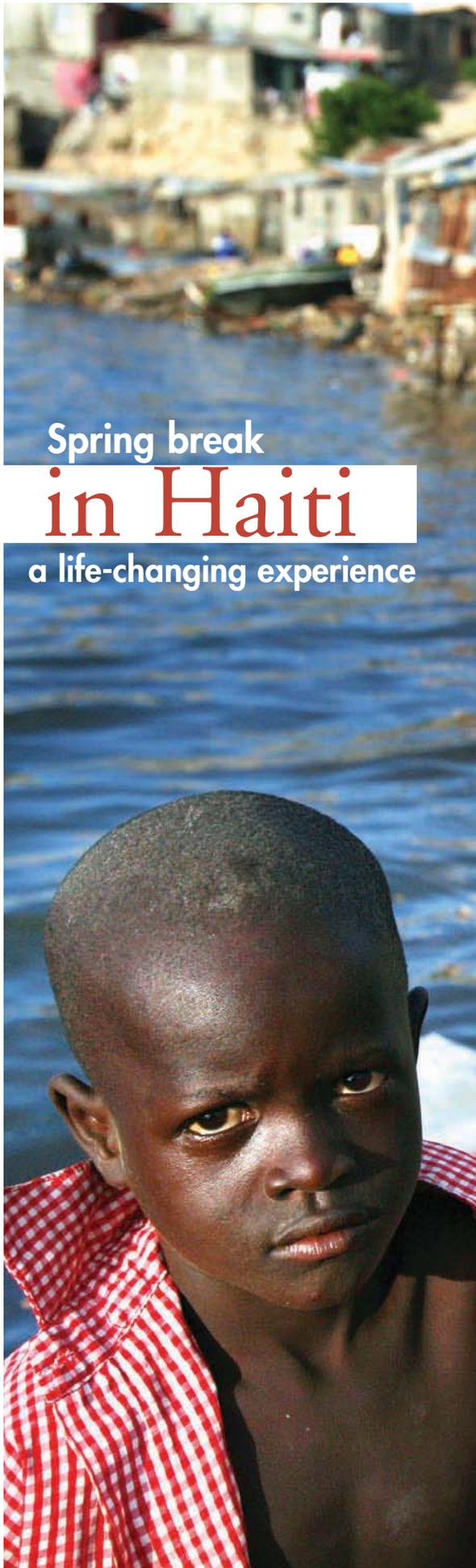
The 90-page issue is filled with poetry, short stories, a one-act play

and an essay. The contributors include 18 writers and 10 artists—all of whom are Lynn's own students, faculty and staff. In particular, alumni will recognize faculty members Ernie Ranspach, Elaine Deering, Jeff Morgan, David Fleisher and Lizbeth Keiley among the creative writers.

Copies of *Quest* are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the circulation desk in the Lynn Library or by contacting Daily by phone at 561-237-7200 or via e-mail at [jdaily@lynn.edu](mailto:jdaily@lynn.edu).



# Ed.D.



## Spring break in Haiti

a life-changing experience

Haiti may only be 90 minutes away, but it is a world apart from Boca Raton, as a group of 14 Lynn students learned last March during a five-day outreach trip to the tiny impoverished island. Foregoing the typical carefree spring break experience, the students traveled with the Food For The Poor organization to lend their assistance.

Accompanying the students were Father Marty Devereaux, Lynn University chaplain; Gary Martin, associate dean of wellness; Paula Johnson, administrative assistant in the College of Business and Management; Zachary Walker, program advisor in the Institute of Achievement and Learning; and Barbara Bach, nurse.

The trip was life-changing, according to the students.

"When I first arrived in Haiti, I couldn't believe what I saw," says freshman Michael Potter. "It was so completely different from what we know as far as life in America goes. This country defines the term 'third world.' I have not witnessed anything as moving or touching as I did in Haiti."

Many students were impressed by the joy and pride found in a people with so few possessions and just struggling to survive. "I learned that material things do not always make you happy," says freshman Eva Moyo. "I saw people who had nothing, but were more content with themselves than Americans who have everything."

The group visited Cite Soleil, home to more than 500,000 people and the poorest slum in the Western Hemisphere, and they assisted in the feeding program at Food For The Poor's warehouse in Port-au-Prince, where more than 15,000 people are fed daily.

"Our time in Haiti truly opened my eyes to how the other half lives," says sophomore Mike Polan. "I've always been curious to know why people who endure terrible conditions and situations always seem closer to one another and ultimately happier than Americans and people of other nations of excess. I experienced it in Haiti. The beauty of their culture and warm social etiquette is unlike anything I've seen in my life thus far."

The trip is just the beginning of a larger effort. The students delivered a presentation about the Haitian people's plight to the campus community in late April, and they are raising funds so that the university can help build a village in Haiti. More important, the students want to show others that they can make a difference.

"There is no greater good from one single journey. Haiti is just the beginning. If this spirit spreads, the world will be a much better place," says Polan.

### Web bonus

See photos, hear students' comments and read more about the trip to Haiti at [www.lynn.edu/news/springbreakhaiti08](http://www.lynn.edu/news/springbreakhaiti08)

**Have Fulbright, will travel:** Erika Grodzki, associate professor in the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn College of International Communication, has been selected for the U.S. Fulbright Scholars Program. Starting in January 2009, she will spend six months teaching, assisting with curriculum development and organizing a research conference as a member of the faculty at Tischner European University in Krakow, Poland. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Fulbright is the country's "flagship program in international educational exchange." The program sends 800 scholars and professionals abroad each year to more than 140 countries.



**Bravo!** Roberta Rust, artist faculty-piano in the Conservatory of Music, received a glowing review in the March/April edition of *Fanfare* magazine for her recent CD release, *Devoted to Debussy*. Wrote critic Charles Timbrell, "On this disc she proves herself a first-rate Debussy player... This is quite simply one of the finest Debussy discs I have heard in recent memory."



**A mind of his own:** Mike Hampton, dean of the College of Hospitality Management, was chosen as one of the Top 25 Most Extraordinary Minds in Sales and Marketing by the Hospitality Sales & Marketing



Association international. Hampton has been instrumental in redefining and developing Lynn's programs in luxury resort and hotel management; vacation ownership/timeshare management; club management; spa management; and sports and recreation management.

### Who's managing the enrollment?

Delsie Phillips, a professional with more than 30 years in the college admissions field, is Lynn University's new vice president for enrollment management. Her previous posts include senior educational manager for the College Board's Middle States Regional office; dean of admissions and financial aid at Haverford College in Haverford, Pa., for 18 years; and assistant director of admission at Bucknell University. She has worked as an education consultant and has served on the College Board's admission models advisory group and National New SAT Advisory Committee, as well as the European Council of International Schools' U.S. Colleges Committee.



### Secrets behind that hot new product:

What factors influence successful new product development? This is among the questions explored by John Cipolla, assistant professor of business at Lynn, and co-author Ying-Chieh Yang at the ChungChou Institute of Technology in Yuanlin Changhwa, Taiwan, in an article published in *The Business Review, Cambridge* last December. Significant factors, they found, are strong project management practices, a focus on market performance and an organizational commitment to innovation. Cipolla earned best presenter honors for delivering a related presentation, "Relationships Between Goal Setting, Innovation, Project Management, Quality, Speed to Market and New Product Success," at a conference in Miami, Fla., last winter.



**Going platinum:** *Lynn Magazine* earned top honors, the Platinum Award, in the Publications/Magazine category of the Hermes Creative Awards, administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals. Lynn also earned two Gold Awards—in the Writing/Publication Article category for "Doing the Math," a feature in the Winter 2008 issue, and in the Publications/Annual Report category for the 2006-07 *Vision* report.

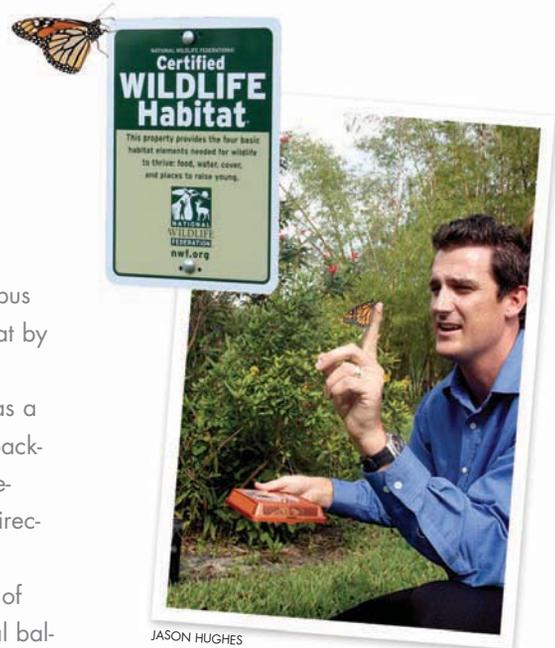
## Butterflies are free in Lynn's official wildlife habitat

As part of the university's recent initiative to "Go Green" and become a more environmentally friendly campus, Lynn's on-campus butterfly garden has been designated a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

The Institute for Achievement and Learning uses the garden as a teaching tool for students in its program. The setting is a good backdrop and laboratory for discussing sustainability, balance, cause-and-effect and personal growth, according to Amanda Evans, director of the institute's Metamorphosis Coaching Program.

"Each of us in the Lynn community can make our own piece of the earth a healthy, green space that helps restore the ecological balance," she says.

The butterfly garden is located in a green space on the northwest side of the Assaf Academic Center.



JASON HUGHES

The institute's Dylan Kendrick '99, '05 with one of the garden's residents

## LYNN 360

Seen and heard from around the campus

"Lyndon

Johnson was a great storyteller, but half of his stories weren't true," said historian

**Doris Kearns Goodwin**, speaking at Lynn as part of the

Dively Frontiers in Globalization lecture series. ● Responding to possible cuts to the FRAG (Florida Resident Access Grant) program, concerned students placed **500 empty chairs** at Lynn's main entrance in a show of support for the program. The chairs symbolized the number of Lynn students who now receive the grant. ● An interactive seminar, "Learning, Memory and Understanding: Maintaining, Improving and **Expanding your Brain (Instead of your Waistline)**"—something we'd all like to know—drew guests to campus. It was hosted by the Heller Family Diagnostic Center and the Institute for Achievement and Learning in April. ● **Therapy dogs** Kelly and Charlie visited with students on Perper Plaza at the end of spring semester to help calm pre-finals nerves. ● The **Beach Bums** is one of seven new student clubs at Lynn; its mission is no joke: to promote marine conservation. ● Back by popular demand, hammocks have returned to campus, allowing students to **catch some z's** in between classes. Ah, college life in South Florida.

## Where in the world are Lynn students this summer?

When it comes to learning, the world is Lynn students' oyster. This summer, Lynn's colleges are hosting 11 Academic Programs Abroad in 15 countries on five continents. The programs will explore international business, education, communication, cuisine and psychology.

Traveling in groups of between 12 and 20 students, students will visit countries including Hong Kong, China, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Cambodia, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Switzerland, England, Scotland and Italy. And in the United States, one class will visit Chicago.

The subjects are as wide-ranging as the locales. In China—a manufacturing powerhouse—students will study business practices in that nation, while psychology students visiting Thailand and Cambodia will compare mental health techniques used in modern western psychology to ancient Buddhist beliefs. The South African trip will focus on various styles of education, and students will visit local townships where schools are made from ship containers. Hospitality students will discover the art of authentic Italian cuisine in Italy, and communication students will examine how cultural factors influence mass communication media and emerging media technologies. In Chicago, Lynn students will experience firsthand the buying and selling of currencies and commodities in mock trading sessions at the Chicago Board Options Exchange.

### Web bonus

See and hear about a recent study abroad program to South Africa. Check out the spectacular views, wildlife and more in a video slideshow at [www.lynn.edu/news/southafrica07](http://www.lynn.edu/news/southafrica07)

## Arts and Sciences students present their best in words, images and song

Their pre-performance jitters soon gave way to brilliance, as Arts and Sciences undergraduate students shared their best work in 10 presentations at the 7th Annual Liberal Arts Student Symposium on March 12. Presented from the stage of Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall, the individual and group works reflected the rich diversity that is arts and sciences.

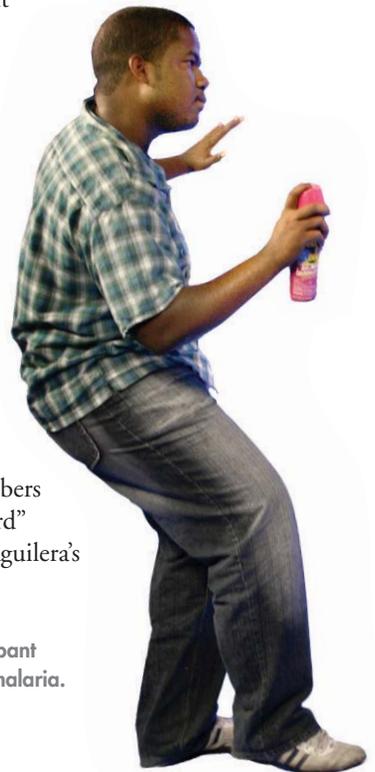
"This year I was filled with pride for our Lynn scholars," says Anna Krift, assistant professor of international relations and event organizer. "It was wonderful to look out into the audience and see so many members of the Lynn community—faculty, administrators and students—supporting this event and our scholars."

In just one program, audience members were treated to a wealth of subjects, each delivered in distinctive styles:

■ Chris Buchan, Jean Nezivar, Megan Perry and Bradley Trager's poignant piece, "**Lynn's Haitian Face: Portraits and Experiences of the University's Haitian Population**" ■ three insightful essays by English students—Jana Fuson's examination of the short novel *The Awakening*, Maria Rosenberg's study of Chinese and Taiwanese literature, and Heather Freeman's first-person inquiry on becoming a **Peace Corps** volunteer ■ Michael Sheppard's multimedia account of his study abroad trip to Egypt ■ Andris Banka's examination of the UN secretary general **election process** ■ Rhandi Thame and Christine Gregorian's assessment of **cough syrup safety** using infrared spectroscopy ■ Jean Nezivar's illustrated talk explaining how **malaria** is actually a three-way battle ■ Jessica Bendjeb, Danielle Bissett, Si Chen and Natalie Quesada's empirical investigations on college student drinking.

And, if that weren't enough variety, math students Perla Cruz, Alyssa Davis, Brittany Hutchinson and Timea Varga gave a musical explanation of semiperfect, perfect, abundant, deficient and weird numbers in lyrics they titled "I'm Being Weird" and wrote to the tune of Cristina Aguilera's song "Beautiful."

**Out, out, mosquito:** Symposium participant Jean Nezivar gave a presentation on malaria.



KRISTEN PETERSON

# Ask the Professor

## Five-Minute Interview with a Lynn Professor

## MICHAEL KING

International Communication

New to Lynn University, **Michael King** is the first filmmaker-in-residence in the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn College of International Communication. He has been a director, screenwriter and producer of feature films, documentaries and music videos for more than 16 years. Along with filmmaking, King is passionate about teaching and mentoring students. He started a summer youth filmmaking program at Wesleyan University (Middletown, Conn.), and in 1999-2001 he taught screenwriting and novels in a film course at Emerson College (Boston). King is a graduate of Connecticut College (New London, Conn.), the University of Amsterdam and Amsterdam's School of the Arts (Maurits Binger Film Institute).

### Who or what inspired you to specialize in film?

When I was young I used to write poetry, so I was always visual in my writings. Eventually I got into making films; I had asthma growing up and would go to the theatre as a place of refuge. This place provided me with the opportunity to be entertained by different stories and transported me to different locations around the world. Many of the films inspired my interest in filmmaking.

### You've already accomplished a great deal in your filmmaking career. What are you looking forward to doing next professionally?

I am still young, and I have been very fortunate. I have won an Emmy and a couple of international awards, but hopefully one day I will go back to Hollywood and make a feature film. One of the things I think most filmmakers would enjoy is the opportunity to do a Hollywood studio/star system film.

### What do you consider your greatest accomplishment in life?

My 3-year-old son, Mathias, and my marriage to my wife, Bernadette. Working with George Lucas, having him open up Skywalker Ranch for me to direct my Dr. Martin Luther King video for MTV was a great accomplishment. Others were my new film, *Rapping with Shakespeare* and *Crenshaw Night*, a film I did for the American Film Institute. Having two films in this year's Palm Beach International Film Festival is a big accomplishment for me in my career. I just hope I can continue on this path.

### Tell us something that people may not know about you.

I started the "rave" scene in San Francisco during the '80s. I was instrumental in developing and implementing multimedia performances and installations—and also in the development and promotion of electronic music.

### What would your top three films be and why?

When you ask a filmmaker about his favorite films, it is a difficult question to answer. I could talk about directors of films who have influenced me and their body of work. Clint Eastwood, Steven Spielberg, Alfred Hitchcock, Franco Zeffirelli, Bernardo Bertolucci, Orson Welles and David Lean have all influenced me, but I could go on forever. It would be like going into a library and asking, "What is your favorite book?" I do not have a favorite film.

### If you could only share one piece of advice with student readers, what would it be?

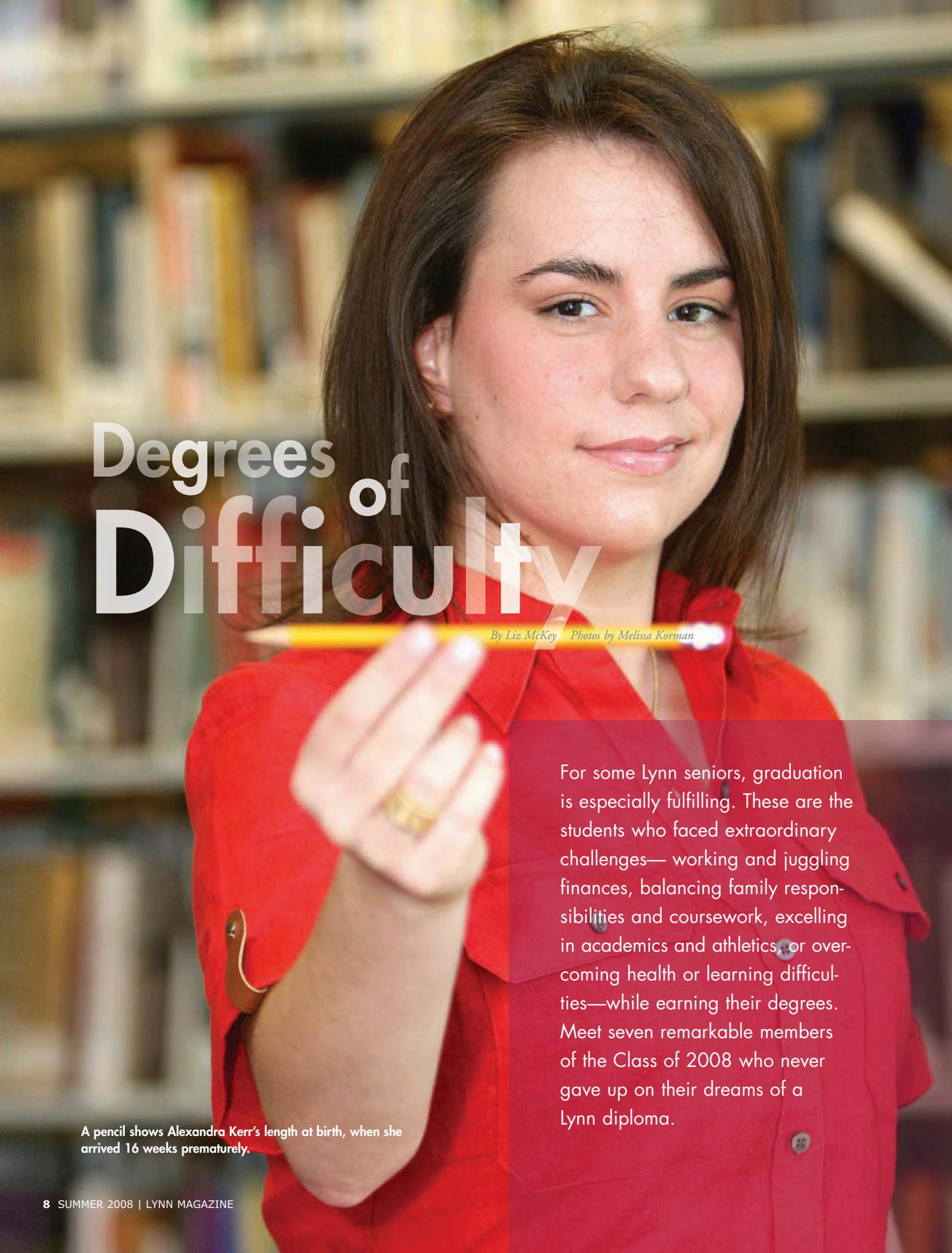
Be passionate about whatever you do, especially about the areas you care about. The university allows you the opportunity to find your voice and your relationship to society. The technology is a given. What makes you different, unique and original is your voice.

—Nicholas Hindhaugh and Carolina Gonzalez Atienza

*Nicholas Hindhaugh and Carolina Gonzalez Atienza are juniors in the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn College of International Communication.*



KRISTEN PETERSON



# Degrees of Difficulty

By Liz McKey Photos by Melissa Korman

For some Lynn seniors, graduation is especially fulfilling. These are the students who faced extraordinary challenges—working and juggling finances, balancing family responsibilities and coursework, excelling in academics and athletics, or overcoming health or learning difficulties—while earning their degrees. Meet seven remarkable members of the Class of 2008 who never gave up on their dreams of a Lynn diploma.

A pencil shows Alexandra Kerr's length at birth, when she arrived 16 weeks prematurely.

“Our difficulties make us who we are. Sometimes we don’t always realize there’s an underlying meaning in those challenges, but there is.”

ALEXANDRA KERR

## The ultimate optimist

“If you hold out your hand, you can visualize me at birth. Measuring from the end of your fingertips to the second crease of your wrist, you can imagine my size...”

Thus begins an essay Alexandra Kerr wrote while a senior at Lynn. The moving, first-person account describes her journey from birth, at 16 weeks premature, through her time as an undergraduate at Lynn.

Now 22 years old, she’s encountered more challenges than many of us face in a lifetime.

When Alexandra was born, she weighed exactly 530 grams—slightly more than a pound. At 6 months, she developed whooping cough. As a result of the strong antibiotics she received at birth, she suffered permanent hearing loss. Today, she is about 80 percent deaf in her right ear and 20 percent deaf in her left ear. At age 5 she was dealt another blow: she was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. She underwent a year of chemotherapy and never cried, complained or missed a day of school.

“Our difficulties make us who we are,” she says, showing wisdom beyond her years. “Sometimes we don’t always realize there’s an underlying meaning in those challenges, but there is.”

Today, Alexandra is happy and healthy, but she copes with learning differences. She has difficulty with reading comprehension and taking tests. She excels, however, in verbal communication and was an honors student at her high school in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. In considering

college, she was drawn to Lynn University. “I needed a college with an academic support program—one that would enable me to excel,” she says. “I knew this was where I belonged.”

When she first applied to Lynn University, she wasn’t accepted. But, for anyone who knows Alexandra, that wasn’t enough to discourage her. Instead, she asked for a personal interview and met with Marsha Glines, dean of Lynn’s Institute for Achievement and Learning. Then, Alexandra finally got the news she yearned for: she was accepted to Lynn.

“Just that one chance—that’s all I was asking for,” Alexandra says.

She enrolled in the institute’s Comprehensive Support Program and chose a major in hospitality management. It’s an interest that comes naturally; her family is in the restaurant and lodging business in Maine.

“I’ve enjoyed my entire curriculum at Lynn—from the core classes to those in my major,” she says. “I’ve thoroughly enjoyed my leadership classes and my math classes. I’m not one to be good at math, but I utilized the tutoring program every opportunity I could.”

The hard work has paid off. She was among the first inductees in the College of Hospitality Management’s new honor society last spring. For three years, she has served as a member of the Knights of the Roundtable, Lynn’s student-ambassadors who assist with freshman orientation and other special events on campus.

Alexandra’s next goal is graduate school. In April, she learned that she

was accepted to Lynn’s M.B.A. program, in which she’ll specialize in hospitality management.

To anyone chasing a dream, she says to go for it. “You’re never going to know until you try. I wouldn’t have been here today if it wasn’t for that one interview. Hard work, determination and that one interview that changed my life. So, try!”



Faycal Adama

## A strong will and mind

“Your son is a slow learner, and he will not succeed.”

Those were the devastating words delivered by Faycal Adama’s headmaster to his parents when he was a young boy.

To this day, Faycal struggles with a learning difference known as dyscalculia, in which he has difficulty sequencing numbers. Born in Doha, Qatar, he has lived around the world—Cameroon and Zimbabwe in South Africa, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and the United

States—with his mother and stepfather, who worked for the United Nations.

Such a nomadic life, while educational, can be difficult for any young person adjusting to new schools and cultures, but especially so for one grappling with a learning difference. Faycal was teased by his classmates and hated disappointing his parents, especially his mother. “Whenever my parents went to parent-teacher conferences, my mom came back and cried. I felt it was my fault,” he says.

While attending the 10th grade at an international school in Zimbabwe, almost by sheer will, he raised his GPA from a 2.0 to a 2.9 in one semester. He then transferred to a boarding school in Lake Wales, Fla., and pushed himself even harder. “I started reading more, including the classics and Shakespeare,” he says. “I got straight A’s my first semester there.”

He also became active in community service and earned the right to live in the honors dorm. When it was time to attend college, he opted to stay in Florida and chose Lynn, where he majored in advertising and public relations in the Lynn College of International Communication. “I love the faculty,” he says. “Erika Grodzki, my advisor, is amazing, and so many others, including Myles Ludwig, have helped me personally and academically.”

Now that he’s proven himself as a scholar, Faycal is eager to do so as a professional. Following graduation, he returned to Qatar, where he plans to work for the news channel Al Jazeera or one of the oil companies. “I want to be successful when I’m in my late 20s or early 30s—not my 40s,” he says.

The headmaster was mistaken: Faycal Adama is far from slow, and he’s already succeeded.

“ I believe that I had a miracle. ”

CHRISTINA LONG



Christina Long

## Thinking big

She may measure only 3 feet, 8 inches in height, but Christina Long stands tall in her academic accomplishments.

Born with a rare form of dwarfism, she has had her share of challenges. She is hearing-impaired and endured 13 orthopedic surgeries, starting at the age of 2. One of the procedures, to repair her hips, did not go well—and her doctors did not expect her to walk. Yet, she does.

“I believe that I had a miracle,” she explains.

Because of her hearing loss, Christina has a learning difference related to auditory processing. She is a strong visual learner, meaning she readily understands what she sees, and her intrapersonal and interpersonal skills are also keen—which accounts for her outgoing nature and love of public speaking.

At Lynn, she was a member of the Honors Program and majored in business administration with a specialization in general management. “I’m definitely an overachiever, and a lot of worry comes with it. My favorite professor is Jim Miller. Whenever I’d freak out about my classes, I’d go to him and he’d calm me down,” she says with a laugh.

A highlight of her Lynn education was studying and interning at American College Dublin in Ireland. There, Christina worked for the dean of students, and that experience solidified her goal to work in student affairs in higher education. Shortly before graduating from Lynn, she learned that she had been accepted by one of the top master’s programs in the field, at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The college was her No. 1 choice.

In typical Christina fashion, she couldn’t wait to learn of her acceptance by e-mail or snail mail, so she called the university’s admissions office. “The woman who took my call said, ‘I know why you’re calling... You’re in!’ I immediately called my parents, and I put it on Facebook so that everybody would know,” she says.

Years ago, because of her rare condition, Christina’s doctors told her she was one in a million. Judging from the strides she has made, no better words describe her.



Dan Rovetto enjoys a little family time on the home field with wife LeeAnn and son Rocco.

## Making a comeback

A tragedy and a blessing led Dan Rovetto back to college.

After earning an associate's degree from Broward Community College, where he played baseball, Dan began working in construction for the Town of Davie, Fla. A short time later, his 56-year-old father died as a result of a heart attack.

"He was a hard-working man, and in my opinion, the working got to him. I felt like I was going in the same direction," says Dan, whose weight had climbed substantially since his college baseball days. "I told myself, 'I need to take better care of my health and finish my education.'"

Providing an added impetus was the happy news that he and wife LeeAnn, a high school teacher, were

expecting their first child. Dan took action. He focused on his diet and eventually lost 105 pounds. He also reached out to an old friend, Lynn recruiting coordinator and pitching coach Jesse Kapellusch, about continuing his education. Soon thereafter, he applied to Lynn and was awarded a baseball scholarship.

With career aspirations to teach and coach baseball at the high school level, Dan staged a comeback. He hit the books, majoring in sports management in the College of Hospitality Management, and he regained his peak playing ability as a third baseman/designated hitter.

Now 27, he finds the age difference with his teammates a plus. "They keep me young, and I give them a different perspective that an 18-year-old may not always see," he says. "I tell

them, 'You're learning lessons out here on the playing field that are going to carry over to life—like the responsibility to show up on time.'"

Along the way, he's mastered time management, juggling family responsibilities, academics and baseball. "Our son Rocco was born on March 1 last year—right in the heart of our season. It was hard, but our head coach, Rudy Garbalosa, was very understanding."

He's also found academic encouragement from his advisor Ted Curtis and the entire hospitality management faculty. "In community college," he says, "I felt like a number, but here, the faculty really take the time to get to know students."

He adds, "Lynn is a special place, and I'm grateful. I don't know if there's any other place that could have done for me what Lynn did."

## Keeping the promise

Work, study, work, sleep. Repeat.

This has been Angela Samarel's routine even before entering Lynn University five years ago. The only deviation has been in her last semester, when the 25-year-old human services major took on a required internship at the Children's Home Society.

Though it has meant extra work and even more juggling in her already- hectic schedule, she's loved the real-world experience. "I'm doing a lot of case management, working with children and families in need."

The hard work is nothing new. Angela has worked full-time since the age of 18, when she moved away from home. Her mother died when she was just 7, and, as pressures at home grew, she became estranged from her father. She was taken in by her boyfriend's family and finished high school in Long Island, N.Y. Because her high school guidance counselor took a personal interest in her plight, she found a way to balance her school and work schedules. She has never forgotten his help and one day would like to work as a guidance counselor, too.

Following high school, Angela moved to Florida to live with her maternal grandfather and family and to pursue a college education. She learned about Lynn University from relatives who had attended the university. She paid her way by securing loans and grants and by working at Publix. Eventually her father and step-mother moved to Florida, and she reconciled with them. She continued working full-time at the grocery chain while attending Lynn.

Her job, classes and internship total 60 hours a week—and that doesn't include time for studying. "You don't have a social life," she says. "My tax returns go directly into the bank for school expenses like buying books."

Finally, she has earned her college degree. She's done it for a brighter future and to honor a promise she

made years ago. Her former boyfriend urged her to move to Florida and graduate from college. He died in 2005. After so many sacrifices, Angela has kept her word.

## A love for writing

Carla Uribe has never let cerebral palsy slow her down.

Prior to completing her undergraduate studies last December, she was a familiar sight on campus, zipping from class to class in her Quickie Power Chair, with one of her personal care attendants, Doña Carmen or Alba, racing along to keep up. After all, Carla, an honors student majoring in English and communications, had no time to waste. There were so many books to read and so much writing to do.

"Writing and reading are my reasons for living," she says.

Her cerebral palsy is mild, but it causes stiffness along her right side. Carla, who was born right-handed, adapted by learning to write with her left hand. When it comes to serious writing, though, she reaches for the computer. She uses both a laptop and desktop, and prefers typing over voice recognition software. The software is simply too slow to keep up with the creative thoughts that flood her mind. She only uses two of her fingers to type, but she is fast.

At Lynn, the young writer drew inspiration from several professors—including Jeff Morgan and Maureen Goldstein on the English faculty. She also regarded former English professor Winston Aarons as a mentor. "We'd meet once a week to talk about literature and ways to improve my writing.... We're still in touch."

Beyond campus, she met a kindred spirit, Gonzzalo Salinas, a graduate of San Marcos University in Lima, Peru. They often met to read together and share their writing. He, a student of Latin American literature, was a perfect complement to Carla, who studied American and British literature. They still correspond, and today, he is the

subject of a book she has written from her home in San Jose, Costa Rica, and hopes to publish soon.

It's just one of many projects she's immersed in now. She plans to pursue an M.F.A. in creative nonfiction and is applying to several universities. She's also doing translation work and freelancing for a newspaper. "I'm writing anything they need—from book reviews to investigative reports," she says.

One of her favorite quotes is by her father, a successful executive and nature photographer: "Never do less than what you are capable of doing. Success lies in perseverance."

For Carla, those have been words she has lived by.

## 'You can do this'

Whenever Jounice Green, 37, is facing a big challenge, she looks into the mirror and tells herself those words.

In her life, she's had plenty of those times—when she struggled as a single mother at 16...when she worked long hours and saved every penny so that she could purchase her first home at 24...when she left the security of a banking job to start her own catering business...and, during the last four years when she juggled family and work responsibilities so that she could finally earn her bachelor's degree in hospitality management.

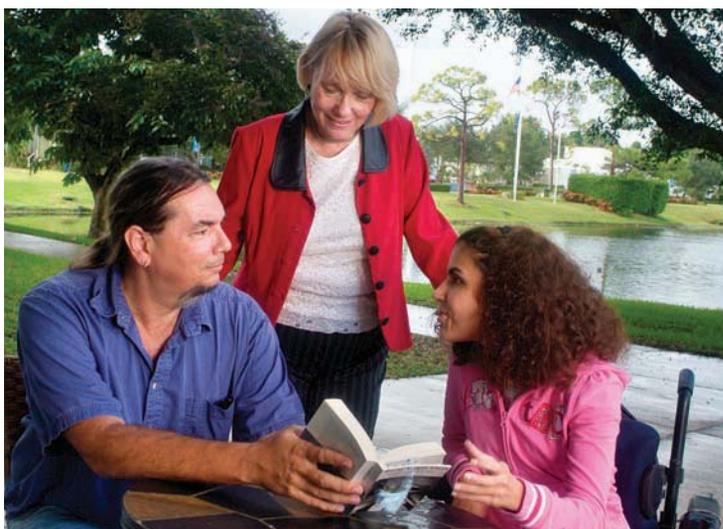
The mirror-talk may sound silly, but it works for her. "It helps me stay focused," she says.

She's also drawn strength from her faith and her family. "My parents instilled a lot of values in me and my sister, Andrea. They taught us to know who we are and what we're capable of, which is just about anything we put our minds to."

The family ties extend to her place of worship, Emmanuel Christian Center in Deerfield Beach, Fla., where her father is the pastor. Jounice leads the choir and is active in two outreach programs for young people: Back on Track, for teenaged boys and girls with first-time criminal offenses, and



“My tax returns go directly into the bank for school expenses like buying books.”  
ANGELA SAMAREL



**FACES OF OPTIMISM:**

(Top photo) Angela Samarel’s life on the go meant squeezing in studies whenever possible—including before her shift at Publix.

Carla Uribe (above photo, at right) shares one of her favorite books with English professors and mentors Jeff Morgan and Maureen Goldstein.

Jounice Green (right photo) now finds a proud Lynn graduate smiling back at her from the mirror.



SOAR, for at-risk teenaged girls. “We share the message that their past does not determine their future,” she says. “Their dreams don’t have to die. They can turn their lives around.”

Jounice has had some help, too, in realizing her dream of a college education—from the College of Hospitality Management faculty. “I’ve loved every

one of my professors,” she says. “But I have to say Professor David Schapiro is No. 1, because as my advisor, he encouraged me every step of the way.”

These days when Jounice looks in the mirror, she has much to smile about. Her firstborn, Roderick, is now 21 and a junior in the engineering program at the University of Florida. She’s

happily married to husband Jerome, a retired military officer, and they have a 6-year-old daughter, Beyonce. And with the knowledge she’s gained at Lynn, she’s well on her way to achieving another dream—opening her own restaurant and bed-and-breakfast. [LYNN](#)



# COMPOSING

Three years ago, Jon Robertson left the chairmanship of UCLA's Department of Music for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—to guide a conservatory of music to greatness. Since his arrival as dean, Lynn University Conservatory of Music has already begun making a name for itself, drawing together some of the finest faculty and most promising young musicians, and setting a superior standard for music performance education worldwide.

By Joan Lipinsky Cochran



# A MASTERPIECE



Clarinet in B $\flat$   
and Clarinet in B $\flat$ )

5



## IT'S A MONDAY MORNING,

and the concert hall fills as jeans and T-shirt clad students make their way down aisles where professors and community members sit. Old friends greet each other, discuss their weekend, read the concert program. Then, all eyes turn to the stage where twin black-lacquered grand pianos gleam under bright lights. The hum of voices dims as a young man, attired in a crisp white shirt and black trousers, crosses the stage. He sits, then leans sideways to adjust the piano bench. Finally, his hands rise above the keys, and the audience takes a collective breath as Krume Andreevski strikes the first electrifying chords of Igor Stravinsky's "La Semaine Grass."

It is not a concert in New York City, not even a formal recital at Lynn University. But for the talented students participating in this master class, and those who've come to hear their performance, it is a rare opportunity to gain musical insight from one of the nation's most revered pianists. Andreevski, who's traveled from Monrovia on the Balkan Peninsula to pursue his Master of Music degree at Lynn, is one of three students being critiqued by Jeffrey Biegel, first prize winner of the prestigious Marguerite Long and William Kapell Competition and a faculty member of the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College. As with

other students participating in Lynn's coveted master classes, Andreevski walks away with valuable technical advice pertinent to shaping his performing career.

### INSPIRED LEADERSHIP

Formerly the music division of the world-class Harid Conservatory, the program was absorbed by Lynn University in 1999. Now named Lynn University Conservatory of Music, the program has passed a transitional period and is at a point where members of the classical world are sitting up and taking notice. In 2005, Jon Robertson, an internationally acclaimed performer and conductor and former chair of the Department of Music at the University of California at Los Angeles, came on board as dean. Since then, enrollment has grown from 34 to 91 students, many of whom have traveled from as far as Russia, Bulgaria, Romania and China.

The conservatory's early success is due, in no small part, to Robertson's willingness to draw on his own prestige and industry relationships to attract world-class performers and pedagogues, thus adding to a remarkable faculty (see listing on pages 16-17). Elmar Oliveira, the only American violinist to win the gold medal in the Tchaikovsky International Competitions, the Olympics of the classical



**“We have critiqued performance forums every Friday, which is really important to a pianist. In order to be comfortable enough with a piece to play it in a competition, you have to perform it at least three or four times in public.”**

KRUME ANDREEVSKI



world, became the first of four distinguished artists-in-residence, a position awarded to performers at the pinnacle of their profession.

Timothy Cobb, principal bass of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and chairman of The Juilliard School’s double bass department, became the second member of this distinguished group. This fall, the conservatory will welcome four artists-in-residence: Renee Siebert, associate principle flutist of the New York Philharmonic; Jon Manasse, world-renowned clarinetist; Joseph Robinson, former principle oboist of the New York Philharmonic; and Ted Atkatz, former principle percussionist of the Chicago Symphony.

These prominent musicians have demanding schedules, performing in international venues, judging prestigious competitions and offering master classes. Why teach at this young conservatory in Boca Raton?

For Cobb, the answer, in two words, is “Jon Robertson.”

“When he called me about joining the conservatory, I was curious because I’d already heard about the transformation taking place since the changeover from Harid. I’d heard there was a new wind blowing in Boca,” says Cobb, who visits the campus bimonthly for “marathon” teaching sessions.

“I liked the direction he was taking the conservatory in,” Cobb says. “He was creating a small, competitive program that had the scholarship resources to attract excellent students, and he seemed serious about putting together the kind of people who share his excitement for the teaching and study of music.”

## AN EMPHASIS ON PERFORMANCE

Robertson, who has held numerous academic posts, came to Lynn after 12 years chairing UCLA’s music department. A child prodigy, he gave his New York Town Hall debut recital at age 10 and would later tour the Caribbean, South America

and Europe. He has earned three degrees, including a doctorate, from The Juilliard School, where he studied with renowned pianist and recording artist Beveridge Webster and, later, orchestral conducting giant Herbert Blomstedt. He has performed as a pianist and conductor on six continents, and has been conductor and music director of the Redlands (California) Symphony since 1982. For eight years, he was conductor and music director of the Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra in Norway.

Robertson says his decision to head Lynn’s conservatory was a “no brainer.” The opportunity to build a world-class conservatory and take it to a higher level comes “once in a lifetime, if at all.” He likes to use the term “boutique” when describing this program, because of the individual attention given to each student.

“The traditional concept of a conservatory is that you’re choosing the most talented students you can find, who are geared toward performance careers in symphony orchestras, chamber music groups or as soloists,” Robertson says. “These are students whose skills are excellent when accepted to the conservatory. As the adage goes, ‘You take in what you hope to turn out,’ refine their skills through rigorous training and take them to the next level.”

While music schools or departments may graduate students interested in teaching or the business of music, conservatories enroll only the most gifted performers. “A competitive conservatory usually has a strong scholarship base,” Robertson says, “because every conservatory is fighting for many of the same high-level students.”

Students in the Bachelor of Music Performance program take a core academic curriculum, but the conservatory’s emphasis is clearly performance.

“Every student at Lynn plays chamber music every semester they’re in residence. That happens in few places

## An exceptional faculty

At the heart of a world-class conservatory of music is a superb faculty, who nurture and train the soloists, chamber and orchestral musicians of the future. Students of the Lynn University Conservatory of Music study with an exceptionally accomplished and dedicated faculty:

### Ensembles

Philharmonia  
Albert-George Schram,  
music director  
Wind Ensemble  
Marc Reese, music director

### String Department

Ralph Fielding,  
department head, viola  
\* Elmar Oliveira, violin  
Carol Cole, violin  
David Cole, cello  
\* Timothy Cobb, double bass

### Woodwind Department

\* Jon Manasse, clarinet  
\* Renée Siebert, flute  
\* Joseph Robinson, oboe  
Michael Ellert, bassoon

because the numbers are too large. Often in other conservatories, students compete for limited orchestra, chamber music and ensemble positions and, in some cases, may never have the opportunity to perform in these ensembles,” Robertson says. “We only admit limited numbers of students in each instrumental category. When you come to Lynn, you’re going to be performing.”

These performing opportunities are a major draw, Andreevski, a second-year master’s student, says. “Playing as a group improves your musicianship in general because you have to master your own part, listen to the other players, and create a harmonious sound. It’s challenging but very useful.”

Andreevski, who plans to combine a performance and an academic career, says he chose Lynn because of the opportunity to study with eminent pianist and professor Roberta Rust, and because of the personal attention students receive. “We have critiqued performance forums every Friday, which is really important to a pianist. In order to be comfortable enough with a piece to play it in a competition, you have to perform it at least three or four times in public.”

### THE BEST ATTRACT THE BEST

“We don’t enroll the average music student. This is our students’ life, and they know why they’re here. So when students have the opportunity to study with a member of the New York Philharmonic, they jump on it,” Robertson says, explaining why he goes to great lengths to attract eminent musicians. In offering students access to such luminaries as Cobb, Oliveira, Siebert, Robinson, Atkatz and Manasse, Robertson notes, “We’re simply joining that elite group of conservatories that share this high-quality faculty.”

In his three years as dean of Lynn University Conservatory

of Music, Robertson has brought in an almost entirely new artistic staff. He points with particular pride to the conservatory’s ability to recruit members of Empire Brass, one of America’s leading brass quintets, to its faculty.

The conservatory offers a Bachelor of Music with a major in music performance, a Bachelor of Arts with a major in music, and a Master of Music with a major in performance. The conservatory also offers a post-bachelor’s Professional Performance Certificate for students who want to expand their performance experience. Each year, students, faculty, alumni and guest artists present more than 40 concerts to community members, a schedule that requires intense rehearsal. Under the direction of Maestro Albert-George Schram, the Lynn Philharmonia is one of the leading symphonies in South Florida.

The Conservatory of Music’s “boutique” approach is clearly working. More than 90 percent of alumni remain active in music. Conservatory students and faculty have earned the highest honors at international competitions, and many have positions in such prestigious orchestras as the St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Hong Kong and Baltimore symphonies.

Andreevski is headed in that direction. His performance of Stravinsky’s work seems masterful, drawing Biegel to comment, “You made it look too easy.” That draws a laugh from the audience. But Andreevski hangs on every word, nodding his head as Biegel proceeds to talk about “starting with a more symphonic sound,” “thinking *forté* but playing *mezzo forté*” and “singing as you practice.”

Such advice is like manna to a young musician. And, as with the other gifted students who come to Lynn’s conservatory for outstanding learning and performance opportunities, it is advice he’ll take to heart. [LYNN](#)



“When [Jon Robertson] called me about joining the conservatory, I was curious because I’d already heard about the transformation taking place since the changeover from Harid. I’d heard there was a new wind blowing in Boca.”

TIMOTHY COBB

#### Percussion Department

\* Ted Atkatz, percussion

#### Theory

Thomas McKinley,  
composition and theory  
Barbara Barry, music history

#### Piano Department

Roberta Rust,  
department head, piano  
Phillip Evans,  
chamber and piano studies  
Lisa Leonard,  
chamber and piano studies  
Tao Lin, collaborative piano  
Yang Shen, collaborative piano

#### Brass Department

Marc Reese, department head, trumpet  
Gregory Miller, French horn  
Dan Satterwhite, trombone  
Kenneth Amis, tuba

\* Distinguished Artist-in-Residence

The conservatory’s first distinguished artists-in-residence, Elmar Oliveira (left) and Timothy Cobb

By Debbie Stern

They came to Lynn without a clue of what they wanted to do, but along the way they tapped into natural abilities that would lead to future careers and successful businesses. Meet four alumni who discovered their

# World of *Creativity*



#04 #05



**A CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP >>>>** That's what Roger Stighall '98 and Robert Lindstrom, two childhood friends from Sweden, have. They both came to Lynn University—from cold, dark Sweden to bright, sunny Florida—for the soccer; but they left with a passion that led to their now successful advertising agency, North Kingdom.

Back in college Stighall says, "I never thought about my own business. I didn't know what I wanted to get into." The only thing he really knew was that he wanted to work at an international level. "Lynn is the perfect school for that. You go to class, and there are 20 different countries sitting in the classroom with you."

Lindstrom, though only at Lynn for a short time (1995-96), discovered his creative spark at Lynn through his graphic design.

During his last semester, Stighall did an internship at Dean Witter and realized the future is in the Internet and that type of communication. After graduation he worked for Worldwide Internet Co., and in 2000, went back to Sweden, but "still had that kind of energy you get from the U.S., that incentive to promote yourself and start your own business. I owe that to the experience I had here."

The idea for the company started when Stighall returned to Sweden in 2000. He and Lindstrom had discussions, but "it always takes a while before you're ready to make the move," he says. "In 2003, we were ready to make something happen." The partnership was formed, and North Kingdom was born.

"We're two extremes—Robert is the creative person, and I'm the business. We don't agree on everything, but it's a good balance," say Stighall.

Though Stighall and Lindstrom have had the agency for just five years, they are extremely respected in the industry and were recently chosen as one of the 50 hottest, creative people in the world by a leading advertising magazine, *Creativity*. "On the list, you have the founder of Facebook, Google and other hotshots, along with these Swedish guys," says Stighall.

"From the start, we got big accounts. People knew about us, saw us win awards, knew our names," he says.



ARTWORK COURTESY OF NORTH KINGDOM

North Kingdom created the interactive "Adachi family" for Got Milk's "Get the Glass" campaign.

VITAL STATS

**Name:** Roger Stighall

**Age:** 34

**Born:** Skellefteå, Sweden

**Residence:** Skellefteå, Sweden

**Year graduated:** 1998

**Degree/major:** B.S., business administration

**Lynn experience:** an adventure in a land far, far away



Roger Stighall (right) and Robert Lindstrom work with one of their "great designers," Charlotta Havh.

BUSINESS FACTS

**Name of business:** North Kingdom

**Type of business:** advertising agency  
Year started: 2003

**Short description:** "North Kingdom is a creative digital agency that isn't afraid to be different. Always with our finger on the pulse, we are exploring new technology, new means of communicating, and new ways of expression. We want to be at the forefront of creativity in this new arena."

**Web site:** [www.northkingdom.com](http://www.northkingdom.com)

**Well-known accounts/clients:** Got Milk campaign on the Web, Toyota Sweden interactive campaign, Coca-Cola Germany, Victoria's Secret Pink Panty Poker campaign (worked with an agency out of Miami).

**"IT'S A GIFT,"** >>>> says Anny Stern '01 of the jewelry-making talent she parlayed into an extremely successful business. "Everybody has a gift in life, I call this a gift. I don't have a lot of explanation, it just happens."

The "it" would be the stunning custom fashion jewelry she painstakingly and lovingly creates from semi-precious stones, 14 karat gold filled and sterling silver.

"When I get new stones, I spend some time playing with them in my hands, letting the energy flow... I feel like the stones talk to me. Like they know what they want to be," she says.

Stern got her undergraduate degree in Brazil in business figuring she could not make a living in the fine arts. She came to Lynn to pursue her M.B.A. degree in international business, but upon graduation a whole new world opened up for her that she can only describe as "magical."

"I didn't plan to be in the jewelry business," she says. "I always made jewelry for fun." It started when she was 9 years old playing with her grandma. "The first piece I remember making was with her. She gave me a piece of a crystal necklace and said, 'Let's make something new with this,'" she recalls.

But while working as a graduate assistant, a Lynn employee noticed a necklace she was wearing and commissioned her to make a piece for her. That was her first paid piece, and little did she realize it was only the beginning of a future career.

When she finished her M.B.A., she landed a job that she "hated." She was making jewelry only to relax and was ready to go back to Brazil, but somehow found herself at Saks Fifth Avenue in Palm Beach negotiating an event with the jewelry manager there who admired her necklace. When Stern saw people paying "big prices" for her work, she knew her jewelry-making was no longer a hobby, but a business.

And lest her creativity be compromised, she readily admits that "business is part of me, too." With her creative juices flowing and her business acumen, Stern has built a viable, successful business with her "gift."

## VITAL STATS

**Name:** Anny Stern

**Age:** 38

**Born:** Peru; grew up in Brazil

**Residence:** Fort Lauderdale

**Year graduated:** 2001

**Degree/major:** M.B.A., international business

**Lynn experience:** small, welcoming



“*When I get new stones, I spend some time playing with them in my hands, letting the energy flow... I feel like the stones talk to me. Like they know what they want to be.*”

**Name of business:** Anny Stern

**Location:** Boca Raton

**Type of business:** jewelry design

**Year started:** 2001

**Short description:** Anny Stern jewelry combines semi-precious stones, 14 karat gold filled and sterling silver in custom-made, one-of-a-kind pieces.

**Well-known accounts/clients:** Saks Fifth Avenue, Barbara Katz

## BUSINESS FACTS

**Name:** Jonathan Nimerfroh

**Age:** 28

**Born:** Chester Springs, Pa.

**Residence:** Philadelphia, Pa.

**Year graduated:** 2003

**Degree/major:** B.A., communications and journalism

**Lynn experience:** small classes (to compensate for his short attention span) and big beaches (to surf)



**Name of business:** JDN Photography

**Year started:** 2003

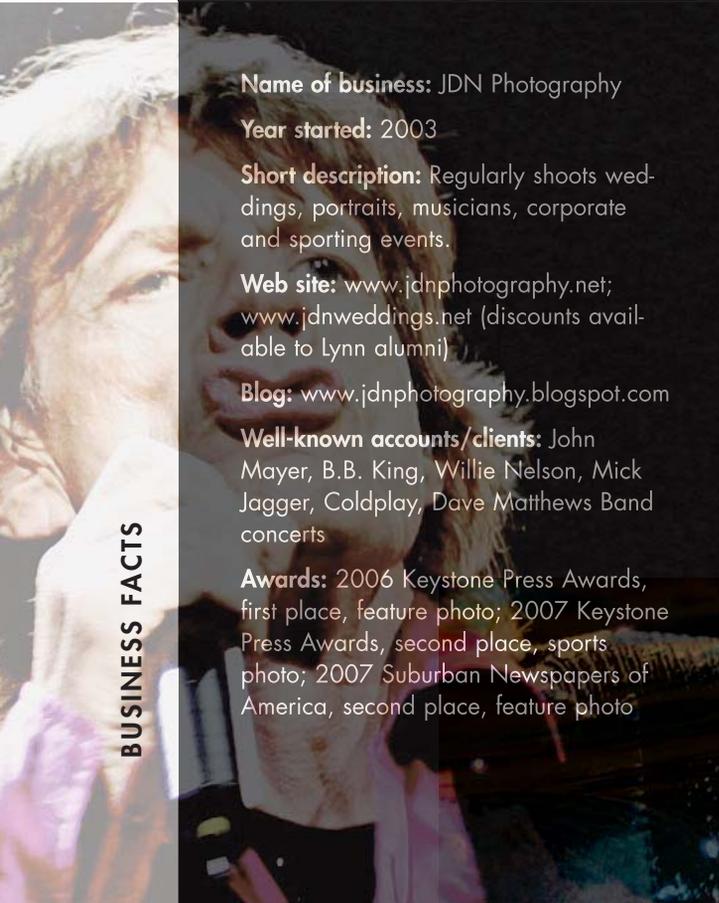
**Short description:** Regularly shoots weddings, portraits, musicians, corporate and sporting events.

**Web site:** www.jdnphotography.net; www.jdnweddings.net (discounts available to Lynn alumni)

**Blog:** www.jdnphotography.blogspot.com

**Well-known accounts/clients:** John Mayer, B.B. King, Willie Nelson, Mick Jagger, Coldplay, Dave Matthews Band concerts

**Awards:** 2006 Keystone Press Awards, first place, feature photo; 2007 Keystone Press Awards, second place, sports photo; 2007 Suburban Newspapers of America, second place, feature photo



JONATHAN NIMERFROH

**THROUGH THE LENS >>>>** Jonathan Nimerfroh '03 graduated from high school with no idea of what he wanted to do. He certainly “never dreamed I’d be making a living from my hobby.” He took photos of local bands in high school, but it was nothing serious.

He took two business classes during his freshman year at Lynn and knew that was not his calling, so he switched over to communications and became interested in journalism. He took his first photography class at Lynn “just for fun.”

“I was always out and about with my camera, driving through the Everglades, along the beach,” he says.

It wasn’t until his junior year when Nimerfroh got involved in the student newspaper that the idea of a career solidified. He didn’t like to write, so he always volunteered to take photos. The individual attention and small classes helped him hone his craft. Professor Myles Ludwig worked closely with him, helping him develop his photography skills.

“I got an honest opinion, which improved my journalistic eye,” he says.

In his senior year, his internship with Endless Mountain Entertainment photographing events further laid the groundwork for his eventual career.

“I realized I had something going. I took some great shots at concerts which got my name out there and helped me get a good portfolio,” he says.

When Nimerfroh graduated and moved back home to the Philadelphia area, his parents and grandparents bought him his first digital camera. “When I said I think I can make a business out of making photos, they said to ‘go for it,’ ” he recalls.

In 2004, he started working for a local newspaper, *Main Line Times* in Ardmore, Pa. “I thought to myself, ‘Wow, this is pretty cool.’ A month later [after getting the job] you find yourself on an assignment next to the President of the U.S.,” he says. Today he continues to work as a staff photographer at the newspaper as well as a freelancer through his own business.

“It’s just such a great feeling being able to document important events, whether they’re news stories or weddings,” he says.



## VITAL STATS

**Name:** Selene (van Beverhoudt) Bowlby  
**Age:** 30  
**Born:** St. Thomas, Virgin Islands  
**Residence:** Port St. Lucie, Fla.  
**Year graduated:** 1999  
**Degree/major:** B.S., graphic design  
**Lynn experience:** close to family in Deerfield Beach



### DESIGNING FOR THE SCREEN >>>>

With an interest in art and exposure to her first computer at age 3, it's not surprising that today Selene (van Beverhoudt) Bowlby '99 is a Web designer and front-end Web developer with 10 years of professional experience in the design industry.

"I knew all along that I wanted to do something in graphics, specifically in Web design," she says. "I always had an interest in art, but liked designing for screen rather than print."

She studied graphic design and says Lynn prepared her well. "I remember that Professor Ranspach was tough, but I learned so much in my design classes. Some of it is instinct, but education pulls it all together and helps you fine-tune it."

Since her senior year at Lynn, Bowlby worked for an Internet development and graphic design company based in Coral Springs, Fla. Even when she moved to Port St. Lucie, she continued to work from home, telecommuting until recently.

Her own company, iDesign Studios, evolved from helping friends and family design sites. And then the referrals started coming. "I enjoy it. I love learning new things. It's exciting," she says.

Though she didn't take any business classes at Lynn, she says she really does enjoy the business end. "I never thought I'd be doing my own business. If I started over, I'd take business classes, too."

As for her approach to Web design, she says she has a distinctive style. "I like a clean, simple design. Less is more. You don't want to take away from the message." And it's not all about the design, but also about "developing good, clean code," she says, "which is what makes a Web site function."

regain your  
space

Declutter • Organize • Relax

Is your home and/or office so disorganized that it's taking a toll on



**Name of business:** iDesign Studios

**Year started:** 2001

**Short description:** "iDesign Studios is a Web design and development company specializing in creating custom Web sites. Our designs are uniquely styled and well-coded. Simply put, we help you stand out from the crowd."

**Web site:** [www.idesignstudios.com](http://www.idesignstudios.com)

**Blog:** [www.idesignstudios.com/blog/](http://www.idesignstudios.com/blog/)

**Well-known accounts/clients:** The Kilpatrick Company, Therasage, Florida Parking Association, Office of the Virgin Islands Inspector General

BUSINESS FACTS

All of her design work is custom, rather than from templates. "You're getting something you won't see anywhere else," she says. "I want to sit down, find out your goals and create something from scratch just for you."

Bowlby used to paint as a hobby, but these days she doesn't have much time for hobbies. With a thriving business and a 3-year-old daughter, it's easy to see why.

As she says on her blog, she does it all for love: "My love of Web design is so strong that I do this for more than just a 9 to 5 job." LYNN

# FAME is the name of their GAME

Lynn's Athletic Hall of Fame has gained even more distinction, with four new members inducted April 30 at the annual Athletics Banquet. The honorees include: baseball standout Brad

Fairholm '92, men's soccer star Darrin Kelley '89, women's soccer great Cindy Marcial '96, and basketball and volleyball dynamo Michelle Newman '03, '04.

"Each of these former student-athletes embodied the Blue and White spirit while playing here and carried that character and strength into their professional careers," says Director of Athletics Kristen Moraz. "Lynn University is truly honored to have these four Hall of Fame inductees as proud alums."



GINA FONTANA

President Kevin M. Ross (center) with new Hall of Famers (from left) Darrin Kelley, Michelle Newman, Cindy Marcial and Brad Fairholm



## Fighting Knights fans, want more sports?

Looking for more information on your favorite Fighting Knights teams? Check out [www.lynn.edu/athletics](http://www.lynn.edu/athletics) for the latest news, statistics and schedule information. Can't make the game? No worries—Lynn athletics has you covered with the best in-game services around. Listen or watch the game live on the Web through our partnership with Stretch Internet Radio or follow along with our interactive live stats courtesy of CBS College Sports Network. Go Knights!

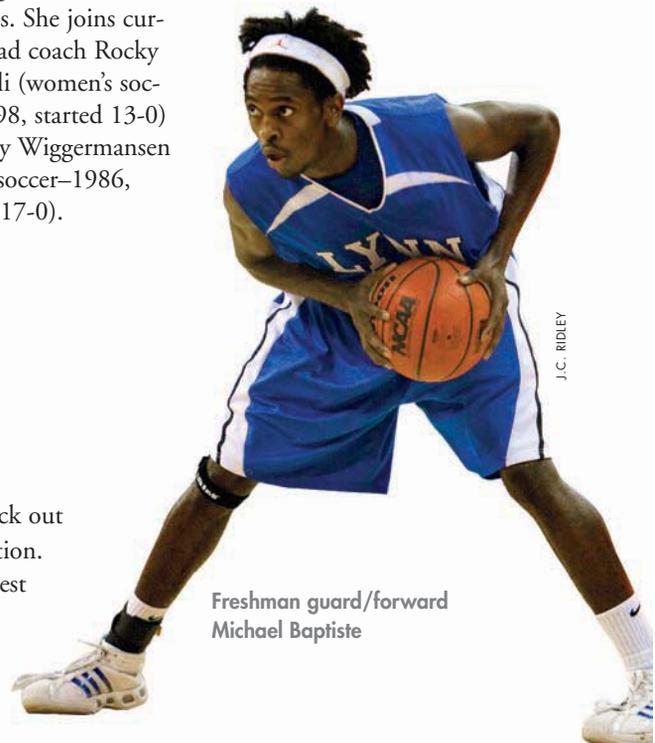
## Hoop Scoop: 2007-08 season wrap-up

**Men's Basketball:** Lynn University's team put together another strong season in 2007-08, finishing the campaign 16-13 overall and 8-8 in Sunshine State Conference play. The Fighting Knights advanced to the SSC Tournament semifinals before bowing out to eventual champions and top-seed Florida Southern.

Playing a difficult schedule, the Blue and White played five ranked opponents and claimed victories against three of them. The Knights defeated No. 11 Florida Tech and No. 4 Rollins on the road in back-to-back games before returning home to sweep the then-ranked No. 21 Tars on the season.

**Women's Basketball:** The Fighting Knights women's basketball program made their mark as an up-and-coming team in the Sunshine State Conference under the direction of first-year head coach Nikki Sullivan. Lynn went 16-12 overall and 7-9 in the SSC, posting back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 1995-96 and 1996-97.

Sullivan joined elite company with an 8-0 start to her career, becoming the first women's basketball coach, and third head coach among all sports at Lynn, to start her first campaign with eight consecutive victories. She joins current head coach Rocky Orezza (women's soccer—1998, started 13-0) and Roy Wiggermansen (men's soccer—1986, started 17-0).



J.C. RIDLEY

Freshman guard/forward  
Michael Baptiste

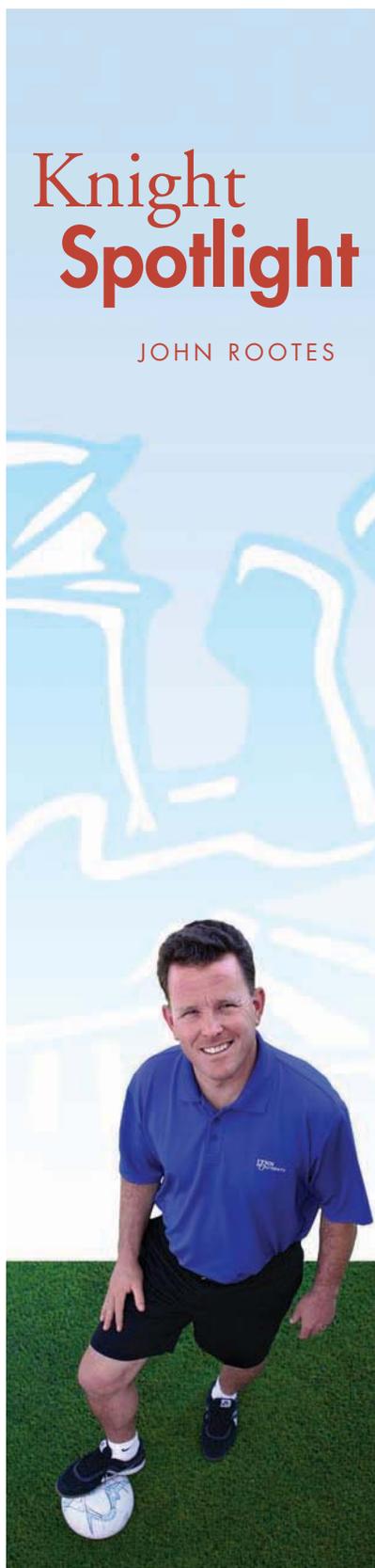
Lynn University welcomed John Rootes as its new men's soccer coach on March 31. He succeeds Shaun Pendleton, who led Lynn's championship program for 17 years before leaving to head the men's soccer program at Appalachian State University. Rootes is the former head coach at Savannah (Ga.) College of Art and Design. With Rootes' career record of 284-95-22 (.736) in 20 years as a head coach, including a national championship in 1989, the Fighting Knights winning tradition should be in good hands.

**It's not that often one of the premier college soccer coaching jobs opens. What were your first thoughts once you heard about the position at Lynn?**

I said 'I want it' [laughing]. As soon as I saw that Shaun [Pendleton] was going to Appalachian State, I thought 'Lynn is the place for me.' It's a good fit because with my skill set and knowledge of the NCAA Division II level, coupled with the location and rich soccer tradition, this is the ideal situation for me.

**What coaching philosophy do you bring to Lynn University?**

I am more of a player's coach, where the players have ownership in the program and have a say. Basically my philosophy is, the players we bring in will follow the educational mission of the institution. My job is to educate these young men, and winning championships is a byproduct of doing the right thing. We want to educate them to be great soccer players but, more importantly, good human beings. Character development is also a big part of my philosophy, and I think the primary educational purpose of intercollegiate sports is to teach character. It's not a process that is absorbed through osmosis but something that must be taught—hard work, determination and perseverance.



**What strategy do you bring to the field?**

As a soccer strategist, I'm a big believer of possession. You win games by keeping the ball. We've got some outstanding players here, and the type of student-athletes I want to bring in are players who are comfortable with the ball. The very best defense is a good offense, in my opinion. And if you can keep the ball away from the other team, they can't score.

**With eight starters returning to a team that went 15-3-1 last season, what do you expect to accomplish next year?**

We do have a lot of starters returning, but we lost the Sunshine State Conference Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year, both of whom are pretty important players on the field. The success of next year's team lies in how well I can recruit quality student-athletes and integrate both them and last year's players into a new system.

**What do you know about Lynn's soccer tradition and how do you think you'll be able to add to it?**

I think the Lynn tradition is that of winning. I want to continue that, of course. But I want to add to that by working more closely with the campus community, the Boca Raton community and alumni. I want this to be a program that is community-wide, where everyone feels a part of it.

**Do you have any funny mannerisms on the field that fans can look forward to seeing?**

Not that I know of. I've been told when I get nervous, I constantly run my hands through my hair—but nothing too obnoxious [laughs]. I'm not much of a yeller.

**So you're not going to pull out your hair?**

Hopefully not. We'll see how much pressure is put on me.

—Chad Beattie

GREETINGS



One of the most important commitments that we can provide for future generations is the joy and opportunity to learn. For

those of us who work in higher education and development, our most rewarding work is made possible when we meet a passionate and generous donor who wishes to make a difference for students. In February, we were able to watch this concept come to life at the Benefactors Luncheon where endowment donors met with students and faculty in celebration of endowed scholarships. The students from around the world who studied in all of the colleges of Lynn University shared one common message, "Thank you for helping me to receive my education at Lynn." Whether a gift is \$10 or \$10,000 the gift of education does touch lives.

Judi Nelson  
Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs

## Scholarship students give heartfelt thanks to their benefactors

Roses and chocolates are usually reserved for Valentine's Day, but this year at Lynn University they were in abundance one day early—on Feb. 13. The occasion: a Benefactors Luncheon bringing together Lynn's scholarship students and those donors who make their education possible.

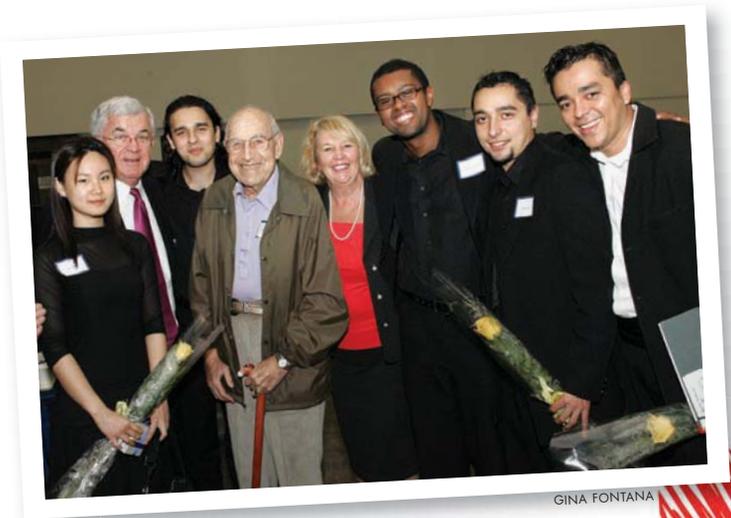
More than 90 donors and students gathered in the Green Center for the Expressive Arts to meet for the first time and share a meal. For the students, it was an opportunity to personally say "thank you."

Said graduating senior Taryn Hamill, "I was so honored to be in attendance and personally connect with those who have been so generous in helping me achieve my dream of a college education."

Also expressing their gratitude on behalf of the university were President Kevin M. Ross and Cynthia M. Patterson, vice president for academic affairs, who spoke on the importance of scholarships for those students who might otherwise not be able to afford a quality higher education.

Student-artists from the Lynn University Conservatory of Music delighted the audience with selections from Beethoven and Mozart. Student scholarship recipients introduced themselves and gave a personal expression of thanks.

Then, in the spirit of Valentine's Day, the students presented their benefactors with a yellow rose and Godiva chocolates as tokens of their gratitude.



GINA FONTANA

Devoted to the conservatory, the late Dan Freed (fourth from left) attended the luncheon a few months before his passing in May. With him are (from left) student Seul-A Lee, Lynn's John Gallo, student Aziz Sapaev, Lynn's Judi Nelson, and students Wallas Pena, Vasile Sult and Luis Bautista.

Seul-A Lee, left; Jeff Adkins



MELISSA KORMAN

## Scholarships help build a great conservatory of music—and brilliant careers

Did you know that the Lynn University Conservatory of Music is one of the leading conservatories within a university environment? The conservatory's excellence is due to its exceptional faculty, performance education and students—who hail from around the world.

Outstanding students like Lynn's are highly sought after by the finest conservatories. Thanks to Lynn's donors who fund music scholarships, the Conservatory of Music can compete with these institutions in enrolling the most gifted young musicians.

All 91 of Lynn's conservatory students rely upon financial assistance for their education. Among them are Seul-A Lee of Seoul, Korea, and Jeff Adkins of West Palm Beach, Fla. Their stories illustrate the power of scholarships in transforming students' lives.

## The gift of an education

**Seul-A Lee** and **Jeff Adkins** are just two of the talented young musicians for whom scholarships have afforded a world-class education at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music. To learn more about how you can support scholarships for deserving students like Seul-A and Jeff, contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 561-237-7467.

### From around the world to Lynn

Seul-A Lee is one of today's most promising young violinists. Because of the Harold and Patricia Toppel Endowed Scholarship for the Conservatory of Music and the Boca West Scholarship, she is able to pursue performance training at the highest level at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music.

Seul-A began violin training at age 4. She studied for 10 years at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory of Music in St. Petersburg, Russia. While there, she began a performing career as a featured soloist and won several international competitions.

In 2006, Seul-A immigrated to the United States, studied violin at California State University, and received her U.S. High School Diploma in 2007. At Lynn, she is a student of the violin master, Elmar Oliveira, and plans to graduate from the conservatory in the spring of 2009.

"Thanks to my scholarships," she says, "my financial burden has been lightened. I can now concentrate on my studies and entering international music competitions."

### A family 'first'

Jeff Adkins began playing the double bass at age 8 in a public school strings program, and went on to study with the principal bassist of the Palm Beach Opera. Jeff won scholarships to study both jazz and classical double bass, but after being selected for the Friends of the Conservatory Endowed Scholarship, he chose to continue his studies at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music.

Jeff performs regularly as a jazz and classical bassist in West Palm Beach. He also coaches younger bass players in the Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County and in the public schools. Now in his third year at the Conservatory of Music, he is studying with Tim Cobb, principal bassist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Jeff hopes to pursue a Master of Music degree at Lynn.

"I am the first person in my family to go to college," Jeff says. "It would not be possible without financial assistance. I am forever grateful to the Friends of the Conservatory for this scholarship."

# A **record** turnout for Alumni Weekend

With more than **340** individuals returning to campus for Alumni Weekend on April 4-5, alumni set a new record this year. Even more impressive, alumni traveled from nine countries and 23 states to come back to their favorite university. The two days were all about catching up with former classmates and favorite professors, welcoming Lynn's newest alumni—the Class of 2008—and soaking up the South Florida sunshine. The festivities included an opening night welcome reception, the always-intense alumni soccer game, a family picnic by the pool, and a fabulous closing cocktail party at Gol! The Taste of Brazil in Delray Beach.

Help make next year's Alumni Weekend even bigger and better—plan to join us on March 27-28, 2009.

*Photography by Gina Fontana*



1. Danielle and Jason Malley; Cary Weaver '05; Sara Quatrocky '04, '06; and Darnell Kirkwood '07 at Gol! The Taste of Brazil
2. President Kevin M. Ross, First Lady Kristen Ross, Susan Haynie '74, Neil Haynie, Director of Alumni Affairs Matt Roos and Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs Judi Nelson at the opening night reception
3. Class of 1981 members Joe Sullivan, Irene Hall, Paul Workman and Mark Kirby share smiles and memories. Thanks to Sullivan's organizing efforts, his class had a great turnout.



4



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- 4. Members of the Class of 1981 with Lynn Senior Vice President for Administration Greg Malfitano '75 (left) and President Kevin M. Ross (right)
- 5. Ruth Linke '68, Sharen Resnik '69, Margie Abreu '70, Sari Govantes '73, Nancy Vanderlyn '71 and Jane Beattie '67
- 6. Sara Quatrocky '04, '06; Ross Lumsden '04, '05; and Gabi Gonda
- 7. Danielle Latimer '08 and Lynette Nixon '08 check out the candy bar
- 8. Poolside: Alexis Hoppe '05; Robert Rider; Brooke Rider '06, '08; Darren Carter '05, '06 and Lindsay McHugh '06
- 9. Members of the young alumni soccer team celebrate their victory.

## A **record** turnout for Alumni Weekend

- 10. Kimberly Lawrence '81, Gerry Mueller '81 and Alison Moe '81 learn flip-flops design at the pool party.
- 11. The sisters of Sigma Sigma Sigma
- 12. Knights senior midfielder Jean Alexandre shows young hopefuls a few moves.
- 13. Members of the alumni soccer team with new men's soccer coach John Rootes (far left) and (right) assistant coach Eric Abreu and Director of Alumni Affairs Matt Roos



SAVE THE DATES

**Sept. 18**  
Lynn on the Road, South Florida  
Alumni Reception at Lynn University

**Sept. 23**  
Lynn on the Road, Washington, D.C.

**Oct. 16**  
Lynn on the Road, Boston, Mass.

**Oct. 24-25**  
Parents & Families Weekend

**Oct. 24**  
Blue & White Auction,  
7:30 p.m. at Lynn University

**Nov. 3**  
Robino Golf Tournament  
at Boca Country Club

**Nov. 6**  
Lynn on the Road, Chicago, Ill.

**Dec. 4**  
Lynn on the Road –  
Parents, New York City

**Dec. 5**  
Lynn on the Road –  
Alumni, New York City

**Dec. 11**  
South Florida Alumni Holiday  
Reception at the Boca Raton  
Resort & Club

**Dec. 14**  
Gingerbread Holiday Concert,  
3 p.m., Boca Raton Resort & Club

**March 27-28, 2009**  
Alumni Weekend

**April 18, 2009**  
Lynn Philharmonia Orchestra at  
Mizner Park, 7:30 p.m.

## Lynn honors Green and Boice at commencement

Lynn University honored two outstanding individuals at commencement exercises on May 10. Louis B. Green was presented the Doctor of Humane Letters *honoris causa* by trustee Stephen F. Snyder for his commitment to philanthropy and his community. Yvonne S. Boice was bestowed the Boca Raton Award by President Kevin M. Ross and Mayor Susan Whelchel for her philanthropy, civic achievement, vision and leadership in bettering the community.

With a strong commitment to education, health care and the arts, Green has donated to Lynn University, Boca Raton Community Hospital, Florida Atlantic University, and other organizations. He also has served on the board of trustees of the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties, and supported the Florence Fuller Child Development Centers.

A community leader, businesswoman and supporter of nonprofits, Boice is a longtime benefactor of Lynn University. She established the Academic International Endowed Scholarship, which combines two of her passions—travel and education. She recently was appointed to the National Trust Board for the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C., and has been selected by the State Department to represent the United States at the Global Summit for Women in Hanoi, Vietnam, in June.



(Top photo) Yvonne S. Boice (center) receives the Boca Raton Award from Mayor Susan Whelchel (right) and President Kevin M. Ross.

(Left photo) Honorary degree recipient Louis B. Green with President Ross

PHOTOS BY GINA FONTANA



## Blue and White and read all over...

News, photos and happenings from alumni around the world

### 1965

**Virginia (Cooke) Arvay** and her husband have moved to St. Augustine, Fla.

### 1966

**Gabriela Bazan** and her husband reside in Laredo, Texas, and have four children and five grandchildren.

### 1967

**Joyce (Heffernan) Barber** earned a B.A. from Marymount Manhattan College (New York) in 1969 and has since worked in the human resources/benefits field. Last January, she joined Praxair Inc. in Danbury, Conn., as manager of benefits administration. She, husband David, who is an adjunct professor of economics, and son Jonathan live in Fairfield, Conn.

### 1968

**Marie Denise (Casper) Chickey** resides in Erlanger, Ky., and has four adult children. After graduating from Marymount, she earned a bachelor's degree in speech and theater education at Western Kentucky University, followed by a master's degree and a Rank I in educational leadership at Northern Kentucky University. She has worked for 19 years at Holly Hill Children's Home, a residential treatment facility for adolescent girls.

### 1971

Twins **Carlynn Chisholm** and **Marlynn (Chisholm) Lund** attended Marymount College and now live nearby. Carlynn resides in Deerfield Beach, Fla., and Marlynn is a senior corrections officer in the Broward Sheriff's office and lives in Pompano Beach, Fla.

Carlynn Chisholm '71 and Marlynn (Chisholm) Lund '71



### 1976

**Wilhelmina (Huisman) Cap** married after graduating from the College of Boca Raton, and traveled the world with husband Ludovit, teaching tennis with Dennis van der Meer. The Caps have lived in Hilton Head, S.C., since 1984 and have three children.

### 1980

**Robert Weiser** resides with his wife and two children in Merrimack, N.H. He has worked since his college days with Ocean Properties/Ocean Hospitalities, a hotel company with offices in Delray Beach, Fla., and Portsmouth, N.H. He is now their regional director of operations.

### 1982

**Kelly Bahl-Fussell** recently moved from the Bahamas to West Palm Beach, Fla., where she is a real estate agent.

**Geoffrey Tisone** works for the U.S. Navy, supporting naval aviation. He lives with his wife and two children in Prince Frederick, Md.

### 1986

**Pamela (Ferrante) Caglianone** of Plantation, Fla., reports that after undergoing treatment for Burkett's lymphoma, she has overcome the disease. She has established a foundation to help children and families affected by cancer. For details visit: [www.PamelaCaglianoneFoundation.org](http://www.PamelaCaglianoneFoundation.org).

**Paul Ruggiero** resides in Peabody, Mass., where he is a third-generation contractor. He is the proud father and soccer coach of 7-year-old twin daughters.

**Greg Sullivan** is a managing partner at TreMonti Consulting, LLC, which provides advice and assistance to universi-

ties, governments and companies regarding intellectual asset management issues. Greg lives with his wife, their two sons and daughter in Vienna, Va.

### 1987

**Heidi (Buck) Barr** lives with her husband Scott and two dogs in Port St. Lucie, Fla. She is a member of the National Association of Legal Assistants.

**Edward Gushwa** is a project manager for CC&B Co., southeast regional operations and a Florida certified general contractor. He and wife Kathy, a real estate training coach, live in Clermont, Fla.

### 1988

**Milan Desai** and wife Suerita reside in Sarasota, Fla., with their two children, Maya and Davika.

### 1993

**Joe Horan** is a senior designer at *Luxury Homes and Estates Magazine*. He and wife Kristy live in Winter Park, Fla.



Joe Horan '93 and wife Kristy



Leandro Vazquez '93

**Leandro Vazquez** is an investment manager specializing in the commodity hedge fund business and structured financial products. He is a member of the Board of Trustees

of Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.). Leandro and wife Amy have two sons, Leandro Jr., 9, and Santiago, 6. In his spare time, Leandro Sr. enjoys cycling, skiing, hiking, hunting and fishing.



Mark McDowell '94 with wife Alice Kathleen and daughter Morgan Alice

## 1994

**Mark McDowell** and **Alice Kathleen O'Rourke** were married Oct. 8, 2006, in Miller Chapel, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N.J. Their first child, Morgan Alice, was born September 30, 2007. Mark received his Master of Divinity degree from the Princeton Seminary in 2006.

## 1995

**Eric Elfus** is executive director of Edgewater Pointe Estates, a retirement community in Boca Raton. He resides in Palm Beach Gardens with his wife and two daughters.



Eric Elfus '95

**Robert Nelson** is president of Edwards-Freeman Nut Co., one of the country's leading manufacturers of peanut butter and specialty foods. The company, located in Conshohocken, Pa., is in its 100th year of business.

**Spirithoula (Fotopoulos) Rodriquez** resides in Tampa, Fla., with her husband, Eddie, and children, Teresa, 3, and Dylan, 6.

## 1996

**Rene Crespo** operates a rental car business in LaPaz, Bolivia. He is married and has two children, Michelle, 6, and Patrick, 2.

**Martin Sauls** is public relations director at Tradition Hilton Head, a 5,600-acre community being developed by Core Communities in South Carolina. Martin and wife Anissa have two daughters, ages 6 and 3. He enjoys motorcycle racing and has competed nationally, winning the 1998 national championship at Daytona International Speedway.

**Dominga Xuncax** lives in Lake Worth, Fla., and is a teacher with the School District of Palm Beach County. She has two daughters, Kayla, 4, and Aaliyah, 3.

## 1997

**Amy (Barbuto) Stauffer** resides in Sinking Springs, Pa., with her husband and their two children, Shane, 6, and Lily, 2. Amy works as a buyer at the Bell Tower store.

## 1998

**Caroline Bowers** married William Thomas Evans from Baltimore, Md., on Nov. 10, 2007.



Newly married Caroline Bowers '98 and William Thomas Evans with her son, William James O'Dell

**Paulo Fróes de Oliveira** is a branch head at Citibank Brazil and lives with wife Renata in the Moema district of São Paulo, Brazil. In his spare time, he enjoys sailing. Prior to his marriage, he was a member of the Brazilian sailing team for two years.



Paulo Fróes de Oliveira '98

**Carolyn Grant** is a property manager in Boynton Beach, Fla. She lives in nearby Coconut Creek and has a 7-year-old son, Austin.



Carolyn Grant '98 with son Austin and fiancé Mickey McGuire

## 1999

**Douglas Arnold** is an account executive for the Pennsylvania market with Recall, a worldwide information management company. He and wife Jenn are proud parents of a 15-month-old daughter Abigail Marie. The family resides in West Chester, Pa.

**Melissa (Greenspan) Goldberg** and husband Jonathan reside in Venice, Calif.

**Hardeep Mankatala** reports that he is working at his "dream job," controller for the historic Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego, Calif. When he's not working, he enjoys spending time with his two sons, ages 11 and 16.

## 2000

**Colleen Lynch-Feldman** was married on Aug. 18, 2007, in St. James, N.Y., and now lives in Queens. She sells real estate on the north shore area of Long Island.

**Alyson ("Aly") Weisel** married Brian Hale on June 30, 2007. The wedding took place in southern California, where they now reside.



Newly married "Aly" (Weisel) Hale '00 and Brian Hale

## 2001

**Rasheema (Owens) Cook** teaches 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at Carver Middle School in Delray Beach. She lives in Greenacres, Fla., with her husband, Clarence, and son, Tarence. She earned an M.Ed. degree from Lynn in 2003 and is now pursuing a second master's degree, one in organizational leadership from Grand Canyon University.

**Jenny Van Agtmael** resides and works in Washington, D.C., where she is a teacher.

**Lauren (Ganz) Yacht** and husband Gregg originally met through a friend of Lauren's at Lynn. The couple resides in Boca Raton.

## 2002

**Adil Avunduk** is restaurant manager at New York's Cipriani Wall Street.

**Ludmilla Cunha** works with a government organization in Brazil named *Programa Exporta CIN* that provides assistance to export firms.

**Giles McGrath** lives in New York and is an art director at MRM Worldwide.

**Francesca Moore** lives in Surrey, England. She works for the online wedding guide Hitched.co.uk and writes for several wedding magazines.

## 2003

**Federico Fernandez** works with his family's development company, primarily in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Miami, Fla.

**Veronica Maldonado** and **Michael Scott '05** are married and reside in Melbourne, Fla. Both were golf team members at Lynn. Veronica also received a master's degree in special education from Lynn in 2006.

## 2004

**Andrea Craig** resides and works in Columbia, Tenn., where she is executive director of Life Care Center.

**Colin Roche**, department chair at Johnson & Wales University's North Miami Campus's College of Culinary Arts, was named the 2008 Foodservice Educators Network International Educator of the Year. Colin also earned an M.B.A. from Lynn in 2006 and is now pursuing a doctorate at Florida Atlantic University.

## 2005

**McNeal Gravatt** resides in Vero Beach, Fla., and works in real estate.

**Osman Gurbaz** is an operations manager at a multinational natural stone, marble and travertine company in Miami. While Osman was pursuing his M.B.A. at Lynn, he worked as an assistant circulation manager in the Lynn Library.

**John Indiveri** resides in Riverside, Conn., and is a staffing manager for Robert Half International in White Plains, N.Y.

**Derek Rodgerson** is one step closer to fulfilling his dream of becoming a pilot: he has been accepted to officer training school. He plans to begin training in the early fall or winter and then attend flight school.

**Mickey Solomon** of Houston, Texas, recently celebrated the birth of his first son, Todd Mickey.

**Anna Svistunov** and **Chad Barr '02** were married March 5 atop Wynapichu, overlooking Machu Picchu in Peru during an academic program abroad. The ceremony was conducted by **Shaun Exsteen '93, '98**.



Newly wed Chad Barr '02 and Anna Svistunov '05 atop Wynapichu in Peru

**Tracey Underwood** works for a private equity firm in New York City.

## 2006

**Dean Durham** moved to central Florida after graduation and now manages a precast construction products company.

**Claudio Palleschi** is a state trooper for the New York State Police. He and wife Christina Savini reside in Wappingers Falls, N.Y.

## 2007

**Carlos Baldo** was appointed vice president of marketing for the National Society of Hispanic MBAs, South Florida chapter.



Dale Dobuler '07

**Dale Dobuler** will enter the University of Miami School of Law this fall as a Miami Scholar. Up to 22 entering law students, two from each of the

11 federal judicial circuits, are selected each year for the scholarship.

**Erin Evans** joined Northwestern Mutual Financial Network Striano Group in Boca Raton last January. She resides in Delray Beach.

## 2008

**Alexis Babett** gave birth to a son, John Xavier, on Dec. 2, 2007, "a week before Mommy's last final exam," she says. They now live in Ocala, Fla.

## Remembering our alumni and friends

**Sheila Albert '74** of New Rochelle, N.Y., passed away on Nov. 5, 2007.

**Khalid Bakhresa '07** of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, passed away on Dec. 17, 2007, at the age of 22.

**Christopher Benavides**, a part-time instructor in the Donald E. and Helen L. Ross College of Education for 14 years, passed away on April 12.

**Mikey Dread (Michael Campbell) '00**, reggae music singer, producer and broadcaster, passed away in Stamford, Conn., on March 15 at the age of 53, after battling a brain tumor. Born in Port Antonio, Jamaica, he began his career in 1976 as a DJ audio engineer for the Jamaica Broadcasting Company, where his Dread at the Controls became the No. 1 radio show. He performed around the world and had more than 20 albums and compilations to his credit.

**Dan Freed**, longtime Conservatory of Music benefactor, passed away on May 6. Passionate about the conservatory, he was generous in his response to its needs, both immediate and long term. A pacesetter among Lynn donors, he and his late wife, Shirlee, sponsored numerous concerts and funded conservatory scholarships in perpetuity.

**Evan Glueth '03** of Cedar Grove, N.J., passed away on Dec. 15, 2007, at the age of 26.

**Charles A. Lindemann** of Boca Raton passed away on Dec. 28, 2007, at the age of 99. He served on Lynn's Board of Overseers for 20 years and endowed the Employee of the Year program. A native of Philadelphia, Pa., he earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Drexel University in 1936 and worked as chief draftsman for Electric Storage Battery Company and Atwater Kent Manufacturing Company and as an engineer for Philco Radio. In 1937, he joined General Electric, where he worked for 31 years.

**Paul Ortlip** of Highland Beach, Fla., passed away on Feb. 14 at the age of 82.

A third-generation American portrait artist, he was born in Fort Lee, N.J. He served in World War II as an official U.S. Navy combat artist. He was the official artist of the U.S. Air Force's Apollo Space Program and a teacher and artist-in-residence at Fairley-Dickinson University in Teaneck, N.J. from 1957 to 1972.

**James J. Oussani** of Boca Raton passed away on March 15. He was a member of the university's Board of Overseers and held an honorary degree from Lynn. In his honor, the university created the James J. Oussani Award, which is presented each year at commencement to the student deemed most innovative and motivated in completing a degree program.

**Robert Ross** of Boca Raton passed away on Feb. 21 at the age of 82. He was the husband of Lee Ross, a former academic dean at Lynn University. His career in real estate development led him to the presidency of Levitt & Sons and senior positions with Kaufman & Broad and General Development.

**Sidney Shiller**, a volunteer who spent 13 years mentoring students and alumni in the Hannifan Center for Career Development and Internships, passed away on Jan. 22 at the age of 89. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina in 1939. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army Air Force and founded a large textile and fashion manufacturing company. He subsequently found his calling in career counseling, volunteering at SUNY Purchase and Westchester Community College and opening a private practice before coming to Lynn.

**Robert Volin** of Boca Raton passed away on Feb. 25 at the age of 84. He was a member of the Lynn University Board of Overseers and a longtime friend of the university. Among his many accomplishments, he was a decorated Air Force officer during World War II, an aeronautical engineer and a graduate of New York University.

### Stay Connected

Whether it's a job change, promotion, marriage, birth/adoption, travel or other news, we want to hear from you and share your news with your fellow alumni. It's easy:

Go to [www.lynn.edu/alumni](http://www.lynn.edu/alumni) and click on the Tell Us About You link on the left-hand side of the page.

Fill out the fields and click Submit. That's it!

### Class Notes Policy

We encourage class notes submissions. Publication is determined by the quantity and variety of submissions and available space. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of class notes. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

### Photo Policy

We accept high-resolution digital photos for publication. Submit images by e-mail to [lynnmagazine@lynn.edu](mailto:lynnmagazine@lynn.edu). Please caption, noting the people, place and occasion. All people in a photograph must be identified. Poor quality/low resolution images cannot be published.



**CLOSE-UP**



MELISSA KORMAN

# Leading by example

If anyone is proof that “education is the great equalizer,” it is **Aurora Francois '04**.

When Francois came to the United States from Haiti in 1984 to further her education, she was called offensive names and spit on by her high school classmates. Today, she holds four college degrees and is the first Haitian-born principal in Palm Beach County.

It is the culmination of a dream nurtured by her parents. Francois was one of six children raised by a minister father and homemaker mother—both of whom wanted their children to be well-educated. “My mother sacrificed everything she had to make sure that we attended the best schools,” Francois recalls.

After attending a Catholic school in Haiti, she entered Boca Raton Community High School. “There were maybe two or three of us Haitian students. We were called thugs, all types of names,” she recalls. “But, I’ve been blessed with a sense of resilience. I stayed focused on my goal. I reminded myself that my situation was only temporary and the best was yet to come. Still, it was very intimidating and lonely at times.”

Her determination paid off. She earned a bachelor’s

degree in social work from Florida Atlantic University, a master’s degree in Teacher of English as a Second Language from Nova Southeastern University, a specialist’s degree in Educational Leadership from Barry University, and a Ph.D. in Global Educational Leadership from Lynn University.

Throughout her college education, Francois worked and managed family responsibilities. She married at 20 and had the first of two children shortly thereafter. Her husband, Milher Elney, worked two jobs to help support the family and to eventually become a respiratory therapist.

Francois’ “dream job” became a reality on July 1, 2007, when she was appointed principal of Barton Elementary School in Lake Worth, Fla. The school enrolls 610 children, more than 50 percent of whom are ELL—English Language Learners. In Francois, these young students have an ideal role model.

“I’ve walked in their shoes, and I want them to know that if you work hard and stay focused, you truly can accomplish anything you want in life.”

It is a lesson she learned long ago and is privileged to share today.

—Liz McKey

magician  stunt person • rodeo clown • bounty hunter • mystery writer

• repo man • greeting card designer • tour guide • zookeeper • drawbridge

tender  kiwi farmer • pastry chef • architect • dog trainer • blimp

pilot • organic farmer • cartoonist  pet psychic • voiceover

artist • filmmaker • private investigator • art restorer • explosives technician 

orchid grower • jingle composer • roadie • set designer • hot rod builder



dice inspector • skywriter • piano tuner • celebrity bodyguard •

yacht captain • fingerprint analyst  forensic computer examiner •

political speech writer • sound effects technician • doll maker • window dresser

• FBI profiler • music producer • llama keeper • wedding planner 

lion trainer • master carpenter • publisher • cowboy • human cannonball...



**alumni,**

# GOT A COOL JOB?

WE WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT IT.

Share your story in a future issue of *Lynn Magazine*.

Please send a brief summary about you and your work to [lynnmagazine@lynn.edu](mailto:lynnmagazine@lynn.edu). Please include your name, major, graduation year from Lynn, photo(s) and a day-time phone number. In the subject line of your e-mail, please write: **Cool Job**.





**STUDY LAB:** Sophomore Brittany Hutchinson takes a break during final exams week to relax with therapy dog Kelly.  
(Photo by Carolina Gonzalez Afienza)

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