THE WEATHERVANE

THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

OF ROBERT E. JOHNSON, Ph.D.
A letter from the editor

Dear alumni and friends,

As a Becker College graduate, it is always a pleasure to meet other alumni who are doing great things in both their careers and their communities. It is also nice to hear when alumni credit their personal and professional success to the education and experience they had at Becker. I feel very much the same way, which is why I am dedicated to continuing to build strong relationships within the Becker community as the Associate Director of Alumni Relations and The Becker Fund. I can’t stress enough how important it is for each of you to stay connected to your alma mater. It is your support that helps Becker thrive.

In July, the Alumni Association hosted its first-ever Alumni Spree Day. It was wonderful to see 100 alumni and friends reunited with one another and the College, especially as so many had not been back since graduating.

In September, the Becker community inaugurated its 10th President, Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D. Gregory Pogue, Ph.D., Class of 1970, and member of the College’s Board of Trustees, addressed the audience on behalf of the alumni. He challenged President Johnson to engage, involve and reconnect with alumni, citing how integral a part we play in the College and its traditions.

I admire Dr. Pogue’s challenge to President Johnson, and wish to encourage all of you to attend campus and regional events held year-round, to submit a class note and photo for inclusion in a future issue of Becker Bridges and to support The Becker Fund by making an annual contribution.

As editor of Becker Bridges, I would like to introduce a “Letters to the Editors” section to the magazine, and ask that you submit your comments about feature articles that have appeared in previous issues, as well as to suggest topics for upcoming features. I am determined to widen the scope of the magazine and believe that this addition will help to keep you all engaged, involved and, above all, connected.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Visscher ’08
Editor, Becker Bridges
Associate Director of Alumni Relations & The Becker Fund

Bob & Heather Martin ’03

“As Becker graduates we are happy to give back to the College. It is the place where we met, built strong friendships with our classmates, and in the past year got married. Becker will always be a special place for us. So we will continue to give back to help the College and future students.”

Can we count on you to support The Becker Fund?

Each gift to The Becker Fund, regardless of its size, matters greatly. Your contribution, large or small, is critical to the College’s ability to leverage additional funding such as government and corporate grants. When you make a gift to The Becker Fund you are supporting scholarships, as well as the College’s overall mission to provide superior career-oriented learning opportunities.

To make your gift or pledge, or for more information, contact Caitlin Visscher, Associate Director of Alumni Relations & The Becker Fund, at 508.373.9527 or make a secure gift online by visiting www.alumni.becker.edu.

www.alumni.becker.edu. Thank you!
Believe
Becker College celebrates the inauguration of 10th President, Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D.

Enriching – and Bewitching: The Classroom Learning Experience
Imagination and innovation combine as part of a new educational initiative brewed up by Becker professors.

Human, Animal, Environmental: It’s all One Health
Becker hosts academic panel to promote dialog on important global health issues.

Walking the Walk
Nathen Casimiro ’14 inspires troubled youth to believe in themselves and the power of transformation.

Upwardly Mobile
Erjon Metohu ’08 taps into the exploding mobile application industry.

On the Edge
Russell Couturier ’78LJC offers a glimpse into the life of an inventor, technologist, and artist.
“This power of believing is something that will propel Becker College today into the future to succeed in a rapidly changing world.”

– ROBERT E. JOHNSON, Ph.D.
    PRESIDENT, BECKER COLLEGE
    SEPTEMBER 16, 2011
An inauguration is a formal rite of passage for an institution as it celebrates the installation of a new president and presents its new president to the public. The inauguration of Robert E. Johnson, the tenth president of Becker College, on September 16, 2011, was rousing and emotional – and an emphatic declaration that Becker College is a rising star in academia.

President Johnson delivered a message that focused on the power of belief. He credited his parents’ unflagging belief, which supported him throughout his life and ultimately brought him to the moment of his inauguration.

Poignantly speaking directly to his parents in the front row, President Johnson intoned, “I would like to acknowledge and publicly thank two people who have stood with me my entire life. Mom and Dad, thank you for teaching me the power of believing and positive thinking. You taught me you can accomplish and achieve your dream if you just believe and maintain a positive mental attitude.”

The audience took to their feet, applauding President Johnson’s message of thanks to his parents, and to his wife, Michelle, and their children, Jasmine and Alex.

“It is the power of believing that E.C.A. Becker had, who founded our institution,” said President Johnson, and he recognized descendants of E.C.A. Becker in the audience. “This power of believing is something that will propel Becker College today into the future to succeed in a rapidly changing world.”

Turning his eyes upward to the Becker College students in the balcony, President Johnson conveyed his absolute belief in them. “Please understand that each of you are a part of something bigger than yourselves,” he declared. “All of the people here today believe in you and so do I.”

With that foundation of belief, President Johnson boldly confronted the uncertainty of his own industry. He addressed the imperative for higher education to revitalize and reinvent itself to overcome the challenges of the future and ensure the success of present and future generations.

“We cannot operate institutions that were created for an agrarian and mass-production economy and, in some instances, have not changed, and expect them to compete in a 21st century knowledge-driven global society without shifting our paradigm.

“Our industry cannot act as if there is not a new normal in the world and it does not affect us. The world has changed and we must change too.”

Shifting the spotlight from himself, President Johnson recognized the inauguration as an opportunity to reintroduce Becker College as a leading private baccalaureate institution. Becker has the determination, he said, to follow and forge its shared vision for the future of its community — at a time when community means continents.

President Johnson has made a career of relationship building, engaging others with his energy and message of possibility thinking. He has sought out community leaders to discover new ways in which Becker can be a resource in the community. This was evidenced by the leadership who joined him within the stately and historic Mechanics Hall.
From the podium, Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray, a Worcester native, said that the Commonwealth was excited to partner with Becker College. He called President Johnson, “a man who knows how to get things done,” and noted that the president’s actions have “caused people to quickly wake up and take notice of Becker.”

Such accolades for the College and its new leader echoed in the words of Jay Di-Geronimo, Jr., chair of the Becker Board of Trustees, Daryl A. Statkus, associate professor of English, Brooke Cote ’13, president of the Becker Student Government Association, and Dr. Gregory Pogue ’70, a member of the Board of Trustees. It was clear that the trustees had picked the right person for the job and that sentiment was shared by the faculty and students.

President Johnson’s lifelong friends and family also spoke. Chaplain Brennan Francois, pastoral care coordinator at Georgia Health Sciences Medical Center, opened the proceedings with an invocation. Dr. Emmett Carson, founding CEO and president of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, introduced President Johnson, his friend and fellow Morehouse College alumnus. Dr. Washington Johnson, II, editor of Message Magazine, gave a benediction.

U.S. Representative James P. McGovern applauded President Johnson’s challenge to ensure that every student become a global citizen, adding his own belief that everyone has “something to contribute—not just to our city and our state, but to the rest of the world.”

Continued on page six
Still more greetings confirmed President Johnson’s impact on others, in a lively and moving video that included Reverend Dr. Robert M. Franklin, president of Morehouse College; President Johnson’s alma mater; Len Gengel ’84, speaking from the construction site of the Be Like Brit orphanage in Haiti; Fred Pestello, president of Le Moyne College; Becker students and faculty on a service trip in Honduras; Dr. Arthur Thomas, president emeritus of Central State University; John W. Garland, current president of Central State University; and Colleen C. Barrett ’64, Southwest Airlines’ president emeritus, and member of the Becker Board of Trustees.

The celebration of President Johnson’s inauguration resonated with his global citizenship initiative and his message of social responsibility. The College and the city are abuzz with the energy that he has brought to Becker, and he is just gaining momentum.

Visit www.becker.edu/inauguration where you can view video and photos of this event. A transcript of President Johnson’s inaugural address is also available.

The College celebrated Inauguration Week with two academic panels at the newly acquired property at 80 William Street, on the Worcester campus, and a day of service at Elm Park.

September 14, 2011
Changing the Game: How Digital Games are Changing Entertainment and Education:
• Gordon Bellamy, executive director of International Game Developers Association (IGDA), led panelists’ discussion of the rapidly evolving landscape and broad reach of digital games.
• Jon Radoff, CEO of game company Disruptor Beam, theorized, “I believe, if Leonardo Da Vinci were alive today, he would be a game developer.”
• Michael Levine, Ph.D., executive director of the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop, emphasized the need for growing generations of technologists to ground themselves in the world around them. He described his own experience growing up in a socially active family during the fight for Civil Rights, and advised, “Find your own Selma [Alabama].”
• Paul Cotnoir, Ph.D., Becker College design department chair, lent his expertise to the panel, and was also joined by Dave McCool, president and CEO of Muzzy Lane, Jeff Goodsell, vice president and general manager of Tencent Boston, and Chad Dorsey, president and CEO of the Concord Consortium.

September 15, 2011
One Health: The Convergence of Human, Animal and Environmental Health:
• John Sullivan, M.D., vice provost of research, professor of Molecular Medicine and Pediatrics, University of Massachusetts Medical School, and Roger Mahr, D.V.M, CEO of the One Health Commission, led a panel discussion on the challenges and benefits of human, animal, and environmental health practitioners working together to protect and promote the health of all.
• The integrated, One Health approach arose from the spread of food and water-borne diseases, such as the recent salmonella and coliform contaminations that threaten human and animal health around the world.
• Joining Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Mahr on the panel were Becker Professor of Veterinary Science Margaret Delano, D.V.M.; James Fox, D.V.M., of the Division of Comparative Medicine at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Deborah Kochevar, D.V.M., dean and Henry and Lois Foster Professor at Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine; Leonard Marcus, V.M.D., M.D.; and Jerald Silverman, D.V.M., a professor at University of Massachusetts Medical School.

September 15, 2011
Elm Park Day of Service
• About 400 students, faculty, staff and community neighbors turned out for the Elm Park Day of Service. Elm Park is one of the oldest parks in the country, designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, who also designed New York City’s Central Park. President Johnson calls Elm Park a “gateway to the Becker College campus.”
• Accompanied by Worcester City Manager Michael O’Brien and City Councilor Barbara Haller, President Johnson pledged that the day of service would be an annual event and revealed a program of Becker student-led service events for the coming months, including fitness classes run by exercise science students; blood pressure screenings run by nursing students; a learn-to-skate program run by Hawks ice hockey players; and pet education classes held by animal studies students.
Imagine creating a learning opportunity so engaging that a biology major wants to explore history and psychology — and a psychology major is challenged to think outside the discipline of psychology. Imagine, too, professors who bring “what if” scenarios into teaching their disciplines and create learning environments designed to encourage students to think in ways that expand their knowledge and interests outside of their major programs of study.

That is what is happening at Becker College through the establishment of the Center for Integrated Teaching in Higher Education (CITHE). CITHE was created through a similar integration of educators and their disciplines: Dr. Susan M. Nava-Whitehead, Becker College associate professor of science and education; Dr. Kerri Augusto, Becker College professor of psychology; and Dr. Joan-Beth Gow, Anna Maria College assistant professor of biology.

In today’s society, professional success often requires knowledge and application of skills that go beyond a single specialized skill set. Those who rise to the top of their professions need more than mere textbook knowledge; they need to think collaboratively, to engage in critical and creative thinking, and to assimilate information that may be out of their areas of expertise.

This presents challenges to higher education — particularly in classroom instruction, with the sheer volume of information that must be covered within a finite period of time. According to Augusto, CITHE presents “a way to encourage cross-disciplinary and cross-institution sharing of a rather unique form of pedagogy.” CITHE’s mission — “to encourage and develop scholarship which is relevant, authentic, integrated between disciplines, and celebrate collaborative thinking” — provides the foundation for discussing, developing, and disseminating case studies that can be used by educators in multiple disciplines.

The Salem Witch Trials: A Case Study

The professors recently published an article about their case study, Salem’s Secrets, in the Journal of College Science Teaching (Vol. 40, No. 6, 2011). Entitled “Bewitching Ideas Influence Learning: An Evaluation of an Interdisciplinary Teaching Experience,” the article examines how the professors addressed the questions, “Do we opt for breadth of coverage and superficial exposure to as much content as possible, or do we opt for depth of coverage, delving into the few topics that we believe to be most important?” Simply put, should educators encourage memorization of information specific to a student’s chosen program of study, or should they ally with an integrative, case-based teaching approach that expands a student’s knowledge base and develops critical and creative thinking skills?

In Salem’s Secrets, the professors focused on the Salem witch trials in America in the late 1600s. Statistical evidence from the trials was first given to students in their biology, psychology, and American history classes. Students were asked to research and posit an explanation on specific areas of the Salem witch trials, based upon knowledge from their discipline of study: mass hysteria (psychology), presence of an environmental toxin (biology), and society/rival social factions (American history). The students then shared their research in class and determined the “answer” to their assigned area of focus.

The students were then thrown a curve ball. Each class was invited to a lecture hall and asked to attend two mini-lectures from professors other than their own. This offered students an opportunity to expand their knowledge base by learning what each of the other disciplines had discovered about their area of focus — and to begin to challenge their own thinking when presented with new and different evidence.

Next, students were asked to reconvene in a large lecture hall and break into groups in which they would “argue” their point of view before forming a final hypothesis. The authors report in their case study, “The buzz of student discussion and debate was palpable. …To our great pleasure, discussion of the case could be heard among students long after class was over.”

Such interdisciplinary teachings are intended to help students build meaningful connections across their courses and between their studies and experiences in the modern world. Bridging the gap between students’ existing schemata and the presentation of new ideas improves retention, comprehension, and creativity — skills needed for academic success. Further, well-designed case studies promote critical thinking (the skill of applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information) — a skill needed in the workplace in most professions.

In addition to housing an integrated model, CITHE provides workshop speakers to train educators to increase active learning and engage underprepared students through the development of original, integrated cases and the use of case-teaching pedagogy. CITHE’s workshops encourage the formation of learning communities that can identify common learning objectives across disciplines and address real-world problems in fun and innovative ways. The pedagogy advocated by CITHE focuses on keeping students active and engaged, altering the student’s motivation from the mere achievement of a grade to the desire for richer, more profound understanding.

The integrated teachings are also presented on the CITHE website as modules. Each module takes educators, step-by-step, through CITHE’s methodology and activities and creates a database of cross-disciplinary cases to share with other college instructors. Active learning strategies such as those advocated by CITHE can help students enjoy the process of learning while, at the same time, challenge educators to work collaboratively to broaden their own understanding of real-world problems, with the intent of reigniting their own love of learning and energizing their classrooms.

For more information visit www.Becker.edu/network/CITHE.
The news is rife with stories of diseases that are making the leap from animals to humans, as viruses and bacteria find optimal environmental conditions to do so. Under the umbrella of One Health, scientists, doctors, and researchers across disciplines are brainstorming ideas and opportunities for closer communication and collaboration.

The One Health concept is not new, says One Health Commission CEO Roger Mahr, D.V.M. The difference is that now, a new professional imperative has emerged.

Dr. Mahr went on to cite the mounting evidence, “Over the past three decades, approximately 75 percent of all emerging human infectious diseases worldwide, such as HIV, West Nile virus, and avian flu, originated in animals, mostly wildlife. Poor environmental health may affect human and animal health through contamination, pollution, and conditions conducive to the emergence and survival of new infectious agents.”

In addition, it is becoming increasingly clear that diseases spread through food and water threaten human health worldwide, and this is exacerbated by antibiotic resistance.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) issued a report on the topic of One Health in 2008. The report noted the understanding and appreciation among the AVMA, the American Medical Association, and many other professional societies of the health professions, of the links between human, animal, and ecosystem health and their commitment to “building strengthened collaborations and partnerships among their constituent members.”

The AVMA report also indicated that hundreds of colleges and universities are actively promoting and pursuing “collaborations that embody a One Health integrated approach in education and teaching, basic and applied research, and community service, to achieve improved health for all.”

For example, Colorado State University has established infectious disease, cancer research, and clean energy “superclusters.” A supercluster is defined as “an alliance of

It is becoming increasingly clear that diseases spread through food and water threaten human health worldwide, and this is exacerbated by antibiotic resistance.
experts in research, engineering, business and economics that is focused on improving quality of life, by promoting the application of research outcomes to improve the health of communities and for global society's benefit."

"Becker College is prepared to build on the good work already being done by a terrific faculty and staff and add value by developing new partnerships and collaborations, adding new programs, and attracting resources for additional investment in the program."

The University of Calgary College of Veterinary Medicine took an academic approach and created the Capstone Course on One Health for students in the health sciences and Summer Field Institute in Tanzania.

Another example is Envirovet, described in the AVMA report as providing "unique-in-the-world, ground-breaking training in ecosystem health practice to more than 400 veterinarians from 44 nations," since 1991. In 2008, Envirovet held, "Leadership for One Health on Earth, Changing Lives and Creating Leaders Around the World," at its annual summer institute. In 2010 Envirovet continued its integrative approach, this time focusing on terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and ecosystem health in developed and developing countries.

Central Massachusetts is one of a handful of locations in the country with a critical mass of teaching, learning, and research infrastructure across the health sciences, bursting with opportunities for meaningful cooperation and collaboration.

Greater Worcester has already made great strides in improving the health of people, animals, and our environment – the mission of One Health. While UMass, Tufts, the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, WPI, and Becker cover the bases in undergraduate, M.D., D.V.M., and Ph.D. education in multiple areas related to One Health, there is not a local institution, or single discipline, that does not have the potential to make an impact through the integrated One Health approach.

One Health
The Becker Perspective

One Health was the focus of one of the academic panels held during Becker President Robert E. Johnson’s inauguration week. Becker’s status as a leading educator in the undergraduate animal sciences well-positioned the College to host “One Health: The Convergence of Human, Animal and Environmental Health.”

The panel brought together scholars from Becker, the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Medical School, Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as well as the One Health Commission, the entity spearheading the call for integration among the health science professions.

The integrated approach that Becker professors take in teaching animal studies, nursing, and other disciplines, illustrates the impact that one has upon the other and sparks excitement and new understanding among students. When pre-veterinary students work with both animals and people, in addition to textbooks and simulation, when nursing students develop fitness programs for public schools and advocate for humanitarian aid, learning and understanding take place on a deeper level.

With the establishment of the Allerton Chair of Animal Health Sciences at Becker, the College’s first endowed chair, Becker is poised to install a nationally-recognized leader in animal studies.

To take the signature animal science programs to new heights, President Johnson said the College will begin a search for the right candidate to “build on the good work already being done by a terrific faculty and staff and add value by developing new partnerships and collaborations, adding new programs, and attracting resources for additional investment in the program.”
STUDENT PROFILE

NATHEN CASIMIRO ’14
WALKING THE WALK

By Jacob Sanders
Photos by Edd Cote and courtesy of Nathen Casimiro

At the tail end of Nathen Casimiro ’14 AmeriCorps’ City Year experience in 2010, he helped organize an awards ceremony and dinner to honor students who had showed improved behavior, attendance and/or course performance. Recipients were called on stage to receive a certificate printed on card stock and signed by the student’s teacher and corps members. He didn’t think much of the ceremony, believing it to be no more than a small blip in the tumultuous lives of many of his students. On the last day of class, a student named Nancy handed Nathen a letter:

Dear Mr. Nate,

Thank you for all the things you did for me. Thank you for giving me a medal. My family was really proud of me. The thing that I didn’t like about that day was my dad was not there. When I went back home I started crying to my dad. He said, “Why are you crying?” I said, “Because you didn’t go.” Then he said, Okay, I will make it up to you.” “Okay,” I said. Then I was happy. Thank you, Mr. Nate.

As Nathen put it, “At City Year, we talk about the fear that we could go the entire year without feeling we’ve helped a single student. There’s just no way to know without glimpsing into the future. But then you get a note like that, and you have a slight feeling of relief that you made a difference in at least one student’s life.”
organized evening events. Most importantly, Nathen was allowing his students to shape his future as much as he shaped theirs.

On his last day at the John Liechty Middle School, he and his 6th grade class took a field trip to Pacific Park, a small amusement park on the pier of Santa Monica beach. After months of disciplining the students and prodding them to stay focused, he finally had the opportunity to let loose, connecting with them as peers instead of subordinates. They bounced from ride to ride; inhaling their elation and exhaling their worries. Students squeezed his arm, thrilled to face a roller coaster ride that was not their own lives. They laughed and screamed, driving bumper cars and leaving their troubles for another day and another place.

Upon their return, Nathen gave each student a brightly colored notebook containing their name written in graffiti and two stamped envelopes addressed to him. He wanted his students to know that despite the fact he was leaving, they could contact him at any time. As he handed out the notebooks, he shared his favorite memory about each student. The exercise brought him to tears.

“For all the times I told my students they could be whatever they wanted to be, I had better practice what I preached.”

On June 20, 2011, Nathen sat tranquilly at the Llew Evans Scholarship Golf Tournament reception. He engaged in conversation with the chairman of the Becker College Board of Trustees with a maturity beyond his years. His idol is Benjamin Franklin, a man, who like Nathen, questioned the status quo and was not afraid to be a bit unadorned. When his name was called, he headed to the podium to deliver his acceptance speech as the recipient of the Llew Evans Scholarship. He thanked those who had invested in his future and made the obligatory golf-themed allusion. He then caught the audience off guard. “I don’t need to tell you how difficult it is to pay for higher education,” he said. “However, I still have a couple minutes on the clock, so I’ll give you some context none-the-less.” It was that attitude, with the fortitude to march to the beat of a different drummer, speak candidly to a daunting crowd and to say what he means and mean what he says that makes Nathen the embodiment of the Becker spirit.

Prior to City Year, Nathen was not the type of student who would have been chosen for the Llew Evans Scholarship. However, the program gave him faith in himself academically. It provided him with focus. He enjoyed art, but felt art school was impractical. He learned that he felt energized in small, team-based projects that allowed him to be creative. He was not built for large lecture halls and professors who only knew him by an ID number and not his name.

“It’s knowing what conditions you like to work in, what type of personalities you work well with, what actually motivates you to do something, and what you actually enjoy doing,” said Nathen. “When I had a better understanding about that sort of stuff, that’s when I became a better student, and that’s when I started looking for a game design program like the one at Becker.”

Nathen has transformed into a rising star in the Becker game design program. He is also president of Becker’s first-year honor society, a tutor in the collaborative learning center and the proud owner of a 3.9 GPA. His future is bright. “Ideally, I would like to work for a small independent gaming company, or create a Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game (MMORPG) that rewards players with small donations to different charities, instead of irrelevant stuff like in-game costumes or pets, which have no actual impact on the real world,” he said.

During spring break of the City Year program, Nathen and his fellow Corps members arranged a camp for the students themed “I know/I can” which emphasized the connection between knowledge and empowerment. Nathen takes the lessons of this program to heart.
Knowledge is power. Time is money. Remote access is paramount.

Few people understand these simple tenets and how they are shaping our global economy better than Erjon Metohu ’08, founder and creative director of Eri Mobile. Metohu’s company focuses on mobile application development for iPhone, Android, BlackBerry, and Windows mobile phones.

Not yet familiar with mobile applications? No problem. All that’s required is at least one opposable thumb, a handheld mobile device with internet connectivity (commonly known as a ‘smartphone’) and the ability to embrace the increasingly digital age that surrounds you.

Many businesses are realizing that just having a website is no longer the only – or the most efficient means for connecting with and serving the needs of today’s consumers. More and more customers are relying on mobile applications (better known simply as “apps”) to communicate, search products and services, find information, and make purchases.

Metohu is fully aware that the smartphone industry is rapidly spiking upward. “In April of 2011, a tech research firm [Gartner] reported that almost 300 million smartphones were shipped last year alone,” he says. “This year, that figure is expected to jump to 468 million. Next year, smartphone shipments could exceed 630 million. By 2015, the research firm predicts 1.1 billion smartphones will be shipped worldwide.”

The advent of the “app era” coupled with advancements in the growing mobile device industry has re-defined how we conduct business and interact with the world around us. Instant access to the global marketplace, in addition to decentralized access to our society’s combined knowledge-base, puts the world, quite literally, at your fingertips. Digital media trends have shifted dramatically in recent years and the burgeoning mobile application industry represents a culmination of technological advancements in a relatively new but rapidly expanding market.

These trends also serve as testimony that we are indeed a culture that strives for easy access and places great emphasis on instant gratification. It seems we have collectively accepted the notion that perpetual connectivity is not only okay, but necessary in order to maintain a competitive edge, both professionally and socially.

As we are engulfed in a new era of information consumption, Metohu is riding the crest and earning his own slice of the action: “My goal is to be one of the leading mobile app development companies in the New England area. Since I have a passion and love for website development, technology, and smartphones, I decided to jump into the mobile app development industry because there is currently an extremely strong demand for app developers,” Metohu explains. “This is an exciting time for mobile app developers, there is so much potential for quick growth. Personally, I’m getting new requests each week and it’s becoming more and more difficult to keep up with all the requests.”

Each application takes anywhere from one to six months to build – depending on the overall functionality and complexity of the application itself. His first client was a company called Status Ride, an exotic and luxury car rental company that wanted to develop an iPhone app to promote their product line via 3D tours, videos, and virtual test drives. “I never thought that my work would involve interacting with Lamborghinis, Ferraris, Porsches, Maseratis and Rolls Royces,” Metohu beams. “It’s a dream come true for me in many ways.”

“So far,” Metohu shared, “I’ve been able to use the entrepreneurial and marketing strategies I learned during my time at Becker to propel me to where I am today. My Becker education
“My Becker education has opened many doors for me so far and I’m fortunate to have earned one of the most well-respected design degrees in New England.”

In addition to joining the ranks of Becker faculty as an adjunct web design instructor, Metohu consults on web strategies for www.becker.edu and is in the process of developing a concept for Becker College’s very own mobile application. The proposed application, Becker on the Go, would allow prospective students the ability to schedule a tour, chat with an admissions officer, take a virtual tour of campus or apply online. Current members of the Becker community would be able to research professors, check course schedules, register for classes, find the next shuttle, check out what’s on the menu for dinner, monitor the news, RSVP to events, and more.

Chances are, there’s a mobile application only a few touches away that is designed for the sole purpose of making your life easier, better informed, healthier, and wealthier. Need to pay a bill or transfer money in a pinch? Or maybe research restaurant options in between a game of Angry Birds and quick browse of your facebook news feed? Why not take a few moments to consult the weekend weather report, your stock portfolio, and latest scores of the big game before documenting your ambitious calisthenics routine and monitoring your daily caloric intake? Searching for that special recipe or to find the lowest fare for a much needed beach getaway? Want to see how you would look 400 pounds heavier just for the fun of it while streaming your favorite music station?

“Rest assured,” Metohu says with a smile, “…there is most certainly an app for that.”

According to Cambridge-based Forrester Research, Apple has more than 350,000 apps, while the Android platform has about 150,000. Already a $2.2 billion market, the firm estimates that revenues generated from paid apps could surpass $35 billion by 2015. A leading media-centered research group, Screen Digest, predicts that the global market for mobile apps will rise 81.5% by the end of 2011.
R ussell Couturier  ’78LJC has always been an inventor. From an early age, he was “always making stuff,” often making something out of scraps and odds and ends. Growing up on a farm in Maine provided the perfect medium of tools, farm equipment, hay bales and other raw materials to experiment with his budding creativity. “Innovation came later,” Couturier says, “when I knew what I was doing.”

Although Couturier explored other colleges to attend in and around Maine, it was a small baseball scholarship that ultimately brought him to Leicester Junior College in 1976. There he met his history professor and baseball coach, Dr. William Stueck, who left a lasting impression upon him through his strong commitment to academics as well as sports. “He was the first person to enlighten me on the importance of academics,” says Couturier. “He taught me that education really makes a difference in people’s lives, and inspired me to continue my education after graduating from Leicester.”

Couturier also credits LJC for providing him with the best practical approach to education, which subsequently prepared him for his future degrees and even his business life. “I really felt like I left with a set of skills,” he says. “As an inventor, an entrepreneur, you really need to be able to communicate your ideas.”

He is especially impressed with the advancements Becker has made in its computer programs, especially its new computer video game design program. “I’m sort of a technologist who wants to be artsy,” he explains. “Gaming to me is the intersection of art and technology. I love that. As an inventor, I wish something like that was available to me when I was in school, because it offers an outlet. To be able to have this type of forum in an academic environment – to stimulate, grow and cultivate these ideas in both a formal and informal way – is exciting.”

Following his graduation from LJC, Couturier attended Springfield College, where he was first introduced to programming. As a graduate student, he was offered a fellowship and ultimately earned his master’s in biomechanics, a field that has been advanced by computer science. He became intrigued with the computer science aspect, and worked in the industry for about 20 years before earning his doctorate from the University of Massachusetts in 2000.

Couturier is humble about his achievements, which include five networking and security patents and the creation of four successful technology companies. His biggest challenge as an inventor, he says, “I believe inventors and artists live on the edge. There is the domain of what is known and what is yet to be discovered. As an inventor, you’re always right on the edge of that domain, pushing it a little, because you’re trying to create
something new. You create a lot of things before you develop something that works, so the biggest challenge is being on the edge with an idea, then deciding when you have formulated it enough to present it to someone who will want to develop that idea. And, again, communication plays a big part, because you're presenting an idea that is completely new."

Couturier considers all of his inventions his “children,” adding, “You create them, so you nurture them, you defend them, and you promote them.” It’s difficult for him to choose which of his inventions is his favorite; however, his most interesting is the one he and his company, Déjàvu Technologies, are currently working on with the U.S. government, writing software that basically decompiles network traffic “to help identify and prosecute the bad guy.”

“If someone who has been identified as a suspect is on the computer and doing things over the network that are illegal, we can watch them, decompile everything that they do, identify them through their computer, their Facebook ID, etc., and then present that information to an investigator. I get to work with people who are chasing the bad guys, like terrorists, extortionists and hackers. We are enabling those who keep our world safe to do it better, to do it quicker, more efficiently, so I really think this one is the most satisfying to me for that reason. It feels good.”

Couturier explains that his companies are generally run by a small staff because they “grow the technology and prove it, then sell it.” In a time when crime is prevalent on many different levels, Couturier is proud to be giving back to society and helping keep the world a little safer.

Couturier resides in Worcester, Mass., with his wife, Beth, a fitness instructor at Worcester Fitness. He has two children and two step-children, and is very proud of his relationship with them. With his children grown and out of the house, his free time has allowed him to pursue another one of his dreams, learning to play the bass guitar. While he admits to driving his instructor crazy recognizing all of the intersections between art and math, music and computer science, he finds it one of the most relaxing activities, losing himself as he plays.

As all of his inventions have been science-related, he’s always wanted to do something more arts-related, and has now been playing for two years, and often plays bass with a local blues band. He hopes to learn how to play more instruments, but for now, continues to develop computer security software for individuals and businesses.

“I’m sort of a technologist who wants to be artsy.”
CORPORATORS RECEPTION
JUNE 8, 2011

Becker Trustee Richard Pyle and his wife, Marla, hosted the Corporators reception at their home in West Boylston, Mass.

1) l-r: Marjorie Hastings-O’Connell ’61 and Marla Pyle

2) l-r: President Robert E. Johnson, Richard Pyle – trustee, Marla Pyle and David Brunelle – chair, corporators

3) l-r: Jodi Brunelle, R. Norman Peters – corporator, and Michelle Jones-Johnson

4) l-r: Karen Schedin - Interim Dean of Enrollment Management, Fran Polito ’68 – trustee


6) l-r: Jack McHugh and Charles Aleksiewicz

7) l-r: Tom Dolan and Henry Ciborowski – trustee

8) l-r: David Brunelle – chair, corporators, and John Graham – trustee

LLEW EVANS GOLF TOURNAMENT
JUNE 20, 2011

Becker College hosted the 19th Annual Llew Evans Scholarship Golf Tournament at Blackstone National Golf Club in Sutton, Mass.

1) l-r: Paul Fortier – corporator, Mark Fuller – corporator, David Harned, John Shaw

2) l-r: David Lougee, Peter Dawson, Henry Michie – corporator, Bill Jones

3) l-r: Dean Hickey ’83 – VP of Institutional Advancement, John Budd – trustee, President Robert E. Johnson, Bill Curry

4) l-r: David Briden, David Ellis – VP for Finance, John Andreoli, Peter Ellis

5) l-r: Steve Hoar – coach, Judy Tonelli-Brown – Creative Services Manager, Michaela Prouty, Dan Prouty ’71LJC – trustee

6) l-r: Linc MacDonald ’64LJC – corporator, John Chasse ’64LJC, Matt Stepanski ’72LJC, Ed Woodcome

7) l-r: Bill Morrow, Dan Mancini, Tim Paige, Chris Hirons

8) Michael Lussier (second from left) – trustee, and the Webster First Federal Credit Union team
ON THE ROAD

CAPE COD RECEPTION
WEST YARMOUTH
JULY 15, 2011

Former trustee, and now Becker corporator, R. Norman Peters hosted alumni and friends at his home for this year’s Cape Cod regional reception.

1) l-r: Jim Generelli ’53, Pat Generelli, Betty (Gross) Pickford ’54 and President Robert E. Johnson
2) l-r: M. Lorraine (MacIsaac) Ernst ’51, Mary (Laughlan) Brigham ’47, Pamela Lippincott, Jasmine Johnson ’15 and Michelle Jones-Johnson
3) l-r: Michelle Jones-Johnson, Konnie Lukes, Jim Lukes, Rosemary Spillane, R. Norman Peters – corporator
4) l-r: Maria Pyle, Richard Pyle – trustee and Norma Sandison – former trustee
5) l-r: Joan Dolan, Tom Dolan and Dick Covell ’49 – former trustee

ALUMNI SPREE DAY
JULY 16, 2011

Alumni returned to campus to reconnect with friends and to relive the memories of college life.

1) l-r: Teyon Daye ’08, Anthony Cumbo ’06, Jacqueline Gallant ’08
2) l-r: Kendrick Jenkins ’01, Abby Jenkins, Jeremy Ricardo ’99, Corrie Thayer ’00
3) l-r: Laurie Coffey ’03, Nicki Santos ’01 and Nicole (Correia) Saunders ’03
4) l-r: Joe Mitchell ’96 and Joe Mantha ’99
5) l-r: Joe Mitchell ’96 and Johanna LeClair ’00 & ’11 – president, alumni association board
6) l-r: Joey Buchanan, Lakisha Leach ’09, Lauren Klein ’09
7) Blaine Bell ’09
8) Lashika Leach ’09
RED SOX PRE-GAME RECEPTION
GAME ON, BOSTON
SEPTEMBER 3, 2011

Before watching the Red Sox take on the Rangers, alumni enjoyed lunch at Game On.

1) l-r: Jen Graves, Tom Graves ’02, Peter Dufault – Becker staff
2) l-r: Peter Dufault and Mike Foy – Becker staff
3) l-r: Lee Perron, Nate Arruda, Kevin Graves and Joe Sirmans ’01
4) Action at the game

GOLDEN YEARS LUNCHEON
SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

Graduates celebrating 50 years or more reunited on the Worcester campus for a reception and luncheon.

1) l-r: Barbara (Tirrell) Parker ’59, Bob Lemon ’59, Bunny (Swinden) Lemon ’59 – alumni association, Ruth (Bucinskas) Dowgilelewicz ’65 – alumni association
2) Sylvio ’49 and Helen Demers
3) Edmund and Jean ’47 (Baltrus) Decoteau
4) Margaret and John ’58 Louden
5) Pat and Cliff ’58 Hager
6) Louise (Zambarano) Buckle ’38
7) Virginia (Diggins) O’Connell ’38
8) l-r: Mary Maloney ’97 – Major Gifts Officer, and Mary (Laughlan) Brigham ’47
Becker’s alumni online community continues to grow!
Thank you to everyone who is staying connected, we enjoy hearing from you. The Alumni Association would like to congratulate Fabianne Eliacin ’04, who won the alumni website challenge and received an iPod touch.
New Year, New School

The 2011-2012 year opened August 30, with Fall Convocation, making the Leicester campus a sea of blue and white.

Convocation began with a procession of nearly 500 new freshmen, transfer students, and returning upperclassmen. New students, wearing white shirts, proceeded through a welcoming gauntlet of returning students, wearing Becker blue shirts, to the ceremony in the Leicester gymnasium. The lyrics of the College alma mater were printed on the back of both the new and returning students’ shirts.

In his typical, high-energy style, President Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D. delivered to students the “Eight D’s of Success,” that he had learned from a friend and former NFL coach: desire, direction, discipline, dedication, dependability, determination, durability, and defense.

Turning it up a notch, President Johnson launched from an Eminem quote into his own motivational alphabet. Starting with, “Accept the challenge,” and “Believe in yourself,” he drew shouts of enthusiasm from the crowd, who rose to their feet, and ended with, “Zealously remember the Eight Ds!”

Success! New Funding Supports Students

On September 20, U.S. Representative James P. McGovern (MA-3) was on campus to announce that Becker has received a five-year $2,000,000 federal grant administered by the U.S. Department of Education under the Strengthening Institutions Program. The College’s first competitive federal Title III grant, it will greatly enhance programs and services that prepare first-time, first-year students for success.

The grant will be used to fund Becker’s “From At-Risk to Success” program, a comprehensive and coordinated effort to better prepare enrolled students for academic success. Most of the targeted programs were already underway on campus and showing positive results.

Programs to benefit from the additional funding include expanding dual enrollment with area high schools; increasing the number of foundational courses and first-year course assistants; technology to support course content; expanding existing advising, tutoring, and mentoring programs; and growing Becker’s “Living and Learning Communities,” where students in similar programs are housed together to take advantage of peer and supplementary academic support.

MassDiGi Draws Federal Funds

The digital games industry is a speeding train, and the Massachusetts Digital Games Institute (MassDiGi) is becoming a frequent destination and point of interest. U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern visited on September 27 to announce a $500,000 federal grant to develop regional economic development tools that expand opportunity and create jobs. The grant is being administered through the U.S. Economic Development Administration’s University Center Economic Development Program.

“MassDiGi is a landmark opportunity for Massachusetts to build on our strengths and pursue long-term, high-tech, innovation-economy job growth,” said Rep. McGovern.

At the same time, MassDiGi and Becker also officially announced memorandums of understanding with six private video game developers. Under the terms of the agreements, the companies will provide resources and personnel in support of the Institute.

Just weeks earlier, MassDiGi announced a $30,000 award from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to fund a virtual “Rapid Integration Lab,” which will allow industry and academia to tap into each others’ resources to test and demonstrate “next generation game technologies,” and a “Reverse Sabbatical” program in which game industry professionals would come to Massachusetts schools to help in the development of new game technologies.

“These initiatives help to create competitive advantages for students and companies,” said Becker President Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D. The designation of MassDiGi at Becker, and the funding from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, signals recognition of our academic excellence.”

U.S.News Nods at Becker

U.S. News and World Report called Becker College “a popular destination for prospective game designers,” in an article that appeared recently on USNews.com: “Discover 9 Hot College Majors.”

Development of digital games majors, and enrollment in those programs, have been on the upswing since the 2005 launch of the Interactive Entertainment major, with concentrations in computer game design and computer game programming and development.

Applications to the major rose 200% in just the last year. In response, the College hired two additional faculty members for the program, and began an online certificate in game design, aimed at adults seeking to add to their professional portfolios or make a career change.

To close the Fall Convocation ceremony, students gathered on the Leicester Common for a candle lighting.
Social & Responsible

“We’ll always remember when the Americans came,” was the phrase ringing in the ears of Mission2Go members, as they bade farewell to a community of new friends. Over the summer, Professor Debra Pallatto-Fontaine and Keith O’Hara, general manager of the Becker bookstores and a College corporator, led a small group of students on a service trip to Honduras. To a person, the Becker volunteers spoke of being profoundly changed by their work at the Monte Horeb Center, an educational and vocational project for youth and young adults at risk. Living without electricity and running water in an impoverished area, Meagan Cross ’14 said she was touched by the generosity and hospitality of the people who welcomed them to the center. Megan and her fellow volunteers spent their days in Honduras painting buildings at the center, teaching English, and doing crafts and playing soccer with the younger children. They tried new foods and made an “American meal” for their new friends.

They also brought and procured donations of food, school supplies, construction supplies, materials for cosmetology and cooking classes, and fuel for the center’s bus. Plans are already underway for the 2012 Mission2Go trip, to work with Simply Smiles, on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, located in La Plant, South Dakota. Simply Smiles is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing bright futures and improving the lives of impoverished children.

Professor Pallatto-Fontaine said, “These service and cross-cultural trips are aligned with Becker’s mission in preparing students to be tomorrow’s leaders and responsible citizens in a global economy, while giving them an appreciation for diverse cultures and peoples.”
Please send news about you — career, marriage, children, accomplishments — for inclusion in Class Notes to:

**Becker Bridges**
P.O. Box 15071
Worcester, MA 01615-0071
508.373.9531 phone
508.831.7505 fax
alumni@becker.edu

**CLASS NOTES**

**1930s**

John Wigglesworth ’31 celebrated his 98th birthday in April with family and friends at the Catholic University of America.

Agnes (Murphy) Tullis ’37 was a tech sergeant in the United States Marine Corps from 1943-1946. From 1977 until her retirement in 1999, Agnes was the assistant director of the Windward Senior Day Care Center in Kailua, Hawaii. Agnes still resides in Kailua, is active in church, loves to read and visit with her children and grandchildren.

**1950s**

Paul Barton ’50 is trying to reconnect with Joyce Lewis ’49 whose last known address was in Atlantic City, N.J.

**1970s**

Debbie (Watts) Grover ’79 and Steve Grover ’80 had a great time at Becker’s first ever Alumni Spree Day on July 16, 2011. Next year they hope to see more alumni from their classes and Linden Hall residents they had in Linden Hall.

**1980s**

Lisa (Cruz) Kincaid ’85 celebrated 15 years of marriage in August. She recently bought a house in Roslindale, Mass. She has three children, and her oldest is soon to be married. Lisa enjoys teaching special needs children. She attended Alumni Spree Day and had a great time making new friends and being back at Becker for the weekend!

**1990s**

Jessica Spencer ’96 successfully completed the dissertation process for her doctorate in education in April 2011. She is looking for post-doctorate training opportunities or positions in higher education.

Aimee (Levesque) Jabbert ’99 resides in Thompson, Conn. She earned her MBA from Nichols College and works as a human resources recruiter at Carroll Enterprises in Worcester, Mass.

**2000s**

Kim Robinson ’02 married Christie Clopton on November 23, 2010. The couple is in the process of adopting a baby. Kim works as an office manager at a chiropractor’s office in Vernon, Conn. and plays softball three days a week.

Amy (Furniss) Brix ’03 married George Brix on June 25, 2009. They live in New Jersey. Amy is a nursery school teacher and loves every minute of it!

Bob Martin ’03 & Heather Noel ’03 were married on June 11, 2011. The couple tied the knot on Becker’s Leicester campus. (Pictured in photo above)

Arlene (Murch) Noheimer ’03 was married April 24, 2010. She and her husband had their first child in September and bought their first home in Mansfield, Conn.

Nicole (Correia) Saunders ’03 was married in 2008. She and her husband had their first child, Mara, on September 28, 2010. Nicole works as a clinical mental health therapist.

Fabienne Eliacin ’04 enjoys spending time volunteering with Boston Mothers Care, a group of women who have made two aid missions to Haiti since the earthquake in 2010. She also works at the InterContinental Boston as an engineer coordinator and the team leader for the green engage/recycle program at the hotel. She has a beautiful 3-year-old daughter who keeps her very busy. Fabienne would like to reconnect with her classmates.

Kristen Regan ’05 has been working as a direct case manager for the past four years after graduating from Becker with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. She has two basset hounds, Brody and Hunter.

Blaine Bell ’09 lives in Stoneham, Mass. with his girlfriend of 3½ years, Allison Flynn ’09.

Lauren Klein ’09 graduated from the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago, Ill., with a masters in marriage and family therapy.

Lakisha Leach ’09 currently works at the Attleboro YMCA where she is a welcome center rep, group exercise instructor, camp counselor and young adult membership administrator. She works in child care there as well.

Nicole Rocha ’09 has been dating Kevin McGee ’09 for four years. The couple resides in Dover, N.H.

**PLEASE SHARE WHAT IS CURRENTLY HAPPENING IN YOUR LIFE WITH YOUR CLASSMATES AND THE BECKER COMMUNITY.**

Submit your updates and photos to alumni@becker.edu
Dalton Hall Class of 1986 had their 25th reunion at Becker College the weekend of August 5th. They toured the College campus and spent two nights at Merrill Hall. Classmates traveled from CT, RI, NY, VT and MA to celebrate this milestone and share fond memories with one another.

They would like to thank dorm mates from the Class of 1987 for joining them and making their milestone celebration extra special!! They would also like to thank Caitlin Visscher from the Becker Alumni Office for making their reunion weekend such a wonderful event!

Pictured from bottom to top: Carolyn (Toscano) Galgano, Theresa (Raposo) DeSimone, Barbie (Maynard) Soler, Cheryl Maher, Trisha (Meadows) Ward, Tricia Shea, Lisa (Losiewicz) Almstrom, Judie (Pennock) Tennant and Emily (McLellan) Ide

Where in the World is Becker College?

When you are packing to travel the country or the world, be sure to include your Becker College gear!

Send us a picture of you in your Becker gear and we’ll not only post it in Class Notes, but you’ll be entered into a drawing for a Becker College bookstore gift card!

Email your photos to caitlin.visscher@becker.edu

IN MEMORIAM

Eleanor Bellows Berthiaume ’31
Gertrude E. Haldiman ’33
Elva Johnson LeBlond ’35
Muriel Miner Caffrey ’37
Marion E. Mayberry ’37
Ethel Alix Dufault ‘38
Donald Leathers ’38
Earl C. Parenteau ’39
Irja Luuko Riano ’39
Alice Belmore Dupuis ’40
Lucia Johnson Pearl ’41
Ralph A. Tipple ’42
Lois Aspinall Andrew ’43
Stewart F. MacMillan ’43
Marguerite Hohberger Gallo ’44
C. Esther Milne Williams ’45
Grace Hampel ’47
Edward J. Antoniewicz ’48
Alexander J. Saitas ’48
Louis P. Parente ’48
Donald J. Mallozzi ’49
Dorothy Salim ’50
Gregory Farnum ’51
Marcia Averill Kazarian ’56
Alfred B. Chene ’56
Wesley C. Wheaton ‘61LJC
Scott “George” Pillion ’76LJC
Debra Botelho ’87
Caroline Wolanski Mutti ’92

UNKNOWN CLASS YEAR
Clifton A. Bayliss
Jeannette Grenier Bonneau
Barbara Baker Nagle Dickson
Jennifer A. Humphrey
Margaret Sullivan Ladago
Florence Drumgool Legere
Ann Zakas Moran
Jean Megarry Robbins Scott
Mary Goodman Smeriglio
Dennis R. St. Hilaire
Mary Jakubowicz Stuka
SPORTS PROFILE

MELVIN BOOKER ’14

CHANGING STRUCTURE

Changing his own course to help alter the outcome of others

What drives a person to the antithesis of a life once led? Does energy creep in slowly from above while we lay asleep peacefully? Or is it a gradual transformation?

Melvin Booker ’14 just needed some guidance, support and structure; tools that can be used to harness raw talent into a work of art. Melvin found those tools in Becker College, where he has been allowed to utilize his enormous talent and create a life he can be proud of.

Growing up in a rough Roxbury, Massachusetts neighborhood wasn’t an ideal environment for a teenager, as Melvin learned first-hand. Since coming to Becker College, Melvin has begun to make positive changes in his life, choosing to face his past head-on. By serving as a member of Becker’s Student Government Association, Student Activities Club, First Year Experience and Gateway Program, Melvin is helping to redesign the landscape at Becker College by providing insight and counseling so that other students will thrive both socially and academically.

“Being a mentor means having an open ear,” says Melvin. “A mentor listens and that helps one to figure out the answers to problems. The majority of people can find their own path, but you can solve a problem better with a little guidance.”

Becoming a member of the Becker football team has also played an integral role in Melvin’s metamorphosis. He has quickly taken to the sport and its lessons in discipline, respect and trust. Football has taught him to ask himself valuable questions: What’s expected of me and how am I meeting those expectations?

“Melvin is very self-motivated and holds himself to a higher standard,” says Becker head football coach Mike Lichten. “His perseverance through adversity is second to none. As he learns more about the game, he learns more about himself.” Melvin considers Coach Lichten a father figure. He appreciates his coach for his consistency and leadership and for holding each player to a high level of accountability, traits Melvin now emulates.

His teammates also recognize the determination and dedication Melvin brings.
Friday, November 4, 2011  
Becker College Ice Breaker Tournament  
Becker College vs. Stonehill College – 6:00 p.m.  

Saturday, November 5, 2011  
Becker College Ice Breaker Tournament  
Consolation Game – 1:40 p.m.  
Championship Game – 2:00 p.m.  

Friday, November 18, 2011  
Worcester Tip-Off Women’s Basketball Tournament  
Becker College vs. Worcester State University – 6:00 p.m.  
Becker Leicester Campus Gymnasium

Saturday, November 19, 2011  
Worcester Tip-Off Women’s Basketball Tournament  
Consolation Game – 1:00 p.m.  
Becker Leicester Campus Gymnasium

“I grew up in a rough neighborhood and want to change it. I want to find a process where I can set the record straight. I want to show others it’s possible to do something great.”

Wondering how to keep on top of the Becker College athletic events?  
It’s easy.  
Visit  
www.beckerhawks.com

“His perseverance through adversity is second to none. As he learns more about the game, he learns more about himself.”
The Davis Family Endowed Scholarship Fund

An endowed scholarship was recently created to honor the memory of Charlivine Blake Davis her son, Willard R. Davis ’39 and Nancy (Allonen) Davis ’39 by Pamela and Philip (Flip) who are the children of Willard and Nancy and the grandchildren of Charlivine “Ma” Davis. “Ma” was an instructor of shorthand at Becker College from 1935-1955. She was beloved by students and when many left the College to serve in World War II she began corresponding with over 500 men and women in uniform. She sent each one news of classmates and a personal note. A dormitory was named after her, “Davis Hall.” Her son, Willard, was employed by Morgan Construction Co. and later purchased Burton Saw Supply, both in Worcester. He married his Becker classmate Nancy Allonen. Nancy was a longtime volunteer for Selby Botanical Gardens and Gulf Gate Library in Sarasota, Florida.

You can provide educational support to future generations when you create a personal legacy.

Gifts made through annuities, charitable trust arrangements, estate plans or wills offer a lasting opportunity to make a major contribution to Becker College.

Structuring your planned gift deserves time and careful thought. As you explore the many available options for such a gift, we welcome the chance to work with you and your legal and financial advisers to develop a carefully-crafted gift plan. The established plan will provide a financially secure future for you, your family and Becker College.

**BEQUESTS**
Designate Becker as a beneficiary in your will or trust.
- Leave a specific dollar amount or percentage of your estate to Becker.
- Retain unlimited access and control of your assets during your lifetime.
- Reduce estate taxes and possibly increase the inheritance of your heirs.

**LIFE INSURANCE**
Designate Becker as the beneficiary of your policy; the death benefits and the premiums are considered a gift to Becker College.

**LIFE INCOME GIFTS**
Choose from a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust or charitable lead trust, depending on your estate-planning goals.
- Receive an income-tax deduction in your lifetime and possibly increase the inheritance of your heirs.
- Receive guaranteed cash payments in your lifetime.
- Reduce or eliminate capital gains taxes on appreciated property.
- Reduce or eliminate estate taxes.

**GIFTS OF RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS**
Designate Becker as the beneficiary of retirement accounts to avoid income and/or estate taxes.

To learn more about creating your personal legacy, contact:

Mary Maloney
Major Gifts Officer

508.373.9525 or mary.maloney@becker.edu
Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends:

The 2011-2012 academic year opened with an exciting convocation for new and returning students on August 30. In September, I was honored, humbled, and extremely proud to witness Becker College reintroduced to the community during the week of presidential inauguration events.

More than an inauguration, it was a celebration of the many accomplishments of the past year, and an affirmation of Becker College’s place as a leading baccalaureate institution.

Many of our accomplishments over the past year warrant celebration:

- We introduced, as cornerstones of a Becker education, the three pillars of global citizenship: academic excellence, social responsibility, and creative expression.
- We forged new and strengthened existing relationships with businesses and organizations, government, and other institutions.
- In April, Becker was chosen by the Commonwealth as home of the Massachusetts Digital Games Institute (MassDiGi), a statewide center to facilitate collaboration, cooperation, and innovation among the digital games industry, the public sector, and academia. MassDiGi will help to position Massachusetts as a global leader in the digital games industry by 2020 – resulting in job growth and economic development. MassDiGi was recently designated a U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration University Center.
- We purchased property at 80 William Street in Worcester, which will house MassDiGi, digital games classroom and lab space, and increase function and meeting space for the College.
- Construction on the new $9 million, 36,000 square foot Leicester Campus Center began in May. Completion is slated for August 2012.
- We received a $1.5 million grant from the Allerton Foundation to establish our first endowed chair which will transform Becker into a national leader in undergraduate animal health education. In October, our excellent and dedicated veterinary technology faculty and students partnered with the Massachusetts Veterinary Technicians Association to draw experts and professional vet techs to campus for two continuing education conferences.
- Our success in the media has improved awareness and raised institutional stature. More than 450 print, online, and broadcast articles appeared or aired in regional, national, and international media outlets including the Associated Press, The Huffington Post, and USA Today.

For the more than 1,100 Becker community members who supported us through their gifts this year, I thank you. We could not have achieved all of these accomplishments, and more, without your help and support.

For those of you who have not given recently, I respectfully ask that you consider making a gift. I can assure you that the resources your gift makes possible will make a meaningful difference in a student’s life.

It is an exciting time to be at Becker. I am committed to our vision and excited about where it will take us, with your help.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D.
President
DID YOU KNOW?

The first perfect game in major league baseball was pitched on the Becker campus.

In 1880, Lee Richmond, a left-handed pitcher for the Worcester National League, pitched a perfect game at the Worcester Agricultural Fairgrounds, which is now Weller Academic Center’s quad.
Becker College is ranked among the top institutions in the region with the highest standards of urban design.

In Preservation Worcester recently presented Becker with an Urban Design Appreciation Award in recognition of good stewardship of our campus as part of a National Register District, with 18 properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

DID YOU KNOW?

Martin Bloom ’68
Helen ‘56 Blood Sibley and Ronald Sibley
Samuel ‘38 and Mary Belluardo
Frederick Banzi in memory of
Anonymous
Ambit Energy
($250.00 +)
Heritage Club
Century Club
($100.00 +)

IBM Corporation
Patricia Kalinowski ’71
William and Maureen Kelleher
Jay Lacke
Eugene Larkin ’50
Michael and Deborah Lussier
Lincoln MacDonald ’64LJC
MacKoul Electric, Inc.
Brian ’59 and Barbara Mahoney
Mary Elizabeth ’97 and
James Maloney
Robert ’03 and Heather ’03 Martin
Barrett and Mahroo Morgan
Keith and Dena O’Hara
Raymond ’56 and Barbara Ranzoni
Karen Schedin
Silver Fox Coaches
E. Richmond ’63LJC and Sue Talbot
Michael P. Tsotsis
Verizon Foundation
W. B. Mason Company, Inc.
Todd Wetzel
Ernest Winkes ’49

Norine ’53 and James Connery
Constellation Energy
Matching Gifts Program
Jean Corson ’44
Norine ’53 and James Cunniff
Marilyn Curtis ’65
Ann ’74 and Stuart Daniels
John Deitrick
Margaret Delano
Lee Dennett
Edwin ’43LJC and Kathleen Desrosiers
Charlene and Ralph Diller
Michele Dohr ’09
Susan ’75 and William Dornbos
Lillian ’58 and Thomas Downs
James Drawbridge ’67LJC
Frederic ’61 and Karen ’61 Dreyer
Lois Dudley ’41
Tomoko ’92 and Erik DuPaul
Marcia Durgan ’78
Dorothy ’46 and Ralph Ellis
Linda Esper
James Flippin ’59LJC
Andrew Floriani ’00
Janet Fogg-Simpson ’42
Brenda ’83 Foley-Lynch and
Michael Lynch
Paul ’74LJC and Karen Fontaine
Karen ’81 Fougere-deVillers and
Robert deVillers
Sharon ’62 and Michael Foust
June French ’48
John ’66 and Vera Gallant
Alphorne ’50 and Betty Gauthier
James ’53 and Patricia Generelli
Tommie ’67LJC and Linda George
Lucille ’50 and Donald Giles
Candido Gonzalez ’47
Nancy ’61 and Douglas Goodnow

President’s Club
($500.00 +) continued

Mary Elizabeth ’97 and
James Maloney
Robert ’03 and Heather ’03 Martin
Barrett and Mahroo Morgan
Keith and Dena O’Hara
Raymond ’56 and Barbara Ranzoni
Karen Schedin
Silver Fox Coaches
E. Richmond ’63LJC and Sue Talbot
Michael P. Tsotsis
Verizon Foundation
W. B. Mason Company, Inc.
Todd Wetzel
Ernest Winkes ’49

Heritage Club
($250.00 +)

Ambit Energy
Anonymous
Frederick Banzi in memory of
Jean Cotti Banzi ’62
John Cotti Banzi ’62
Samuel ’38 and Mary Belluardo
Helen ’56 Blood Sibley and Ronald Sibley
Martin Bloom ’68
David Bousquet ’97
Robert Bruce
Nancy ’50 and Delbert Conner
Mary ’81 and Paul Cotnoir
Richard Covell ’49
David and Julie Crowley
Darcy Design Construction Inc.
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Opportunities in this growing field include careers in the private sector as well as crime scene investigation divisions, bureaus of criminal identification, evidence recovery units, and crime laboratories.

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Becker’s Game Design Program has been ranked in the top 10 nationwide for two years in a row by The Princeton Review.

Our graduates attain employment in the game industry, software development companies, advertising agencies, web and multimedia development companies and more.

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32 2001 DONOR REPORT
DID YOU KNOW?
Rev. May was a leading anti-slavery figure for over three decades and a prominent individual in the New England literary community during the mid-1800s. The house, which Becker had used as a residence hall, is due to be converted into a visitor center for the Town of Leicester, a museum dedicated to the Underground Railroad and home to the Louisa May Alcott Creative Writing Center.
DID YOU KNOW?

The Order of the Elm recognizes alumni, parents and friends who have helped secure the long-term future of Becker College by including the College in their estate plans.

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2011 DONOR REPORT 35
In his inaugural address delivered on September 16, 2011, President Robert E. Johnson told the audience “...there is significant value in attaining a college degree. According to the Census Bureau, a person with a college degree will earn a million dollars more over their career than a person with a high school diploma.”

A short time after our president’s inauguration, a tiny, delicate, tattered copy of a marketing piece printed over a century ago was given to the College by a member of E.C.A. Becker’s family. By strange coincidence, the text in the booklet – created when E.C.A. Becker was the first president of what was then known as Becker’s College – echoed sentiments expressed by our tenth president about the value of a college education.

Are you aware that graduates from schools and academies can, as a rule command from three to five dollars per week on starting in business? It is a fact. Well trained pupils from Becker’s College command from seven and one-half to twelve.  

E.C.A. Becker

Among the many other topics presented by President Johnson in his inaugural address was the role Becker College has “in the context of the time we are living.” He told the audience that “It should not be our vision to emulate other institutions,” and that “…we must pick up the mantle of quality, excellence, and innovation” and reinvent ourselves to meet the needs of present and future generations.

And that is indeed what Becker College has long done. E.C.A. Becker’s marketing piece proudly proclaimed about the College: “Its standard is the highest. It is the best. It leads.” Over the years, these facts are evidenced by the launch of many program “firsts” – including the first major in journalism to be offered in the East (1937), the first retail merchandising program in Massachusetts (1950), and the first accredited associate degree in science in veterinary technology in Massachusetts (1978). In addition, a number of illustrious graduates have made significant impacts that not only made a difference upon the society in which they were living, but also contributed significantly to future generations. Eli Whitney graduated in 1788 and invented the cotton gin, which revolutionized the American agricultural industry. William Morton, the “Father of Modern Anesthesiology,” advocated for the use of ether in surgery. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, he created an ether inhaler, offered “free rights to his innovation to all charitable institutions throughout the country,” and administered ether to thousands of those injured during the Civil War, thereby creating less painful surgery and treatment. And Robert Goddard, known as the “Father of Modern Rocketry” who studied at Becker in the late 1800s, helped open up new frontiers in space.

These, and thousands of other Becker College graduates, have drawn upon the excellence and preparation they received to go out and influence the world. Indeed, E.C.A. Becker’s claim to high educational standards and outcomes were echoed in President Johnson’s words when he said, “Becker College is built on a simple idea. It is an idea that we can educate an ordinary person to go out and do extraordinary things…Our challenge today, and in the future, is to never stop believing that each person can make a difference and achieve their dream.”

From this tiny booklet promoting Becker’s College of the past, to today’s Becker College and our new president, the words of two of the institution’s leaders can be seen as bookends that unite and support what Becker College has been, what Becker is now, and what we can become in the future.
The Becker College Bookstores are your place for official College gear. Buy online or at our two campus locations – new and used textbooks, Becker apparel, gifts and more.

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Becker College is proud to announce that it has surpassed the $7.5 million goal of its Capital Campaign, “Transforming Lives Through Education,” through contributions made by more than 1,800 alumni, trustees, friends and foundations. To date, $2 million has been raised for endowed scholarships, $1.5 million for the annual fund, $2.2 million for improvements to the Borger Academic Center and other capital projects, and $7.5 million toward the construction of the new Leicester campus center.

Your support is needed now, more than ever, as we continue with the construction of the new campus center. Your gift will help fund the $9 million of total costs for the building.

For more information, call 508.373.9527 or visit www.alumni.becker.edu

The 35,727 sq. ft. campus center will provide our current and future students with many additional academic and student life options, guaranteeing an exciting college experience that positions Becker College as a leader in higher education.