Announcing the launch of Becker’s new website
The Becker Fund

“I truly appreciate the contributions of so many generous alumni who support Becker’s Annual Fund. Their dedication makes furthering my education possible, recognizes my achievements, and provides me with the motivation to continue my hard work through graduation.”

Rebeka Vadenais ’14

Support The Becker Fund today.

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 each student with a transformational learning experience.

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!
Dear Editor:

It was with great interest that I read the article on Erjon Metohu ’08. Not only is it vital that Becker is able to adapt to the changes that occur so quickly in our world, but more importantly, lead the way to new frontiers. Mr. Metohu is an excellent example of a Becker alumnus charting new territory for the school, as well as being fortunate enough to not only graduate from, but also work for, the school.

The “Did You Know’s” were a great addition to this issue. As always, the whole issue is very well written, and an enjoyable read from cover to cover.

Much thanks to you and your staff for the time and effort that you put into providing a top-notch publication. It gives alumni one more reason to be proud to have graduated from Becker.

– Mike Mongeon ’05

Dear Editor:

After receiving the latest issue of Becker Bridges, and reading about the new “Letters to the Editor” section, I wanted to share a few of my thoughts.

Becker Bridges was very interesting and I found myself reading it cover to cover. Page by page, the magazine came to life! The articles were well written and the new publication’s design layout is very appealing. Each article expands my knowledge about the College, a current student, or fellow alum. In the fall 2011 issue, I learned that the Donor Report recognizes contributions as little as $1.00+. I understand the importance of every gift, so I appreciated that each donor was recognized.

Reading the “Believe” article brought me back to President Johnson’s inauguration ceremony, which I was fortunate enough to attend. President Johnson’s address that focused on the power of belief was simply amazing. As a proud constituent of the Becker community and an honored member of Becker’s Alumni Association Board of Directors, I am enthusiastic about the new leadership, and believe in the promising academic future of the College and all it encompasses.

– Ivey J. Blount ’04
Our core values, which are fundamental to our success, provide a filter through which actions may be weighed. They empower the decision-making process at all levels, provide a matrix for an institutional business model, drive what we do and how we do it, define institutional culture, and influence our reputation.

Next steps

In January, our vision, mission, and core values were reinforced throughout campus via posters (pictured on left), fliers, and other materials. Throughout the semester, I will address each of our core values in the President’s Blog. I encourage you to contribute to these blogs with examples of how you and others demonstrate or exemplify these values.

Please know that throughout the process of establishing our vision, mission, and core values, all of your voices have mattered. I am deeply appreciative of the feedback I received and for your dedication and commitment to supporting an institution second to none.

Together, and with our vision, mission, and core values serving as our beacon, we will make Becker College the institution we aspire it to be. And, as we move forward, these will provide a firm foundation for exploring further what global citizenship means at Becker.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D.
President
New Website Launches Becker into 2012
The Internet has evolved dramatically over a short period of time, much like Becker’s web presence.

Vladimir Pistalo: The Bridges Interview
Internationally distinguished author and Becker professor discusses the promise and power of global citizenship.

Digital Games Put Education on Fast Forward
MassDiGI is poised to enhance a critical talent pool while redefining the relationship between industry, government, and higher education.

The Natural
Joe Corey ’12 shares how his love for baseball has provided a rewarding source of inspiration and enjoyment.

All’s Well That Ends Well
Marissa Borst ’02 choreographs a vibrant professional, personal, and creative existence.

Leading Tomorrow’s Leaders
Paula Proctor ’71, principal of the Elm Park Community School, believes that leading by example is the strongest influence.
New Website Launches Becker into 2012

By Raffi Der Simonian

Over the past 16 years, our cultural landscape has changed considerably, but the Internet (more commonly known in 1996 as the World Wide Web), has evolved more than anyone could have ever imagined.

For starters, the number of Internet users has grown from 20 million to over 250 million in America alone. Average web usage by Americans has risen from 30 minutes per month to 30 hours per month. The average time to load a page has shrunk from half a minute to a matter of seconds.

Today the Internet has become so imbedded in the social, economic, and cultural fabric of our lives that it is impossible to imagine living without it. Virtually every institution, organization, business, and entity needs and relies on their web presence to optimally function—Becker College included.

The first-ever becker.edu

It was spring of 1996, and the dot-com bubble was expanding at a rate that seemed almost too good to be true. Companies were seeing their stock price skyrocket simply by adding an “e-” prefix to their name or a “.com” to the end. The Internet was gaining popularity as more and more people around the world were becoming increasingly aware of the potential implications behind a game-changing new mode of exchanging information, ideas, and commerce.

Enter Paul Chase, tech-savvy and forward-thinking dean of information services at Becker College. As someone who naturally gravitated toward the latest wave of technology, Chase was among the first to realize the value and importance of establishing a web presence for Becker College. He initiated a meeting with...
The first-ever website of Becker College was launched in October 1997. (Home page pictured above.)

then-President, Arnold C. Weller, Jr., to pitch a bold idea: building the first-ever becker.edu.

“I can remember President Weller asked, ‘What do we need it for?’” Chase recalls. “At the time, there was no place to go online because there were so few websites. Additionally, Internet access had just begun expanding into homes by way of primitive dial-up modems that often resulted in a busy signal as more and more curiosity grew about this fascinating new virtual destination. Email was also still relatively new, and we could only exchange messages to people within the Becker community. When I arrived here in the fall of 1979, everything was on paper. Ultimately, President Weller saw the potential and gave me the green light to go for it. I remember that at the time there were only a few books available that explained how to create a website. It was like being put in the cockpit of an airplane and forcing myself to learn how to fly. On the plus side, there were not many people who knew anything about websites, so anything I produced was impressive.”

Thanks to Chase’s innovative spirit and propensity toward embracing new technology, Becker was slightly ahead of the curve and among the first colleges in Worcester to establish a web domain. According to Chase, “Back then, websites generally lacked aesthetic appeal because of limited bandwidth to accommodate graphics and the fact that most sites at the time were designed by computer programmers who inherently lacked artistic edge and originality.”

The first-ever Becker website launched in October 1997. Since its inception, becker.edu has continued to grow and evolve. In 2011, over 1.1 million unique visitors from around the world spent an average of two minutes and 12 seconds per visit. While the most recent version of the site had all of the basic components required to meet the needs of the College, rapidly changing advancements in web technology, navigational standards, and social media necessitated an extensive upgrade. Also, an increasing percentage of prospective students are conducting their college search online. Providing a more engaging user experience complete with virtual tours, videos, photo galleries, and other interactive functions enables Becker to become more competitive and better positioned as a nationally recognized baccalaureate institution.

Behind the scenes and behind the screens

The new website redesign project at Becker has been a campus-wide magnum opus fueled by the efforts and guidance of numerous dedicated faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Over the course of the past 15 months, a team of Becker students, faculty, and staff worked countless hours to produce a new site that is well over 1,000 pages. The result is a powerfully enhanced digital tool that reflects the latest web standards and provides broader and more in-depth information about Becker College. The new site positions the College more competitively with other institutions by offering easier navigation, compelling content, and more dynamic functionality. The restructured information architecture and new design of becker.edu allows visitors to navigate the site more intuitively.

Alumni and friends will especially enjoy the class notes page, featured alumni profiles, and many of the new navigational features that illustrate Becker’s history, vision, and mission, student culture, academic offerings, athletics, opportunities to support the College, and much more. The new website also provides a way for alumni to stay connected by providing an easy way to register for events online, add events to your calendar, and “share” events with fellow classmates via email and other social media tools.

Prospective students will also benefit from the new site. Highlights include interactive campus maps, virtual tours, information about planning a visit, and impressive photography. Also, the site is infused with “Excellence in Action” profiles that tell the “Becker story” through the lens of our alumni, students, and faculty who are achieving exceptional accomplishments in their respective pursuits.

More significantly, the new website extends beyond basic information to feature alumni, faculty, and student profiles, course descriptions, and key details on news and upcoming events. In essence, the new and enhanced becker.edu creates a virtual destination not only for timely information, but also to explore, browse, and get connected with the pulse of campus life.

Dean Hickey, vice president of institutional advancement, believes that the new site is a better reflection of the College’s mission. “The update of our website reflects the many exciting developments that are happening right now at Becker College. It better demonstrates the College’s commitment to providing a transformational learning experience rooted in academic excellence, creative expression, and social responsibility for each student—while providing a new vehicle to celebrate what’s happening at Becker each day within our community and around the world.”

The Migration Squad (l-r): Eric Doan ’12, Ben Wojnarowicz ’12, Amanda Veroneau ’12, and Megan Blais ’12. These incredibly hard working, detail oriented, and exceptionally skilled Becker graphic design students will be graduating and seeking full-time employment in May.

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Associate Professor of Liberal Arts Vladimir Pistalo, Ph.D. is an internationally celebrated author and historian. His likeness was among banners and life-size cut-outs of other Serbian literati at the 2011 Leipzig Book Fair. His last two novels, *Venice* (2011) and *Tesla, Portrait among Masks* (2008), are bestsellers in Serbia and have been recognized with prestigious literary awards. He presents at conferences around the world, guest lectures at the University of Belgrade, and is an unofficial ambassador who has introduced American students to Serbia and the Serbian public to the American past and present.

We recently asked Dr. Pistalo about his life as a writer and as an educator.

**Vladimir Pistalo: The Bridges Interview**

By Sandy Lashin-Curewitz
You are a prime example of a global citizen: you witnessed history in your native country; you became a citizen of the United States; you teach American history and intercultural communications. How do you infuse that experience into your classroom?

Pistalo:
Whenever I teach one of my favorite courses at Becker, intercultural communications, I tell my students that although your grandparents might have spent their lives in Maine or New Hampshire, you are going to travel or meet people from all over the world. I want you to be able to communicate with them. I want you to know about their ways and their history, and I want you to become aware of your own conscious and subconscious assumptions. At its best, America is a “parliament of the world,” but there is also a wide world beyond our borders. I want you to proudly and justly play your part in that world. That is the power—and the promise—of global citizenship: the possibilities that exist between worlds.

Pistalo:
My book is not just the story of Nikola Tesla, one of the greatest creative minds of all time; it is also a book about the idea of progress. Tesla is, of late, frequently compared to Steve Jobs. Tesla was a personal friend of two American presidents, as well as of Mark Twain. He was a member of “the 400” in prominent American society who could fit in the New York City ballroom of Mrs. [Caroline] Astor. We could see Tesla, the man whose electrical system made the Chicago World’s Fair possible, as a wizard himself. Tesla was the only mortal who ever created lightening, which is the task usually left to gods. The devices and principles developed by Tesla were numerous; he was one of the fathers of robotics, and a theoretical inventor of radio. Even after the destructions of World War II, my hero, Nikola Tesla, refused to believe his own eyes and kept believing in his secular god—the idea of progress.

Tesla’s 200,000 electric lightbulbs illuminated the Chicago World’s Fair of 1893. This exhibition has frequently been perceived as the gate through which America entered the Modern Era. At this same exhibition, American historian Frederick Jackson Turner officially declared that America had been settled. Upon seeing Tesla’s spectacle, writer Henry Adams sighed, “Who could describe this dream of beauty?” Children’s author Lyman Frank Baum visited Tesla’s exhibition, and he was so impressed that his Wizard of Oz was directly inspired by the World’s Fair. Tesla was a great inventor who used his creative genius to inspire others.

In Other Words...

What others are saying about Vladimir Pistalo:

Pistalo the Writer:

Rene de Ceccatti of Le Monde asserted that Pistalo provided the French readers with a “unique Serbian voice, resounding and urban and new.”

A prominent Bosnian critic, Marko Vesovic, once exclaimed, “Pistalo knows everything. He is a thinking poet, able to tell a good story.”

Pistalo the Professor:

Susan Delja, cultural affairs officer in the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade said, “It was interesting for me, as an American and as a U.S. diplomat, to watch Serbian students react to Dr. Pistalo’s lecture and engage in constructive dialogue about how history and culture have shaped the United States and its relationship to the rest of the world.”

Bridges:

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Bridges:

It will be a year until we can read your latest novel in English. Can you give us a sense of Venice?

Pistalo:

Venice is the most beautiful place on earth; it is truly surreal. Venetian archives date back to the 8th century. They are the dream of every historian! These archives are so vast that their written sheets could encompass the planet several times. Imagine how many stories are in those texts! I tried to tell some of these stories in my book. Venice was the New York City of the 12th century, where Arabs met Byzantines and Germans and Slavs, and where the ideas of “east” and “west” lost their meaning. Venice embodies the idea of a cultural bridge. With its ghostly beauty, Venice is the place situated between this world and some romantic other world.

Bridges:

Although it was published four years ago, readers are still discovering your award-winning creative recounting of the life of the Serbian-American inventor Nikola Tesla, Tesla, Portrait among Masks. It has been translated into 10 languages, soon to include English. What is Tesla’s appeal?

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Technology is changing at an ever-increasing pace, with digital games at the forefront of technological change. Game technology must move quickly to feed the fast-changing industry and consumer demands — games drive technological changes in everything from computer chip design to movie making. This means that the game made today not only has to be better than the game made yesterday, but industry also must offer technology that is adapted for the needs of today and tomorrow.
Educating students to enter an industry where the companies, products, and marketplace could change dramatically, from their first day as a college student to the time they graduate, presents a monumental challenge. The Massachusetts Digital Games Institute (MassDiGI) provides solutions for colleges and educators, students facing those challenges, and companies in need of talent that can move at the speed of their industry.

“You can’t make a science fiction or action blockbuster these days without game technology: 3D animation and motion capture technology make animated characters more lifelike,” says MassDiGI Executive Director Tim Loew. “In addition, an ever-increasing number of industries are creating diverse ways to use game technology to advance and improve how they do business. Because of this, MassDiGI’s work involves more than entertainment.”

The relentless pressure to make more sophisticated games pushes game developers to use the latest technology and methods to create their titles. This puts a strain on educational programs that need to ensure their students are well prepared to adapt to this pace of change. Students enrolling in a four-year game design and development program may find much of what they learn in the first year, beyond the fundamentals, to be outdated in the job market. The only way for a student or an educator to keep up with the changes in technology over the course of their college career is to work hand in hand with industry.

Becker College saw an opportunity to help solve these problems and, at the same time, aid other colleges and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. By working with industry, government, and other academic leaders, Becker led in the creation of MassDiGI, a statewide entity dedicated to academic cooperation, economic development, and job creation within the Commonwealth’s digital games cluster.

“MassDiGI’s goal is to put the Commonwealth’s game students at the top of the talent pool,” says Managing Director Monty Sharma. “The work students will do through the Institute leaves the internship concept behind. Many students will, in fact, see their names on actual products.”

As a result of MassDiGI’s close interaction with game companies, public officials, and colleges across the state, the Institute is already making progress through the development of the Reverse Sabbatical (RS) Program, the Virtual Production Laboratory (VPL), and the Summer Innovation Program.

The Institute is currently gearing up for the 2012 MassDiGI Game Challenge, a national event, April 13-15, that will encourage students to use their skills to compete for awards. The grand prize at the event will be support to complete and launch the winner’s game title into the market. The concept of MassDiGI makes sense to companies such as Simon & Schuster/Pimsleur Language Programs and Roadhouse Interactive, which immediately understood the value of the RS Program and VPL and jumped at the chance to work with students.

During spring 2012, students at Becker and other institutions will have the opportunity to work with professionals at partner companies to bolster their skills and add critical industry experience to their résumés. At the same time, the companies will be able to directly connect with student talent and make a positive impact on the quality of their educational experience.

“Students will gain invaluable experience in state-of-the-art, even next-generation, industry-standard technology,” says Paul Cotnoir, Ph.D., chair of design programs at Becker, who has worked with Loew, Becker College President Robert Johnson, and numerous partners to bring MassDiGI from concept to execution. “MassDiGI initiatives bring student teams, faculty, and industry professionals together to work on creative projects in a real game development environment, effectively eliminating the gap between learning and working.”
A LIFE OF BASEBALL

Ever since he was young, Joe’s father instilled in him a love for the game. “Even before I could walk, my father would sit me down with a bat in our backyard and throw the ball to me, in hopes that I would hit it,” Joe confesses. “My whole family was involved in the sport. I guess it just runs in my blood,” he says with a smile. As Joe grew up, his father served as the assistant coach of his baseball team, teaching, supporting, and always inspiring him to be the best that he could be.

His passion for baseball continued to grow throughout high school. He fondly recalls playing a conference tournament, the Spinners Cup, at LeLacheur Park in Lowell, Mass., home of the Lowell Spinners, a minor league affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. “I’ll never forget the smile on my dad’s face that day. He loved that I was given the chance to play on that gorgeous field.”

Joe plays center field, a position he’s held his whole life. “It’s my spot!” he says with confidence and pride, and rightfully so. While still in high school, recruiters from institutions all over the country began to approach him about playing baseball for their colleges. His sights were set on a school in Virginia, when a friend encouraged him to consider Becker College. Joe ultimately chose to attend Becker, not only to play baseball, but also to study criminal justice. “I absolutely made the right decision,” he declares.

Joe loves everything about baseball. “Most people find it so boring,” he states, “but if you really understand the game, you’re able to not only watch it, but analyze it. I guess having both knowledge of the game and being able to play it really helps.”

Joe Corey ’12

BASEBALL has been a part of Becker College’s history since 1880, when on June 12, J. Lee Richmond of the Worcesters pitched the first perfect game in professional baseball history on what are now the grounds of the Weller Academic Center, in a national league game against Cleveland. A marker commemorating that historic event still rests on the Becker College campus.

For one Becker student, Joe Corey, baseball has played an equally important part in his life.

“Most people find it so boring,” he states, “but if you really understand the game, you’re able to not only watch it, but analyze it. I guess having both knowledge of the game and being able to play it really helps.”
me to be recognized with that award. I know he would have been proud.” Joe also played a pivotal role in the Hawks winning the NECC Championship that season.

The summer following his freshman year, Joe played American Legion baseball, similar to area all-stars. It was during that time that Joe learned about the Annual Oldtime Baseball Game from an American Legion teammate and friend who had been invited to participate after being named MVP of his league. Interested in becoming involved in the event, Joe inquired about how he could do so. Soon after, the director of the league invited Joe to participate, based on his first season performance at Becker; specifically, placing second on the team with a .388 batting average, second in hits with 54, and leading his team with 26 stolen bases.

The Annual Oldtime Baseball Game celebrates the U.S. national pastime as it was played around the turn of the century. The game is noted for its collection of authentic wool uniforms worn by players primarily made up of athletes from colleges and universities in the Boston region and, on occasion, a high school player or retired major leaguer. This year’s game, played at St. Peter’s Field in Cambridge, Mass., was the 18th game played and marked Joe’s third time as a participant. He’s had the privilege of wearing a 1918 Chicago Cubs uniform and the 1944 replica uniform of St. Louis Cardinal Hall of Famer Stan Musial. This year he wore a 1939 Ted Williams replica uniform, admitting there was something extra special about wearing Teddy Ballgame’s uniform. Joe says, “Being from the Boston area, all I ever heard growing up was how great Ted Williams was. To be able to wear that uniform was an honor.” This benefit event has also allowed Joe to share the field with former Red Sox players, such as Lou Merloni and Johnny Peskey—a special treat for this die-hard Red Sox fan.

HAWK PRIDE

The hard work, dedication, and discipline Joe has demonstrated has not gone unrecognized. He was named First Team All-NECC, as well as his team’s Defensive MVP his sophomore year. That same year, he was recognized for his leadership skills when appointed team captain by the head coach, a title he has held for the past three seasons. “This year I was voted on by my teammates. The criteria involve team leadership—it’s not necessarily all about talent.”

Last year, Joe became the eighth player in Becker’s history to record his 100th career hit. With one final season remaining in his college career, Joe is currently third in all-time career hits at Becker College, behind graduates Joe DeLuca ’06 (162) and Devin Caron ’06 (131).

Joe’s passion for baseball has played an integral role in his community service involvement as well. Joe and his Becker teammates have worked with the Jimmy Fund. They have also participated in baseball games to support the battle against leukemia by raising money for leukemia research.

He is also heavily involved in the Little League Baseball Organization in his hometown of Billerica, Mass., which offers a unique program called Baseball Buddy—baseball games for disabled and special needs children. “To be a part of this is rewarding and touching at the same time,” Joe says.

The various opportunities Becker provides through its academics, sports, and other activities, allow students like Joe Corey the chance to not only discover, but act on their natural ability to lead, serving as role models to others. “I am proud to be a part of Becker College and its tight-knit community,” he shares. Joe serves as an orientation leader and student ambassador for the College. He also heads the admissions work-study program and has served as a course assistant for a First Year Experience class.

Through his involvement at Becker and within the community, Joe has come to realize the importance of his experiences and achievements. While possessing a strong drive to succeed, he also understands the importance of helping others, and has found that his love of baseball, while affording him many opportunities, has also taught him valuable life lessons that help him to do great things for other individuals and organizations throughout the community—an example of teamwork at its best.
Marissa Eve Borst, born Marissa Sumal-Jag Lanticse, was the 13th child born into a poverty-stricken family in Tagum City, Davao del Norte, Philippines. Only eight of her siblings survived. At seven months old, Marissa was declared second-degree malnourished, had parasitic and respiratory infections, had lost vision in her right eye, and was dying from the measles. A local hospital admitted and cared for Marissa. After nine months as a ward of the state, living in two orphanages, a bit of luck finally came Marissa’s way as she was adopted by the Borst family of Worcester, Mass.

Marissa grew up in a beautiful Victorian home on the west side of Worcester, and developed an appreciation and passion for the arts. “I went to a high school where my love for the arts blossomed. Everything from being involved in the chamber orchestra, dance team, the narrator for Romeo and Juliet to learning “Imagine” (John Lennon) in sign language, “Ode to Joy” (Beethoven) in German, and analyzing sonnets in English class. A large focus was Shakespeare.”

After completing a year at the University of Hartford, double majoring in business and Spanish, Marissa needed to find an opportunity to better cultivate her creative talents. She transferred to Becker, finding comfort in the design program and renewing her love of art. Most importantly, she had the instinctive knowledge that design was the right path for her to pursue. “I would have never found my love for design if it wasn’t for Becker,” she said.

“At Becker I gained confidence,” said Marissa. This self-assurance was built through design project presentations and defending her intent in the interior design program at the College. It was strengthened by becoming captain and choreographer of the Becker dance team. As Marissa said, “Becker College had an energy and sense of community. Perhaps because the school is immersed in a residential area, my classmates, dance team members, and housemates felt more like family and neighbors.”

Much like her childhood home, she developed a true fondness for the residences on Becker’s Worcester campus. “Living in another Victorian house was like a ‘home away from home.’ Victorian houses have so much character, so much life, and are full of memories. I always thought; who lived here before it was a college dorm? Who lived here when the house was first built?”

In the classroom, Marissa thrived. One particular design project with Becker Professor Barbara Kimball became the foundation for her future as an entrepreneur. Marissa’s task was to create a fictitious company for a home office and residential project that included a schematic design, design development, and presentation of the completed design. She developed All’s Well That Ends Well Designs, in reference to the Shakespearean work that aptly describes her life.

First developed in the Becker design building, 10 years later Marissa is now the owner of All’s Well That Ends Well Designs (AWTEW Designs), specializing in custom artwork and graphic design in Washington, D.C. She creates custom logo designs for business cards, letterhead, and envelopes, as well as matted frames, photo flashcards, quote calendars, custom cards, and keepsake artwork. Marissa is close to completing the National Council of Interior Design Qualifications Examination and this spring intends to finish the third section of the test. Her goal is to expand her firm’s capabilities to

By Jacob Sanders
Photos courtesy of Marissa Borst
all aspects of design, including both graphic and web design. By offering these services, she says the company will be a “one-stop shop” for clients, able to meet all of their design needs.

AWTEW Designs recently teamed up with FACETS to develop an art program. FACETS is a nonprofit organization in Fairfax, Va., that helps those in need of emergency shelter, food, and medical care.

Marissa is also a commercial and hospitality interior designer for Architecture + Design Associates, Inc. in Fairfax, and hopes to become a principal at the company.

She believes there is a common misconception about her profession. “Many think we are decorators. I’ll admit, I even thought this prior to my classes at Becker. I was quickly informed that we are not decorators. We are sometimes called ‘interior architects.’ We ‘create’ as opposed to ‘apply.’” She continued, “My daily job deals directly with partition layouts, plumbing, electrical, and lighting, as well as finishes. We create construction documents that are used for permitting and constructing of a space. Application is a small percentage of my job.”

Marissa is receiving recognition in her community that will help her quickly climb the design industry ladder to success. She is a member of Cambridge Who’s Who, Filipino Young Professionals of D.C., and the director of programming for the Network of Executive Women in Hospitality.

As she did at Becker, Marissa continues to choreograph dances. She also teaches weekly piano lessons, and is the proud mother of an energetic and inquisitive daughter, Eve Autumn.

Marissa has crafted a life of art and beauty from humble beginnings. In spring 2011, about to turn 30, Marissa started the search for her Filipino family. Through Facebook, she found adoptees from her adoption agency and connected with others through the Filipino Adoptees Network. She was also able to find many of the caretakers from the hospital that admitted her. Eventually she connected with her biological brothers and sisters, and just recently spoke to her father for the first time through video chat. “It was an emotional, life-turning moment,” said Marissa. She hopes to return to the Philippines soon to be reunited with those who played an important role in her survival, and to meet her family once again.

From the Philippines, to Worcester, to northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., Marissa has developed a personal philosophy. “If the end result is good and everyone is happy, then it shouldn’t matter the difficult manner of how that end result was obtained...so long as everyone is pleased with the outcome.” For Marissa, “all’s well that ends well” clearly holds true.

“Becker College had an energy and sense of community. Perhaps because the school is immersed in a residential area, my classmates, dance team members, and housemates felt more like family and neighbors.”
The opportunities afforded to Paula Proctor through a financial scholarship from Becker College forever changed her life. Growing up in the '50s and '60s on a farm in a small town, the idea of attending college seemed unattainable. That opportunity, in many ways, opened Paula's eyes to the world for the first time. “When I arrived at Becker, I just exploded with ideas,” she says.

Suddenly being able to go to college and thus becoming exposed to so many different types of people—from all walks of life and social backgrounds, with so many different ideas—and to have this happen during the “turbulent ’60s,” was a truly life-changing experience, she adds. Paula recalls her first “sit-in” taking place on the Becker College campus. So what if it was over changing the dress code; it was exciting! Her experience at Becker not only broadened her academic knowledge; it changed her as a person.

Typically, the expectation for an average adult American woman in the ’60s was to become a wife and mother. Other options were: librarian, teacher, secretary or nurse. “Within a month, I quickly discovered that I was drawn more toward the science, music, and art courses that I took at Becker,” Paula says. To this day, she still possesses several pieces of music that include works by Stravinsky, Ravel, and Liszt, first introduced to her through her education at Becker College.

The “joy” she experienced studying science concepts in anatomy and physiology classes at Becker enhanced her desire to know and do more in the science field. After graduating, Paula worked as a medical assistant, but soon found herself “snookering” doctors into letting her sneak around on grand rounds with them, attend conferences, and access medical journals. “And it all began with that exposure to the ideas I got at Becker through those science courses,” she declares.

She credits two Becker professors in particular for having an impact on her. One was Alex Belisle, a literature professor who challenged his students. “It was not enough that you read something and did your work,” says Paula. “He challenged you to think every time you turned around.” The second was Ruth Connor, a science professor, who “not only gave you the knowledge, but had to make it real, pulling in every last experience she could think of to deepen the stories, to connect the learning to practical things.” Paula goes on to say, “The staff at Becker was phenomenal and, I reiterate, they expanded my knowledge by transforming my way of thinking, making my time at Becker a powerful experience. A big part of my success today has to do with that thirst for knowledge which I acquired at Becker. It’s an experience that I have never repeated in my life.”
After her stint as a medical assistant, Paula took a position as an assistant epidemiologist at UMass Medical Center, during which time she earned her bachelor’s degree in biology. It was then that she began to make lists in order to determine where she could best apply what she had learned in the field of science. It was her combined love for science and children that drove her to teaching. “I just felt that I could make the most difference in elementary school,” Paula says. “My own personality is very curious about things, and I just thought it was a good fit—working with kids and the teaching piece—so I ended up going into teaching.”

Paula began at the New England Science Center in Worcester, Mass., as an education associate. When the Worcester Public School system opened the Jacob Hiatt Magnet School, another new school opening up as a science magnet. She was the third person in charge of administration, behind the principal and assistant principal. When the assistant principal resigned from the position, Paula was chosen to serve in that capacity. She served as an assistant principal at a few other schools before becoming principal of Wawecus Road School four years ago and finally principal of the Elm Park Community School in July 2011. “I absolutely love it here,” she proclaims. “Love, love, love it!”

Paula believes “it is absolutely essential that principals value the skills and efforts brought to the table every day, even if you don’t agree with them. Somebody worked hard to do this for a child or for a class—you need to value that. That’s the foundation for upward growth. It establishes a trust. It establishes respect. I think that respect for the practice of teaching is essential. I think it is even more important to understand and truly believe, to the core of your soul, that all children can learn and will learn if we are doing our jobs.”

Continued on next page.
Continued from previous page.

“The principal is the primary role model in the school,” Paula states. “You can’t do it from a distance. You have to get out there. The child has to see your enthusiasm for learning, your concern for him and the other children around him, your ability to interact well with other adults, and your respect for all,” she says.

Paula also takes an active role in the school’s curriculum. “I’m heavily involved. The most important part of my job is to listen respectfully to the contributions made by the teachers and then align the practices with the state frameworks and the initiatives of the district. As an educational leader, my primary duty is to bring together a group of people and then create a culture of collaboration among them. It’s respecting, collaborating, and aligning with the goals of the district and state, and of course, the needs of the kids. You always have to pull those in too.” She also recognizes how essential the arts and athletics are to a child. “Today,” Paula shares, “we have many children who can’t focus and who are not successful in the tasks that we ask them to do for a variety of reasons, but many of them can be successful in the arts and in physical education or athletics, so I think they’re key to setting children up to be successful in their school life. Also, they’re an outlet for frustration, an outlet for stress or anxiety, and they’re just a great way, through the curriculum, to expand their learning. For instance, a child who may not have understood the teacher’s explanation verbally may go into the art room, and from the discussion about the structure of a tree, will create the tree the way they know it looks, and suddenly it makes sense that there are roots and leaves and branches. The arts and athletics really help to complement what we’re doing here by reaching out to the child in other ways.”

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One of the primary goals of the Elm Park Community School is the implementation of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system, a program designed to enhance the capacity of schools to effectively educate all students, including those with challenging social behaviors. The program encourages preventing troubling behavior from occurring in the first place, rather than reacting to it once it occurs. In addition, PBIS also supports both self-esteem and making good choices. “We have to praise and celebrate those who act as role models and support those who have a different understanding of things and help to bring them along. PBIS has been a longstanding program at the Elm Park Community School, and one that continues to be extremely successful,” explains Paula. “As principal, it is my job to make sure the program continues to be well-implemented, which is essential to its success.”

Another important program currently underway involves an approach to reading, called Guided Reading that provides small group instruction to students on a daily basis. While it’s primarily about reading, this program also involves listening, speaking, and writing. “The guided reading program is really, really important,” Paula declares. “It incorporates writing, which is a way to synthesize the knowledge that you’ve gained through thinking, and it is a way to think. The kids will encounter some books or stories that they’re reading in the program with their teacher, and then they will learn to organize their thoughts in what is called four-square writing, which allows them to develop a writing piece. Vocabulary is also a big component.” To that end, Paula’s vision for the Elm Park Community School includes a library. “I want my kids to read, and so my vision is that parents come in and sit down on the floor with their toddlers an hour before dismissal to read in that library. They’re not my students, but they will be someday, and I want them to read,” she states emphatically.

Paula knows that these students are also the future. Recognizing that it was the opportunity of a college education that allowed her to experience life to its fullest, she is unwavering in her determination to do for these kids what Becker did for her so long ago. She understands that her continued thirst for knowledge, coupled with her dedication, passion, and motivation as a leader, will ultimately encourage these kids to unleash the potential that they each possess.
Save the Date!

July 14-15, 2012
(Farewell Breakfast - July 15)

ALUMNI SPREE DAY!

Relive the Memories!

Registration fee:
$50 per person

Includes:
• BBQ dinner with live musical entertainment and classic Spree Day activities
• Beer garden
• Informative campus updates with Becker administration
• Evening entertainment in Daniels Hall
• Overnight accommodations in residence halls on Saturday, July 14
• Farewell brunch on Sunday morning
• And more!

“I loved my time at Becker. I met so many amazing people who continue to be a big part of my life. Getting the chance to go back in time for a day is an incredible opportunity. I can’t wait to reminisce about old memories while creating new ones at the 2nd Annual Alumni Spree Day!”
– Samantha Surner ’09

Visit www.alumni.becker.edu for more information.
It takes a special kind of commitment to play hockey.

From a young age, hockey players rise before dawn to get on the ice for practice. During the winter months, it seems colder inside the rink than outside. For the majority of these athletes, pursuing a collegiate hockey career means transience. Most play “juniors,” a kind of prep year for hockey players before entering college. It means attending showcases across the country, looking to join a team. It means saying goodbye to family and friends, and living with a host family from an entirely different culture. For most college students, the collegiate experience is a coming-of-age period. For hockey players, it can be the first four years of stability in a long time.
Becker College hockey coach Steve Hoar is able to attract these players from around the country and internationally to play for the Ice Hawks. He provides them with a structured environment, mentorship, and a home in Worcester. As Coach Hoar says, “My philosophy is simple. Every day I have to be better than I was yesterday. I call it continuous measurable improvement.” It is this attitude towards life that Hoar passes on to his players. Because of this, young hockey players of varying backgrounds come together from around the world, embark on a journey at Becker College, and become a family.

The Three Captains

Captains are responsible for ensuring that each member of the team takes responsibility for his actions and represents himself and Becker in a positive fashion. As senior captain Brian Murray said, “I’ve learned so much as a player and leader during my time as a Hawk. I’ve learned how to be a better person, to be a stand-up guy, and how to deal with adversity because of my experience at Becker.” Murray, a captain for two years, and Jeremy Narducci, a captain for three, are also members of the All-Academic team as sports management and exercise science majors, respectively. These are the accomplishments that they are most proud of since beginning their careers at Becker.

Captain Rob Johnson also embraces his time at the College and his growth as a leader. “Playing for Coach Hoar isn’t easy,” he said. “He’s very demanding, but the reward of being a leader is worth it.” Johnson, an exercise science major from Flint, Mich., believes that his tri-captaincy with Apex, N.C., native Narducci and Manalapan, N.J., native Murray is the ultimate triumvirate. All three captains are on the same page, planning ahead, working hard, and never making a decision by themselves. “We back each other up no matter what,” said Narducci.

The Swedes

Viktor Tuurala and Andreas Johansson were born and raised in Sweden. Tuurala is from Stockholm, a burgeoning metropolis where hockey is a national pastime, and Johansson was born six hours away in the small town of Kungsbacka. They both came to the U.S. five years ago—like many hockey players of their ilk—to play “juniors.” Despite the cultural differences, he has found comfort in central Massachusetts. “Worcester is very different than Stockholm of course, but there are many young people with the same interests. I like it.” Tuurala initially moved to Helena, Mont., goaltending on a team with current Becker forwards Branden Parkhouse and David Graham. Johansson followed a similar path as Tuurala, finding his way from Sweden to Florida, and playing for the Space Coast Hurricanes in Rockledge. Tournaments along the Atlantic coast eventually brought him to coach Hoar and Becker College.

For Tuurala, the Helena hockey team earned a trip to a national tournament hosted at the current Becker practice facility in Marlboro, Mass. It was there that he was introduced to Coach Hoar. When making his decision to come to Becker, the exercise science program became the final persuader. Tuurala hopes to become a strength and conditioning coach at the intercollegiate or pro-level, a profession in which he believes he can excel with the help of Becker Professor Peixing Jiang.

Johansson, like many hockey connoisseurs, hopes to stay involved with the game in some capacity. When asked where he’d like to pursue this course, Johansson responded, “Wherever the road takes me.” Opportunity seeking is a characteristic deeply entrenched in most of these players. For the time being, both are happy to be at Becker College.

The Californians

Juniors Branden Parkhouse and David Graham have been playing hockey together since their sophomore year of high school in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. Hockey has taken the two sports management majors to Alaska, Minnesota, Colorado, and Illinois. After playing “juniors” in Helena, Montana, the two were introduced to Coach Hoar who guided them to Worcester and Becker College. “I was looking for a small school where I could get a quality education and play hockey,” said Parkhouse. “Becker has been a great fit for both of us, both academically and athletically.” Becker has instilled a continued sense of discipline in both individuals by challenging them in the classroom and on the ice. As Graham said, “Coach Hoar has us skating hard seven days a week.” The two are in the game for the long haul and will continue to pursue their dream of playing professional hockey after graduation.

Continued on next page.
Outcomes

From Rancho Cucamonga to Kungsbacka, the 2011-12 Becker men’s hockey team is starting to come together. Twenty-four seconds into overtime of the championship game of the inaugural Worcester City Shootout, Becker netted the decisive goal in a 4-3 victory over Worcester State University. This win gives Becker hockey bragging rights over fellow competitors Assumption College, Nichols College, and Worcester State University. The team hopes that the victory will serve as a launch pad to continued success, create community awareness about the Becker hockey program, and instill a greater sense of pride among the Becker community for their team. They also hope to see the Worcester City Shootout become an annual event that will grow in popularity and become a staple of Worcester athletics.

The Becker Ice Hawks are a melting pot of talent, melded together by the craftsmanship of their coach and their respect for the Becker College mission. It takes a special kind of commitment to play hockey: a commitment that defines the Becker hockey program.

Blackstone National Golf Club will host the 20th Annual Llew Evans Scholarship Golf Tournament Monday, June 18, 2012 All proceeds benefit the scholarship fund.

For detailed information, call Cheryl Zukowski at 508.373.9531 or email cheryl.zukowski@becker.edu.
An Evening with the Senate President

Massachusetts Senate President Therese Murray

Therese Murray (D-Plymouth) was elected senator of the Plymouth and Barnstable District in 1992 and became the first woman president of the Massachusetts Senate in 2007. She has long advocated for children’s issues and health care reform. Her accomplishments include welfare reform, a DSS overhaul, consolidation of child care services, mental health legislation, the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund, Chapter 70 education funding reform, and a health care cost control bill.

Agro/Bioterrorism

Lt. Col. Michael B. Lennon (Ret.) Ph.D., DVM

LTC Michael B. Lennon (retired) has served with the U.S. Armed Forces since the 1980s in a variety of capacities, including veterinarian, surgical instructor, and surgeon. He has been on missions to Central America, eastern Europe, and southern Africa, and served during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Dr. Lennon recently retired from the Army and is the author of numerous scientific articles.

The New World of Sports Marketing

Jim Rushton, Senior Vice President, Miami Dolphins

Sports executive Jim Rushton joined the Miami Dolphins front office in 2009 to head up corporate partnerships and integrated media. Rushton moved to the Dolphins from Entercom Communications where he spent 16 years, most recently as vice president of sports sales and marketing for Entercom and Entercom New England. He was responsible for all revenues associated with the WEEI Sports Radio Network, including the Boston Red Sox and Boston Celtics radio networks and the New England Patriots Monday/Friday radio network.

Free and open to the public. Seating is limited. To RSVP, call 508.373.9460 or email lectures@becker.edu. For more information, visit www.becker.edu/lectures.
President Johnson Joins Council on Competitiveness

Becker President Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D., accepted an invitation to join the Council on Competitiveness, a national nonprofit, nonpartisan policy organization of chief executives, university presidents, and labor leaders.

Founded in 1986, the Council on Competitiveness is setting an agenda to drive U.S. productivity and leadership in world markets and to raise the standard of living for all Americans. The Council comprises key leaders from business, labor, and academia to create and advance policy recommendations that further U.S. competitiveness and enhance prosperity in a globalized economy.

"I am honored by the invitation to join the Council on Competitiveness; each college president on the council has a unique opportunity to serve as a model for our industry, and I look forward to collaborating with other advocates for meaningful economic change," said President Johnson.

"To continue to be competitive, American higher education must adapt to the uncertain environment that is the new normal. Becker College is an innovative institution that prepares students for a global economy with inspiring initiatives that deliver a transformational educational experience. Becker has built its history of success by challenging and supporting students from diverse backgrounds to achieve well beyond their expectations, and that is what gives graduates the confidence and skills to rise to the top of their professions."

Professor Ward Edits and Introduces Lost Kerouac Novel


In an interview with Britain’s The Guardian, Professor Ward said that the book shows a different side of Kerouac.

“This book is really quite important, as it shows how Jack developed his writing process,” she said.

The late author, perhaps best known as a writer of the Beat Generation and for his novel, On the Road, was just a 20-year-old merchant marine when he wrote what would become The Sea Is My Brother. In his notes, Kerouac described the story as “man’s simple revolt from society as it is, with the inequalities, frustration, and self-inflicted agonies.”

Becker Hosts Second Vet Tech Conference

Becker College celebrated National Veterinary Technician Week in October 2011, and our own veterinary technician students, with its second Continuing Education Conference for Veterinary Technicians. The College partnered with the Massachusetts Veterinary Technician Association (MVTA) to host the conference and drew notable experts in a number of veterinary fields, including compassion fatigue, practice management, and nutrition.

Keynote speaker Aggie Kiefer, of Novartis Animal Health, and former editor-in-chief of Veterinary Technician magazine, presented innovative opportunities vet techs have created for themselves: focusing on such specialties as nutrition and anesthesia; authoring books and articles; starting consulting businesses; and even opening a veterinary practice.

Becker College Adult Students Inducted into National Honor Society

On October 28, 2011, 42 students enrolled in Accelerated and Professional Studies programs were inducted into Becker’s Theta Nu chapter of the Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society. An induction ceremony was held in Daniels Hall on the Leicester campus.

The students inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda have attained a high level of academic excellence. They are adults from many walks of life who began or returned to college for many reasons, but with a common goal in mind: a better future through education.

Among the working adult honor students were Jason Berthiaume ‘12, a single father of three daughters who relocated to Massachusetts from southern California; Kenneth King ‘12, a father of three sons who has worked as a truck driver and as a military instructor on a submarine, and who is on his way to realizing his dream of becoming an elementary school teacher; Pamela Yaylaiian ‘13, a pharmacy supervisor and a grandmother, working toward a degree in business management; and Chrystian Zdybowic ‘12, who
Becker Signs Criminal Justice Partnership with Quinsigamond Community College

Becker College faculty and administration have signed an articulation agreement with Quinsigamond Community College (QCC), facilitating the transfer of students who have completed the associate of science in criminal justice at QCC to Becker to complete their bachelor of science degree in criminal justice.

Becker and QCC partnered to ensure that students from QCC would be able to transfer all of the credits from their A.S. degree to Becker, including electives, in order to enter the third year of the four-year bachelor’s program at Becker.

Professor Kevin Woods, chair of the Department of Criminal Justice & Legal Studies at Becker, pointed out that most positions in federal law enforcement agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Secret Service, and Drug Enforcement Administration, require a bachelor’s degree. Professor Woods added that, as seniors, many students complete internships in criminal justice fields that often lead to permanent employment.

Becker College and QCC also have articulation agreements in liberal arts, psychology, and elementary education.

Equestrian Teams Compete at Becker

More than 100 equestrians from 10 New England colleges converged at the Becker College Equestrian Center in October, as Becker hosted an Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Region 1, Zone 1 competition.

Among the horses being ridden in the competition were three rescued horses on loan from Lucky Horse Equine Rescue. Most accomplished among the rescued horses is 20-year-old Mello. A favorite among riders, coaches, and the staff at Lucky Horse, Mello has helped earn riders numerous ribbons in both jumping and walk/trot classes despite his age and being blind in one eye.

The 20-member Becker Hawks equestrian team includes students studying nursing and computer game design, as well as veterinary science and equine studies. After first and second place wins in the fall, the team finished 2011 in fifth place, but with several riders qualified for the regional competition in March 2012.

RN to BSN Program – a Candidate for Accreditation

The Becker College RN to BSN education program is a candidate for accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission, Inc. (NLNAC). This candidacy marks the beginning of the accreditation review process.

“The department of nursing deserves congratulations for this significant recognition of our RN to BSN program,” said President Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D. “Dr. Linda Esper and Dr. Margery Orr are to be commended for their leadership in this effort. It is also a reflection of the excellence of nursing education at Becker College.”

The Becker College nursing program ranks #7 in Massachusetts, out of 35 programs, for its institutional National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) pass rate.
CLASS NOTES

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

1990s

Amy (Newfield) Breton ’98 was invited to speak at the University of Melbourne Veterinary Hospital in Australia at the Annual Veterinary Nurses Conference. One international speaker is chosen each year to give participants at the conference a unique experience. As a veterinary technician specialist in emergency critical care, Amy spoke on topics ranging from “how to deal with a hit by car emergency” to “CPR drugs.”

1990s

Susan (Joos) DeLaCroix ’68 would like to hear from her classmates and Miller Hall dorm mates. She is enjoying retirement from Shenendehowa School District in Clifton Park, N.Y.

1990s

Paul Barton ’50 recently became a great grandfather for the first time. His grandson’s name is Xander Simpson.

Carolyn (Call) Hotchkiss ’57 is a retired nursery school teacher. She lives in the Finger Lakes area in New York State with her husband, Bob. In December 2011 the couple celebrated 51 years of marriage and look forward to celebrating many more.

1990s

Carolyn (Call) Hotchkiss ’57

2000s

David Bostick ’05 was honored as the NECC Women’s Tennis Coach of the Year, both in 2009 and 2011. The Hawks took the 2011 NECC Women’s Tennis Championship title after an undefeated season. The women’s tennis team has won this championship three years in a row.

2000s

David Bostick ’05

2000s

Greg Weatherspoon ’05 married Elizabeth Fisher on October 10, 2010. He and his wife live in Worcester, Mass. Greg is the owner of G’s Cuttin Up barber shops and beauty salons. His two shop locations on Park Avenue and Pleasant Street in Worcester have become so popular that he recently opened a third location at 67 Stafford Street. Greg also volunteers his time as a member of Becker’s Alumni Association Board of Directors.

2000s

Greg Weatherspoon ’05 and his wife, Elizabeth

2000s

Brittany De Wolf ’10 is thrilled to have been accepted to the Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine, the fifth-ranked veterinary school in the U.S. She has also been offered interviews at Kansas State University and Purdue University in Indiana. Brittany is still waiting to hear from five other veterinary schools before she makes the decision about which school she will attend. Since graduating from Becker, she has been pursuing her master’s degree in animal science at the University of Rhode Island, and is expected to graduate in May 2012. This past December Brittany presented her research work in Chicago, Ill., at the Conference for Research Workers in Animal Disease.

2000s

Jennifer Skiba ’10

2010s

Brynn (Specht) Zawada ’08 graduated from Suffolk Law School in Boston, Mass., and recently passed the bar exam.

2010s

Brittany (Specht) Zawada ’08

2010s

John DiNardi ’09 lives in East Haddam, Conn. He currently runs his own business as a personal/private property manager.

2010s

Brittney (Williams) Duczynski ’09 married her high school sweetheart, and WPI graduate, Adam Duczynski on August 6, 2011. The ceremony and reception were held at the Ocean House in Watch Hill, R.I. Britney currently works as an after school coordinator at Harrington Hospital, and Adam is a cost estimator for Consigli Construction Co., Inc. The couple resides in Webster, Mass., with their dog, Winnie Cooper.

2010s

Samantha Surner ’09 earned her master’s degree in negotiation and dispute resolution from Creighton University. She continues to work at McGuire & McGuire Law Office in Worcester, Mass., where she has been employed since graduating from Becker.

2010s

Brittany De Wolf ’10

2010s

Jennifer Skiba ’10 completed her marine mammal training at Dolphins
Eleanor Whittemore Skagerlind, of Leicester, Mass., died at the Rose Monahan Hospice House in Worcester, Mass., on November 8, 2011, after a courageous battle with cancer. She is survived by many loved ones: longtime companion Larry Lewis of Leicester, Mass.; her son, Paul Skagerlind ’85 of Templeton, Mass.; two daughters, Janet Macaulay of Oxford, Mass., and Joan Levenson ’78 of Southborough, Mass.; two brothers; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Eleanor worked at Becker College as an administrative assistant to the dean of student affairs for 25 years. During her career at the College she also worked briefly as a faculty secretary. Eleanor retired from Becker in 1993.
Family Weekend
October 15, 2011

In the fall, members of the Becker community gathered on the Leicester campus for Family Weekend.

Pictured clockwise from top left:
1) Becker College vs. Castleton State College
2) Jessica Szorentini ’12
3) A Different Spin (performers)
4) Taylor Floyd ’15 with his parents
5) Tristan Quintal ’13
6) Heather and Bob Martin ’03

Veterans Day Observance
November 11, 2011

Students, faculty, staff, administration, trustees, corporators, alumni, and friends assembled on the Worcester Campus quad to acknowledge and remember our nation’s veterans.

Pictured from left to right:
1) Prof. John Deitrick, Robert Goldsmith ’13, Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D.
2) Chris Lizotte ’14
Scholarship Breakfast
November 15, 2011

A breakfast was hosted at President and Mrs. Johnson's home to recognize the 2011 scholarship donors and recipients.

Pictured clockwise from top left:

1) President Johnson with Scholarship donors and recipients

2) Melvin Booker '14 and Michelle Jones-Johnson

3) Phillip Axtell '12, Dr. John Sullivan – trustee, Ashley Zakrzewski '13, Vanessa Gaston '12

4) Martha Grace – trustee, Frank Millerick – assist. v.p., dir., athletics, Dr. John Sullivan – trustee

5) Bradley Rienstra '14 and Nathen Casimiro '14

6) Christine Wzorek '13 and Sara-Elizabeth Rivard '15

7) Cathy Harrington, Haley Harrington '14, Virginia Garry

8) Cami Rogers '14 and Sara Macaruso '14

9) John Budd – trustee, Bob Cousy, Jose Talvarez ’15

10) Linc MacDonald ’64LJC, Ken Kaufman ’65LJC, Len Gengel ’84

11) Marjorie Hastings-O’Connell ’61 and Tom Dolan – corporator
Worcester Reception
February 10, 2012

The Alumni Association hosted members of the Becker community at the College’s newly acquired 80 William Street property for a cocktail reception, featuring a wine and brew tasting.

Pictured clockwise from top left:


2) Greg Weatherspoon ’05 – alumni board, Elizabeth Weatherspoon, Wylean Jackson, Keith Jackson

3) Sharon (Latschar) Foust ’62 – alumni board, Dorothy Forsted ’52, Mary Maloney ’97 – major gifts officer, Sue Dion

4) Marilyn Prouty, Dan Prouty ’71 – trustee, Bryan Coleman, Michaela Prouty, John Hannum – wine steward

5) Jo Anne Legacy ’08 – alumni board, Ivey Blount ’04 – alumni board, Wallace Stuart, Johanna LeClair ’00 & ’11 – president, alumni board

6) Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D. and Dan Prouty ’71 – trustee

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
For nearly 11 years, hair stylist Bledi Morava has pursued his passion for making others look and feel beautiful. Over the years he developed his expertise, but realized that, without having business knowledge, he could not achieve his dream of owning a salon.

That is when he turned to Becker College. In May 2012, he will earn a bachelor’s degree in business management through the College’s Accelerated & Professional Studies Program.

“Everyone knows the importance of higher education today,” Bledi says. “I enjoy learning about the business world from our instructors—who have real-world experience—and working closely with my classmates. I have gained confidence and know that this decision will make me want to keep expanding my horizon by reading, networking, and keeping an open mind.”

“Take advantage of Becker College and all that it offers. I only wish I had done this sooner. Time flies. You want to be on the right track when you look back at your decisions ten years from now.”

~ Bledi Morava ’12
A native of Palmer, Mass., Gayle received her associate’s degree in retail fashion and worked in the retail industry locally before moving to California. She was able to use the skills and knowledge learned at Becker to transfer into the telecommunications industry and has enjoyed a varied career in this field for 30 years in San Diego.

Gayle has chosen to designate Becker College as a beneficiary in her will to help ease the financial burden of today’s Becker College students. “Education is so important,” she says. “Becker College continues to lead the way in creating a great learning and living environment for its students. I have seen the many exciting campus improvements that have been made since my graduation, and I truly believe Becker fully prepares young people for personal and professional success. That is why I want to do what I can to support the students.”

Gayle is a project manager at SPS/Strategic Products & Services. She resides in San Diego with her husband George McCarroll, a civil engineer.

Charitable Gift Annuities:
Guaranteed fixed income for life – earn 6.2% on your savings (age 73)

Don’t outlive your money! Earn a guaranteed quarterly annuity payment at a rate which is fixed for the remainder of your lifetime. This is especially attractive now when savings rates are so low. If, at age 73, you invest $20,000 in a charitable gift annuity at 6.2% you will receive $1,240 for life. If you deposit $20,000 in a savings account with a low interest rate and withdraw the same $1,240 yearly, your savings account of $20,000 will be depleted by age 90. The process is relatively simple: you make a gift of cash, stocks, or other assets to Becker College (we suggest a minimum of $20,000). The College then invests the principal in a high yield fund, pays you a quarterly or annual dividend for the remainder of your life, and the principal then is retained by Becker upon your demise.

<table>
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<th>ONE LIFE</th>
<th>TWO LIVES</th>
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<tr>
<td>YOUR AGE</td>
<td>RATE OF RETURN</td>
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<td>50</td>
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<td>55</td>
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<td>90+</td>
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Some of the unstated advantages of the above are:

- Your initial gift is partially income tax-deductible.
- Your charitable gift annuity payments are partially income tax-free throughout your estimated life expectancy.
- Your payments are guaranteed for life and not affected by ups and downs in the economy.
- The periodic payments during your life can be to yourself, you and a spouse, or some other designated loved one.
- If you use appreciated stock to make a gift, you can usually eliminate capital gains tax on a portion of the gift and spread the rest of the gain over your life expectancy.
Even though the preview issue of Becker Bridges, which was released in spring 2000, consisted of a mere four pages of black-and-white text and graphics, the new publication provided a clear message to its readers that a new means of communication was being undertaken by the College. The editor’s letter, which was addressed to alumni, stated: “The College is growing and changing and our publications need to reflect this expansion. BECKER BRIDGES will feature information about developments at the College. It will address not only alumni but also students, parents, supporters and the wider community.”

Throughout the years, Becker College has valued the importance of communicating with its family. The College’s first Alumni Bulletin was published in 1947, after Becker joined the American Alumni Council. Designed to give attention to graduates, the black-and-white publication featured stories about reunions, campus news and events, student and faculty information, athletic highlights, and class news and notes. This small publication morphed into The Becker Alumnus and, over the years, became a sort of publications Transformer. It started out in a newspaper format, shifted to a magazine-style publication, shrunk to a smaller format, and then returned to a newspaper design before eventually evolving into the magazine you hold in your hands today, renamed Becker Bridges.

Like its title, today’s magazine serves to build and strengthen bridges three times a year between the College and its family, whether they live across the country or around the world. The magazine has expanded in both size and scope, offering in-depth views of our many points of distinction—from nationally recognized academic programs to outstanding students and faculty and campus growth. In addition, each issue prominently features our alumni and their personal and professional success. Those who work on the magazine are focused on providing readers with a well-written, and well-designed communication—one that captures the essence of Becker College today as well as conveys its relevance and contributions to an ever-changing and ever-expanding global society.

Each year our Becker College family grows and takes flight to new locales, new lives, and new adventures. But the College remains steadfast in its dedication to keeping its family informed and connected. No matter where you are, Becker Bridges assures you that you are never far away from your alma mater.
March

20 St. Petersburg Regional Reception*
  St. Petersburg, Fla.
  Luncheon – Noon
  Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Golf Club
  501 5th Avenue Northeast

21 Naples Regional Reception*
  Naples, Fla.
  Dinner Reception – 6:00 p.m.
  Quail West
  6289 Burnham Road

22 Palm Beach Regional Reception*
  Palm Beach, Fla.
  Luncheon – Noon
  Café L’Europe, Wine Room
  331 South County Road

April

TBD Manchester Regional Reception*
  Manchester, N.H.
  Dinner Reception

May

11 Honors Convocation/Grad Finale*
  Leicester, Mass.
  Honors Convocation – 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
  Grad Finale – 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
  964 Main Street

14 Commencement Ceremony
  11:00 a.m.
  The Hanover Theatre
  2 Southbridge Street

TBD Hartford Regional Reception*
  Hartford, Conn.
  Dinner Reception

June

18 20th Annual Llew Evans Scholarship
   Golf Tournament
   Sutton, Mass.
   Registration – 7:00 a.m.
   Shotgun Start – 8:00 a.m.
   Blackstone National Golf Club
   227 Putnam Hill Road

July

14-15 2nd Annual Alumni Spree Day
  Leicester, Mass.
  964 Main Street

*Separate invitation to follow

For more information, contact Caitlin Visscher at 508.373.9527 or caitlin.visscher@becker.edu.
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.

61 Sever Street
Worcester, MA 01609
508.373.9470

964 Main Street
Leicester, MA 01524
774.354.0445

www.becker.edu
Becker College is proud to have 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, $1.6 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.