A new era begins

Becker welcomes new president, Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D.
Today is Friday August 27. Tomorrow morning approximately 400 freshmen will take their initial steps as independent adults. It’s a beautiful day today and the College is abuzz with everyone making final preparations for the beginning of the school year. I remember when I first showed up on the Leicester campus in the fall of 1981, along with two guys from my hometown, Mike Curry and John Kelly. We moved into a room in Woodcock House, where we met John “Cito” Hirschauer for the first time. He was a protégé of Bjorn Borg, wearing his hair long with Fila sportswear and Donnay tennis racquets and we weren’t sure what to make of him at first. He was probably the first friend that Mike, Kelz or I had ever had from New York and he was different… much more assertive and driven than we were. His room was always neat and clean, where ours was always a mess. He kept all kinds of cologne and beauty products neatly arranged on his bureau. We had never seen anything like it. He was always strategizing about school and soccer and tennis which reflected a determination to succeed… something we hadn’t quite grasped yet. John Kelly and I were at Becker to play basketball and we never really thought too much about the educational aspect of college. I think Mike was a little more focused but probably just as clueless as we were. I think Cito’s determination rubbed off on us and helped us understand the task at hand. I can remember the night before exams… we’d procrastinate until after midnight then study.

Other characters from that first year included Jerry Luciani, our resident assistant, who was very responsible but also cool… He smoked a pipe upstairs and discussed world affairs with the incomparable Joe Coonan. Big, bad Tony Jones always looked mad but he was warm and fun. John “Wibsy” Wibbleshauser and his big blond afro… he played his music so loud on the third floor of Hampshire that you could hear it at the academic center. I think it was *Twisted Sister*. Danny O’Sullivan lived next to him and I remember Channel 38 would offer a week of movies featuring our favorite actors… Clint Eastwood, John Wayne, Telly Savalas. We’d sit there like mindless fools watching the same movie we had seen twenty times before and there was no place else I would have rather been. Brian Gorman was a regular in the viewing room. He’s our head basketball coach now and very successful, but he may still be watching those movies. There was Maria Ross, who commuted, but who had a presence so big that she is indelible in my memory. There was Brian Conway and Mike Loughran and Paul Brown and Phil Fabiano and Mike Carpino and Ada Alicea and Tom Fortin and Clive Cuavers and Marcus Rinaldi and his brother, Greg. There was Tonia Scalise and Tom Fiorillo and Gary Martinelli and many, many more.

I hope the incoming class has as much fun as we had. I also hope the class of 1983 reads this and smiles. I hope all of you can remember the good times while you were here and I hope you consider making it a point to visit campus soon. You’ll see that the College has changed but it still offers a safe haven where young kids can take their first steps towards responsible citizenship.

Dean Hickey, Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations

There is strength in numbers

Each gift to The Becker Fund, regardless of its size, matters greatly. Your contribution, big 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.

Can We Count on You to Support the Becker Fund?

To make your gift or pledge, or for more information, contact Raffi Der Simonian, director of Alumni Relations & The Becker Fund, at 508-373-9533 or make a secure gift online by visiting www.alumni.becker.edu.

“Why do I support the Annual Fund? My four years at Becker College brought so many good opportunities and people into my life, and I want others to be able to have the same experience.” — Jennifer Nieman ’07
A Conversation with the President

New President, Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D. discusses his initial impressions of Becker College and his vision for the future.

Exercise is Medicine

A new initiative launched by the American College of Sports Medicine and the American Medical Association encourages individuals to become more active.

Identity Crisis

Alumnus Robert Shaffery raises awareness about identity theft, one of today’s most prevalent crimes.

One Student at a Time

Becker is successfully positioning itself as a premiere institution for students seeking employment in the rapidly expanding Animal Sciences field.

A Bright Future for a Councilman and His City

Alumnus James Diossa breathes new life into his small community after being elected Central Falls City Councilman.

The Art of Inspiration

Senior Ilir Mborja has found success at integrating his fine art aesthetic with his game design.
New President, Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D., and his family arrived on campus in late June. Since then, he has proven to be a true renaissance man, focused on charting a new direction for Becker College.

He recently sat down with Raffi Der Simonian to share his impressions of Becker College and his vision for the future.
Since moving to Worcester have you had an opportunity to get out and interact with the Becker College Community?
I have met hundreds of stakeholders in Becker College… students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, business leaders, and yet it feels like I have only scratched the surface. It is obvious that Becker College is an important institution in the state and in the region. As a college we create value, not just for our students but also for businesses that depend on our graduates, parents who dream of a better life for their children and alumni who want to be proud of their affiliation with their alma mater. As the president of this institution, I feel a tremendous sense of responsibility as a steward of that value. We need to preserve what is good about Becker and build on our successful history.

Where do you see Becker College in the continuum of higher education, regionally and nationally?
We are a relatively small college with approximately 1,700 students and 23,000 alumni, and historically we’ve focused on offering educational opportunities that enable graduates to obtain good jobs. I think that will continue, but the world is changing fast. I have read that the top ten in-demand jobs in 2010 didn’t exist in 2004. As a college we need to be cognizant of what is taking place in our world and seize opportunities to evolve our educational experience so that our graduates can compete in this ever-changing environment in which we live.

What is your number one priority as President of Becker College?
To me it is obvious that we must focus on providing the highest quality educational experience for those who choose Becker as their college. Excellence in all that we do is the only acceptable standard, and we will focus on excellence from the time we wake up until we go to bed. We’ve met that standard with some programs on campus and others can be improved. Focusing on the positive, the Computer Game Design program was recently ranked #1 in New England and #4 in the United States. Other examples on campus include the Veterinary Sciences program and the Nursing program. Both have very high graduation rates and turn out stellar graduates. An area that I believe we need to improve is the physical plant, especially our residence halls. These beautiful historic homes require significant upkeep, and we need to recommit to maintaining them to a high standard.

Have you identified any outstanding opportunities at Becker?
We have some tremendous opportunities to grow and create additional value in existing academic programs. I mentioned computer game design and clearly that is a burgeoning industry in which we already established a leadership position. We will also look at creating additional majors in the interactive entertainment field. I am confident that we could also do more in the human health sciences and animal health sciences areas. We do not have the resources of many larger institutions so our challenge will be to do more with less. We will attempt to partner with private businesses, as well as the government, to achieve our goals.

How are the plans for the campus center progressing?
Our architects and engineers are planning for an April 2011 groundbreaking. The facility will feature a new student dining hall, as well as a fitness center and flexible meeting space to support student life and summer conferences. We are excited about offering our students, faculty and staff a modern, state-of-the-art campus center that promotes community and contributes to our educational mission.

How do you see athletics playing in Becker’s future?
We have approximately 1,200 traditional students on campus, and 250 of those students participate in NCAA intercollegiate athletics, so I see our athletic program as vital to Becker College. Many students choose Becker for the opportunity to play a sport, so it is important to enrollment. Winning teams create a greater awareness about the College and student athletes often assume leadership positions in all aspects of campus life. I believe strongly that a high-quality athletic program, which focuses on promoting student success in the classroom as well as on the playing field, is an important part of Becker’s future.

How do you see Becker’s role within our community?
I see the optimal relationship as a symbiotic one where the citizens of Worcester and Leicester give to and receive benefit from the College. An example that comes to mind is the five students from Worcester public high schools who are taking courses on campus this semester at no cost. As a result, they will have earned college credits before they graduate from high school. On the other end, Commerce Bank recently hired one of our graduates in their management training program. These two examples are great, but we can do more to build relationships that will support student success, and that of our community.

You, Michelle and your two children have been in Massachusetts for three months. What have you enjoyed most thus far?
We have been so busy that we haven’t had an opportunity to get out and interact with the Becker College Community. We recently ranked #1 in New England and #4 in the United States. Other examples on campus include the Veterinary Sciences program and the Nursing program. Both have very high graduation rates and turn out stellar graduates. An area that I believe we need to improve is the physical plant, especially our residence halls. These beautiful historic homes require significant upkeep, and we need to recommit to maintaining them to a high standard.

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Exercise is

“Daily physical activity and exercise are absolutely essential to good health and weight maintenance, particularly important as we are facing an obesity epidemic in this country.”

Special thanks to Dr. Peixing Jiang
Photos by Sandy Lashin-Curewitz, Randy O’Rourke and Edd Cote
Dr. Peixing Jiang shares how essential exercise is to good health and weight maintenance

Dr. Peixing Jiang, professor of Exercise Science at Becker, teaches the effect that exercise has on pathology and enlightens his students on the mechanisms by which exercise can reduce or reverse disease progression. As a member of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), the largest sports medicine and exercise science organization in the world, he is also committed to encouraging physical activity for the health benefits it offers to everyone.

His concern, as part of the professional health and fitness community, is that people view exercise and its many benefits in the wrong light. Many consider physical activity as an option, “perhaps a hobby or something to do seasonally, like when they need to shape up for a high school reunion or take a stab at a New Year’s resolution,” says Jiang. “This is simply not the case. Daily physical activity and exercise are absolutely essential to good health and weight maintenance, particularly important as we are facing an obesity epidemic in this country.”

The need to be a more active nation is at the core of a new initiative launched by ACSM and the American Medical Association called “Exercise is Medicine.” The goal of the Exercise is Medicine™ program is to encourage physicians to “prescribe” exercise during patient visits. Able patients will be advised to participate in at least 30 minutes of physical activity and 10 minutes of stretching and light muscle training five days a week.

If there were a drug that could prevent or treat numerous chronic conditions, such as hypertension, cardiac disease or diabetes, certainly every doctor would be eager to prescribe it. After all, “prescribing” such an activity would be in a patient’s best interest. “This ‘drug’ exists, but not in pill form,” Jiang shares. “Exercise can treat (or prevent) all of these conditions and more, in only 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per day.”

A recent public survey conducted by ACSM, found that while four out of 10 physicians (41%) talk to their patients about the importance of exercise, they don’t always offer suggestions on the best ways to be physically active. However, nearly two-thirds of patients (65%) reported that they would be more interested in exercising to stay healthy if advised by their doctor and given additional resources.

Jiang suggests asking a few questions about your health status the next time you visit your doctor. Are you at a healthy weight? Based on your current health status, what types of exercise are best and safest for you? Is there a certified trainer or registered nutritionist you should visit to improve your health?

Counseling patients on the benefits of physical activity and what it can do for their long-term health and well-being is vital, and should be a standard part of any physician’s practice. If you are a health care professional, and don’t already do so, Jiang recommends that you speak with each of your patients about the importance and benefits of exercise.

To learn more about Exercise is Medicine™, please visit www.exerciseismedicine.org.
Robert Shaffery ’72 shares some startling statistics: every three seconds someone in this country has his identity stolen. Typically, it takes about 370 days before you know that it has happened to you.

“You can only imagine the extent of damage that can happen in more than a year’s time,” says Shaffery. “People think it happens right away, and sometimes it does. You get your credit card stolen, notice unauthorized charges on your bill, report it, pay the $50 that you’re liable for, and think you’re done. But if they’ve entered into your life at all, if they have your driver’s license or social security number, it’s unbelievable.”

Shaffery, an expert lecturer on check fraud and identity theft, says often victims of identity theft don’t know that it has happened until long after because the thieves just record the information and wait. Consider a check written to the IRS, for example. The IRS requires that you put your social security number on your check, and 35 sets of hands touch that check from the time it is written until the time it gets back to you, he explains.

“Nobody needs to steal it. All they need to do is look at it, write the number down, and let it keep going through the system. It’s almost impossible to get caught, and they are sold for about $100 a piece.”

Inside criminal minds

You could say Shaffery has learned about this from the best. Around 1980, the printing company he worked for secured a large check contract with American Express. Check fraud was becoming an issue, and part of the contract included addressing ways to counteract. So his company hired security consultant Frank Abagnale Jr., just a few years out of prison, to give presentations on the topic. Abagnale, portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio in the film “Catch Me If You Can,” is notorious for his history as a check forger, impostor and escape artist. In the 1960s he successfully passed $4 million worth of forged checks across 26 countries over the course of five years, starting when he was only 17 years old. In the process, he assumed many identities including those of an airline pilot, a doctor, a prison inspector and a lawyer.

Shaffery’s sales background afforded him many opportunities to do presentations, which he always enjoyed. He attended many of Abagnale’s seminars and, over time, absorbed a good understanding of the topic matter.

“The more that I watched him, the more I critiqued him, and I began to develop my own style,” says Shaffery, who was soon tapped to peddle similar presentations to smaller audiences, while Abagnale addressed the larger ones. Eventually, Shaffery began presenting these seminars to larger audiences, and his company ended their contract with Abagnale.

Later on, Shaffery went to work for Moore Business Forms, now RR Donnelly, which was, at the time, the largest printing company in the country. “I started taking the show on the road and my reputation grew by one organization at a time,” he says, when Moore started flying him around the country to troubleshoot problems that some of their large financial accounts were having with forgery, fraud and counterfeiting.

Although his current position as vice president of sales at Dupli Envelope & Graphics does not require that he give these types of presentations, Shaffery continues to lecture and serve on panels around the country, often alongside experts from the FBI and Secret Service, to educate others about fraud and its prevention.

It can happen to you

Technology has had a tremendous impact on the rise of identity theft, notes Shaffery. “Think about Facebook for a second. If Facebook was a country, it would be the fourth largest country in the world. And yet, your 15 year old is on Facebook feeding out information all over the place. Is there any wonder how we wind up having a problem?”

Although technology is certainly a factor, especially with so many people having access to it at such an early age, there are also hundreds of low tech ways for thieves to get their hands on your information.

“It’s all old systems. Credit card companies are printing envelopes that still ask customers to write their account numbers on their checks, but they
“In identity theft, the problem really comes from the fact that people don’t believe it can happen to them. And that’s the exact type of individual that the person who is stealing identities is looking for,” he warns.

Several years ago, when Shaffery was in Saratoga, he found a wallet containing $104, a driver’s license, a health-care card with a social security number on it and nine credit cards. He called the owner and left several messages explaining that he had the wallet and would like to return it, but the owner never called him back. Finally, he leaves it with the police.

“I’m curious about how on the ball they are,” explains Shaffery. “So I say, ‘Let me take a picture of everything just in case there are any issues,’ and the officer allows me to use my cell phone to take a photo of everything laid out on the table. And then I say, ‘Let me just get a picture of the back of everything’ and the officer says, ‘Okay, good idea.’ So I take a photo of the back of all the credit cards.”

“Now I’ve got his American Express, I’ve got his Visa card, all kinds of information on him including account numbers and even the three-digit security codes from the back of his credit cards, and his driver’s license. I had everything I needed to ruin this guy’s life forever, and even the police didn’t realize it.”

Creating awareness

“If you are intending to rip someone off, stealing an identity is an incredibly easy thing to do,” asserts Shaffery, who has written a 60-page pamphlet on what to watch out for. The brochure also walks victims of identity theft through what to do to fix it. Of course, he says, it’s a whole lot easier to safeguard against it.

In this day and age, Shaffery is surprised at the number of people who still carry their social security card in their wallet. “That is total suicide,” he says. Moreover, he cannot believe the number of people who still don’t own a shredder. “And if you can’t shred it, then flush it,” he says. The best way to dispose of an old credit card is to cut out the account number, chop it in tiny pieces, wrap it in tissue, and flush it down the toilet.

“We’re seeing a lot of social security numbers that don’t mean it,” he laughs. “The people in security at accounts such as American Express would rather be dead than make a statement like that, but since the 1980s, no one ever told the guy doing the envelopes to stop asking customers to put that information on it.”

“In identity theft, the problem really comes from the fact that people don’t believe it can happen to them. And that’s the exact type of individual that the person who is stealing identities is looking for,” he warns. Shaffery cites many ways that identity theft can happen, and the “schemes” aren’t that complicated. It’s as simple as reciting your social security number out loud to someone you trust, or dumping the receipts in your purse into a trash can.

To prepare for his fraud demonstrations, one of the things he does beforehand is pick up the trash around ATM machines throughout the city that he is presenting in. He later uses the collection to wake up audiences to the dangers of seemingly innocent habits. The items he unearths often have social security or account numbers on them. In one case, Shaffery found enough information in one trash can to trace back the trail of a woman for nine days, because she stood in a lobby of a bank and emptied unwanted receipts from her pocketbook while waiting in line for the next-available teller.

“What I’m demonstrating is how easy it is to get a hold of this information,” he says.

“It’s the same idea as shredding it. If you think cutting up a credit card and tossing it in the trash is enough, you’re wrong. All you’ve accomplished is making a jigsaw puzzle...a very easy puzzle for someone to put back together.”

Never carry your social security card. Never recite your social security number to anyone and be careful where you jot it down and who you give it to. Always ask the person requesting it why they need it. Shaffery also warns against mailing your bills from your home mailbox (the little flag that signals to the postman, also flags an easy target for identity thieves) and using your birth date for pin codes and passwords.

“You wouldn’t believe how many people use their birth date as the password on their garage door opener. The same birth date that’s sitting on your license that you handed the cashier at the grocery store, the same birth date that you wouldn’t think twice about giving anybody who asks, ‘Hey, when’s your birthday?’”

Shaffery advises finding a set of ingrained numbers that do not have anything to do with anything really important to use for passwords and pin codes. If you need to choose a birth date, choose one from a person who doesn’t live with you, like a brother or an aunt. Avoid using your mother’s maiden name for security purposes, especially if it is part of your own hyphenated name. Be sure to password-protect your Blackberry or hand-held device, especially if you keep important information in it. When you go on vacation, thin the credit cards from your wallet, and take photocopies of what you take with you to leave behind with someone you trust. And check your credit report at least once per year.

“It’s a very fixable problem if you can make people aware of what they can do to safeguard themselves. And you can’t assume that everyone is honest. You need to always be on your guard,” says Shaffery, who developed a 20-question quiz to help people measure how well they have safeguarded themselves against identity theft. “The bonus question: If you’ve misrepresented yourself on any one of these questions, add 21 points to your score,” he says, “because the world lives in denial. ‘It could never happen to me.”’

To take Shaffery’s quiz, visit www.alumni.becker.edu/shaffery
One Student at a Time

How Becker is Contributing to the Field of Animal Sciences and Veterinary Care

By Raffi Der Simonian
Photos courtesy of Jennifer Dupre and Kimberly Lockhead

A glimpse into one of Becker’s most popular academic programs and a spotlight on alumni whose education and training serve them well in their careers.
Since the introduction of Becker’s first Veterinary Assistant program in the fall of 1975 the College has earned a strong reputation as a provider of undergraduate education in animal sciences. In 35 years, the program has graduated over 1,000 students, while evolving to meet the demands of growing industries that depend on animal care professionals to achieve their organizational goals. Today, Becker graduates can be found working in a number of animal care settings including veterinary practices, research and academic institutions, biological laboratories, pharmaceutical companies, public health organizations, animal shelters and zoos.

Becker has successfully positioned itself as a preeminent institution for undergraduate animal science education. Animal Science and Veterinary Care programs offered include Animal Care and Veterinary Technology Associate degrees and Bachelor of Science degrees in Veterinary Science that include concentrations in Clinical Animal Medicine, Laboratory Animal Medicine, Pre-Veterinary and Laboratory Animal Management. Becker’s integrative approach balances small classrooms, a robust core curriculum and practical learning experiences.

In 2007, the College began offering a Veterinary Science Degree with a concentration in Laboratory Animal Management in response to the rapidly growing demand for qualified animal care professionals in laboratory settings. According to the Massachusetts Society for Medical Research, the lack of sufficiently-trained laboratory animal technicians is one of the biggest threats facing the more than $2.5 billion a year industry in the state and region. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that employment opportunities will continue to grow in this region and in this career sector at a steady pace through 2016. Located at the hub of New England’s rapidly growing biomedical industry, Becker is now positioned as an educational leader in this field.

“I loved my time at Becker... The veterinary technology program had a community feel... The teachers know their students by first name — that intimacy will always be Becker’s greatest attribute in my book.”

— Nancy McGilloway ’96

“According to Dr. Delano, “If an institution or private entity that uses laboratory animals makes the investment up-front to hire high-quality people who are aware of the ethical issues and understand the federal regulatory requirements, a tremendous amount of headache and heartache can be avoided – not to mention time and money.”

Since the inception of the Veterinary Sciences program, Becker has garnered a reputation for graduating compassionate, properly-trained professionals who are well prepared to contribute to any organization focused on maintaining the health of animals. The Laboratory Animal Management curriculum at Becker is anchored in educating students about the importance of handling animals with care, minimizing variables that could skew research data and maintaining detailed documentation to meet the strict federal research animal regulations.

Dr. Delano and her colleagues are always refining the curriculum with a focus on experiential learning. “We are constantly interfacing with our colleagues in the field to understand the most up to date animal care and research methods so that we can build them into the curricula. We are proud that Becker grads can enter the workforce with a solid educational foundation that they can further develop. We are producing professionals who have the right knowledge base, clinical experience and are ready to step into positions of responsibility within the biomedical research profession," says Dr. Delano. “Our students receive hands-on experience – they have someone standing at their elbow, guiding them through animal care and research technique procedures — our integrative approach and focus...”

“Currently serving as an associate professor and staff veterinarian, Dr. Maggie Delano was brought on board as a faculty member to further develop Laboratory Animal Sciences at Becker College. Her resume includes education at institutions including the University of Maine at Orono, Northeastern University, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and Yale University School of Medicine. With a wealth of experience in academia, clinical practice, administration and advocacy, Dr. Delano can attest first-hand to the importance of developing professionals in the field of Laboratory Animal Management. She is also acutely aware of the increasingly strict federal compliance issues and how this relates to Becker’s focus on producing top-notch professionals.

“The faculty in the veterinary sciences program were so well-rounded that I felt I came out prepared to do anything... Exams weren’t just with a pen and paper — they involved real animals and real situations.”

— Jennifer Dupre ’92

“I still find myself referencing my class notes and Becker course books with what I’m doing now at Tufts.”

— Kimberly Lockhead ’05
on experiential learning sets us apart from other institutions. Becker is small enough where developing relationships with our students is priority. That makes a huge difference.”

Word is spreading nationally about the unique nature of the Laboratory Animal Management program at Becker. This fall, Becker College will be represented at the annual meeting of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science hosted in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Delano will be one of the panelists discussing the successes and challenges in developing higher education programs for laboratory animal science. At this meeting, Dr. Delano will be noting the trend towards increasing levels of biosecurity and introduction of sophisticated new technology, as well as the increasing demand for qualified lab animal staff in the growing field of laboratory animal sciences.

Leading and moderating this panel discussion is Denise Ostmeyer from Colorado State University. Ostmeyer said, “Becker College has one of only a few laboratory animal science programs in the country, and this is a rapidly expanding field.”

“Wherever you look, whether it be in the laboratory, zoo, or clinical environment,” Dr. Delano says, “Becker graduates are finding good jobs and personal fulfillment in different professional settings.” Nancy McGilloway ’96, Jennifer Dupre ’92 and Kimberly Lockhead ’05 are three shining examples of alumni who are excelling in careers they love.

Nancy McGilloway ’96

Upon graduating from Becker College in 1996, Nancy McGilloway began her second career at Harvard Medical School as an animal care technician and then as animal care manager, supporting heart, diabete and cancer research. Now at the top certification in her field, Laboratory Animal Technologist, she is the manager and chief operations officer at Boston College’s Animal Care Facility. Her responsibilities include procuring animals, animal husbandry, staff training and daily health surveillance of animals.

“I love being a part of something bigger,” McGilloway explains. “Anyone who has ever taken an antibiotic, pain reliever, or received an organ transplant, has benefited directly from animal research.”

If you have ever had a family member or friend who has been diagnosed with breast cancer, it is especially easy to understand the importance of McGilloway's work. While at Harvard, she was the animal care technician at the lab that discovered the BRCA gene. Thanks to scientific inquiries such as this, women who display the BRCA gene, and thus a higher susceptibility rate of breast cancer, can now be treated earlier and more effectively.

McGilloway is an animal enthusiast of the highest order. “Who better to care for research animals than someone who truly loves animals?” she posited. “It is our job as animal technicians to make sure that the scientists comply with the many, many regulations of the federal government and to make sure that animals are kept free of any pain or distress.”

McGilloway offers the following sage advice to recent grads, current and prospective students: “If you love what you do then you can achieve anything. It’s all about work ethic. There’s a lot of opportunity to work your way up in this field. Massachusetts is a rapidly growing spot for biotechnics and universities that are looking for qualified animal science professionals.”

“I loved my time at Becker,” said McGilloway. “I could have stayed in college for the rest of my life! The veterinary technology program had a community feel….it’s not such a huge institution where people get lost in the shuffle. The teachers know their students by first name — that intimacy will always be Becker’s greatest attribute in my book.”

Jennifer Dupre ’92

Currently serving as a senior anesthesia technician and instructor atRoss University School of Veterinary Medicine o-n the picturesque Caribbean island of St. Kitts, Jennifer Dupre is regarded as a key contributor in her field. She is a registered speaker with the Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists and has instructed veterinary technicians in basic and advanced anesthesia techniques at the Central Veterinary Conference. Additionally, Dupre has contributed a chapter to the textbook, "Anesthesia for Veterinary Technicians" (Blackwell Publishing, 2010) and written numerous articles on the use of anesthesia during veterinary surgery. She is now working on a chapter for a book on equine anesthesia that will be published next year.

Her experience includes working with many species including chickens, dogs, monkeys, cats, cows, horses, donkeys and sheep. In addition to running the anesthesia program at Ross University, she also teaches, manages the labs, coordinates patient scheduling and lectures on a regular basis. Dupre’s academic focus is on educating her students on the importance of patient safety, understanding their equipment and the drugs they are using.

Dupre pursued anesthetics as a specialty because she found it both inspiring and challenging. "I thought, this is one specialty where I can utilize everything: surgical skills, pharmacology skills, diagnostics….if you think about it, everybody depends on anesthesia — from surgery to cardiology to diagnostic imaging."

Dupre credits her success to the solid educational experience she encountered at Becker. “The faculty in the veterinary sciences program were so well-rounded that I felt I came out prepared to do anything,” she said. The most valuable lessons learned during her time at Becker stemmed from the real-life clinical experience and hands-on learning. “Exams weren’t just with a pen and paper — they involved real animals and real situations.”

At Becker, Dupre was a serious student and an active member of the College community. She served as resident assistant in Berkshire Hall and was heavily involved with campus activities. "It was the best two years of my life,” she said. “I still keep in touch with my Becker friends and have so many fond memories.”

Kimberly Lockhead ’05

Kim Lockhead always had an intense love for animals and genuine interest in medicine, but never thought of combining the two interests until college. After passing her Certified Vet Tech exam at Becker, she landed a position at Tufts University where she was able to build on her experience and professional skills. She has since earned the title of Vet Tech Specialist in anesthesia at Tufts where she is responsible for teaching and supervising fourth year vet students.

“A lot of what I do is on the ground training for Tufts students.” Lockhead explains. “My role is getting the patient ready for surgery — making sure they have the appropriate intravenous or arterial access, analgesics and blood gasses.” Lockhead’s experience includes working with larger animals such as horses, fowls, lamas and goats, and small animals such as dogs, cats, ferrets, guinea pigs and reptiles.

“Although I’ve ever anesthetized is a polar bear — I had the opportunity to work with Kenda at the EcoTarium because they need to administer a physical exam periodically to make sure she is in optimal health.”

Finding her own voice in the field, Lockhead recently contributed a chapter to “Anesthesia for Veterinary Technicians,” the same book in which fellow Becker alumna Jennifer Dupre ’92 was featured. In addition to clinical practice, writing and teaching, she has been able to get some lecturing experience under her belt. “Last year I lectured at a Tufts-sponsored vet tech symposium and I conducted a day of lectures and a lab at the Certified Vet Tech Conference in San Diego. I really enjoy that type of work and hope to do more in the future.”

“People I work with frankly care about animals and are doing everything they can do to improve their conditions.” Lockhead feels fortunate that the education she received at Becker balanced hands-on learning with core science courses including chemistry, cell biology and anatomy and physiology. “I still find myself referencing my class notes and Becker course books with what I’m doing now at Tufts,” she said.
James Diossa ’09 always possessed an interest in government, but it was not until after he enrolled in the Criminal Justice program at Becker College, participating in several diverse government courses, that he developed his strong passion for politics.

James believes “Becker was a great experience” for him because it offered small class sizes that allowed him to build strong relationships with his professors. One such professor was Dr. James Belpedio, professor of History and Government, who had an enormous influence on James. While working on a government project in one of Dr. Belpedio’s classes, involving various city and town government structures within the state of Massachusetts, James became aware of the importance of political affairs, realizing its impact on communities. Dr. Belpedio recognized James as a “very good, diligent, hard-working student who got into the idea of politics and understood it very well.”

After graduating from Becker, James returned to his hometown of Central Falls, Rhode Island and began working as a Crusade Advisor for the College Crusade of Rhode Island, an early intervention program designed to encourage low-income students to stay in school and prepare for higher education. James continues to be part of this program, advising 6th and 7th graders at Woonsocket Middle School. He is responsible for developing relationships with student “Crusaders,” guiding them in academic decisions, special development and career exploration to get them ready for college. As a former Crusader himself, James feels very strongly about both the mission and success of the College Crusade program.

Driven by his continued interest in politics and a desire to become more active in his community, James decided to take a chance and run for the office of city councilman of Central Falls, against a fierce, longtime incumbent. “What motivated me to run was the fact that my city needed new blood and better representation of its constituents at City Hall.” He personally spent countless hours knocking on doors, reaching out to every resident in his area to let them know what it was that he wanted to accomplish. His hard work and determination paid off. On November 3, 2009, James won, by a narrow margin, the title of Central Falls city councilman of Ward 4, becoming the youngest city council member, at just 24 years of age.

“Through my education at Becker, I learned how important it is to deal with young offenders and guide them in correcting their path to a better future.”

Learning first-hand about local government has been the most exciting part of James’ journey so far as city councilman. Since becoming elected, James has served on many committees and has been instrumental in making key decisions leading to the improvement of his city: first and foremost, making sure that it is kept clean and safe for its residents. By joining forces with both law enforcement and public works officials, such issues as stronger enforcement against speeding, higher visibility of police officers within the community and better looking streets have successfully been addressed. He is also currently involved in a project to create a juvenile board that would offer alternative sentences to youthful offenders within the city in order to give them a second chance.

James is well aware of the responsibilities associated with representing the citizens of Central Falls, recognizing them to be integral to his success as a leader. His hope is to one day represent the entire State of Rhode Island as a U.S. senator. But for now, serving as city councilman, he continues to dedicate himself to keeping his promise to serve as a voice for his constituents and to ensure that all of their needs are addressed.

By Caitlin Visscher
Photo courtesy of James Diossa

Alumnus, James Diossa, breathes new life into his small community
It was a difficult time when my family moved here in 1999 after the Civil War in Albania,” said Mborja. A growing tide of economic collapse, government-organized Ponzi schemes and social unrest led to a mass emigration of the Albanian people. “After arriving in America and spending time in a few other cities, we landed in Worcester because there was a vibrant Albanian community and support network already in place — specifically near Elm Park and the Becker campus.”

Mborja’s artwork is inspired by the geographic, political and cultural circumstances he has endured with his family. “It hasn’t been easy moving to a new country and starting over with no friends and not speaking the language,” he explains. “The first year was especially difficult because I didn’t speak English.”

Eleven years later, the multi-talented Mborja has not only taught himself how to speak fluent English, but also Italian.

“Ever since I can remember, art has always been a passion of mine,” says Mborja. “I started drawing as young as three or four, and haven’t stopped since! I remember it perfectly — one day I picked up a pencil and started drawing lines, as I was doing so I noticed that I had created the shape of a dog or horse. It gave me this hunger to continue creating and improving.” From that moment Mborja decided how much he enjoyed drawing and found time to practice almost every day.

The business of art

Mborja earned his associate’s degree in general studies from Quinsigamond Community College before enrolling in a semester of painting classes at Mass. College of Art. After a period of soul-searching and research, he came to the conclusion that, despite art being his true calling, a degree in painting could narrow his employment options. He decided that game design was the perfect path to pursue as it offered an outlet for his creative gifts and the promise of better job opportunities.

“I chose Becker because of its reputation as one of the best design schools in the country,” he explains. “I’m so glad I did because the teachers here at Becker have gone out of their way to provide me with as much help and personalized attention as I’ve needed.”

Mborja specifically cites game design faculty members Terrasa Ulm, Paul Crot noir and Scott Niemi as three examples of why Becker is such a special place. “The game design community at Becker feels like family to me,” he said.

Big dreams are exactly what make this Becker student tick. “My long-term career goal is to work as a game designer while keeping up my painting. Someday, I’d love to become a full-time artist.”

“The design program here is amazing - Becker has taught me how to use programs such as InDesign, Illustrator and Flash. I’ve become a lot more knowledgeable in a short period of time. I really enjoy learning how to get video-game characters looking more realistic and how to achieve better virtual movement.”

Turning heads

Mborja has been gaining notoriety for his artistic talents. Most recently, he won second place at ARTS Worcester’s Sixth Annual Colleges of Worcester Consortium Art Exhibition. This exhibition, which began in 2005, highlights the wealth of artistic talent found within schools including Anna Maria College, Assumption College, Atlantic Union College, Clark University, College of the Holy Cross, Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester State College, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Presented by ARTS Worcester and sponsored in part by the Colleges of Worcester Consortium and the Worcester Cultural Commission (now the Worcester Arts Council), works for the show were selected by jurors William Rudolph, curator of American Art at the Worcester Art Museum and Antonio Fonseca, accomplished artist and director of education at Sevengails Studio School in Southbridge, Mass.

According to Jan Seymour, executive director of ARTS Worcester, “Ilir has been a great addition to the emerging artists who are juried into the Consortium Art Exhibition. The competition was remarkable for the overall high quality of the work in all the mediums presented. Ilir’s multimedia piece, Decaying Book, is a great example of a unique voice exploring the declining art of traditional bookmaking in the digital age. We look forward to being part of Ilir’s fine art career as he moves forward.”
Features artwork – in Ilir’s own words:

1. This Moment Between Us

“The painting is about the exact intimate magical moment between a girl and a guy; the moment in which you may be surrounded by 100 people and you just don’t care because you feel like no one is near for miles and all that matters is the person in front of your eyes.”

2. Albanian Independence

“Here is a drawing of the Albanian flag that I did in high school. It represents Albanian independence, and all the people who sacrificed their life for the independence of Albania.”

3. Beach Shot

“There is something innately mesmerizing about a sunset. This is a painting that captures my favorite time of the day.”

4. My House in Albania

“Do you know how when you’ve been gone a long from someplace your memory becomes less perfect? This painting of my family home in Albania is a representation of how our memory oftentimes becomes distorted over time.”

5. Gladiator Dream Sequence

“This one is inspired by the dream sequence in the film Gladiator – one of my favorite movies.”

6. Videogame Backdrop

“I designed this landscape for a game entitled ‘Pirates & Ninjas.’”

An eye for inspiration

Inspiration comes naturally for Mborja and a promising future lies ahead as he continues to develop the necessary business acumen required to take his art to the next level professionally.

Mborja finds his words easily when asked to identify his muse. He explains, “For many, art is something you can see, something you can touch. For me, it is much more...it is inside me…it surrounds me…I breathe it….I feel it….I sense it every second of every hour. Every time I look at something could be the moment that inspires me for my next project that I want to share with the world. It makes me feel like I’m sharing a big part of my life.”

Mborja describes his work as “…modern with an edge of impressionism.”

He avoids trying to follow a certain method or style and usually paints after midnight. “That’s when I feel most inspired” he said. “Between 12 until around 3:30 or 4 in the morning.”

“Sometimes it just hits you,” Mborja says. “The feeling you get from watching a movie, listening to music, driving around — flashes of inspiration are all around us. If you feel sad or happy, you reflect that into the painting by making it more blue or colorful. Sometimes it can come from love or suffering.”

“I am also inspired by my classmates and I’ve heard that some are inspired by my work. So far, I’ve learned so much during my time at Becker, from both my teachers and classmates. The way that the teachers make the students feel at home and as part of a team is unique. There is often laughter involved.”

For more information on the art of Ilir Mborja visit www.wix.com/ilirmborja/Pogo

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“For many, art is something you can see, something you can touch. For me, it is much more... it is inside me... it surrounds me... I breathe it... I feel it... I sense it every second of every hour. Every time I look at something could be the moment that inspires me for my next project that I want to share with the world. It makes me feel like I’m sharing a big part of my life.”

– Ilir Mborja
FREE: High school students get a taste of Becker

High achievers in Worcester Public high schools and Leicester High School now have an added incentive to consider Dual Enrollment—taking a college course for high school credit during their junior or senior year. High school juniors and seniors can now earn free college credit in addition to high school credit for Dual Enrollment courses at Becker College. While Dual Enrollment at state colleges is publicly funded and offers college credit free to high school students, Becker is one of only two private colleges of the Worcester Consortium colleges to grant free college credit for Dual Enrollment courses.

Alexandra Martinez earned nine credits through Dual Enrollment while she was a student at Doherty High School. In addition to earning credits, she discovered that her first career choice, veterinary science, was not what she wanted, and decided to pursue criminal justice and psychology instead.

Alexandra says, “I will attend Becker College in the fall of 2010 as a freshman and study Psychology. I will also start another major in Criminal Justice at Pennsylvania State University World Campus, which is an online program. That way when I transfer my credits from Penn State World Campus to an actual physical campus, I will have already started that major and just continue studying both Criminal Justice and Psychology at Penn State.”

Previously, Dual Enrollment at Becker was only open to students at Doherty High School in Worcester, and students only received college credit if they paid for the course. Becker recently extended the program to students in all Worcester Public Schools (WPS) and to Leicester High School. Five spots are available for fall 2010 and five spots for spring 2011.

Welcome, new faculty

Joining the Becker College faculty this fall are Adriano Marzullo, Ph.D., assistant professor of mathematics, and Caroline Crocker, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology.

Dr. Marzullo received his bachelor of science degree in mathematics from the University of ROMA TRE in Italy. He went on to earn his master of science in applied mathematics and his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Missouri – Columbia, where he also taught algebra, geometry and calculus and was recognized with the Department of Mathematics Excellence in Teaching Award for 2008-2009.

Dr. Crocker was most recently a professor in the psychology department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. She received several research grants for psychology and law-related topics, has participated in many conferences, and her writings have been published in textbooks and encyclopedias. Dr. Crocker received her bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Williams College, and her Ph.D. in psychology from the City University of New York.

Athletic Hall of Fame 2010

Will the Becker College and Leicester Junior College athletic standouts please stand up? Come and cheer them on, Friday, October 22, at the Wachusett Country Club. Festivities begin with a social hour at 6:00 p.m.

The Hall of Fame Class of 2010 includes Lincoln MacDonald ’64LJC, for baseball and basketball; Bonnie Rich Jones ’92, for basketball; Zoe Hines Morelli ’93, for field hockey; Kathleen Sibya ’83, volleyball, basketball and softball; Edward Pierce ’91, for soccer; Lewis Scott ’92 for basketball; and Catherine Chambers ’77LJC, for field hockey, basketball and softball. All inductees are listed on the College’s website.

For tickets and more information, contact Cheryl Zukowski at cheryl.zukowski@becker.edu or 508-373-9531.

Hands-on experience makes students standout

While the American Veterinary Medical Association and legislators are attempting to address a growing shortage of veterinarians, Becker College is giving its veterinary science students a competitive edge in getting employment and going on to veterinary school.

It starts with animal handling, a skill many students do not hone as undergraduates. Becker students get plenty of hands-on animal care experience in classes, at the College’s working veterinary clinic, the Lenfest Animal Health Center on its Leicester campus, and at numerous internship and service learning opportunities.

One such place for internships is the EcoTarium, Worcester’s unique museum of science and nature. Melanie Crittenden ’10, Lesley Whitney ’10 and Becky Gruber ’11 assisted animal care staff this year in enrichment, playtimes, training and care for EcoTarium animals. Local animal hospitals, zoos, shelters and life science companies also employ Becker College student interns.

Have you had your blood pressure checked lately? Given blood? Had a flu shot? A stay in the hospital? If you answered, “yes,” chances are you may have been helped by a student nurse.

Mindful of these common health risks, Becker nursing students are out and about, holding blood pressure screenings and blood drives at the mall, community centers, on campuses and in workplaces, to educate and empower people to reduce health risks.

Elizabeth Rekowski ’10, and her RN to BSN classmates, recently participated in a health fair at the G. Stanley Hall School in Worcester. Young people who visited the Becker nurses’ room played Wii Fit and Dance Dance Revolution, were introduced to the “Red Light, Green Light, Eat Right” nutrition method and took a fitness quiz. All visitors were invited to choose from a sprawling collection of happy cut-out images and phrases to help create “Pat,” a three-dimensional reminder that happy equals healthy. The nurses donated the finished “Pat,” adorned with pictures of sunshine, smiling faces, sports figures and animals, and phrases like, “Feeling the sun on my face,” to the school.
If you are an alumnus who has not yet registered for the Becker Alumni Online Community, now is the perfect time. The design is just the first new feature you’ll notice at www.alumni.becker.edu. Tools you can use, such as the Alumni Directory, Mentoring Program and Mail Room, are just two clicks away. An interactive list of Benefits and Services is easy to find, and you can quickly connect with Becker, your Alumni Association and your favorite social network. Register for special alumni events and, if you can’t make it, you can see what happened by visiting the Photo Gallery.

Andy Mazur ’72LJC, president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, says, “There are so many exciting developments happening at Becker today, and I encourage you to stay connected, keep in touch, and participate whenever you have the chance.” The new Online Community helps you do just that.

The Office of Alumni Relations is pleased to announce the launch of our new website. This site has been designed just for you, and we welcome any feedback on ways we can make it even better.

Stop by and register if you haven’t already done so. Log-on today to:

• Learn about alumni benefits
• Learn about different ways you can support the College
• Stay current with news and events
• Submit and search class notes and photos
• View alumni event photos
• RSVP to events
• Make a gift

With the new and improved alumni website, it’s never been easier!

Visit www.alumni.becker.edu

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Please send news about you — career, marriage, children, accomplishments — for inclusion in Class Notes to:

alumni@becker.edu
Becker Bridges
P.O. Box 15071
Worcester, MA 01615-0071
508-373-9531 phone
508-831-7505 fax

1960s

Phil Kulp ’60LJC works as an insurance agent. After 50 years he recently started playing bar sax and is now playing with the Nazareth, Penn. Community Band. “It's been a real challenge but good for me.”

Judith (Conklin) LaBranche ’60 has been very busy with her volunteer work and driving her neighbors. She enjoys her 6 kids, 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandsons.

John (Jack) Moore ’60LJC served in the army from 1961-1964 in Orleans, France. He spent years in advertising, public relations, journalism, and photography before emerging into real estate. He is in great health and has no intention of ever retiring. He has three grandchildren.

Abbott Brownell ’63 is busy enjoying retirement in sunny San Diego, Calif.

1970s

Joel Stakofsky ’70LJC is a pediatrician in Staten Island, N.Y. He has two daughters — Allison and Sharon. He recently attended the LJC reunion and said, “It is great being back at LJC. May it prosper forever.”

H. James Blamy ’72LJC works as a shop foreman for Board Panel Co. in Walpole, N.H. He has been married for 34 years to his wife Marlene. His daughter was a track star at Keene State College, a 4-time All American and a back-to-back National High Jump Champion. He loves to hunt and fish — mostly bow hunting for whitetail deer. He has many trophies on record.

Mark Gant ’72LJC is a teacher in Guilford, Conn. He has almost completed a master’s in secondary social studies. He is in the process of buying a new house in Guilford.

Larry Livney ’72LJC has worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Sunnyvale, Calif. for the past 26 years. After graduating from Leicester Junior College, he earned a bachelor degree.

Sharon Nist ’72LJC is an active member of the Leicester community, serving on the arts council, as well as the harvest fair, open space, master plan, bandstand and capital improvement committees. She said, “Once a townie, always a townie!” She is also interested in becoming involved with an LJC Alumni Reunion Committee. Sharon is currently one class away from a master’s in science education.

Bruno Liberatore ’77 recently remarried. He is president of Caribbean Clear, Inc. — a company that sells natural purifiers for swimming pools and hot tubs. He also volunteers at Covenant House in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Susan (Walton) Dickinson ’78LJC works as a bookkeeper for the superintendent’s office in Surry, Maine. She and Mark have been married for 23 years and have one son, Peter. “Life is good!”

Colleen Durocher ’78LJC works as a nurse at the Bay State Medical Center. She lives with her partner of 30 years, Martha Shea. She loved her time at Leicester and always fantasized it was a four-year school then.

1980s

Lynda (Schaber) Mikoleit ’84 has gone back to school to pursue a career in nursing at Goodwin College in Connecticut.

Ellen Castillo ’84 is currently working as a vet technician at Tufts emergency medicine in the ICU department. Ellen and her husband have also been owners of the Franklin Vet Clinic for over 10 years.

Pamela (Pitt) Ragazzino ’85 said that her “…Great two years [at Becker] prepared me well for my future!”

Deborah (Fierley) Thiebaut ’85 was recently promoted to MDS (minimal data set) coordinator at Woonsocket Health Center.

Lisa (Miller) Wytas ’85 is a stay-at-home mom with three children ages 17, 14 and 3. She met her husband, Mark, at Becker and celebrated 21 years of marriage in June of 2010.

1990s

Kimberly (Michaels) Gabriel ’90 is a stay-at-home mom.

Pamela (Berry) Gould ’94 was recently appointed to the position of sales executive at Aliche Medical Management in White Plains, N.Y. She has over 20 years of experience in the health care industry, including business development and sales management to strategic planning, market analysis, training and development, and clinical assessments. Pamela is a resident of Sturbridge, Mass.

Brian Ingram ’98 works for Becker College as the fire marshal for the Campus Police Department. He also works part-time as a firefighter, arson investigator and fire prevention officer for the Town of Berlin, Mass.

2000s

Roger Graham ’08 works for the Pawtucket Red Sox in R.I. He is the visiting clubhouse manager and provides a service for each visiting team that comes to McCoy stadium.

2010s

Molly Brodeur-Nesbitt ’10 graduated from Becker’s Accelerated Program with a business degree. She will work for her family’s small business as the chief operating officer.

Katie Diedrich ’10 graduated with a vet science degree from Becker. She works for IDEXX Laboratories, a company which leads diagnostics and technologies for better veterinary care and safer food and water.

Dallas Doiron ’10 is a graphic designer for Polar Beverages in Worcester, Mass.

Diana Hickey ’10 finished her business management degree at Becker. Now she looks forward to a promotion and an increased salary.
Tyler Lagrotteria '10 is going to Afghanistan. Once he returns to the U.S., he plans to continue his education and enroll in law school.

Carol Mackenzie ‘10 recently completed testing for her Massachusetts State teaching licensure. She currently holds a full-time position at Becker College, working part-time as the Worcester campus liaison, helping to meet the needs of Becker’s commuter students. Carol also serves as the supervisor/club advisor of the Becker Journal. Her ultimate goal is to earn her graduate degree. At present, she is actively pursuing employment in the Worcester Public School system; where she hopes to one day teach at the elementary school level.

Erika Muir ‘10 is working at TLC Pet Haven using the skills she learned at Becker while studying animal science. She plans to get her training certification soon.

Collaborative Learning Center
Humanities Specialist and part-time under Student Life, as the commuter liaison, helping to meet the needs of Becker’s commuter students. Carol also serves as the supervisor/club advisor of the Becker Journal. Her ultimate goal is to earn her graduate degree. At present, she is actively pursuing employment in the Worcester Public School system; where she hopes to one day teach at the elementary school level.

BECKER COLLEGE – APPLICATION FEE WAIVER
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This fee waiver entitles the student to submit an undergraduate application to Becker College without cost. This waiver is not valid without the signature of a Becker representative.

 Fee Waiver Authorization: As a representative of Becker College (alumnus/a, employee, sibling, other) please complete the information below:

NAME: ________________________________
ADDRESS: ________________________________
SIGNATURE: ________________________________

The applicant must complete the information below and submit this waiver with a completed application. (If applying online, include code BDR1010.)

NAME: ________________________________
ADDRESS: ________________________________
SIGNATURE: ________________________________

All resources and appointments are FREE! For information call 774-354-0463
1. Bill Casey ’71LJC & Andy Mazur ’72LJC
2. John Gilberg, Ken Kaufman ’65LJC, Linc MacDonald ’64LJC & Rich Fox
3. Jeff Poulin, Mike Grasis, Dennis Leonard & Mike Hoffman
4. Roger Vasas, Kevin Woods, Paul Chase & Paul Cotnoir – Becker College Faculty
5. President Robert Johnson, Bruce Bennett, Norma Sandison – Former Trustee of Becker College, and Mary Maloney ’97 – Major Gifts Officer of Becker College
6. John ’57 & Sally Greene
7. Lorraine (MacIsaac) Ernst ’51 & Mary (Laughlan) Brigham ’47
8. Fran Polito ’68 – Trustee of Becker College, with President Robert Johnson
9. Jeff Lyon, Beth Folsom '82, Tim Horan – Trustee of Becker College, Michelle (Raia) Horan ’84, Maria Heskes-Allard ’83 – Former Trustee of Becker College, Roger Allard & Fran Thompson

10. (L to R) First row: Nicky Rocha ‘09, Dawn Ribeiro ‘13, Amanda Murphy ’08, Kristal Cholewa ’09, Meredith Spurr ’06
Second row: Sarah Ruschioni ’12, Thomas Poirier, Amy Viens ’08, Meghan O’Rourke ’08, Allison Flynn ’09
Third row: Gary Clark ’09, Jessica Carnes ’08, Rosie Benson ’08
Fourth row: Kevin McGee ’09, Julie Fetherolf ’14

Becker Alumni Gathering at The Hanover Theatre

Alumni, family and friends are invited to see Mummenschanz on October 26, 2010.

Renowned for bringing its utterly unique form of mime, mask, and physical theater to North America in the late 70’s, Mummenschanz has toured the globe to dedicated audiences ever since.

“Children and adults are pulled into this wondrous playful world where emotions are the only passport necessary to engage,” raves Diane De Beer from Cape Argus.

Join us beforehand, at 5:00 p.m. for a special reception at Tammany Hall, 43 Pleasant Street, just a short walk from The Hanover Theatre in the heart of downtown Worcester.

Enjoy food, a cash bar, and live acoustic music. (All ages welcomed.)

$25 ticket includes:
• Complimentary food, drink ticket, and live music at the Becker Alumni Reception at Tammany Hall
• Orchestra seats for Mummenschanz
• 5:00 p.m. Reception
• 7:00 p.m. Show

For more information, or to reserve your tickets, contact Caitlin Visscher, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, at 508-373-9527 or caitlin.visscher@becker.edu
After leaving Becker, Gorman not only joined the Army, but began doing the job that he loves, coaching basketball. Gorman started his coaching career as an assistant at Hellenic Air Force Base in Athens, Greece. He coached for two years overseas before returning to the States in 1986 to take an assistant coaching position at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Gorman began his tenure at UMass under head coach Ron Gerlufsun. Gorman worked under Gerlufsun until 1989 when current Kentucky coach John Calipari took over as the head coach of the UMass program. Calipari and his staff helped the Minutemen earn a Final Four appearance and the highest winning percentage in the nation during the 1995-1996 season.

In 1996, when James “Bruiser” Flint took over as the head coach of the UMass program, he kept Gorman on the staff as his assistant. Gorman credits a lot of what he believes in as a coach from his time with John Calipari and Bruiser Flint. “I couldn’t have had two better role models,” said Gorman. “It was a great experience, learning how to control yourself under pressure, how to handle the ups and downs of the game.” Gorman remembers Calapari and Flint always expressed the importance of treating your teammates and coaches as if they were family and Gorman has brought those same beliefs to Becker College.

“Coach Gorman has always pushed me to be more than just a basketball player, he’s taught me to be a man in the classroom, on the court and at home,” said senior point guard DeJohn Joseph-Exum. When Coach Gorman was asked about his most memorable coaching experience, he talked about the 1990-1991 season when the UMass program played in a facility known as the Curry Hicks Cage prior to the Mullins Center. "The crowd was loud, they were seated directly behind the bench, it got so humid in that place that paint used to fall from the ceiling during games," said Gorman.

When Coach Gorman came to Becker during the fall of 2007, the Hawks had just come off a dismal 3-22 season and the excitement about men’s basketball in Leicester was nonexistent. Gorman wasted little time turning the program around. During his first season Gorman turned the Hawks from a three win team to a 13 win team, finishing the season just one game under five hundred. In his next two seasons at Becker Gorman helped propel the Hawks into the NECC Finals. In the 2008-2009 season the Hawks won
the College’s first ECAC championship. Last year the men’s basketball team earned the number one seed and the right to host the Final Four.

“Coach Gorman has always pushed me to be more than just a basketball player, he’s taught me to be a man in the classroom, on the court and at home.”

— DeJohn Joseph-Exum ’11

Gorman attributes all of his success to the players that he’s brought in and all the hard work that they put in. Transfer student Travis Suber played for two seasons under Gorman and scored 1,177 points. Senior center Trae Jacobs (Lexington Park, Md.) scored his 1,000th point last season and Gorman has three players on his current roster who could reach the 1,000 point plateau during the 2010-2011 season. Senior DeJohn Joseph-Exum (New London, Conn.) has 784 career points heading into his final season. Junior Terrance Favors (Boston, Mass.) has 752 points and Rajai Leggett (New Haven, Conn.) has 706 points.

“Having Coach Gorman has been good; he expects the best out of you on and off the court. A lot of coaches sugar coat things, he is as honest as they get, even if you don’t want to hear it,” said Terrance Favors. Gorman is hard pressed to talk about his senior class without mentioning Drew Schroll and Darren Callahan. “This group of players has made it easy for me to coach, we wouldn’t have had the success we’ve had without them. I like to coach with the thought that it’s not about the X’s and O’s it’s about the Jim’s and Joe’s,” said Gorman. Gorman is excited about this upcoming season, but he remains cautious knowing that his players must remain healthy and continue to know their roles in order to have continued success.

Coach Gorman enjoys the challenge of coaching against all the great basketball schools in the area. Gorman said that one of the best games he has ever seen was on February 11, 2010 when the Hawks did battle against their New England Collegiate Conference rivals Elms College. Although the Hawks lost 86-83, Gorman found himself not even coaching at times during the game but simply admiring the level of completion and the intensity of what was being displayed in front of him.

The Hawks have a very competitive schedule ahead of them in the 2010-2011 season. Aside from each team in the NECC improving year to year, Becker will battle with non-conference opponents like WPI, Worcester State, Clark, Albertus Magnus and Bridgewater State. Becker will have their first home games when they host the 2010 Worcester City Tip-Off Tournament on November 19 and 20.
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.

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Designate Becker as a beneficiary in your will or trust.

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- Reduce estate taxes and possibly increase the inheritance of your heirs.

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

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Designate Becker as the beneficiary of retirement accounts to avoid income and/or estate taxes.

To learn more about creating your personal legacy, contact:

Dean Hickey, vice president of Development and Alumni Relations

508-373-9520 or dean.hickey@becker.edu