

Plymouth

MAGAZINE

THE MAGAZINE OF PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2016

SOWING SEEDS
FOR THE
FUTURE





Mary Lyon: Stunning at a Century

Kate Butler Ah, I loved Mary Lyon! Too many great memories to write about!! Long live her majestic presence in the center of campus. [#girlpower](#) *Class of 1996*

Jay T Dugal As a member of the TKE pledge class lugging a couple of VW Beetles up the front stairs and positioning them by the front door. What a sight. I wish I had a picture to post. I know they're out there. *Class of 1974*

Diane Parks Boy, do I have some stories to tell. I was on kitchen alley for 3 years from 1961 to 1964, before moving up to senior housing. I got room campused by Dean Sterns in 61, along with Barbie Demmett and Dottie Sutherland. Just ask me about other stories. How I made it through college and went on to teach for 26 years is beyond me.

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Class of 1965

Ruth Johnson Berggren Hi Diane. I remember kitchen alley! I was there in 61–62. Then up on sophomore alley. Then on the second floor overlooking the back door with [Barbara LaPlume](#). Our senior year, we were in Stafford House.

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Class of 1965

Mary Lyon Hall, the beloved grande dame of the Plymouth State campus, is celebrating her centennial this year. Over the past century, she's been renovated, remodeled, updated, and made energy efficient, all while retaining her stately elegance.

More than a campus icon, Mary Lyon has been home to generations of students, many of whom have cherished memories of their beloved residence hall. Above are just some of the memories alumni have shared on the Plymouth State Alumni Association Facebook page.

Here's to another wonderful century!

Have some of your own Mary Lyon memories or photos that you'd like to share? Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and tag [#marylyon100](#).



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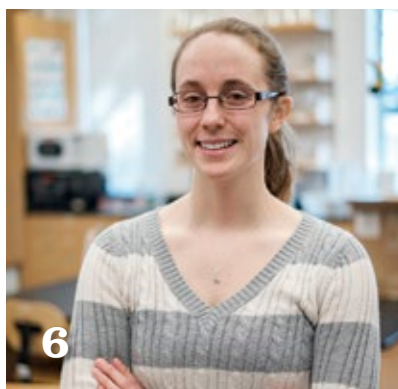
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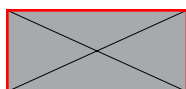
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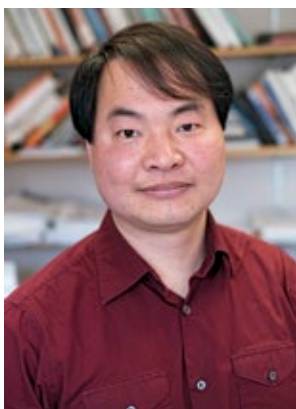


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PSU President Donald L. Birx at the 145th Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 14, 2016, his first as president, and the first to be held in ALLWell North. Nearly 1,000 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees were awarded before a crowd of 4,500 guests.

From Korea with Gratitude



Professor Dan Lee. Kaleb Hart '11 photo.

When Dan Lee stepped off the plane in California back in 1990, the 20-year-old South Korean émigré was seeking the American dream. After earning an advanced degree in economics, he accepted a job offer at PSU, believing the small-town New England setting would be a good place to raise his young family.

As an associate professor, he has established himself as a go-to expert for the key decision makers who are guiding New Hampshire's billion-dollar tourism efforts by providing critical economic data to the state. He also publishes a quarterly report, the *North Country Economic Index*, which evaluates economic trends to help businesses "north of the notches" plan for the future.

Lee is also helping the future of the Granite State in a less visible way: he's teaching young people how economics plays a role in supporting community businesses.

Two years ago, Lee organized an economics club at Plymouth Elementary School, where children are taught how to analyze rudimentary data and create models to help local businesspeople plan for success. His motivation? The desire to give back to the place that embraced his dreams for a better life.

"I am an immigrant and this country has been really good to me. For a long time, I wanted to do something good for this country, especially the children," says Lee. "Teaching kids that economics is about using data to make the best possible decision is my way of giving back."

Lee's heartfelt "That I may serve" approach to the Plymouth area has so far provided several dozen children with economics knowledge, which they turned into valuable advice for a half-dozen businesses that applied their findings. Lee is happy with his efforts so far, but he wants to achieve even more.

"I don't think I've accomplished enough to feel proud yet," he notes. "But it feels good to give back unconditionally." ■ **Bruce Lyndes**

"I don't think I've accomplished enough to feel proud yet. But it feels good to give back unconditionally."—Dan Lee



Jean-Manuel Duvivier illustration.

Coming Soon: Merrill Place Residence Hall and Conference Center



Architect's rendering courtesy of Perkins + Will, Boston, MA.

Starting fall 2017, Plymouth State students will have a new residence hall to call home. To accommodate its growing enrollment, the University recently began construction on Merrill Place Residence Hall and Conference Center, a seven-story building that will house up to 350 students. "Merrill Place's design is in line with the evolving housing preferences of today's college student—rooms designed for more individualized use and a higher ratio of bathroom facilities to students," says Steve Taksar, vice president for finance and administration. "Other amenities include air conditioning; bike storage; a central, communal kitchen; a student lounge; and a game area."

As the name implies, Merrill Place will also provide much-needed event space on campus, with a first-floor conference center that will accommodate up to 500 students or summer guests for lecture-style events or up to 300 people for dinners and other special events.

Centrally located on Merrill Street, across from Hyde Hall, the new building is being constructed with a commitment to advanced energy efficiency and sustainability, a University practice that began with the construction of Langdon Woods Residential Complex in 2007. ■

From Ew! to Awe

Seeing rats in a whole new light

THEY'VE TAKEN THE RAP FOR THE SPREAD of the Bubonic Plague in Medieval Europe. Their name is synonymous with scoundrel, traitor, and snitch. And then there are their tails: long and skinny, pink and seemingly hairless.

They're rats, and they're probably the last animals you'd think would make great companions, capable of bringing comfort to people and helping those with special needs. But did you know that these highly sensitive animals can be trained to warn their humans about oncoming seizures or spasms, or remind them to take their medicine, with just a lick of their little tongues? Or that simple interaction with rats can inspire smiles and laughs from autistic children, and help them develop their social skills? Or that their soft fur and twitching noses can raise the spirits of nursing home residents?

Professor Clarissa Uttley is on a mission to improve the rat's image, one student at a time.

Animals in the Classroom

Uttley began working with rats as an education specialist at the Capron Park Zoo in Attleboro, MA. "One of my favorite programs to present was called Animals That Nobody Loves," she says. From snakes and tarantulas to opossums and rats, Uttley would introduce visitors to some of the world's most reviled creatures and debunk some myths in the process. "Making the case for misunderstood animals became my passion, and watching the shift in people's thinking about these animals inspired me to become

an educator and to research human-animal interaction."

For the past three years, Uttley has taught the first-year seminar course Can Animals Help Us Heal? She invites guest speakers and their animals—cats, dogs, and horses—to campus, and exposes students to the benefits and challenges of including animals in therapeutic interventions and companionship. "Then I encourage the students to critically evaluate these practices themselves," she says.

Exposure Leads to Understanding

One semester, Uttley brought two of her companion animals, rats named Millie and Minkie, to class and proceeded to demonstrate how these highly intelligent, trainable, and social animals can help people with special needs. "You can imagine what some of the students said," she laughs. "But after learning the rats' names and watching me interact with them, the students became more comfortable and several wanted to hold or pet them. This confirmed my hypothesis that exposure to an unknown can lead to better understanding."

Some of Uttley's students have become so comfortable with working with rats in class that they've volunteered to care for and work with them *outside* of class. "Through prolonged interaction with their rats, students ended up bonding with them, and became concerned for their well-being," she says. In addition, several students were invited to bring their rats to PSU's Center for Young Children and Families so the children there could



"... exposure to an unknown can lead to better understanding."—Professor Clarissa Uttley

interact with them and care for them. The rats quickly won the hearts of the preschoolers.

While not all of Uttley's students completely warm up to the rats, she says that by semester's end, they all report a positive change in their attitude toward them and a respect they never thought they'd feel for these much-maligned creatures.

Mission accomplished.

■ **Barbra Alan**

In addition to her teaching, Professor Clarissa Uttley oversees the PSU Pet-Assisted Therapy Program, which gives students the opportunity to interact with certified therapy pets such as dogs and horses throughout the semester. The program is a hit with students looking to reduce stress, anxiety, or homesickness—or who simply need to snuggle with a furry friend.



Top: Professor of Education Clarissa Uttley, with Rachel Ratay '17 (holding Daisy), loves seeing the shift in her students' perceptions of rats over the course of a semester.

Above: Daisy—ready for her close-up. Kaleb Hart '11 photos.



Dennis Curran photo.

SKI HARD, SMILE BIG

Freydis Holla Einarsdottir '19 came *this close* to competing in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. Since coming to PSU, she's been posting top finishes for the women's ski team, and in March she became the first woman in Plymouth State history to compete in the NCAA Championships, the biggest race in collegiate ski racing. The best part? This first-year student-athlete is just getting started.

Lauren Lavigne '94, '96G, assistant director of athletics for enrollment management and advancement, recently talked with the world-class competitive ski racer from Gardabaer, Iceland, to learn why she chose to study and compete at PSU, what motivates her, and what's next for her.

Q: So, just how close did you get to competing in the Winter Olympic games in Sochi?
The Iceland Olympic team sends one male and one female skier to compete. If one of those skiers is ranked among the top 500 in the world, then the team gets another male and another female racer. And if one of those skiers is ranked in the top 250 in the world, the team gets a third set of racers.

In 2014, my friend and I were fighting for that third seed. The skier with the best score in January 2014 would claim the spot. She had 33 points, I had 35 points—the lower the score, the better in Alpine skiing. As it turned out, neither of us got that third spot. But then, just five days before the Olympics, the top female racer on the Iceland team tore her ACL, and my friend got to be on the team. If I had scored better in January, I would have gotten to go.

Q: Why did you choose to come to the US for college?

It had been a dream of mine for years. I'd been to the US before, and every time I thought, "I could live here." Also, if I stayed in Iceland, I wouldn't be skiing, because the weather, the mountains, and the snow aren't at the level where I could improve as a skier.

Q: Why Plymouth State University?

I was in the US last year for the world championships and visited colleges. I never got a chance to visit PSU, but I Skyped with Coach [Andrew] Gannon a few times. He talked about the Plymouth State experience, the education, and the community. I wasn't just another racer to fill out his roster—I knew he cared about me as a person and wanted to make sure I chose the right school for me.

I also looked at what I wanted to study. I want to do something that has to do with sports, the human body, anatomy—the exercise and sport physiology major was perfect!

Q: What's the best part of being on the Panther ski team?

I've been racing since the age of 7, and I've never experienced this level of camaraderie. The men's and women's teams here are basically one big family. Our motto is "Ski hard and smile big." It reminds us all how lucky we are, and how much fun this sport is.

Q: What is your motivation each day when you train?

Next year, the world championships are in Switzerland. I want to be there. And I want to compete in the 2018 Olympics in South

Korea. That's my dream, to compete on the Olympic stage.

Q: How are you preparing for the Olympics?

Coming to PSU was part of the process; I can ski every day during the season. If I were home, I wouldn't be able to train every day. The weather conditions and the training opportunities aren't good enough.

This summer and next summer will be a lot of hard work—I'll work with a personal trainer while I'm at home, lifting and running. I'm also going to try skiing on a glacier. We don't have summer skiing at home, but we have a lot of glaciers. ■

Above: Freydis Holla Einarsdottir was PSU's top finisher, and took 4th in the women's slalom, at the Colby Carnival at Sugarloaf Mountain in January.

Freydis's Race Day Playlist



1. "Don't Stop Me Now" Queen
2. "Light It Up" Major Lazer ft. Nyla
3. "Adventure of a Lifetime" Coldplay
4. "Work" Rihanna ft. Drake
5. "Lose Yourself" Eminem

Ashley Kennedy chose to pursue her graduate degree in biology at PSU after learning about biology professor Heather Doherty's research in cardiac fibrosis. In addition to teaching many of Kennedy's courses and serving as her advisor, Doherty oversees Kennedy and her colleagues' work in the lab. Kaleb Hart '11 photos.



Helping to Heal Broken Hearts

PSU researcher hopes to improve cardiovascular patients' long-term outcomes



A BROKEN HEART AND A HEART ATTACK MAY NOT HAVE very much in common, but they're both painful in their own way, and both can leave scars. Unlike the scars that follow heartbreak, scars following heart attack don't fade with time, and they often prove fatal.

Cardiac fibrosis, or scarring of the heart, develops after a heart attack or as a result of cardiovascular disease. This is part of the healing process, much like when skin develops scar tissue following injury. Because people develop cardiac fibrosis in varying levels of severity, treating it can be a risky proposition: both overtreatment and undertreatment can have dire consequences. If doctors can determine whether their patients are genetically predisposed to developing cardiac fibrosis, they can take much of the guesswork out of treating them, and improve long-term outcomes.

Ashley Kennedy '16G, a student in PSU's Master of Science in Biology program, believes that day isn't far off. With advances in research, she says, "Medicine is becoming more individualized. We're starting to sequence cancer patients' genomes to figure out what treatments are going to be most effective for them. And that's what we're working toward for people with cardiac fibrosis."

In the Molecular Genetics Lab in Boyd Science Center, Kennedy and her colleagues—a mix of ambitious graduate and undergraduate biology students—have homed in on a particular gene called Connective Tissue Growth



"I didn't get much research experience as an undergrad. Working on my master's degree has allowed me to work in a lab and get that experience; to take what I'm learning in class and apply it."—Ashley Kennedy '16G

Factor (CTGF), which plays a key role in the body's healing process. Following a heart attack, or in the case of cardiovascular disease, "CTGF acts as a signaling molecule, telling different cytokines [proteins], 'Come here, we need to help fix this,'" explains Kennedy. "The question is, are there differences in each person's CTGF gene that affect the levels of fibrosis severity that person develops?"

Since she arrived at PSU in fall 2014, Kennedy has been working closely with her colleagues to answer that question. She's been involved in just about every aspect of the research, including taking cell samples from healthy subjects across campus via cheek swab, extracting DNA from the cells, and amplifying (copying) regions of the CTGF gene so they can be sequenced. The sequencing is done at the Molecular Biology Core Facility at Dartmouth

College, one of PSU's biomedical research partners.

Then Kennedy and her PSU colleagues compare each individual sequence to that of the published human genome, which can be found on various websites. "We look for single-base differences, or single nucleotide polymorphisms," says Kennedy. Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) are the most common genetic variation among people. Researchers have found SNPs that may help predict an individual's response to certain drugs, susceptibility to toxins, and risk of developing particular diseases. "For the past year and a half, we've been sending samples out for sequencing and using this data to compile a list of SNPs found in the CTGF gene."

The next phase of the project is to introduce SNPs into a tissue culture, and see how they respond. How does it affect their

expression of CTGF? Do certain SNPs cause higher expression than others? These are just some of the questions the researchers will be considering.

Kennedy's the first to admit that lab work can be tedious: "Nothing ever works the first time," she laments. "It's constant troubleshooting."

But then there are those moments of pure exhilaration that make all the trial and error worth it: "We had a region of a gene that we couldn't get a sequence for—for over a year, nothing we did worked," she recalls. "Just recently, we got it. After putting in all that work, it was great to put the pieces of that puzzle together."

Regardless of the kind of day she's having in the lab, Kennedy has gained a wealth of research experience that could have implications far beyond the lab in Boyd. "This research could, in the long-term, benefit people's health," she says.

In the meantime, she's preparing to graduate in May and defend her thesis based on her research later this summer.

Leaving PSU will be bitter-sweet, as it also means leaving the research project in which she's invested two years and so much of herself. But work on the project will continue in Boyd Science Center, and Kennedy will find new medical puzzles to help solve. "I love being in the lab and doing research related to human health," she says. "Whether it's in a university, a hospital, or a pharmaceutical company, I definitely plan to have a career in medical research." ■ **Barbra Alan**



¡Bienvenidos a Cuba!



PSU professor and her students discover the challenges and joys of visiting Cuba ■ by Barbra Alan

P**OLITICAL SCIENCE**
PROFESSOR FILIZ
OTUCU RUHM always dreamed of going to Cuba. In fact, she planned on visiting the island more than a decade ago. “The social scientist in me wanted to observe Castro’s Cuba, then go back after Castro, and experience the changes,” she says.

Fidel Castro’s Cuba was marked by a boost in the nation’s literacy rates and the establishment of national health care and education programs, which elevated the Communist dictator to hero status in many Cubans’ eyes. At the same time, his nearly 50-year reign was also marked by human rights abuses, an antagonistic relationship with the US, and an economy that was heavily dependent on the former Soviet Union.

As it turned out, Ruhm didn’t get to see Castro’s Cuba. A native of Istanbul, Turkey, Ruhm earned her master’s and doctoral degrees in the US, and was looking to become a US citizen. Because relations between the US and Cuba were strained, she says, “I didn’t want the trip to create a problem for me when I applied for US citizenship, so I chose not to go.”

Ruhm’s dream to finally experience Cuba came within reach in December 2014, when US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro, Fidel’s younger brother, agreed to restore ties between their respective countries after five decades of conflict. In the wake of that agreement, the US eased restrictions on travel to Cuba, and Ruhm decided to combine her longtime personal goal with

an unprecedented educational opportunity for PSU students.

Ruhm designed a travel-study course for Winterim 2016, Access Cuba: History, Culture, and Environmental Sustainability. The course offered a one-credit option, in which students journaled about their experiences, and a three-credit option that combined journaling with a research project.

Daniel Spearman ’17, a political science major with a double minor in biology and peace and social justice, was one of the first students to sign up. “It was an incredible opportunity to visit a country that most Americans have been restricted from for decades,” he says. He also knew it would give him invaluable experience for the career in international relations he hopes to have after college.

Professor of Political Science Filiz Otucu Ruhm is concerned that the growth in tourism in Cuba will affect the country’s culture and values. Photo courtesy of Filiz Ruhm.





The intrepid travelers, wearing their "Where in the World is Plymouth State University?" t-shirts. Photo courtesy of Filiz Ruhm.

★ Access Cuba

On January 3, 2016, Ruhm and a group of 10 excited and adventurous students flew out of Boston Logan International Airport for Miami, then on to Havana. During their 10 days on the island, Ruhm and her students explored Havana Vieja (Old Havana), visited the Museum of the Revolution, toured coffee and tobacco farms, learned about alternative energy and agriculture in Cuba, and immersed themselves in vibrant Cuban culture.

Here are just some of the things the group discovered during their visit:

1 Cuba's hospitality industry is ... evolving.

Ruhm and her students knew that entering Cuba would be like going back in time: Internet access and cell phone service were cost-prohibitive, and they'd have to operate on a cash-only basis since their credit cards would not be accepted.

What they hadn't realized was, just because the US eased travel restrictions doesn't mean that

Cuba is ready for the flood of eager tourists that is now coming in as a result. "The Cuban tourist industry is overwhelmed," says Ruhm.

"We found that out right away, from the time we landed at Havana Airport," Spearman notes. "We waited on the tarmac for an hour because they only had one staircase. We later learned that the airport typically sees an average of only 20 planes a week. Six of them came in the day we landed."

Ruhm and her students also learned that Cuban accommodations are woefully outdated. The Havana-based hotel they booked prior to the trip ended up not having enough rooms when they arrived, so the road-weary group had to scramble for lodgings on their first night in Cuba.

Over the course of their 10-day stay, they changed hotels 7 times due to everything from faulty lighting to flooding bathrooms. "One of the places we stayed was ranked only two stars, but it turned out to be one of the best hotels we stayed at during the trip," says Spearman.

2 Cubans excel at living sustainably because they have had no choice.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 had a profound impact on Cuba, which for decades depended on the Soviets for necessities such as food, clothing, and fuel. Throughout the 90s, Cuba struggled to become more self-reliant and in the process adopted a bicycle culture, developed urban organic farming practices, and launched reforestation efforts. These initiatives were so successful that in 2006, the World Wildlife Fund cited Cuba as the only sustainable country in the world. The country continues to be viewed as a model of sustainability.

Even with its model organic farming practices in place, the island still must import about 80 percent of its food, which is then rationed. "Each month, Cubans get ration cards that they fill out when they go to the grocery store," Spearman says, noting that the typical Cuban diet consists largely of rice and beans, which are cheap

and plentiful. "We ate the same thing for lunch and dinner every day—black beans, rice, chicken or pork, shredded cabbage, and a fruit, usually papaya."

Access to fresh water is also a challenge. Cuba's economic decline, along with the country's severe drought, has deteriorated water supplies and sanitation services. "Water is a huge issue in Cuba," says Ruhm. "They need to recycle their water; they can't afford to waste it."

"There is no excess in Cuba; the supply isn't big enough for excess," says Spearman, who was so struck by Cuba's sustainability efforts and the impetus behind them that he changed his research focus from healthcare to sustainability.

3 Cuba has a dual currency system.

While in Cuba, Ruhm and her students learned about Cuba's peculiar currency system: there's the peso that Cubans use (also referred to as the "national coin"), and then there's the convertible peso (or CUCs, pronounced "kooks") that tourists use, which is worth much more. "What a tourist spends in a day, a Cuban would spend in a month," notes Ruhm.

"Leaving one CUC as a tip to housekeeping is huge," says Spearman, "considering they only make 20 CUCs a month."

To make matters worse, while the average Cuban worker earns his or her wages in pesos, goods are priced in CUCs, making most foods and household items unaffordable.

As a social scientist and educator, Ruhm is deeply concerned about how the burgeoning tourist industry will shape Cuban values in the coming years. "Until

recently, Cubans were very focused on education,” she says. “Because it’s free, many Cubans hold master’s degrees and PhDs. But now, in an economy where a taxi driver or housekeeper can make more than a surgeon or an engineer, where’s the incentive to get an education?”

4 Cubans want good relations with us, but they don’t want to be us.

Ruhm and her students did more than just observe life in Cuba, they made a point to connect with its people. “The goal of this trip was to immerse ourselves in Cuban society, to get to know people from all walks of life: teachers, artists, activists, health-care workers,” she says.

What Ruhm and her students found was, even with few resources and little money, the Cuban people they encountered were happy and lively—the opposite of the stereotypes that took root in the Cold War era. “We have this view of socialist societies as being grim and depressing,” Ruhm says, “but Cubans don’t feel oppressed, they feel free.”

And while many Cubans are hopeful for a better relationship with the US, they’re not looking to adopt the American way of life. “They don’t want their lives to change; they sincerely believe in the benefits of socialism—free health care, free education,” says Ruhm. “They want to keep that sense of security that, in the future, they know they’ll be taken care of.”

“They’re also proud of their culture and history,” adds Spearman. When it comes to historical events like the US embargo, the Bay of Pigs Invasion, and the Cuban Missile Crisis—events that destroyed relations between the two countries for half a century—the people he met “were able to separate the past from the present, and Americans from American foreign policy,” he says.

5 Ten days isn’t nearly enough time to get to know this beautiful and complex country.

Both Ruhm and Spearman would love to return to Cuba someday. “I’d like to stay in Cuba longer, talk with more people, and get their take on what’s happening to their country,” says Spearman. In the meantime, he’s putting the finishing touches on his research project and preparing to do an internship this summer with the United Nations. “Traveling to Cuba has shown me there’s so much more I want to learn and experience in the world,” he says.

Ruhm is thrilled to finally have had the opportunity to see Cuba and explore it with her students. Her one regret, she says, “is not getting to Cuba earlier.” It’s been just over a year since Americans have been able to visit Cuba with fewer restrictions, and in that time, the island has changed. “The change has been dramatic,” she says, “and it looks like it will continue to be that way.”



Claira’s Guide to Cuba

PSU alumna and world traveler Claira Monier ’62 went to Cuba with an educational tour group in February 2014. “It was on my bucket list,” she says of her three-week trip. “Cuba is an island captured in time. It hasn’t been gentrified like other Caribbean islands.”



Like Professor Filiz Otucu Ruhm and her students, Monier discovered that the Cuban people are friendly, every hotel presents a different set of challenges, and the island is on the verge of big change in the wake of thawing relations with the US. She too would love to return in a few years, though she laments that “it won’t be the Cuba I saw.”

Here are some of her recommendations for what to see and do in Cuba:

VISIT Hemingway’s House in San Francisco de Paula. “It’s been so well-preserved, it’s as if he just left it. His books, his furniture, and his boat are all still there,” says Monier.

EAT Want an authentic Cuban dining experience? Eat at a paladar, a family-run restaurant in a private home. “Everywhere we went it was rice and beans and chicken—every meal,” says Monier. “The food may not have variety, but it’s absolutely delicious.”

DRINK Wind down after a day of sightseeing with a Hemingway-inspired daiquiri or mojito at one of his favorite bars, La Bodeguita Del Medio in Havana.

STAY Spend at least one night at the historic Hotel Nacional, which was built in 1930 and has hosted everyone from Winston Churchill to Frank Sinatra. It has retained its art deco design and is “absolutely fabulous,” says Monier.

SEE Cuba’s history: The Che Guevara Monument in Santa Clara and the Plaza de la Revolución (Revolution Square) are must-sees in Havana, and take in a rodeo at the King Ranch in Nuevitas, just for fun.

Claira Pirozzi Monier ’62 completed the second of her two four-year terms on the PSUAA board of directors in 2015, serves on the reunion committee for her class, and is a member of PSU’s Heritage Society.



Left: Dan Spearman ’17, with the beautiful Viñales Valley in Cuba’s Pinar del Río Province in the background. Photo courtesy of Dan Spearman.



A New Day, A New Way *Of Giving*

■ by Emilie Coulter



Thanks to life in the digital age, when information is as close as a swipe and a tap away, old-school philanthropy has been turned on its head.

TODAY'S DONORS WANT—AND CAN FIND—more information about the causes and organizations they support. They want to feel confident that their gift is going to make a difference; and with the help of online reviews, neutral information services like GuideStar and Charity Navigator, and watchdog reporters like CharityWatch, useful information is more readily available than ever before. If a nonprofit is not stewarding the gifts it receives in the most effective and responsible way possible, donors will know—and they might not be willing to commit their energy and resources to that organization.

Influenced in part by the Millennial generation, donors of all ages and stages have begun to think of philanthropy as more of an investment than simply a gift. And they seek a social return on this investment. They want tools to measure the environmental, social, and financial impact of giving. As the younger generation brings its zeal for metrics to giving, making social and fiscal impact is becoming ever more important to all donors.

Once today's philanthropists have done their research and are fully committed to a cause, they often want to roll up their sleeves and work side by side with the members of their chosen organization. For many donors now, it's not enough to simply write a check. Philanthropists like John D. '85 and Carrie Morgridge believe that solutions to social problems come from active engagement with people on the frontlines. They're seeing the value of contributing their own knowledge, expertise, and relationships to the organizations they support. They want to be active partners, not passive funders. "I gained a tremendous amount of growth and skills here at Plymouth State," John says, "and I want to give back to the community that supported me and helped me grow up."

For the Morgridges, supporting education—in particular, innovative advances in education—has always been a top priority. Virtually everything they do as philanthropists is influenced by their desire to help students of all ages be prepared to meet the demands of a twenty-first century workforce. Whether they're investing in teacher training and technology for public school districts or backing programs that teach elementary schoolchildren problem-solving skills and entrepreneurship in addition to science, technology, engineering, and math, the Morgridge Family Foundation makes accessible learning its focus.

As Plymouth State aims to improve public higher education through the development of interdisciplinary initiatives, learning laboratories, and partnerships with the community, the Morgridges have been



John D. '85 and Carrie Morgridge believe that solutions to social problems come from active engagement with people on the frontlines. Last fall, they met with members of PSU's Student Support Foundation. Kaleb Hart '11 photo.

For many donors now,
it's not enough to simply
write a check.



AGES AND STAGES OF GIVING

60%

members of
MILLENNIALS
that donate to charity
(average amount \$481)

59%

members of
GENERATION X
that donate to charity
(average amount \$732)

72%

members of
BABY BOOMERS
that donate to charity
(average amount \$1,212)

88%

members of
MATURES
that donate to charity
(average amount \$1,367)

49%

all donors that
are **concerned about**
how organizations
use the money

\$24

average online monthly
gift amount in 2014

—Blackbaud



"Fifty dollars can change
a life."—Carrie Morgridge

paying attention. And, true to nature, they have gotten involved. Their commitment to supporting John's alma mater as it pioneers changes in education has resulted in a partnership that is allowing students to emerge from PSU not as strangers to the real world, but as welcome, familiar friends.

THE CIRCLE OF PHILANTHROPY

The Morgridges are also passionate about supporting people of all ages in giving back to their community in any way they can. They understand that the new way of giving has become a meaningful part of many young people's lives while they're still building their careers—or even while they're still in school. "Philanthropy can start at a very young age," says John. And gifts don't have to be huge to make a huge impact. Even major donors today are realizing the value of committing to smaller, less expensive projects that add up to real change. "Sometimes, fifty dollars can change a life," Carrie says.

They should know. The Morgridge Family Opportunity Scholarship was established at Plymouth State in 2004 to reduce the potential debt burdens of first-generation college students. It has provided scholarships for 40 students thus far. The following year, the Morgridges selected PSU for the first college chapter of their youth philanthropy club, the Student Support Foundation (SSF). The SSF's mission is to keep students in school and to create a culture of philanthropy in the campus community.

What makes the SSF special as a granting body is that the grantors are all students learning how to give. Each year, the Morgridge Family Foundation gives the SSF \$4,000 to make grants in the club's established funding priorities. At PSU, that includes emergency assistance grants to individual students for things like medical expenses, textbooks, and gas money. Student members determine how the money will be allocated, raise additional funds, and oversee the operation of an

Opposite page:
Back Row: John Farnam
(Community Investment
Liaison, Morgridge
Family Foundation),
John Morgridge '85,
Carrie Morgridge, Sam
Wisel '12, '16G, Matt
LeBlanc '16
Front Row: Sophia
Paglierani '17, Anna
Brown '16, Courtney
Bracken '16, Savannah
Fitzpatrick '12, Elizabeth
Thagouras '17.

Right: Adam Murata '16
volunteers at the Student
Support Foundation
food pantry, where
66 students in need
were served last year.
The food pantry also
delivered eight large
crates of food to the
financial aid office to be
distributed to still more
students.

Kaleb Hart '11 photos.



Service clubs like the Student Support Foundation encourage students to develop, express, and sustain positive social identities as helpful and compassionate members of the community.

on-campus food pantry. At the end of each school year, members submit an annual report, detailing grants, budgets, and success stories. By reviewing applications and awarding grants to students in need, members of the SSF learn the life skills of service and philanthropy.

“They come to realize that a very small donation to a fellow student for reading glasses, or a few dollars for gas to take advantage of an internship, can make a real impact,” John says. It’s not uncommon for members of the SSF board of directors to be former recipients of SSF grants themselves, motivated to give back after experiencing the impact of a small gift at the right moment. Others join with noble but fuzzy ideas of contributing

to the betterment of the world, but end up receiving something more valuable than they ever imagined, which is just what the Morgridges hoped for when they introduced the Student Support Foundation to Plymouth State. Service clubs like the SSF encourage students to develop, express, and sustain positive social identities as helpful and compassionate members of the community.

For Adam Murata '16, joining the SSF had personal significance. “I know there’s a lot of need out there. In fact, there have been several times in my life when I could have used something like the food pantry,” he says. “Having been in that situation myself, I felt like this was a good opportunity to try and help people

out, as well as meet good people that want to do like work.”

When Courtney Bracken '16 began volunteering at the SSF food pantry she was not aware of the extent of student need on campus. “I assumed everyone had the meal plan, but that’s not the case,” she says. “People started coming for food during my volunteer hours and it really opened my eyes.” Since then, Bracken, who now serves as Student Support Foundation secretary and food pantry manager, has been involved in the Morgridge Family Foundation’s Dream Big project celebrating the SSF’s 10th anniversary on the PSU campus: moving the pantry to a bigger, more welcoming location. After

“We encourage people to find their passion because fulfillment is what motivates you to give more. We need that reinforcement for our heart and our soul.” –John Morgridge '85

almost a year of hard work by SSF members—writing grants, spiffing up the space, and finally moving this past fall—the new food pantry is up and running with more visitors than ever, Bracken says.

FUELING THE PASSION

Plymouth State is not alone among state universities witnessing—and adapting to—the philanthropical paradigm shift in recent decades. Friends and benefactors like John and Carrie Morgridge are now inspiring donors to emerge from the background and get into the clubs and classrooms of causes they support. As John says, “We encourage people to find their passion because fulfillment is what motivates you to give more. We need that reinforcement for our heart and our soul.”

As for John and Carrie, nothing makes them happier than to be part of this circle of giving. “We feel very fortunate to give students an opportunity to support their community, an opportunity they might not have known they had,” John says. “Students feel the same way we do when we’re philanthropic: It feels like you’re making a difference as a human in this world.” ■



Jean-Manuel Duvivier illustration.



MOST PROMISING TRENDS IN PHILANTHROPY

Impact investing:

prioritizing social and environmental returns before financial return;

Collaborative philanthropy:

focusing on adaptive solutions that are developed in partnership with multiple stakeholders;

Addressing root causes of social problems

rather than treating the symptoms of those problems.

–Forbes.com

Giving Back Is Its Own Reward

Servant Leadership: The Key to Business and Success

BY MOST MEASURES, COLIN GRAHAM '01 IS A SUCCESS. But giving back to his alma mater, including the endowment of a university scholarship, provides an opportunity to display the type of leadership that defines him best. Graham counts success as finding whatever feeds one's heart and soul, and he's cultivated a rewarding career by helping others do just that.

Graham earned a business management degree from Plymouth State in 2001 and is a partner and head of the Industrial Practice at RSR Partners, a global executive search and leadership consulting firm. "I have had the good fortune of being a client of Colin's for years," says Tony Guzzi, CEO of EMCOR Group, a Fortune 500 construction company. "What strikes me most about him is his never-ending drive to give back. It is no surprise to me that he is now giving back to the school that he loves." Graham's spirit of generosity has elevated his business relationships beyond the quality of his work product.

In recognition of the high-quality education that made his career possible, Graham established the Colin S. Graham '01 Business Leadership Scholarship. "Although some would equate success with money or power, what really matters to me is servant leadership," Graham says, referring to the philosophy that puts service first. "Establishing this scholarship, and seeing the resulting impact for a recipient student, is its own reward."

Graham's first scholarship recipient, Erik Strom, will earn his undergraduate degree in finance next year thanks to Graham's assistance and mentorship. In addition to the generous scholarship, Graham helped Strom secure a summer internship at Bank of America in New York City. Strom, a Gothenburg, Sweden, native with a 3.96 GPA, is elated by Graham's generosity and has enjoyed the lessons gleaned from his mentor.

"This internship is such a great opportunity," Strom says. "And Colin is so inspiring. He's always providing great advice and mentoring. I'm funding my education through student loans, so this scholarship means the world to me."

"It has been an incredible experience to support a future leader like Erik and see the difference the scholarship is making in his life," Graham says.

Graham is familiar with Strom's path. He worked multiple jobs to pay his way through college before becoming a leading advisor to some of the world's top corporations. He attributes that ascent to principles he developed while in college. "My Plymouth State experience reinforced the value of a strong work ethic and it's been my privilege to give back."

■ Bruce Lyndes



"It has been an incredible experience to support a future leader like Erik and see the difference the scholarship is making in his life." —Colin Graham '01



Above: Colin Graham. Rod Goodman photo.

Jean-Manuel Duvivier illustration.

THE GREEN | PLYMOUTH STATE ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Upcoming Events You Don't Want To Miss!

Plymouth State Panthers know how to have fun. We meet up at restaurants and pubs, at baseball games, and at Alumni Reunion Weekend. We reminisce, network, laugh, and learn about some of the innovative things our alma mater is doing.

Don't miss out on these great opportunities to meet alumni in your area, in the region, and at Plymouth State. Be sure to check out our Panther Alumni Events page at plymouth.edu/alumni/events for details on these and other upcoming gatherings.

PORTSMOUTH, NH

June 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth Brewery, \$10 pp

PORTLAND SEA DOGS GAME: PORTLAND, ME

June 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Sea Dogs vs. Richmond (first pitch at 7 p.m.)

Family-friendly event.

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

June 24-26

Celebrate landmark reunions for the classes of '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, and friends! Help us by volunteering to make your reunion weekend the best one yet.

GREEK REUNION WEEKEND

June 24-26

Visit go.plymouth.edu/greek-reunion to see who's coming and to sign up!

RED SOX GAME: BOSTON, MA

July 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Baseball Tavern

Red Sox vs. SF Giants (first pitch at 7:10 p.m.)

Take this opportunity to see Big Papi before he retires!

PSU-AMC ADVENTURE WEEKEND

September 28-October 1

Highland Center, Crawford Notch

New Hampshire foliage and mountains make this a perfect weekend!

HOMECOMING & FAMILY CELEBRATION AND REUNION WEEKEND

September 23-25

Celebrating landmark reunions for '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, '01, '06, '11 and friends! Volunteer to help make your landmark reunion a weekend to remember! Tailgate with us prior to the football game, sign up to play in the cornhole tournament, and plan to celebrate into the evening at the awards reception.

36TH ANNUAL PLYMOUTH STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DEARBORN GOLF CLASSIC

September 25, 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. shotgun start

Waukegan Golf Course, Center Harbor, NH

2016 Alumni Recognition Awards

Join us as we honor the 2016 Alumni Recognition Award recipients on Saturday, September 24 at Homecoming & Family Celebration and Reunion Weekend.

Nominations are accepted on an ongoing basis, and those received by June 1 of the year are in consideration for the fall award ceremony.

Who do you know that deserves recognition?

View the award criteria, review the list of past recipients, and submit a nomination at go.plymouth.edu/alumni-awards.



Look for events, sign up, and be a part of the Pride!

SPRING 2016 CLASS NOTES

★ **Classes of 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, and 1966: Celebrate your landmark reunions this summer at Alumni Reunion Weekend, June 24–26, 2016!**
go.plymouth.edu/reunion

1960s

Stephen Bamford '65, '75MED was inducted into the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Hall of Fame in April 2016. Honorees were selected for outstanding achievements, service, dedication, commitment, and contributions to the ECAC and its member institutions. Before his various roles at ECAC, including senior associate commissioner and administrative overseer, he served as PSU director of athletics for 13 years. He has also served on NCAA, ECAC, and officiating committees over the course of his professional career. In 1985, he was inducted as a charter member of the Plymouth State Athletic Hall of Fame.

Andrea (Konecny) Carey '66 (*below*) retired in 2011 from Bayard, Inc., dba Twenty-Third Publications, a religious publisher, after 32 years. She now volunteers at her local library, a preschool, and an adult care facility (where she was recently awarded Volunteer of the Year), and as a health care advocate. Andrea's favorite pastime is attending a weekly writing class for seniors. She writes, "I still get requests to dance the hula for local nonprofits. The Aloha spirit lives on!"



Andrea (Konecny) Carey '66 dances the hula for local nonprofits.

1970s

Glenn Ahrens '76 will be retiring as dean of students from Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH, at the end of this school year. He has been with the Academy since the late 1970s.

1980s

Rodney Elliot '82 surveys contaminated sites throughout the state of Massachusetts as a "brownfields" coordinator out of the Department of Environmental Protection's Boston office. He recently finished a two-year term as mayor of Pawtucketville, MA.

Debra J. Norton '82 is head teacher at Harpswell Nursery School in Harpswell, ME.

Robin Matthews '86 is assistant superintendent of recreation in Ridgefield, CT.

James Birge '87G is president of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams, MA.

Peter Simonini '89 was named to the *New England Soccer Journal's* 50 most influential faces in New England soccer history.

Mark Smith '89 has joined the Electric Supply Center's Project Lighting unit, which offers lighting product and design recommendations, delivers creative solutions to working within budgets, and manages projects from scheduling to vendors. He lives in Rochester, MA, with his wife Beth and their three children.

1990s

Mary Moriarty '92, '00G, '07CAGS has been named superintendent of SAU 2 schools, which include Inter-Lakes and Ashland school districts in New Hampshire.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Plymouth State alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who have passed away.

Madeleine (McClintock) Goebel '34, February 29, 2016, Melrose, MA

Donald Bump '51, '62G, January 26, 2016, Plymouth, NH

Albert W. Wilson '52, February 18, 2016, Camden, ME

Carl P. Gendron '57, February 16, 2016, Wolfeboro, NH

William Savage '61, April 22, 2016, Keene, NH

Elaine C. Belyea '67, February 27, 2016, Glenciff, NH

Christine A. (Perry) Boswell '68, February 20, 2016, Sacramento, CA

John H. Noyes '69, March 17, 2016, Plymouth, NH

Joseph Hallgren '70, '91G, February 12, 2016, Meredith, NH

Louise J. (Hervey) Wood '70, March 30, 2016, Sanford, ME

Glenn Stillings '73G, November 4, 2015, Littleton, NH

Stephen C. Bisson '79, March 15, 2016, Crestwood, KY

Jayne (Schabacker) Brown '80, February 24, 2016, Thornton, NH

Richard V. Fabian Jr. '80G, February 21, 2016, Holderness, NH

Christine M. (O'Neil) Holbrook '82, March 22, 2016, Aurora, IL

John B. Gansle '89G, February 3, 2016, Miller Place, NY

Ronald W. Wanner '89G, January 30, 2016, Dunbarton, NH

Christopher B. Eschenbach '01, May 7, 2016, Boston, MA

Faculty, Staff, and Friends

Raymond "Ray" Edmonds, December 25, 2015, Campton, NH

Richard A. Fletcher, January 19, 2016, Plymouth, NH

Kathleen H. Arecchi, February 5, 2016, Hebron, NH

Alfred N. Fauver, February 13, 2016, Plymouth, NH

John H. Lawson, March 30, 2016, Amesbury, MA

Nelson L. Kennedy, March 31, 2016, Woodsville, NH

STAY CONNECTED!



See what your classmates have been up to, and share your story, too! Send us your personal and professional accomplishments at plymouth.edu/alumni/class-notes so we can share your news with the alumni community. Submit your update today!

LIKE facebook.com/plymouthstatealumni
WATCH youtube.com/plymouthstatealumni
SHARE instagram.com/plymouthstatealumni
JOIN go.plymouth.edu/linkedin

Four Coconuts and a Dream:

Life at Sea with Toutou '98 and David Marsden '97

Spearfishing in the Bahamas. Dodging midnight lightning in Panama. Raking coffee beans in Costa Rica. Toutou '98 and David Marsden '97 are living a life that most only dream about. Leaving behind their house, car, and possessions in 2014, the couple set sail from Hilton Head, South Carolina, with their two young children, and have since had amazing experiences across 23 countries on a catamaran called *Four Coconuts*.

Both Toutou and David caught the travel bug early on. Toutou spent her junior year as a marketing major studying in Thailand, followed by a whirlwind four-month backpacking trip around Asia. When she came home, travel had become an indelible part of her. "I made a promise to myself it was something I'd keep doing," she says.

David's wanderlust began even earlier, on childhood vacations in the Caribbean. Walking the docks, his family would admire boats and point out the ports of call listed on the stern of each, imagining the adventures and exotic locations each vessel had visited. David discovered that life at sea was a real possibility.

After 17 years spent living, working, and starting a family in the Boston region, David and Toutou began to experience that familiar itch to travel. Hearing about a couple who had moved to Costa Rica to run a bed and breakfast sparked the idea of starting their own unconventional lifestyle. They began planning in earnest for their family sailing adventure.

Four Coconuts: Setting Sail

It took four years of saving, preparation, and countless hours spent devouring every scrap of information they could about sailing. Most of their friends and family were supportive, but they had plenty of questions about life on the water. What would they do about hurricanes? How would they eat?



The Marsden family decided they simply had to grab their courage, set a date, and go.

As Toutou says, pursuing a life of freedom and passion is something many people want to do, but it's easy to let uncertainty, obligations, and fear become excuses not to take action. The Marsden family decided they simply had to grab their courage, set a date, and go.

Toutou says one of the most gratifying aspects of preparing for the sailing trip was helping ignite the fire for others to go after their goals. The message they're sharing now is that anyone can do the same. It's all about realizing you can do something different and then moving forward, even if the unknown seems scary.

And there have been scary moments. Early in the voyage, the Marsdens were surrounded by three ominous water spouts. Other times they witnessed lightning strikes that were a bit too close for comfort. But these brief adrenaline-pumping incidents



Opposite page, top right: Toutou '98, David '97, Tyler, and Maya Marsden, a.k.a., the Four Coconuts!

Bottom right: It's not always paradise on the *Four Coconuts* ... but it sure beats a slushy 90-minute commute in New England!

Top left: One of many magical sunsets.

are balanced out by the many sweet moments. Discovering a secluded hot spring in the rainforest and sharing its welcoming warmth with friends. Lying on the *Four Coconuts* deck as a family and counting the shooting stars overhead. These magical times are what make the Marsdens' experience worth it.

Full Memories

"We grew up thinking that we had to work until we're 60, retire, and move to Florida," David says. But as they've pursued their goal, they've met more and more people living alternative lifestyles and doing just fine. "We can have comforts without the traditional corporate job," he says. "We're far more laid back than when we left. We feel lighter with less stuff, more nimble."

They grew accustomed to a simpler lifestyle, one with nature playing a major role in their daily experience. On the boat, they relied on solar energy and wind to power them, and were conscious of using less water. This is a way of resourceful living they've grown to love. Toutou says, "A full entry in our travel blog is better than 50 different types of toys. Full closets mean less to us than full memories."

A Hands-on, Real-world Education

Meeting and interacting with people from across the globe, the Marsden children have learned about how others live, and shared their own experiences in presentations to travelers and friends. "Our kids have become vertically socialized," David says, and are very comfortable with all ages, cultures, and backgrounds. Unlike many their age, Maya and Tyler are not inundated with TV and digital media, but instead have grown in their own communication skills. When they meet with other cruisers,

David says, they can be found happily discussing dinghy engines, weather, current events, and even the merits of various anchorages.

"We wanted to go when the kids were young," David says, at that perfect age when the "kids are still involved with us and us with them. These are their formative years; we can really start shaping who they will become."

New Adventures on the Horizon

But all good things must come to an end. In March the Marsden family docked in the Palm Beach area and began making preparations to sell their beloved catamaran so they can set out on their next adventure. As spring stretches into summer, Toutou, David, and the kids will hop in a different kind of vehicle—a car!—and spend several months heading west on a grand road trip. They want to explore national parks, major cities, and catch up with other sailing friends they met out on the water.

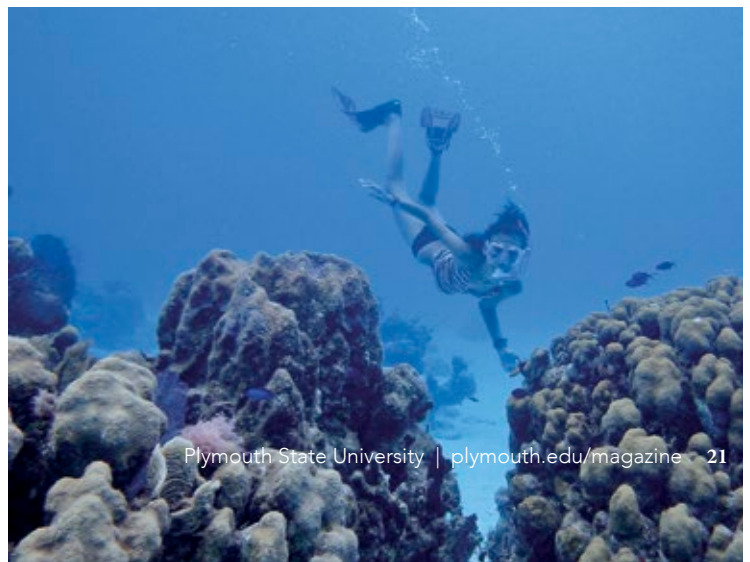
Wherever this family travels, their time at sea will always be a part of them. On a recent car trip, shortly after coming ashore in Florida, the kids reacted with amazement at the speed of the vehicle.

Tyler, ever the sailor, exclaimed, "we must be going at least 90 knots!" ■ Amy Dresser Hartle '10

Travel vicariously through the Marsdens! Check out their blog, at travelpod.com/members/marsdenfamily.

Amy Dresser Hartle '10 is a freelance writer and travel blogger. As self-proclaimed "digital nomads," Amy and her husband Nathan publish Two Drifters (www.twodrifters.us), a couples travel blog about romantic and meaningful adventures. This remote work allows them to travel anywhere they choose, from Scotland to Australia to Morocco. The Marsdens' story inspired them, and reminds them that a life of travel can be possible even as they grow their own family.

Nine-year-old spearfisher Tyler (above) and eleven-year-old snorkeler Maya (below) forego Xbox and Wii, preferring to create their own adventures in real time. Photos courtesy of Toutou and David Marsden.



Yvette (Pageot) Nelson '94



Craig Consigli '98



Eleanor Williams '00

Yvette (Pageot) Nelson '94 (*top*) is a controller at Seaboard International Forest Products in Nashua, NH.

Craig Consigli '98 (*above right*) has been named assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction, and assessment in the Milford (MA) Public Schools. Formerly, he was principal of Woodland Elementary School.

Jeremy Hillger '98 has been named principal of Sandwich Elementary School in Sandwich, NH.

Jennifer Wrath '99, '13G has been named principal of Inter-Lakes Elementary School in Meredith, NH.

2000s

Kirk Beitler '00, '03CAGS has been selected as superintendent of schools for Gilford (NH) School District.

Eleanor (Iadonisi) Williams '00 (*above*) lives in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Yolanda Lainez de Aviles '02G has worked at the American School of Tegucigalpa (Honduras) as a college counselor since 1995.

Dan Craig '03 is the Sioux Falls (SD) Skyforce basketball team head coach and was named 2015–16 NBA Develop League Coach of the Year. A first-year head coach in Sioux Falls, Craig joined the Skyforce following 12 seasons with the Miami Heat, the team's NBA parent club.



★ **Michael Fabian '03** and Taryn Fabian welcomed their daughter, Addilynn Grace, (*above*) on January 21, 2016.

Jason St. Gelais '03, '05G is general manager at Channel Marine, a boat sales, storage, and service company that has been in business on the Weirs Channel in Laconia, NH, for 70 years.

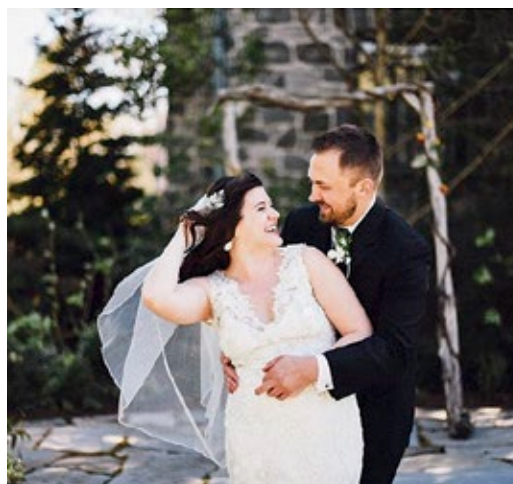
Avis Brosseau '03G is chief financial officer of Granite Bank in NH. She lives in Brunswick, VT.

Alison Bryant '03G, '09CAGS will assume the role of Laconia Middle School principal in July 2016.

Matt Furst '05 is vice president of GoodWorks Insurance in Glastonbury, CT.

Scott Nalette '05 is manager of intramural and club sports at Boston University. He was recently elected state director for MARS (Massachusetts Association for Recreational Sports) and NIRSA (National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association).

★ **Angela (Ferendo) Watts '05** appeared in April on *Shark Tank*, the critically acclaimed and Emmy-winning investment reality show, with her company Slyde Handboards. The California-based handboard surfing company she co-owns with her husband Steve Watts was chosen for Season 7 among an estimated 50,000 applicants all seeking to secure funding to take their innovations to the next level. The investors—including celebrity guest shark Ashton Kutcher—"bit," agreeing to invest in Slyde Handboards to the tune of \$200,000, for a 22 percent stake in the company!



Amy (Dresser) Hartle '10 and Nathan Hartle.



Above: Roger, the 12-year-old chihuahua adopted by Nicholas Greenwood '11 and Taylor Malouin '13.

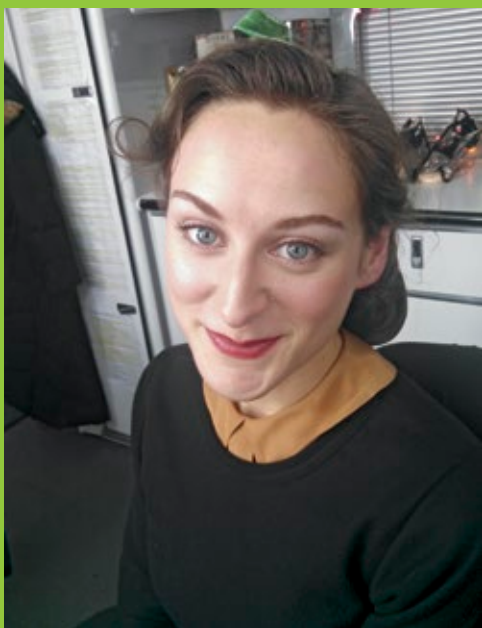
Amy Cammack-Hinds '06G will be the new assistant superintendent of schools for student support services at the Laconia (NH) School District as of July 1. She will be focused on special education, homeless families, alternative education, and Title I funding programs.

Craig Elkins '07 is senior director of dual enrollment at Mount Wachusett Community College (Gardner, MA) in the Access and Transition division, which serves 4,000 middle and high school students per year in 18 programs.

Patrick Young '08 is head coach of the boys lacrosse program at Bishop Loughlin High School in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, NY.

Amy Brnger '09G is a landscape and still-life painter and Portsmouth (NH) High School's Futures Scholarship coordinator. The program is designed for students who "show the ability, desire, and motivation to attend college, but lack the necessary resources." Her work involves meeting with students and discussing grades, careers, responsibilities, and college selection.

Andrew Wallace '09 owns ISC Suspension, which distributes high performance suspension systems worldwide, and AJW Performance, which sells and services the suspension systems and handles all other aspects of performance cars. Both firms are located in the Bayview Business Park in Gilford, NH.



★ Theatre Alumni May Have Some Advice for the Players

Three PSU alumni have worked together in their field since their days at Plymouth State.

Angela Hope Smith '09 is an American stage and screen actress who played Catherine Paine in Disney's disaster drama-thriller, *The Finest Hours* (2016), alongside Chris Pine, Holliday Grainger, and Beau Knapp, directed by Craig Gillespie. On stage she has performed for thousands on the Boston Common with Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, and toured the southeast United States with Chamber Theatre Productions. Regionally, Smith has played numerous classical stage roles including Juliet, Ophelia, Hermia, and Cassius in *Julius Caesar*. She has been involved for many years with Advice to the Players (ATTP), a New Hampshire theatre company performing Shakespeare and offering workshops.

Smith is married to fellow PSU Music, Theatre, Dance alum, **Andrew Codispoti '08**, artistic director of ATTP. He has been working with the company since 2007 as actor, web master, educator, trustee, chairperson, and director. He has received education training from Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA, and has acted with companies across New England such as The Barnstormers Theatre, New Art Theatre, Stoneham Theatre, and Seven Stages Shakespeare in Portsmouth, NH. He has directed productions for Seven Stages and Advice to the Players.

Jessie (Earl) Chapman '09 is managing director of ATTP. Jessie has long served the company on stage and off, as an actor, business manager, and educator for ATTP's Shakespeare Camps. She has also worked as a teaching artist, director, and company manager for Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA, for Lincoln Center, the Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts, and Theatre for a New Audience, in NYC.

Top: Angela Hope Smith in costume and makeup on the set of *The Finest Hours*.

Left: Jessie Chapman and Andrew Codispoti at the opening of *Hamlet* at Your Theatre in North Conway, NH.



2010s

Stacey Disabato '10 was promoted to dispatcher supervisor at the Manchester (NH) Police Department.

★ **Amy (Dresser) Hartle '10** (*opposite page, middle*) received her master's degree abroad, and on April 9, 2016, she married Nathan Hartle in Asheville, NC. She now travels the world with her husband, with whom she runs a travel blog. (See page 20 for a story Amy wrote in this issue: Four Coconuts and a Dream.)

Nicholas Greenwood '11 is an information support technician/accounts administrator at UNH.

Jon Mousette '12 is the athletic trainer for Spaulding High School in Rochester, NH.

Anthony Adamsky '13 and **Maxwell Corbett '13** own an antique shop called Quince and Quail in Ashland, NH.

Sam Wisel '12, '16G is a development officer for Habitat for Humanity International, New York City market.

Daniel Robertson '13 joined the residential lending team at St. Mary's Bank in Concord, NH. He previously worked in mortgage loan administration at Service Credit Union. Dan is a New Hampshire-certified Realtor.



Join the Pride!

You don't always have to come to campus to be a part of the action—PSU alumni get together at restaurants and pubs, at baseball games, and businesses. Don't miss out on these great opportunities to meet alumni in your area. Go to the Panther Alumni Events page at plymouth.edu/alumni/events for details!

Congratulations Class of 2016!



Hey, Class of 2015–We want to hear from you!

We'd love to know what you've been up to since graduation!

Be on the lookout for an e-mail from President Don Birx in early June with a brief questionnaire for you to complete. Just a few minutes of your time will qualify you for a chance to win a free 3-credit PSU graduate course!



Panther Career Connections

Alumni are PSU's greatest success stories. You go on to remarkable careers in a broad range of fields all over the globe. Share what you're doing now by sending us your business card!

Take a photo of it, scan it, e-mail it, or put it in the mail to:

**Alumni Relations, MSC 50
Plymouth State University
17 High Street
Plymouth, NH 03264-1595
or alumni@plymouth.edu**



Honoring the Past with a Gift for the Future

Together, Kappa brothers celebrate the good times and help each other in times of need.

"The friendships with Brothers of Kappa have stayed with me and so many others for all these years," says Dana Nelson '69, one of the fraternity's founding brothers. "This relationship will stay with us the rest of our lives." To honor KDP's 50th anniversary on campus and its enduring impact on their lives, the brothers, led by Nelson and Robert "Skip" Whitmore '69, have established the Kappa Delta Phi, Sigma Chapter Scholarship through the Fund for Plymouth State. Each year, this scholarship will help make possible a transformational educational experience and a promising future for a deserving Plymouth State student. Creating the scholarship is a fitting way to honor both the fraternity, which has been dedicated to service since its inception, and the University, says Nelson. "PSU is what brought us together and PSU has given us what we needed for our careers, and our lives."

To learn how you can support the Kappa Delta Phi, Sigma Chapter Scholarship, contact John Scheinman at jscheinman@plymouth.edu or (603) 535-2805.



For the members of Kappa Delta Phi, Sigma Chapter, brotherhood is forever.

Above, front row: Pierre Rousseau '66, Dan Andrews '69, George Provost '68

Back row: Rick Dente '68, Al Johnson '71, Skip Whitmore '69

Celebrate Greek life and the enduring friendships you've made at the Greek Alumni Reunion Weekend, June 24-26, 2016!



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Cornhole tournament. Dearborn Golf Classic.
Alumni Recognition Awards. Harvest Festival.
Music, Theatre, and Dance production.
Class reunions.**

Learn more and see the photos from 2015 at
plymouth.edu/celebration. Make plans to join us
this September!

Classes ending in '1 and '6—your reunion needs you. Get involved!
go.plymouth.edu/alumni-volunteer

Eric Gabor '16 photo.

