



**BEACON
COLLEGE**

BEACON NAVIGATOR

VOLUME IV, ISSUE II

MARCH 2014

Know Your World and Its Challenges. Chart Your Course and Succeed.

Gain. Learn. Grow.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

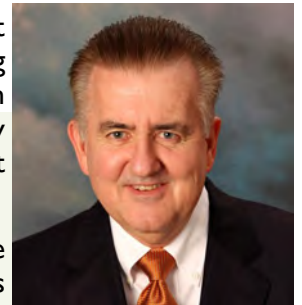
- Installation of Beacon's Third President
- Dedication of Resnick Founders' Room
- Trustees Retire after Years of Service
- Artistic Talent Found Everywhere

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Academic Panel	3
Alumni Highlight	6
Writing Center Takes on TV	8
Thanks to the Monacells	9
Student Services Hosts Celebration	10
Gamma Beta Phi Conference	11
Center for Student Success News	12
LDA Conference	12
Contest Winner	13
New Employees	14
World Cup Soccer	14
Health and Wellness	16-17

A Presidential Note: *Why is Beacon Different?*

Although I have a couple of months to go before my first anniversary as President, I have been asked with compelling frequency during this relatively brief tenure, "Why is Beacon College different?" This question has been posed mostly by those who are either unfamiliar with us or are unsure about the focus of our community's mission.



President George J. Hagerty

In the dynamic, sometimes uncertain, and very competitive realm of American higher education, this is a question that is constantly worthy of our consideration and reflection. Certainly, we are able to respond to this question by pointing out that we are the first accredited Bachelor's degree institution devoted exclusively to educating and serving students with learning disabilities, ADHD, and other learning differences.

We have solid ground upon which to stand in rehearsing the core elements of the Beacon model: small class size, the professors' familiarity with and responsiveness to a variety of learning styles, the integration for each student of a system of learning specialist and life coaching, and the offering of a residential living and learning community that empowers students through the integration of extra-curricular services and activities. These are specific and tangible expressions of what makes Beacon different. They are, however, only part of the reason that I, and I believe, the vast majority of students, faculty, and staff have chosen Beacon.

During my remarks at the inauguration, I made a relatively simple statement: "Things that matter are rarely held in the hand, but always in the heart." For its ostensible simplicity, I have found in my life that this is a statement of significant consequence.

Without question, the undergraduate program of academic and social support that has been created over the course of twenty-five years, purposefully set in motion to address the unique learning needs of our students, is a defining difference for Beacon. But there are some intangible elements to our community that I believe make us wholly unique and are impossible to discern unless you visit our campus. However essential in shaping a learning community, these features are often obscured at first glance: the way we welcome the newcomers, the manner by which we embrace the diversity among students across all the dimensions of individuality, and the strength of the bond – a truly extraordinary unifying force – between students, faculty, and staff.

Continued on page 11...

Dr. George J. Hagerty Installed as Beacon's Third President

Contributed by Gretchen Dreimiller, Acting Director of Communications

The inauguration of Dr. George J. Hagerty took place at on Friday, February 21, 2014. His inaugural address focused on the unique mission of Beacon College, with an emphasis on appreciating the history of the College and those who helped ensure its success, while also recognizing the vision for the future. While the College may be growing and changing, Dr. Hagerty noted in his speech, "We have prevailed and grown as a liberal arts institution because our focus and purpose has remained unaltered and at the core of all that we do."

Dr. Hagerty provided details regarding the future vision of the College, including campus plans and ideal student enrollment, growth that would honor the founding goals of the institution while best serving the needs of the current and future student population. "The Beacon College that has been envisioned and that will prosper over the next decade is worthy of its legacy, its extraordinary promise, and our singular mission."



In conclusion, Dr. Hagerty revealed the book that has been most memorable to him in influencing his life—Eudora Welty's *One Writer's Beginning*. Quoting Welty, "You see, I have lived a sheltered life, but a sheltered life can be a daring life as well. For all serious daring comes from within," Hagerty connects the passage with the role of Beacon College in working with students with learning

disabilities and ADHD and with the goal for the students themselves. "We are called to guide and empower our students to live daring lives... From where I stand, the living of a daring life by our students is our most enduring gift. It is, in truth, both our College's legacy and our future. So, to all gathered here, and especially our students, I wish you all daring lives."

Keynote Speaker Dr. Yvonne Pennington gave a heartfelt speech based primarily on her personal experiences helping her son Ty, now a successful television personality, cope with his ADHD. Dr. Pennington's speech expressed her passion for advocating for people with learning disabilities. She has since worked in her practice with many other adults and children with learning disabilities and ADHD and has been responsible for numerous publications and presentations on the topic. In her speech, Pennington recognized Beacon's commitment to serving the needs of students with learning disabilities and ADHD and noted that she wished the College had been an option for Ty, noting "the preparation given at this wonderful Beacon College prepares these students to be ready for whatever opportunity when it comes around to them."

Additional speakers included faculty member, Dr. Terri Ross, student leader Brett Daly, alumnus Jeremy Levin, Board Chair Eileen Marinakis, Congressman Daniel Webster, Leesburg Mayor John Christian, and Thomas Horgan, President of the New Hampshire College and University Council, who provided Dr. Hagerty's introduction.

A formal reception was held after the ceremony followed by a Gala Dinner at the Mission Inn Resort as special thanks for those who have contributed significantly to the success of the College. In the days leading up to the inauguration, events, which were all open to the public, were held on campus and included the opening of the Kristin Michelle Mason Art Gallery with an inaugural faculty exhibit and an academic discussion panel on the topic "Replacing Superstition with Science" (see article on the next page).

As the inauguration coincided with the 25th anniversary of the College, this event acted as the kickoff to the year-long celebration. This ceremony was an important milestone for the College as it was a first in our history. For more details and photos of the events, please visit <http://www.beaconcollege.edu/the-inauguration-of-dr-george-hagerty/>.

“Replacing Superstitions with Science” Academic Forum

Contributed by Gretchen Dreimiller, Acting Director of Communications

On Thursday, February 20th, Beacon held its first ever academic discussion panel! This interactive session was an integral component of the events leading up to the inauguration of Dr. George Hagerty on the 21st of February. The topic of the discussion was “Replacing Superstition with Science,” and members of Academic Affairs, Dr. Andrea Brode, Dr. Kevin Chandler, Ms. Caroline Le, Ms. Sandy Novak, and Dr. Kirk Stowe, (pictured below) were the participants with Dr. Rick Perrone serving as moderator.

The lively session began with Ms. Le presenting a historical overview of the significance that omens and other beliefs have played throughout the course of history. For instance, major historical figures such as Elizabeth I and Napoleon both trusted oracles and based important decisions on advice gleaned from omens while the fear of the number 13 kept President Roosevelt from traveling on the 13th day of the month. Ms. Le ended her overview by asking the crowd just how far we have progressed as a society. She challenged the group to admit to times in their own lives when they had allowed superstition rather than logic or reason to guide decision-making. A few examples were provided by both students and faculty with all understanding that the decisions were not necessarily reasonable; it can be fun to make unimportant decisions based purely on superstition, such as wearing an NFL jersey every time that certain team plays a game!

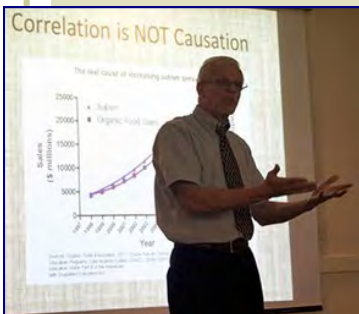
Dr. Brode continued the discussion by moving to the realm of mental health treatments throughout the course of history. She brought up the popular “treatment” for witchcraft in the Middle Ages known as trepanning, which involved drilling into the skull. This inhumane treatment of the mentally ill, and even those with learning disabilities, which at one time was thought to be a sign of mental illness, continued throughout history, mostly because there was a lack of understanding of what caused the issue or how to properly treat it. Dr. Brode pointed to a couple of specific examples from popular culture where the poor treatment of the mentally ill is explicitly covered, such as *The Snake Pit* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. The contemporary solution for treatment of mental health issues, according to Dr. Brode, is a reliance on prescription drugs, and there is an ongoing debate as to the efficacy of such drugs in treating the underlying condition.



Ms. Sandy Novak turned to the depiction of superstition and magical thinking in popular culture, particularly in television advertisements. The 1920s and 1930s gave rise to more stylish ads, as a direct result of the economic prosperity of the time and a desire to appeal to one’s sense of a lifestyle, to sell goods that were not necessarily needed. Sandy played several examples of such ads that make unrealistic promises, including one featuring the Lucky Charms leprechaun. This figure from Irish literature makes the unlikely claim that one can find wealth at the end of a rainbow. To end the discussion, Sandy Novak asserted that the millennial generation is not impressed with such stylish advertisements, as previous generations seemed to be, and they are not as influenced by celebrity endorsements and the like, which makes it difficult for advertisers to figure out how to target them effectively. When pressed to respond to the idea of what this generation of students needs to be sold on an item, student Tyler Kornmehl responded, “Give us what we want now.”

Dr. Stowe presented a thought-provoking critique of evolution versus creationism, noting that it is possible to have disputing claims. It is not uncommon, for instance, to accept the idea of microevolution while rejecting the notion of macroevolution. Dr. Stowe reviewed the concepts of faith versus evidence, detailing what is necessary before evidence can officially be accepted as such and deemed accurate. He covered the evidence to support the theory of evolution, providing specific examples from nature. Dr. Stowe then questioned the audience, “Can science and religion be separated?” Student Hadiya Lewis likened the concepts to roommates stating, “They don’t have to like each other, but they can get along.”

To conclude the session, Dr. Kevin Chandler focused on numbers, specifically the probability of certain events happening. Dr. Chandler shared his calculations on the possibility of specific events, such as getting struck by lightning, dying from the result of a lightning strike, or winning the lottery in an effort to convey the true likelihood of any of these events actually happening to us. Contrary to popular opinion, as conveyed to us through the media, most people who are struck by lightning do not actually die as a result. The chances of winning the lottery are, of course, astronomical, but Dr. Chandler also asserts that one would have just as much luck with a randomly selected series of numbers as with using ones that have special meaning to us such as birthdays and anniversaries; we are no more likely to win the lottery on our birthday as any other given day! This segment of the panel discussion proved to be the most interactive with students and staff alike wanting to know the probability of specific events occurring such as President Hagerty’s inquiry as whether there would be rain on his Inauguration day!



Beacon’s first academic panel discussion proved to be a tremendous success with the Student Center packed with students, staff, and faculty. Judging from the interaction of the crowd, there was an interest and enthusiasm for its theme as most everyone left with a new appreciation for the relevance of each subject in our society and in our own lives. To view the video of the Panel courtesy of student James Harris, please

visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuQsmVcDorQ>.

Listening to *Umma Gumma* and Typing ‘Lou Ferigno es un Trozo!’ Over and Over

Contributed by Dr. William Nesbitt, Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies

February 19th was the Inaugural Faculty Exhibition at the Kristin Michelle Mason Gallery at Beacon College featuring work from Van Galyon, Russell Bellamy, and Jordan Vinyard. Some highlights include *Wilderness Fire Sermon* and *All Are Flowers in a Flowering Universe* by Van; *Razza*, *Seed, Seed (Blue)*, *Seed (Green)*, and *Seed (Brown)* by Russ; and *Kinetics* and *Plans for Kinetics* by Jordan.

It's understandable if you were taken aback by some of it. Their work is challenging. We don't often encounter headless, legless horses; large spiky protuberances with clear phallic suggestions, painting of concrete images with—at least upon first consideration—tentative relationships to one another; and video of someone rocking back and forth on a large cradle-like piece of metal sitting on a wooden raft/pallet in the midst of a pond and then falling in. Looking at just *Seed* and its variations, one wonders what it is. Futuristic racetrack? The circulatory system of some single-cell organism? A hula hoop for Siamese twins? The keyhole of an electronic lock? An actual seed? Or is *Seed* a seed in a more conceptual sense as in a thing that is the beginning of another thing? Perhaps something else entirely?



Some initial responses I received about the art included words and phrases such as “weird,” “different,” “challenging,” and “I don’t get it.” From the perspective of a non-specialist, my understanding is that’s at least some of the point. What I have both directly experienced and read about contemporary art suggests that one of the goals is to show something new, to disorient you, to question your assumptions, to shock you, to make you

stop and think and reconsider, to, if nothing else, get you to think critically about what you like and why you like it or what bothers you and why it bothers you. Mr. Bellamy explains that the “goal for exhibition was to educate the students on what a professional exhibition of thought-provoking contemporary art looks like and what it takes to assemble and install this type of exhibition.” The first challenge to the viewer is not so much the art itself, but resisting the impulse to reject and turn away from that which is not immediately understood and accessible. To confront that which confronts you. By making you uncomfortable, the gallery art sits comfortably within one of the primary objectives of

contemporary art (which is not to say that contemporary art *has* to make you uncomfortable or shock you or confuse you—it’s just not that uncommon if it *does*). With this in mind, it might be useful to hear from the artists themselves about the various aesthetics underlying their pieces.

In Mr. Bellamy’s opinion, “Van’s work dealt with childhood memories/nostalgia, structure and spirituality.” He recognizes “the image of a recurring house in several paintings. This is a reminder of Van’s childhood experience in Tennessee.” Of his own work, Russ explains that it contains “underlying conceptual themes dealing with interpretation of behavior and intelligence. Some work focuses on our expectations of appropriate social behavior in relation to our animalistic desires to behave more irrationally. In essence this work is my effort to break the stuffy, uptight attitude of how we are expected to behave in social situations, especially art galleries,” Russ clarifies. For this reason, he says, “my favorite piece of mine is the horse swings [*Razza*]. I greatly prefer them when they can be played on because it completely changes the gallery experience. It turns the reception into more of a party or a spectacle that I find very entertaining. It creates more of a connection between the art and the viewer when they can physically mount a sculpture and play with it.” Thus, Russ has created a type of kinetic sculpture.



Continued on next page...

...continued from page 4

Explaining the inspiration for some of his subject matter, Russ says, "I also use a lot of agricultural references in my work. I am very interested in the idea of intuitive engineering. This deals with the under-appreciated intelligence of rural farm workers. Their ability to repair broken equipment as well as design and create new functioning machines to fulfill needs on the farm is inspiring."

Of Jordan's work, Russ believes that it "deals with the inevitable deterioration of bodily structures, and it is partially a way for her to deal with the degrading health of older friends and family members." In addition to dealing with these changes, it is simultaneously a refusal of or a buffer against it. "This is a way of trying to preserve the innocence and memories of her childhood," says Russ. Furthermore, "Jordan uses the imagery of planned obsolescence of man-made machines as a metaphor of our physical decay. By combining mechanical imagery with biological imagery she asks us to see organic life forms as machines." Additionally, I once asked Jordan about what her work represents, expresses, or demonstrates, and she said "failure." While "failure" is a complex word with many possible applications, we can see both the relationship of that word to Russ' statements and the obvious question that begs: Is it even possible to and how does one successfully represent failure? If one cannot, is that failure, then, a

successful demonstration? And if it is a successful demonstration, then it's not a failure, is it? But does that mean it's failed? But does that then prove the point? And what about . . . and on and on and on. What an interesting conundrum that keeps repeating and folding back into itself.



One of the interesting things about *Plans for Kinetics* is that it shows the drafts, the sketches, the process, for *Kinetics*. Is it a companion piece, a stand-alone piece, a work in progress, or a collection/collage of notes? Is it introduction, prologue, epilogue, annotation? Or is it actually the primary piece and *Kinetics* the secondary? Is it both process and final product?

Whatever it might be, it highlights the labor and process of creating art, a process that we often overlook. In regards to the work in the gallery, "all the work is very labor intensive." Russ says, "I can only speak for myself as to the exact process but my work generally takes several months to several years to design and construct." He believes that "when you dig a little deeper and into our motivations and our process, you will find more and more similarities." This is another reason to spend time with all of the work in the gallery—perhaps more than once—and give it time to sink. Each piece of art has meaning not just in and of itself but also in relation to the surrounding pieces.

Russ relates that "the feedback that I have received the most is that the exhibition is much different than what people are used to seeing in local galleries. Our goal is to educate the public and the students to better understand contemporary art. This is the kind of work being shown in the larger galleries around the country and in more populated cities. These ideas of work and its relation to concept are what graduate schools and contemporary art spaces are currently focusing on and that is what we are trying to teach the students." Ultimately, he says, "I believe that the show has been very successful." I also heard feedback that was very supportive, encouraging, and demonstrated engagement with the work.

Challenging work can indicate that the artist respects his or her audience and believes that either they will comprehend it or will work to comprehend it. In some ways, the gallery works are compasses, not maps, let alone sets of directions. Perhaps they are questions only you can answer, or perhaps they are answers to questions you didn't know you asked.

Russ hopes "that the next exhibition will be a student show" that will include work from senior art majors. Additionally, Russ hopes "to have a juried student show" that "will give students the opportunity to submit work created within the past year for the exhibition."

And the title of this article? If you read the title and kept reading the article, then you've gotten the entire point. Please come to the next show.



Resnick Founders' Room Opens Its Doors

Contributed by Ariel Ben-Chitrit, Student

With 2014 marking 25 years of Beacon College educating students with ADHD and learning disabilities, the Beacon College Library is proud to be the home of the new Resnick Founders' Room, which showcases an exhibition of the College's history. The room, which occupies a former storage area in the rear of the library, houses a collection of



newspaper articles, government documents, and other artifacts from the past. Anchoring the display is a timeline which wraps around the walls of the room and shows key moments in Beacon's history from its founding in 1989, through 2003 when the College attained regional accreditation, and up to the present day.

The inspiration for the Founders' Room came last year, when Director of Library Services Tiffany Reitz discovered binders full of newspaper clippings, yearbooks, literary magazines, and other documents chronicling the College's history, all of which had been relegated to the anonymity of storage. Wanting to preserve these documents as a resource for future generations of students, faculty, families, and friends, Ms. Reitz proposed that these pieces of Beacon history be collected and displayed on a permanent basis. Ms. Reitz's vision has been brought to life through

the generosity of the Resnick family (pictured left with President Hagerty), whose sponsorship enabled the room to be completed in time and dedicated for the 25th Anniversary Celebration on February 21st.

The Resnick Founders' Room is open to visitors Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Saturday from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m., and Sundays from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. We hope you will visit this wonderful display soon!



Alumni Highlight: Nathan Plung

Contributed by Kelly Rogers, MA, Instructor and Transition Coach



Nathan Plung (pictured right) is a 2007 Human Services graduate and an independent artist creating modern pieces in fiber art (his representation of Pablo Picasso's *Woman with a Book* is pictured left). His work (some of which is highlighted on <http://www.artincrostitch.com/>) has been chosen for artist representation by Agora Gallery in New York City. The exhibition will be from June 10 to July 1, 2014. Nathan also actively engages in volunteer work while pursuing a career as a Child Life Specialist (someone who works with children who have been admitted to a hospital). Congratulations Nathan on your upcoming exhibit!



Institution-Defining Trustees Announce their Retirement

Contributed by Dr. George J. Hagerty, President



Two dedicated members of the College’s governing body, the Board of Trustees, have announced their retirement after influential and long-standing service.

Dr. Vincent Ziccolella, whose tenure spanned twenty years culminated his service by witnessing the inauguration of our new President and was recognized for his two decades of inspirational leadership at the Gala Donor’s Dinner on February 21st (pictured left and right).

Mrs. Eileen Marinakis, the Chair of Beacon’s Board of Trustees, reflected on his many contributions, saying, “Dr. Ziccolella’s commitment to Beacon’s mission and our students was as unwavering as it is palpable. His leadership and sound judgment guided the community through our formative years. Without question, his legacy as a Trustee, as it has been throughout his career in education, is one of extraordinary service in shaping and nurturing communities that transform and empower students.”



Dr. William Somerset, the Board’s Vice Chair and Chair of the Trustees’ Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, announced this month that he was retiring after a six-and-a-half-year tenure (pictured below). He was instrumental in his leadership of the twelve-month presidential search process, having chaired the Search Committee that resulted in the appointment of Dr. Hagerty. Dr. Somerset, a physician who resides in Colorado, expressed that his decision to retire from the Board was a bittersweet one, but that the competing demands of his medical practice were making his service to the Beacon Board and other community obligations increasingly difficult to set as the priorities they deserved.

“Understandably, Dr. Bill Somerset’s presence and leadership will be sorely missed,” observed Chair Marinakis. “He has the special gift of discerning the core elements of even the most complex of issues and



recommending a course of action that is well reasoned, effective, and practical. He possessed a passion for the College and its success, one that was contagious and sustained the Board in the course of deciding upon the growth and direction of the community. His influence in bringing Beacon College to its current position of maturity and promise is momentous.”



In accordance with the College’s by-laws, the Trustees have commenced the process of identifying highly qualified candidates who might succeed Drs. Ziccolella and Somerset as members of the Board.

Jack Callahan's *Nothing* Showcased at CityArts Factory

Contributed by Russ Bellamy, Art Instructor



On March 20th, Jack Callahan, a Senior majoring in Business and Technology, had the honor and distinction of being accepted into the "Self Portrait" exhibition at the CityArts Factory in downtown Orlando. "CityArts Factory is Downtown's largest collective of art galleries which showcases an infusion of local and international works of art, rotated on a monthly basis." The call for Artists describes self-portrait as: "artwork that visually describes one's physical or a representation of your inner-self." The exhibition featured local, regional, and internationally recognized artists, and the inclusion of Jack's work attests to its success on a professional level.



Jack submitted a video documentation of his performance entitled *Nothing*. The performance revolved around the idea of self-worth and the significance of the individual in society. He more or less tried to make himself disappear into his surroundings by painting himself the same color as the walls. Jack used this performance to convey how he feels in educational settings as a person with a learning disability.

The reception had a very large turn-out, and his work was very intriguing to the audience. He was the only artist to display a statement along with his work which was incredibly beneficial to the viewers. Observing the moment of clarity in the viewers as they made the connection between Jack's camouflaging himself with his educational experience was exciting and obviously left a lasting impression. We are very proud of Jack's successful debut!

Television Game Night in the Writing Center

Contributed by Renee Williams, Writing Consultant

There's a BUZZ in the Beacon Writing Center Thursday nights from 5 to 6 PM. TELEVISION GAME NIGHT has metamorphosed this Spring semester. There are now two Masters of Ceremonies, Daniel Monahan and Andrew Field. These two celebrity hosts really know how to draw a crowd. Each week our members chose from the following games: "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire," "Family Feud," "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader," "One vs. 100," and "Don't Forget the Lyrics." Our dedicated team members include Jess Burks, Yendise Collier, Evan Ernsteen, Eric Estores, and David Steinzler. We would like to "see your face in our place!" Remember Game Nights include treats, refreshments, and prizes at the end of the semester!



A Look Back: The Monacell Family

Contributed by Gretchen Dreimiller, Acting Director of Communications

As an institution, it is important to look back and reflect on how we have grown and progressed. We would not be the college we are today if not for key people and events from our past, which have shaped Beacon to be the place it is today. We have a lot of people that deserve our gratitude!

Many current students and staff are unaware of influential people from throughout the College's history – one being the Monacell family. All of us have spent time in the Student Center, whether it has been to attend a meeting or presentation, participate in an event, or just to hang out and have fun in the lounge area. We have surely all seen the Monacell Cyber Café sign that is prominently displayed above the computer station (pictured here), but how many of us have actually considered what the sign is for or who it refers to?

Amy Monacell was a Liberal Studies major who graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1998. Kim Baggett, Associate Vice President of Human Resources, remembers her as “bubbly and always smiling.” According to Dr. James Fleming, who began as the College's Director of Information Technology the year following Amy's graduation recalls “as a Beacon student Amy had felt that there were not enough computers available for socializing purposes.” It is for that reason that her parents, Jane and John Monacell, generously donated technology to the students of Beacon College, even though their daughter was no longer a student and would not directly benefit. The family recognized the importance of college students having easy access to computers both for academic and for personal use.



At the time of the donation, the Education Building (where the current PC and Mac labs are located) was one big room with the Art department in the back section. The front section was where the Student Center was located, and the area included a big screen TV, couches, and a pool table. The Monacell family made a donation to establish a dedicated section for students to have access to computers for personal use. Their generous donation included seven Gateway computers, a printer, furniture, and networking equipment – everything necessary to create an intimate cyber café for the students of Beacon College.

The Monacell Cyber Café sign was created to officially designate the computer area intended for students' personal use. The Student Center has moved a couple of times, and the sign has always moved with it. Though the original computers are now gone, and with the prevalence of mobile technology, students are less in need of a personal computer station, the sign remains a part of our history.

The next time you visit the Student Center, take a moment to check out the Monacell Cyber Café sign and reflect on its true meaning...many people have contributed to the success of Beacon College throughout the years, and we should never forget the role they have played. They have helped make us who we are today!

Student Services Presents A Week of Celebration

Contributed by Rob Rogers, MA, Dean of Student Services and Gretchen Dreimiller, Acting Director of Communications

Student Services presented a week of activities and events in February to celebrate 25 years as an institution and generate excitement leading up to the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony.

Express Your Beacon Love!

Posters were hung up throughout the Chopping Block where the Beacon community could write their response to the question, "Beacon is the best because....". Some of the responses were "I



am accepted here;" "I can eat all I want in the Chopping Block;" "I have good friends here;" and "the faculty and staff care about me."



Beacon College Spirit Day

A contest for most spirited student was held. Winners were based on who showed the most spirit by wearing the school colors of blue and gold and/or Beacon College

gear. Participants won gift cards and Beacon College apparel and gifts from the Bookstore. (Dr. Bob Bridgeman and Chris Hall posed as students so they could enter the contest, a.k.a. "The Freshmen," pictured top right.)



Game Show Night

Survey Says (similar to Family Feud) was played in the Student



Center with contestants including both students and staff. Everyone got really excited when money was won or thrown out to the audience!

Casino Night

The annual Casino Night was held in the Student Center. It included a Game Truck in the parking lot and games, music, and delicious food inside. In the lobby, there was a photo booth along with Dance



Dance Revolution.

The anniversary week was such a success that plans are in the works for making this an annual event!

A Note on Presidential Vision...

(continued from page one)

To comprehend fully the *difference* that is the Beacon experience, members of the community and our visitors are encouraged to “look,” certainly. And yet, I believe, that a more powerful understanding of “what makes Beacon different from other undergraduate communities” can be discerned only if we take care to “listen.” For it is in the cadence and character of everyday conversations and simple interactions on campus that one will find the most compelling evidence that we are unique. I understood this difference profoundly upon the return of the community in August for the new academic year. There is certainly an energy to the campus – a refreshingly unguarded and transparent one. Students, faculty, and staff were enormously comfortable with each other. New students were welcomed in the spirit and with the genuine warmth of old friendships. The conversations were abidingly supportive, with limits eschewed and possibilities affirmed. Expectations were unveiled with both rigor and warmth. I *listened*, and I was inspired. I knew that this was the academic home that I had sought.

Challenges confront Beacon College, a status that we share with all of American higher education. In maturing over our quarter of a century, the College has prevailed over all odds and achieved a level of success that is the pride of our founding parents. We are a community that refuses to be self-satisfied and, in assuming this identity, we are called to improve always upon the current condition. And, like the community they serve as our fiduciaries, the Board of Trustees celebrates the promise of Beacon College and intends to set with us an ambitious course for our development. As a consequence, our campus in its development will undoubtedly yield a different “look.”

In this progression of campus and programmatic change over time, we must safeguard the intangibles for which we are called to “listen”: the indelible nature and virtuous cycle borne of how we at Beacon College interact with, value, support, motivate, and care for each other. In a world of change, the community features for which we must “listen” must remain our constant. For these are truly the definitive elements that propel Beacon forward and establish us as a community unduplicated in undergraduate education. “Why is Beacon different?” The answer is in its people and in the culture that has been fashioned and surrounds us.

As this will be my last message in the *Navigator* preceding the Commencement exercises for the Class of 2014, I want to take this opportunity to express my fervent hopes that you will devote some time in the days ahead to reflect on and appreciate all that you have undertaken and achieved in your undergraduate years. Graduation will be fast upon you, and the members of the Class of 2014 will become the Beacon community’s most enduring legacy.

Gamma Beta Phi Members Attend National Conference

Contributed by Dr. Kirk Stowe, Assistant Professor of Biology

At the end of a February, several students from our local chapter of the National Honors and Service Society, *Gamma Beta Phi*, attended the national convention along with Dr. Kirk Stowe in Orlando, FL. Those who attended included Rachel Yellon, Secretary, Robert Barnett, Treasurer, and Michelle Underwood, Gamma Beta Phi Scholarship winner (pictured right). Attendees were students and faculty advisors from all over the nation. While at the convention, there was lots of food and fun, but we needed to get down to business. While Dr. Stowe attended the faculty advisors’ meeting, Rachel, Michelle, and Robert attended the members meeting. Michelle was also presented with her scholarship award at the conference. Later that day, it was time to elect National officers. Robert had a speech prepared and ran for student-at-large for the National Executive Council (pictured left). While he did not win, he highlighted some of Beacon’s greatest assets – the quality of our students. There was lots of networking with other advisors and students at the convention, and we look forward to attending the convention next year. All in all, it was an excellent experience for the students, and of course, their advisor.



Learning Specialists Attend Conference

Dr. Andrea Brode, DA, MBA, Dean of Student Success and Career Development

Learning Specialists Kimberlee Paul, Braden Walter, and Michele Patestides (pictured) attended a three-day TASS (Teaching Academic Survival & Success) Conference in Fort Lauderdale in March. This conference offered literally dozens of topics presented by experts from all aspects of education. The comprehensive menu of presentations included every issue from technology to legal to reading instruction to peer tutoring programs. Their attendance at this conference is just part of the constant and ongoing professional enrichment efforts by the Center for Student Success staff and their engagement in lifelong learning to the benefit of Beacon students. They shared their acquired knowledge with Learning Specialist colleagues when they returned – spreading the wealth.



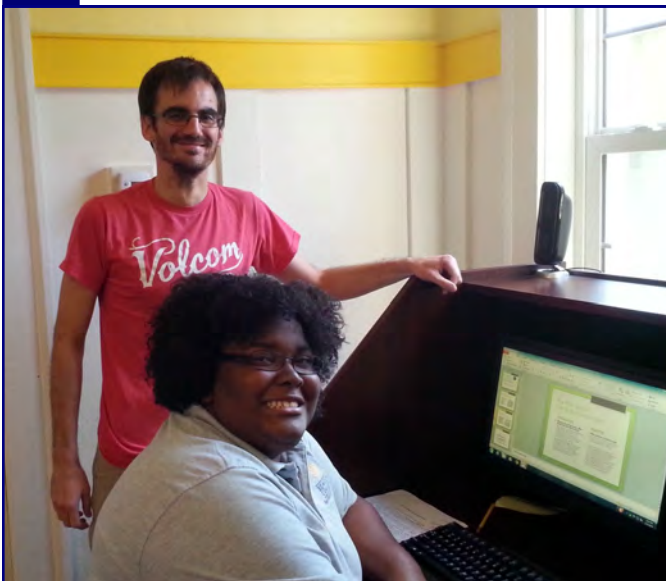
Beacon Represents at LDA Conference in Anaheim

Dr. Shelly Chandler, VP of Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness

The 51st Annual International Learning Disabilities Conference was held in Anaheim at the Disneyland Hotel on February 19-22, 2014. Three employees from Beacon College played important roles at the conference. Michael Lozano from Admissions represented the College in the Exhibit Hall and worked tirelessly answering questions and handing out information on Beacon College. Lucretia Gabriel led a Table Talk for Teachers entitled *Helping Students with LD be Successful in Math*. Shelly Chandler presented a session in the North Ballroom entitled *Let's Get Active in Our Learning* as an introduction to the Beacon College Student-Centered Learning Model. Conference attendees were very receptive to learning more about our College!

Peer Tutor Profile: Brett Daly

Contributed by Braden Walter Learning Specialist



Brett Daly (pictured left with Shia Byers) joined the Peer Tutors in the fall of 2013 and has now been with our program for two semesters. Brett is a senior majoring in Computer Information Systems. Brett works in the Mac Lab during the open lab hours assisting students who may need additional help outside of normal class hours. Brett peer tutors courses taught by Sandy Novak as well as some of the basic technology concepts and skills. On occasion, Brett takes on students who need extra help, working closely with them to teach and reinforce skills that have been taught in class. Brett is always ready to help those who are in need, and he does so in a very positive and professional manner. Upon graduation, Brett's dream career would be to eventually work as a systems analyst with a big corporation. We wish Brett all the best in his future travels, and we want him to know that we will all miss him.

“Illuminating the Life Abundant” Contest Winner

Contributed by Gretchen Dreimiller, Acting Director of Communications



We had a lot to celebrate during the month of February! Not only were we inaugurating a new President (for the first time in the College’s history!), but we also had our first round of celebratory events for our 25th anniversary. This was an ideal time to officially unveil the College’s new motto: *Lumen vitae abundantiorum*, which translates to “Illuminating the life abundant.” As a way to spread awareness of the new seal and motto and to engage the Beacon community, a creative expression contest was held with an iPad Mini as the prize for the student winner!

Members of the Beacon College community were invited to reflect on the metaphorical meaning of this motto and create an artistic piece that would represent that interpretation. Students, faculty, and staff were offered the opportunity to use any medium of their choosing in developing their creation, and 11 people took up the challenge.

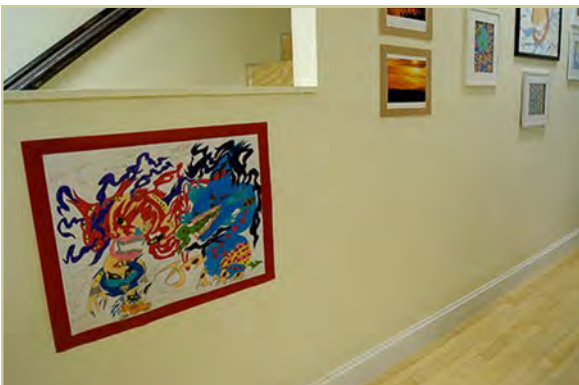


Fourteen unique pieces, which included one from alum Andrew Marvin, were submitted for inclusion in this contest. Mediums selected ranged from painting and drawing to digital art and even origami. The judging committee, which consisted of faculty and staff, were impressed by several of the entries, making it difficult to determine the winner.

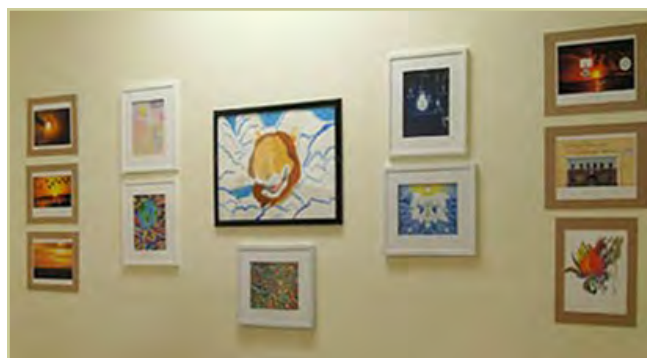
Ultimately, Heather Reed’s digital media work depicting a lit light bulb featuring the Beacon College logo enclosed against a dark blue background was selected as the winning submission (see top right). The committee felt that Heather’s design truly encapsulated the intention of the motto, especially when considered with the writing statement that accompanied her piece. In her statement, Heather’s inspiration is succinctly expressed: “Beacon College is always there for me and my fellow students. They want us to succeed and fulfill our educational and personal goals. The light is always on for Beacon College students.” Hence the title of the piece: *The Light is Always On*.



The contest submissions were on display during the opening reception of the Kristin Michelle Mason Art Gallery, and visitors expressed pleasure at the quality and creativity of the featured selections. Dr. Hagerty announced Heather as the winner to the



gathered crowd and presented her with her new iPad Mini, which is sure to be beneficial to her as she finishes her studies in Web and Digital Media and prepares to embark on her career in the field.



entrants themselves who spent time deciding on a plan and fulfilling their vision. Hopefully, their artistic works have prompted all of us to more deeply consider what it truly means to “illuminate the life abundant.”

Welcome New Employees

Contributed by Kimberly Baggett, Associate Vice President of Human Resources

The Beacon College Community welcomes Tim Paige as our new Director of Information



Technology (pictured left). Tim comes to us from the Chicago, Illinois area where he was Director of Information Technology and Communications at ChildServ. Tim earned his B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology and his Master's Degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago majoring in Management Information Systems and Operations Management. We look forward to Tim's contributions to Beacon's IT Department.

After an extensive search, Dale Herold has been selected as our Dean of Admissions and Enrollment

Management. Dale comes to us from Vermont and brings with her 30 years of experience in admissions and enrollment management. Dale earned her B.A. Degree in Communication Arts at Molloy College. She held the position of Vice President of Enrollment Management and Dean of Admissions at Landmark College which has provided her with a wealth of experience that will be beneficial in her role here at Beacon. The Beacon College Community welcomes Dale. We look forward to exciting developments in the Office of Admissions.



Another World Cup

Contributed by J. Christopher Hall, Director of Facilities and New Development

On Friday, March 21st at Sleepy Hollow Park, there was a monumental soccer re-match between the students at Beacon College and the faculty and staff. The students were able to pull out a 5-4 victory over the faculty



and staff who had defeated them 19-3 in an exhibition pre-match warm-up game. The Beacon College community was there in force to cheer on both sides, and it was a most memorable evening with pizzas and refreshments for all, and fortunately, no major injuries!

Hadiya Lewis Takes her A.A. to Art School

Contributed by Sandy Novak, MFA, Associate Professor, Web and Digital Media and Kendal Paget, Transition Coach

Hadiya's greatest artistic influence is Tim Burton, who is the mastermind behind *Nightmare Before Christmas*, *The Corpse Bride*, and *Beetlejuice*. "Tim Burton opened my eyes to looking for beauty in strange and sometimes even scary places," she explains. "His characters were so dark, yet so relatable, with flawed personalities both beautiful and unforgettable."



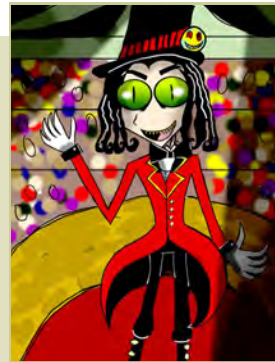
Hadiya Lewis has been drawing cartoon characters since grade school. Over the years, she has developed her menagerie of characters into an original story concept. "A Zombie Named Pattern" takes place in the fictitious city of Macabre, which is governed by a powerful witch named Mayor Madame Glass (pictured right). Pattern is a goth Lolita zombie who takes on her first life in the form of an unfortunate grave robber. With no memory of her former existence, Pattern and her friends go on many fun and gory misadventures. The cast includes Cyrus, the Cyclops Demon Costume Designer; a Circus Ringleader named Victor Von Rancid; The Dead Branch Sisters; an insane but lovable mute named Straight Jacket; and a short-tempered punk-rock rag doll named Needle. In the city of Macabre, the sun sleeps forever and the creatures never do.



Pattern



Cyrus



Victor von Rancid



The Dead Branch Sisters

"Tim Burton helped me understand the power of art. Someday, if I am lucky, I hope to do the same for others."

- Hadiya Lewis

WELCOME BACK FROM SPRING BREAK BASH!



A Mental Health Tip from the Counseling Center

The Beauty of Addictions

Contributed by Sandi Webster, LMHC, NCC, Beacon College Counselor

Yes, you read that correctly, the *beauty* of addictions. We're not used to looking at any of the positive aspects of addictions, but there obviously must be some for so many people to struggle! When thinking about addictions, what often comes to mind is someone dying from a drug overdose or a "poor soul" attending AA meetings trying not to drink and taking a "one day at a time" approach. I'd like to generally point out a variety of addictions people can have, but more importantly, try to uncover what the addiction is "doing" for the person, or what purposes the addictions are serving.

I like to think of addictions on a continuum from negative to positive. Some "negative" addictions are alcohol or drugs while examples of "positive" addictions might be exercise or religion. Some other addictions that are also on that continuum include, but are certainly not limited to, are gambling, sex, pornography, smoking, gaming, shopping, and food. I think the positive or negative labels are determined by the behaviors, whether they hurt, or even can be helpful. For example, a person who's a "workaholic" would spend an excessive amount of time at their job, take it home with them, etc., and many people could benefit from their behaviors; it's also very accepted by society. The workaholic isn't necessarily perceived as an addict the same as someone with an addiction to alcohol, for example. Chances are though, that the *reason* for the addiction is the same – pain.

There are a lot of theories on why people become addicted. Not that I'm challenging any of those very valid researchers, but I look at it very simply. People have pain, emotional pain, from a variety of sources, and most people in their right mind, do not enjoy feeling pain! So, we (unconsciously) find reasons to hide/mask or somehow avoid the pain. Thus, enter beautiful addictions!

In childhood, many things (both major and minor) can happen that create a wide range of emotional pain. Over time, children learn different methods to cope or feel better, which sometimes become avoidance techniques. However, something far better than even the BEST addiction is to HEAL the pain! People recovering from addictions often discover that they've actually *caused* themselves more pain than if they had dealt with the original pain. People often feel that their pain will be too much to handle and can't bear to address it. We reassure clients that their original pain (no matter how bad) will be worth healing in the long run; it is far better than the temporary beauty of addictions.

The Problem with Sodas

Contributed by Steven McDaniels, Assistant Director of Life Coaching

Soda, also known as liquid candy, is loaded with pure sugar or its variations. Whether the claimed sweetener is called sugar, evaporated cane sugar, organic sugar, honey, or high fructose corn syrup, it really does not matter because it is a sugar and must be limited for purposes of good health! Too much sugar increases calories and is linked to weight



gain, kidney disease, diabetes and some cancers. The alternatives to traditional sugars are Splenda, Sweet & Low, Equal, Stevia extracts, and various other no calorie formulas. These all have debatable consequences to health depending on what you choose to believe. The Mayo Clinic website gives a good layout of some of the pros and cons of artificial sweeteners. Therefore the most solid approach that I have come to is to control how much pure sugar you have each day. If any amount is necessary, the most that should be consumed in a day is 40 grams. That is less than one can of Coca Cola per day. Therefore moderate your sugar intake by sticking with no more than a half a can of soda per day. Good Luck!

Update from Human Resources

Contributed by Kimberly Baggett, Associate Vice President of Human Resources

Greetings from your HR Department! Our annual Health and Wellness Fair was held on February 26th in the Student Services Building. We had a great turn-out! Employees had a chance to complete their Personal Health Assessment, visit with all of our Brand Partners, and partake in some healthy snacks. Remember, if you completed your Personal Health Assessment, you are already eligible for a deposit of \$50 in your HRA account, and may be eligible for another \$50 deposit! Stop by the HR office for details. Additionally, everyone who attended was entered to a drawing for some great prizes. The following winners were announced:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dr. Bob Bridgeman | FitBit Flex |
| Dr. Andrea Brode | Gift Card |
| Lucretia Gabriel | Gift Card |
| Tim Paige | Gift Card |
| Jamie Fleming | Gift Card |
| Cathy Lutes | Gift Card |
| Kelly Rogers | Gift Card |
| Michelle Patestides | Weight Watchers 360 kit |
| Carrie Santaw | Weight Watchers 360 kit |
| Susan Ward | Weight Watchers Active Link |
| Lily Shelton | Weight Watchers Active Link |



April 2nd is National Walking Day. Partnering with Florida Blue, we will have our first annual Beacon Walking Challenge. Look for more information coming soon!



Bob's Joke Corner

"A healthy dose of humor from the Doctor"

Contributed by Dr. Robert A. Bridgeman, Executive Vice President

A patient confessed to his doctor:

"I can't stop singing the 'Green, Green Grass of Home.'"

The doctor replied, "That sounds like 'Tom Jones syndrome.'"

"Is it common?" the patient inquired.

"It's not unusual," he replied.

"At Beacon College, we like to end on a positive note!"