

# nimbus

A publication of the New College Alumnae/i Association

# 73 - Spring/Summer 2013



## **New College Dedicates New Landmarks**

**New College Celebrates the  
Dedication of the Koski  
Bell Tower and Joan Marciak  
Newmark Dock during the  
Inaugural Weekend**

### **A President's Vision**

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his vision for the future of  
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**New College**  
THE HONORS COLLEGE of Florida



# A letter from Vice President of Alumnae/i Affairs Jessica Rogers

Dear Friends,

I write this letter to you having just celebrated one of the most exciting and emotional experiences on the New College campus ~ commencement week. It was thrilling to be able to share in the jubilation of the 2013 graduating classes' successes this year and support them as they embark on a new phase in their lives as members of the New College alumnae/i family. The 2013 class has the distinction of being the largest graduating class in New College's history reaching our 5,000th graduate since the first commencement in 1967.

By all accounts, New College is growing and evolving and this issue of Nimbus is dedicated to sharing some of those updates with you. Not only do we have new leadership at the helm with Donal O'Shea (read

more on his plans beginning on page 4), the college is also either in the midst of a search or has named new leadership in about 8 different administrative areas from the promotion of campus police chief Michael Kessie, to the hiring of the new Vice President of Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation, Shannon Duvall. Interviews and updates from our new leadership will be featured in the fall issue of Nimbus.

As alumnae/i, your voice and support is increasingly vital to New College's success. As you will read in this issue, this past year, alums have been engaged in important admissions recruitment efforts, athletic opportunities on campus for students, and fundraising initiatives. On behalf of the New College Alumnae/i Association, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of you who supported these efforts as well as our tireless NCAA board members and alums serving on the College and Foundation boards, reunion and chapter volunteers, alumnae/i and student mentors, internship and job providers. It is through your supportive engagement that New College remains nimble and ready to adapt to the changing world around us all. For those of you yet to become involved, I encourage you to become active participants in your alma mater and

contribute your ideas and support to improving the very best of the New College experience.

I hope your summer is relaxing and enjoyable and I look forward to seeing you in your city or on campus soon!

Sincerely,  
Jessica Rogers

## Mark your Calendars!

The NCAA along with New College admissions will be coming to your area during the following dates to meet with prospective students and counselors as part of our target city program. (See page 18 for more information.)

Please contact [ncalum@ncf.edu](mailto:ncalum@ncf.edu) or 941-487-4900 if you would like to support the college's efforts in student admissions.

- Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>-Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> — Chicago, IL
- Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>- Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> — New York, NY and Boston, MA
- Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> — St. Louis, MO



# Meet Your New NCAA Board Members!

The New College Alumnae/i Association Board of Directors voted on board applications at their May 2013 meeting. A governance subcommittee consisting of Susan Sapoznikoff '83, Bill Rosenberg '73, Mike Campbell '87, David Banks '05, and Katie McAuley '04 reviewed and recommended candidates to the board for appointment.

The NCAA received 9 applications. The subcommittee evaluated each application and voted on a recommendation slate that was submitted to the board for consideration. Six applications were selected. This included three current board members (Cindy Hill '89, Maia Hinkle '05, and Colin Boyle '89) and three new board members (Michael Dexter '07, Jordan Clark '04, and Frazier Carraway '72.)

In addition, the terms of current board members David Banks '05 and Bill Rosenberg '73 ended at the May meeting. We thank them for their many years of dedicated service.

**Michael Dexter '07** graduated from New College in 2011 with a concentration in Political Science and Environmental Studies. While at New Col-



lege he served as the Vice President of Green Affairs; worked as an NCF admissions representative; founded the intercollegiate flag football team; played with the New College Funk; and co-sponsored the Jurassic Park Palm Court Party. His thesis ex-

plored the dynamics of cooperation and conflict over water resources in the Western United States using Elinor Ostrom's Institutional Analysis and Design Framework.

After New College he received a Master's of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy from Columbia University in 2012. He has been working for the past year as an ORISE Participant in the USEPA's Water Security Division to help communities better deal with water service interruptions. He currently resides in Washington DC and hangs out with the large DC alum contingent quite regularly.



**Jordan Clark '04** graduated from New College in 2008 with a concentration in Economics. Her thesis focused on natural resource econom-

ics, specifically fisheries management in Russia. At New College, she served as the only student on the Board of Directors for WSLR LPFM, was involved in student government, and played in a band called Furniture. Currently, she works in business development for a firm that removes landmines, and enjoys traveling when she can. She lives in Washington, DC.



**Frazier Carraway '72** grew up in Atlanta where he graduated from Tucker High School. He started New College in

1972 concentrating in sculpture. Frazier graduated from New College with a BA in Anthropology in 1976 and enlisted in the Army. He was commissioned as an Armor officer after Officer Candidate School and served 3 1/2 years on active duty and a further 12 years in the Individual Ready Reserve. After the service he worked for US Home Corp. as a construction superintendent and manager overseeing and coordinating construction of houses and condominiums before attending Stetson University College of Law. At Stetson he was Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review and graduated cum laude in 1988.

Frazier is in private practice in Tampa with the firm of Saxon, Gilmore, Carraway & Gibbons P.A. concentrating in business and construction litigation. Frazier is counsel to the Board of Trustees of Hillsborough Community College.

Frazier is married to Claire Bailey Carraway (NC '75) and they have two daughters, Margaret and Bailey, who are attending Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Frazier is President of Mid-Town Kiwanis of Tampa and serves on the Vestry of St. Andrews Episcopal Church. In the past he has served twice on Florida Bar Grievance Committees, twice as President of the Kiwanis Club, on the Board of the American Diabetes Association of Southwest Florida and on the St. Andrews Church Foundation Advisory Committee.

\* For a full NCAA board listing visit [ncf.edu/board-of-directors](http://ncf.edu/board-of-directors).



# Donal O'Shea's Vision

## New College's Fifth President Shares His Dream for New College

*As his first academic year draws to a close, NCF's president reflects on some of the surprises he encountered along the way – and how the journey has helped to clarify his vision for the New College of the 21st century.*

**Written by Linda F. Joffe**

We meet in familiar territory – the book-lined Office of the President overlooking Sarasota Bay. As he apologizes for the clutter (not so bad really) and carves out a space for us at the round table, Don O'Shea warms to the premise of our interview today: the things that have surprised him during the months that have defined his first year at the helm. He dives right in with a candor that is not actually “surprising” for a man with a reputation for integrity without pretense or guile.

“I’ve never seen a president be so candid with former students,” comments Kathleen McQueeney '07, who recently spent an evening with O'Shea in Boston at an admissions event. “As the leader of an institution, it’s difficult to wade in political waters, but he’s really candid, and that’s surprising – in a good way.”

O'Shea says that every week has brought some kind of surprise. “Many are rooted in the peculiar history of the institution and how it has evolved,” he states. He begins with one of New College’s strengths – its academic program.

“I was surprised by how our academic rigor interacts seamlessly with academic freedom,” he states. “Both the faculty and students want intellectual rigor and the flexibility of personal choice – and they manage to achieve this balance.”

One of the changes he’d like to see is the use of CIP codes for each major as opposed to everyone graduating with a degree in “liberal studies,” for example a Bachelors in Anthropology or Marine Biology. (The CIP, or Classification of Instructional Programs, was developed by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics to provide a taxonomy of instructional program classifications and descriptions for institutions of higher education.) O'Shea says that New College’s current nomenclature makes it look like everyone has graduated in the same field, which can be misconstrued. Other liberal arts institutions do this, he asserts, and he feels this is one of those “unexplained

**“As the leader of an institution, it’s difficult to wade in political waters, but he’s really candid, and that’s surprising – in a good way.”**

relics from the USF days.” He plans to work with the faculty to change it.

Keeping with the theme of academics, he’d like to see New College strengthen its links to other institutions internationally and to have more international students on campus, building on faculty/student interest in all things international. He wants to make it easier for our students to study abroad and to participate in a global community.

O'Shea is also excited about the fact that this June and July, New College will offer for-credit classes taught by New College faculty that are open to the general public as part of an experimental summer school pilot program. He’s hoping that these classes, which range from 3D Modeling and Printing to Marine Policy, will attract students from other colleges and mature learners who have a thirst for knowledge. (For more information on the Summer Pilot Program, including enrollment

requirements, course descriptions and tuition costs, visit [ncf.edu/summer-classes](http://ncf.edu/summer-classes).)

“I want New College to be perceived as the intellectual center of Sarasota,” states O'Shea. “We have a great opportunity here, and if the pilot is successful, we can expand our summer offerings in the future.”

He’d also like to consider developing some professional master’s programs, either offered on our own or in collaboration with other places, such as Eckerd, USF, SCF, Ringling or FSU. These might be in such fields as marine sciences, data analytics, education or non-profit governance.

### Educational Hub

One of O'Shea’s biggest surprises has been a general lack of awareness (at New College and within the





community at large) of the number of institutions of higher education in the Sarasota-Bradenton area, which has a huge economic impact on the region.

“We have a number of very good institutions here with very different missions, but there’s a lack of collaboration, even though we don’t really compete for the same students,” he states. “There’s no reason for that; there just doesn’t seem to be the will. I’m going to push very strongly for us to break down that isolation and find ways to cooperate more, from academics to athletics.” (New College and Ringling College of Art and Design play flag football, see story, page 14.)

Alumna Felice Schulaner ‘78 couldn’t agree more.

“Coming to Sarasota with a fresh perspective has allowed Don to recognize and communicate that with the number of institutions of higher education in the Sarasota/Manatee area, this really is an educational hub and deserves to be perceived as such,” says Schulaner, a retired human services executive who serves on the boards of both the college and the New College Foundation. “Each of the schools has its own niche, with virtually no competition for students or overlap of missions. He has actively reached out to his fellow presidents and has spearheaded efforts for them to discuss their challenges and aspirations and to consider ways to partner, share best practices and pursue mutually beneficial strategies.”

*President O’Shea and honorary alumna Mary Elmendorf, the widow of New College president John Elmendorf, share a moment after the inauguration.*



## Public Influence

Although O’Shea had experience working with legislators in Massachusetts, he soon discovered that the halls of government in Florida are much harder to navigate. “I thought that I’d be more prepared to delve into the private-public sector,” he admits. “The political scene in Florida is different than in other places, compounded by the Sunshine Laws and cross-currents in Tallahassee, which are difficult to predict. In Massachusetts, you could figure out someone’s self-interest, but here there’s more of a random element to it. I’ve met wonderful people in the legislature, but I still don’t know my way through it.”

O’Shea observes that New College’s small size relative to other members of the State University System can present a challenge ensuring our voice is heard. “But it’s worth the effort,” he notes, “as it was during the first pass of the state budget when it looked like our operating budget might be cut by \$1.8 million. The numbers are not firm yet, but New College is now slated for an increase of more than \$1 million. We’ll continue to pick up the phones to lobby on our behalf.”

## Diversity and Growth

The nature of diversity on campus is a fundamental issue for Don O’Shea, yielding both surprises and specific action plans.

“We need to work on diversity on campus,” emphasizes O’Shea. “For a small institution, we are fairly siloed. Most



*President O’Shea with his wife Mary O’Shea.*

represent all types of thinking and interests, who won’t be ostracized by the majority. And we must have support systems in place for them.” He would like to see Student Affairs and Academic Affairs work more closely together.

“Some of the New College community’s reflexive tolerance of ‘the liberal lifestyle’ can also be read as intolerance of those who are from religious or conservative backgrounds,” he adds. “That’s a problem for creating a truly inclusive community. People don’t know each other as they might. We need to talk to each other: staff to staff, staff to faculty, staff to students and so on, not be afraid of each other.”

Creating a healthy environment for students is a great concern of his. This includes serving more locally sourced food, clubs that reflect a wider diversity of interests and overall tolerance of differing politics, lifestyle choices and belief systems. O’Shea just started a standing committee on Diversity, Community and Campus Life to cut across faculty, staff and student lines. This past year he organized a meeting of all staff around the issue of student retention. “I perceived a general willingness to pitch in and heard a lot of good ideas,” he recalls.

The issue of retention is tied directly to admissions, and to O’Shea’s vision of how big a school New College should be.

“Growing the student body should counteract some of the insularity we experience,” says O’Shea. “We don’t want to change the way students support each other on

of the campus is white, if you don’t count the folks who work in building and grounds. But it’s not just an issue of color. If you don’t fit the mold of the liberal-minded, stereotyped New College student, you can feel very isolated here. That has to change. We must welcome students who

a small campus, but that doesn’t preclude growing a bit to be more diverse, to increase our revenue and to offer more opportunities to the students we serve.”

He mentions the long-term goal of 1,200 students, similar to Haverford and referenced in a number of New College planning documents. O’Shea feels that any increase should include many more out-of-state students (ideally 50/50). He says that the college will engage in a round of planning to determine what is feasible over the next four or five years and how to achieve it. And he acknowledges that New College will need more admissions staff to carry this out, along with “a bit of strategic planning” that would include ways to drive name recognition among high school guidance counselors.

## Building the Foundation

O’Shea has been pleasantly surprised by the extent to which the community supports New College financially. “This has been very gratifying and heartening,” he says. “Our mission now is to create an even greater reservoir of private philanthropy. That will result in less dependence on state funding. We just shouldn’t be that vulnerable. It causes us to behave like battered kids.” (No sugar-coating here.)

“Dr. O’Shea has a number of initiatives he would like to undertake to improve student retention, enhance campus life, beautify and diversify the campus, and further enhance New College’s academic reputation, locally, nationally and even internationally,” comments alumna Schulaner. “To fund these efforts, he has focused the New College Foundation’s efforts more narrowly on fundraising, recruiting a new Vice President of Advancement, Shannon Duvall, to lead that organization.”

“Shannon is great,” says O’Shea. “Her goal will be to mobilize her staff and volunteers to pump



*New College board chair Bill Johnston and former New College board chair Sen. Bob Johnson bestow the New College seal to President Donal O’Shea*





President O'Shea and family pose after the inauguration.

new dollars into the institution as the Foundation becomes more integrated into the college. The days when the Foundation had a guardian role under USF are long past. We need our fundraising operation to dovetail with the best practices in higher education.”

O'Shea is committed to keeping

alums engaged and re-engaged in all aspects of New College, from fundraising to admissions recruitment. “I'd like to see all alums connected to New College in a meaningful way,” he says. “Older alums are in a good position to help the college financially. Younger alums can help in other ways, such as meeting with prospective students and their parents in targeted cities such as Washington, New York and Boston, where I traveled recently. They truly are an inspiration.”

One of those younger alums is Kathleen McQueeney, who recently spent some time with O'Shea in Boston, where she helped host an accepted students reception for admis-

**“We have to stop making excuses for why we can't do something; we have to experiment. Collaboration doesn't mean stagnation.”**

doctoral program in economics at Brandeis. “In Boston, I was invited to dinner with him, NCAA staff [Jessica Rogers and Sarah Thompson] and fellow graduates Tristan Zucker ['09] and Austin Taylor ['06]. We asked him a lot of questions about his transition from Mount Holyoke to New Col-

lege, and he was really candid with us.” McQueeney realizes that the college is in a financial predicament and appreciates that O'Shea is finding ways to deal with that while preserving the liberal arts aspect of the school. “His passion for the liberal arts and his dedication to making sure we retain our core values is very admirable,” she says. It's a lot different in Massachusetts, where there is an overwhelming commitment to education and emphasis on liberal arts. That's surprising given the fact that New College has earned so many accolades and national recognition.”

Alumnus Thomas Knight '03 also considers himself a fan.

sions. She first met him during the interview process at the end of her fourth year.

“Dr. O'Shea was a personal favorite of mine and the unanimous first choice among students,” recalls McQueeney, who turned down a Fulbright to enroll in a

“Every time I hear him speak, I'm incredibly impressed and very excited,” says Knight, who graduated with an AOC in economics and environmental studies in 2007 and is currently enrolled in a PhD program in economics at UF. “The fact that he's a cheerleader for the liberal arts rings true to me. He presents an incredible defense of that type of education, and has good ideas how to execute it in a very positive way.”

Knight, who is treasurer of the NCAA board, feels that O'Shea brings experience from an institution that New College would hope to consider as a peer. “At Mount Holyoke he had a leadership role that should serve as a model for us,” states Knight. “Not many people are more informed or prepared than Don O'Shea.”

Knight feels that New College is an institution that has really come of age, which puts O'Shea in a different role than his predecessor, Mike Michalson.

“The job that was before Mike Michalson is not the job that is before Don O'Shea,” asserts Knight, who received his master's in anti-trust and regulation economics at Tilburg in

*President O'Shea speaks at the Joan Marciak Newmark Dock Dedication during Alumnae/i Reunion Weekend.*



The Netherlands. “Dr. Michalson had to secure our place as an independent member of the State University System. Dr. O'Shea's job is to really market the college and allow us to evolve in a way that will make New College as strong as possible. I see New College maintaining the things that make it different while also becoming an institution that people consider more like the top liberal arts colleges.”

### Champion for the Liberal Arts

It's no surprise that Donal O'Shea's first year on the job hasn't dampened his enthusiasm for the role of the liberal arts and sciences in the education of the whole person.

“It's so clear to me that in an ever more specialized society, we still need people who are generalists, who can integrate information across fields and communicate well,” he affirms. “Society needs writers and thinkers, individuals who can take a topic and come to a conclusion based on multi-faceted research, who can stand up and speak on behalf of their principles. I have no qualms about

the role of the liberal arts. The arts and sciences have always been at the heart of our really great institutions.”

How does O'Shea see his role in moving New College forward?

“We're an institution that needs buy-in,” he states. “I'm not a top-down kind of guy, but we can do more; we can do

a better job of deciding to do things and then doing them. We can vote, try and create pilot programs, like summer school. We have to stop making excuses for why we can't do

something; we have to experiment, not think everything to death. Collaboration doesn't mean stagnation. Mike (Michalson) got the job done of building infrastructure for an institution. Now it's really about our ability to build on what he has done.”

O'Shea has a reputation as a nice guy. But what does that really mean?

“Well, sure, I like to think of myself like that, but being a nice guy doesn't

mean ‘anything goes,’” he says with a smile. “My philosophy is to lead and let others manage. But I need to make sure things are well-managed and that we have good procedures in place.

“I'm also committed to being fearlessly candid about what works and doesn't, and finding ways to fix things. Some things are more challenging than others, of course; some are more embedded in our history, but that doesn't mean they can't be fixed. I know how to nudge, push and cajole, but also how to hold people accountable.”

That's quite a balancing act, but those who have met Don O'Shea feel he's up to the task.

“With less than one year at the college, Don's impact on the school and his growing prominence in the community are really impressive,” concludes Felice Schulaner. “I can't wait to see what he does in the coming months to achieve his ambitious and highly appropriate goals for the school.”

**“With less than one year at the college, Don's impact on the school and his growing prominence in the community are really impressive.”**

## Join the Four Winds Legacy Society

Be among the many alums who are including New College in their future plans. Establish a charitable gift annuity today for New College's best and brightest students of tomorrow. Your gift annuity will:

- Guarantee fixed income for your lifetime (a portion of which may be tax-free)
- Allow you to realize significant tax breaks, including an immediate federal income tax deduction
- Enable you to receive the satisfaction that comes from financially supporting New College

If you are interested in learning more about how to make a planned gift, please contact Vice President of Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation Shannon Duvall at [sduvall@ncf.edu](mailto:sduvall@ncf.edu) or (941) 487-4801.





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- 1 Alums and students join in a lively discussion at Alums/Students: Connections Across Time.
- 2 New College Psychology faculty Heidi Harley and Gordon Bauer present on dolphin and manatee research for Alumnae/i Mini Classes.
- 3 Tom White '67, David Jaliman '06 and Jeanine Ashforth '01 listen to one of the Saturday panel discussions.
- 4 New College students participate in the inauguration of President O'Shea.
- 5 Altom '90 and Jennifer Maglio '89 with Scott and Gilda Dennis '89 at the Inaugural Ball.
- 6 DeAnn Garey-Roy '78 and Greg Roy enjoy treats at the Hyatt Place Welcome Mixer hosted by Susan "Spozy" Sapoznikoff '83
- 7 Bill Dudley '71 leads keynote panel discussions with a presentation on life after New College entitled "From New College to the Fed."
- 8 The Koski Bell Tower Dedication
- 9 Christine Hamilton-Hall '78 speaks about the significance of the Joan Marciak Newmark dock for her family and why she chose to support New College with her naming gift.
- 10 Esther Barazzone '64 and Abbey Misemer '65
- 11 NCAA Board Member Stu Levitan '72 with New College student and managing editor of the *Catalyst* Corey Rodda.
- 12 Alums enjoy brunch with the NCAA board.
- 13 Cindy Hill '89, Ray Burgman '91, Esther Barazzone '64, Mitch Silverman '91, Melanie Hubbard '84, Thomas Knight '03, Mike Campbell '87, Julie Morris '70, and VP of Alumnae/i Affairs Jessica Rogers at the inauguration.
- 14 Don O'Shea, Christine Hamilton-Hall '78 and her family gather at the Joan Marciak Newmark Dock Dedication.

\* For more photos of the weekend please visit our new Facebook page at [facebook.com/new-collegealumassociation](https://facebook.com/new-collegealumassociation).





## Giving Challenge Raises \$100,000

For the second year in a row New College participated in the Giving Challenge, a 36-hour long online fundraising event sponsored by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Manatee Community Foundation, and The Patterson Foundation. Over 200 local non-profits participated in the fundraising event which gave away numerous prizes to participants including a \$1,000 grant for the first 25 organizations to raise \$50 from 50 donors and several scaled grant prizes based on the number of unique donors each non-profit received. In addition, non-profits were offered \$500,000 in match money for gifts between \$25 and \$1,000. Several New College foundation board members including Felice Schulaner '78, Tom White '67, and Chip Gaylor also gave additional monies to be matched.

With these incentives at stake, the college reached out to its large alumnae/i and campus community for good. In addition to the usual e-mail blasts and social media campaigns, New College participated in a phonathon drive encouraging alumnae/i and parents to pre-pledge to the challenge. The New College phonathon team also volunteered to go door to door collecting small donations from fellow students and Foundation staff held a Giving Challenge Roundup Day in the Koski Plaza to ask faculty, staff, and others to donate as they walked by.

In total, New College raised \$102,809 from 541 donors.

This amount includes a \$10,000 grant from the community foundation for having the third highest number of unique donors, \$11,000 in matching funds, and numerous other prizes. New College also came in second for the most money raised.

257 alums donated \$41,054 to the challenge making them the highest contributors. 130 students donated a total of \$382 and were educated about the importance of giving back to their school.

In all, the challenge raised \$2,783,818 from 17,627 gifts for the 200 participating non-profits a large increase from last year's \$2.1 million.

We offer our sincere thanks to all of those who participated in the Giving Challenge on behalf of the many New College students who benefit from your generosity.

*The New College community participates in the Giving Challenge roundup.*



## New College Interns: A High Return Investment

Written by Zeke Brustern '06

*Note: This story is a follow up to an article written by Henry Smyth '76 which appeared in the fall 2012 issue of Nimbus.*

I first met New College alum Henry Smyth '76 when he came to give a mentorship coffee talk sponsored by the Alumnae/i Association in 2008. I was quite interested not only in what he had to say, but also to see what happened to New College graduates who didn't pursue academia. During the talk he asked us all about our backgrounds and interests, and it was readily obvious that even the most forward thinking among us were still very much caught in the New College "bubble." Don't get me wrong, I loved that bubble, but it certainly has a way of shielding one from many of the harsh realities of the outside world.

Knowing the importance of internships for future employment, I convinced Henry to take me on as an intern. As one might expect from anyone from New College, it wasn't a traditional offer. Instead of fetching coffee and synthesizing spreadsheets, I was presented with the opportunity to find a way to visually showcase the successes of his company. This would be my sole job responsibility.

While I was a student at New College, my knowledge and abilities expanded and I developed a way of viewing the world generated through my study of the liberal arts.

Through this internship I gained two important foundations. First, I realized that my paradigms lacked some of the wholeness that comes when one applies theory to practice and second, I began to develop a burgeoning skill set that allowed me a generous toolbox for approaching work and my career later on as a trader.

One thing I need to make clear was that my decision to take on this opportunity was not easy. Graduating from New College and not immediately pursuing higher education is probably difficult in the best of times, much less during one of the worst employment climates we've seen in generations.

My work with Henry helped me build a foundation that positioned me to approach the challenges I would face, not avoid them. For much of the process I was quite uncertain as to whether what I was doing was worthwhile at all because I struggled to see the larger picture. Thankfully, Henry had a better view than I and creatively constructed new challenges in order to keep me engaged and constantly developing.

One of the most important things you can develop at New College is the value of learning. Continuously learning, being challenged, and constantly seeking to find new ways of doing things are all a large part of the experience, especially emphasized during the thesis process. I am very grateful that I was lucky enough to not only spend my college years in such an environment,

but that I was able to extend that learning process beyond graduation as well.

The world is a very clubby place between big schools, fraternities and sororities, and elite conveyor belt internships. New College has a limited reach, but I think experiences like the one I had working with Henry are what give Novo Collegians an opportunity to break into the real world.

The guidance, mentorship, and time investment that Henry gave me were the bridge that I needed to make it from hallowed courtyards of Pei into the much less inviting hallways of corporate America, and I was lucky to be able to partake in such an experience.

### Refer a Student to New College

Do you know a student who would be a good match for New College? If so, please participate in our Alumnae/i Referral Program. Alumnae/i referrals are a great source of qualified applicants because our alums have a unique understanding of the type of student who would thrive here. The office of admissions truly values and is very grateful for referrals!

To participate simply visit [ncf.edu/alumni-referral](http://ncf.edu/alumni-referral) and fill out a quick and easy electronic form.





# NEW COLLEGE GETS PHYSICAL

## New College Alums Assist in Providing More Athletic Opportunities to Students

Written by Linda F. Joffe

We all know the reputation: New College is about brains, not brawn. The historical absence of hard-core competitive sports like football has been worn like a badge of honor. Frisbee and Fulbrights – now that's our thing.

But all of that is changing, thanks to the initiative of individual students, a determined fitness director, a more holistic approach to learning and shifting student demographics. Getting physical at New College is marked by an exciting evolution in both non-competitive and competitive sports —some of which have been around since the days of the charter class—along with a new-found rivalry among local schools with some surprising rewards.

Nowhere was that more apparent than at the recent match-game of flag football between New College of Florida and Ringling College of Art and Design. New College won (just), but according to student Michael Long, that's almost beside the point.

“The best part for me was looking at the fans in the stands,” comments Long, the team's captain and quarterback. “It was about seeing how we could bring New Col-

lege and Ringling together both on the field and off. Playing sports, especially at New College, shouldn't be about winning or losing or pushing oneself to the limit to meet someone else's expectations. It's about building a good community of friends, about alums and students coming together to show their school spirit, and of course raising money for a good cause— in this case, the American Cancer Society.”

The fans in the stands cheered to the pounding music and the sideline appearances of New College cheerleader-in-chief Don O'Shea (“I think there's a 90% chance that we'll win today”) and his nemesis peer, Ringling president Larry Thompson, who quipped that mathematician O'Shea “doesn't know squat about statistics.” Thompson, whose son Hunter was linebacker of the Ringling team, got dunked as head honcho of the losing team.

Jaclyn Windsor, a fourth year in chemistry and biology, was attending her first game. “I don't know how good they are because I don't know football, but I have friends on the team,” she said. “It's fun.” Alumna Felice Schulaner '78, sporting one of several blue and white team jerseys numbered with her New College year, said a game like



Losing Ringling College team captain Hunter Thompson (right) gets his head shaved by New College team captain Michael Long (left) as part of a wager between the two schools.

this was so unusual at New College that she wanted to come out to cheer them to victory. “I'm excited to see all the students here,” she noted. “I believe a sport like this makes our kids more multi-dimensional.”

A well-rounded student may not have been what Michael Dexter '07 had in mind when he started flag football on campus, but the 2011 graduate sure is happy with the results.

“When I entered, there were a few people interested in flag football,” recalls Dexter, who works in Washington, DC, with the Environmental Protection Agency in a joint operation with Harvard energy run under the Oakridge Institute of Science and Education.

“We used to gather on the Z green, but it wasn't organized or competitive, purely fun. In my second year it started to get more organized, in part because of the strong class year below me. At the same time student government had a venture to increase collaboration between us and Ringling, and both of our government bodies passed a memorial resolution to oppose near-shore oil drilling.” In the fall of 2010 they had their first game, which Dexter calls a “perception changer.”

“We borrowed the college's soccer jerseys, while Ringling had immaculate new sleeveless jerseys and a contingent of 40 or 50 students as well as a mascot,” recalls Dexter, who received a master's in public administration and environmental science from Columbia. “It was a 40 minute game and at the last play we were 25-25, so we left it that way.” By the spring they had jerseys, thanks to money from the Student Allocation Fund. The fall 2011 game, which they won 25-0, was covered by Fox News and the Herald-Tribune.

“It was quite the spectacle for the community to see two stereotyped colleges come together in an athletic event,” he says. “We can be playing other teams as well. There's nowhere to go but up and hopefully it will become a long-standing tradition at New College.”

### The Jordan Manifesto

Director of Fitness and Recreation Colin Jordan recently submitted an athletic “white paper” to Dr. O'Shea covering the evolution of all kinds of sports and related facilities on campus.

“Historically there's a sense that sports are not what New College is about, but I've been here 15 years and have a long view

of how things have changed, especially in the

past three to five years,” he says. “There are a lot of students who want more opportunities to engage in sports. Some students contemplate leaving because they want broader extra-curricular options. I'm getting more emails and phone calls from prospective parents and students who ask about sports.”



New College President Donal O'Shea and Ringling College President Larry Thompson share a laugh at the game.



New College alums, board members, and staff cheer on the team. From left: New College board chair Bill Johnston, President Donal O'Shea, VP of Alumnae/i Affairs Jessica Rogers, NCAA Board Member & Governance Chair Cindy Hill '89, Sarah Thompson '06, Provost Steve Miles, and New College Foundation Chair Felice Schulaner '78.



“This is a real-world recruitment and retention issue,” he states. “We have a hard-earned reputation for great academics, but students today want more, and they know that sports would be a touch-point for them socially. Our students don’t just learn here, they live here. We have a small body of students and anyone with a strong interest in a sport should have the opportunity to engage in it.”

Jordan is convinced that sports help students to de-stress, in addition to developing teamwork and leadership skills. There’s also the chance to form relationships with the local community and with other colleges, and to present a well-rounded picture to potential graduate schools. His goal is to have a consistently executed and organized program.

Jordan says that sports at New College fall into three main areas: sanctioned sports like the sailing team; club-led sports that participate in informal local leagues and intercollegiate sports; and clubs that don’t travel but have intramurals and campus games.

In the total mix is a basketball club that plays in a city league; a tennis

club that plays other schools; a fencing club that plays in local and regional tournaments; a women’s soccer team that has weekly scrimmages, and a men’s soccer team (the Funk) that plays in a local league. There is also a golf club that has a once or twice weekly clinic with a golf pro, which he would like to shepherd in a competitive direction. There’s a coached swimming club that hopes to enter a local triathlon and a quiddich team that has been playing Ringling. And let’s not forget the The Bones, the long-standing softball team with a mix of alums, students, staff and faculty.

### Waterfront Adventures

A growing part of the sports scene is the waterfront program, home to the sailing club and the sailing team, a sanctioned intercollegiate team that regularly sails in regattas and went to the nationals in Charleston last year.



New College and Ringling face off in the big game.

Jordan and waterfront director Dave Peterson have big plans that include a beautiful new sailing center to replace the pole barn and office inside Old Caples.

Jordan says that the New College Student Alliance recently invested in a part-time sailing coach, Hillary Noble, a graduate of USF St. Pete, where she was on the women’s team. “She’s quite the rock star,” he says. “Hillary is working to develop the quality of the team, which had been sailing without formal instruction. They’re learning consistency and really improving.”

This summer they are getting ready to roll out more recreational sailing programs such as “Learn to Sail,” and to make it more of an outdoor adventure program. “It’s in the spirit of a program we had years ago called Sail and Trail,” explains Jordan. “Students can get camping equipment and learn backpacking skills on organized trips.”

A potential future water sport is rowing, which could happen at the new world-class Benderson Park, currently under development near I-75 off University Parkway. Another growth area is golf. Whether by land or sea, both take advantage of our unique location and warm weather.

Of course that takes money, of which Jordan is acutely aware.

“Our weakness comes from the fact that we don’t have consistent funding,” comments Jordan. “Students must go to the SAC (Student Alliance Committee) to ask for funds, they might get a little, maybe less the next year. Outside funding sources must be secured.” He is working closely with the New College Foundation, overseeing the production of a sports-oriented video to be used for fundraising purposes. “Funding is the key to an incredibly robust program,” he says. “Private funding will also be needed for the new sailing center, with naming opportunities for the right generous donor.”

Jordan says that another challenge is that students have to shoulder all the responsibility for coordinating practice and games with local leagues, so things are built up and broken down, which is a frustration for students. “We still need student leadership, but they shouldn’t have to do it all,” he emphasizes. “A coach can help organize and make contacts on the team’s behalf.”

### Tennis, Anyone?

The tennis team now has a coach, Tiffany Dabek, who was hired about three months ago. The team also has the support of NCF alumna Lark Baxter ‘75, who worked for the largest



Ringling College president Larry Thompson gets dunked as part of the wager between the two schools.

sporting goods company in the world, traveling and recruiting in the United States and internationally. Having recently moved back to her hometown, she specializes in

teaching tennis and movement skills for children ages 3 to 11.

Baxter was one of the first local students to be admitted when New College went public. “I’ve always felt part of the New College community,” says Baxter, who later transferred to NYU. “One of the best things that happened since I moved back after 30 years was reconnecting with the college, with Jessica Rogers at the NCAA and with Colin Jordan at the fitness center.”

For New College, Baxter is trying to make connections with coaches she knows in the area and to tap into her wide network of sports people. In some respects, she feels that she is channeling the skills taught to her as a student by her advisor, Professor Emeritus Mac Miller. “The null set is empty,” he would say, “it’s what you bring to it. How can you fill a void?” She is certain there are a lot of alums out there with valuable sports connections and intends to find them (email larkbaxter@hotmail.com.)

He says that our strong sailing program is often a deal-clincher. “When I was at New College it wasn’t cool to be athletic, so I was kind of a closet athlete,” she admits. “But things are really changing. Sports like tennis can be used to market and draw in new people. It’s the best way



The flag football team in 2011. Michael Dexter ‘07 appears second from the left in the top row.

to connect mind and body.” Baxter would like to see the tennis team become more established, maybe become a Division 3 team, which would mean playing a lot of intercollegiate matches.

### Foiled Again

Fencing is one sport at New College with a long history, maybe the longest. The first New College fencing team coincided with the charter class. It was co-ed and even played competitively – although not terribly well, according to charter team member Sharon Landesman Ramey 65, developmental psychologist, formerly at Georgetown University and now Distinguished Scholar and Professor at the Virginia Tech Carillon Research Institute in Roanoke, VA.

“This was before the era when females were highly engaged in competitive sports,” recalls Landesman. “Fencing seemed really new and novel. I had been trained to be a ballerina and fencing is very graceful. A few of us women joined the team, mostly to be active and to have fun. It was new for almost everyone.”

By her third year, Landesman had a boyfriend in Mexico who was preparing for the Mexican Olympic fencing team. (Continued on page 25.)



The New College sailing team participates in the four winds invitational regatta held in April 2013.





## New College Admissions partners with the NCAA to Balance the In State and Out of State Student Ratio

This year, New College Admissions partnered with the Alumnae/i Association to implement a pilot program to increase out of state admissions. While many alums may remember New College as having predominantly out of state students, in recent years about 80% of students have come from in state and just 20% from out of state. Increasing out of state admissions is important not only from a funding standpoint, but also for campus diversity. It is critical for students to interact with students of other races, cultures, religions, and more in order to develop a broader worldview.

For the purposes of this program, three cities: DC, New York, and Boston were selected by Admissions due to the high number of applications they receive from students in those areas.

The NCAA arranged for a small group of recent New College graduates to attend informal gatherings with prospective students and parents. The alums spoke about their New College experience and answered questions about the college with assistance from an admission representative.

In Boston and New York, two additional meetings were

organized for guidance counselors. A breakfast meeting held within the city center and a lunch meeting held in the suburbs allowed guidance counselors from all surrounding areas to participate and learn more about New College from key staff including President O'Shea, Vice President of Alumnae/i Affairs Jessica Rogers, and Admissions Representative Mark Johnson.

The guidance counselors who attended expressed a strong interest in New College. Nearly all were eager to offer their advice for ways to increase our reach in the North East. Suggestions included hosting counselors at New College for a weekend and participating in counselor conferences.

This school year, the NCAA and Admissions will be heading to Chicago November 17-20, New York and Boston January 26-31, and St. Louis February 27-March 2. Admissions will also be inviting guidance counselors to visit the campus during the week of December 5th.

If you are interested in assisting New College with out of state admissions please contact the Alumnae/i Association at [ncalum@ncf.edu](mailto:ncalum@ncf.edu) or 941-487-4900.

## Educational Replication: Passing on the New College Experience One Student at a Time

Written by Eric S. Piotrowski '93

Attending New College was a vital and transformative experience for me. Throughout my secondary schooling career, I felt suffocated by regimented curricula. I read books in high school and worked hard to do well, but I always knew I could do so much more if only I had the freedom to explore and really interrogate the world -- both its multifaceted realities and my own perspective toward it.

I had decided in my junior year of high school that I would become an English teacher, in order to challenge students as I had been challenged by the best of my educators. My time at New College only reinforced the significance of this choice, and provided me with a plethora of important perspectives and resources. I was able to figure out why reading literature is important per se. I was able to construct an independent intellectual identity. I was able to place myself in the river of history.

When I began teaching English at Sun Prairie High School in southern Wisconsin, I realized I was the luckiest teacher on the face of the Earth. I was -- and still am -- blessed by a wonderful department; surrounded by remarkably motivated young people (and plenty of slackers); and offered the freedom to develop innovative courses like the one I created about rap music and hip-hop culture, Interdisciplinary Poetics.

Working with juniors and seniors also meant that I could watch my students sort through decisions for life after high school. I have always talked about New College in glowing terms, but I know it's not for everyone. Mostly it was a chance to intrigue students with the thought of a school without grades. Once in a while a student would show a passing interest, but for various reasons none of them applied.

Until now.

Last year I began teaching A.P. English and met a young lady named Courtney Ruehl. She distinguished herself quickly with a thorough and rigorous interrogation of the course material. Because she was a junior, she wanted to continue with literary analysis in her senior year, so we set up an independent study project. She has continued to show remarkable prowess during this process, and eventually the matter of tertiary education came up. She asked about New College and I convinced her to apply. During her spring break she toured the campus and came back more in love with the place than ever. A few weeks ago she received word that she had been accepted.

As I said in my recommendation letter, I've never had a student that is more perfect for the educational challenge and freedom of New College than Courtney. When she finds an intellectual pursuit that interests her, she will pursue it with a dogged determination. (In addition to literary analysis and other AP classes,

she has distinguished herself with the Academic Decathlon, taking top honors at the state level.) I cannot wait to see how she grows in the fertile academic soil that made me who I am.

Best of all, some of my favorite professors are still at New College. I'm elated at the prospect of her taking a class with the inimitable Andrea Dimino, who served on my senior thesis committee. Perhaps she'll enroll in a class with Douglas Langston, who sponsored my first ISP and provided such helpful feedback. Maybe she'll take a fantastic course with Amy Reid about French literature. (I've already had her read Balzac's *La Cousine Bette*!)

I don't have any biological children, but (perhaps as a result) I see myself in the lives of my students, and guiding Courtney to New College has been a special process for me. Everyone wants to replicate her/himself in some way; this process has given me a sense of deep joy and relief. While our experiences will of course not be identical (nor should they be), I trust that the pillars of New College excellence will offer Courtney the same mental exploration and personal growth they offered me.

### Did you know?

12 students from the fall 2013 entering class are siblings or children of New College alums.



# Spring 2013 Alumnae/i Events



New College Young Alum Event in New York, NY.

New College Alumnae/i Game Night in DC hosted by Hazel Bradford '75 and Carmela French '06.



New College Night Out hosted by Charlie Lenger '78 in honor of Ray Burgman '91



New College Alumnae/i Association Graduate Reception following the 2013 commencement ceremony.



**Mar** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 **10**  
11 **12** 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 **21**  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
30 31



New College Young Alum Event in Boston, MA.

New College Night Out at Lynne Buchanan's '75 Art Show.



**Apr** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 **21**  
10 11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20  
22 23 **28** 24 25 26  
27 29 30



New College Alumnae/i Bay Area Sunset Potluck in Oakland, CA hosted by Miriam Schwartz '03.

**May** 1 2 3 4 5 **6** 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 **24**  
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



New College Alumnae/i Association Board Meeting (Telephonic).

**Jun** 1 10 11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29 30  
2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9



New College Alumnae/i Picnic in DC's Meridian Hill Park. Hosted by Carmela French '06 and Michael Dexter '07.



## New College Professor Sarah Hernandez Among Top 20 Latin and Hispanic Professors at Florida Colleges



Sarah Hernandez, associate professor of sociology at New College, was named one of the Top 20 Latin and

Hispanic College professors in Florida by the website Online Schools Florida.

The listing recognizes post-secondary educators who have received awards for excellence in the classroom, on campus or in the community. The website is a division of StateStats.org, which develops online tools for education. “While dozens of Latin and Hispanic professors call Florida home, these 20 made a more-than-noticeable difference in 2012,” its report said.

It noted that Hernandez received a 2008-2009 Fulbright Garcia-Robles grant to assist her in research into how Mexican labor unions further their goals via collaboration with labor unions in other countries.

Her research in Mexico sought to understand what is the significance of transnational labor collaboration for the workers’ local goals, while also identifying the factors (internal, external, ideological, structural, and economic) that obstruct and facilitate such collaboration.

“The influence free markets have had on the global economy high-

lights the importance for citizens and workers to work together, ascertaining their human dignity is not sacrificed in this economic system,” Hernandez said.

Her findings confirmed earlier research in noting a clear difference in the way corporatist and independent unions relate to with U.S. labor unions, but also showed for the first time the tendency for Mexican unions to look more toward the south than the north when seeking transnational interaction, and that ideological alignment and common stereotypes play an important role in these relations. The lived experience within both independent and corporatist unions is more complicated than the simplistic representation seen in most previous research, she found.

Dr. Hernandez was born and raised in Mexico. She received her bachelor’s degree from Earlham College and her master’s degree and doctorate from University of Michigan, and has been on the New College faculty since 1996.

## New College Student Michael Long Receives Prestigious Truman Scholarship



New College student Michael Long is one of 62 students nationwide to receive a 2013 Truman Scholarship, a prestigious award given to college juniors with exceptional leadership

potential and who are committed to a career in public service.

Long is the second New College student to receive a Truman Scholarship, and the only Florida student to receive the scholarship this year. New College alumnus Eric Schickler was awarded a Truman Scholarship in 1989.

Truman scholars have gone on to prominent positions in government, nonprofits, academia and journalism. Past recipients include John Kroger, president of Reed College; Janet Napolitano, secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Susan Rice, U.S. National Security Advisor; and George Stephanopolous, former White House advisor and ABC news anchor.

Dr. Donal O’Shea, president of New College, said Long shows many of the traits of those public servants.

“Michael epitomizes the tradition of New College students not only learning but using that knowledge to act with conviction and improve the world we live in,” O’Shea said.

“Truman Scholarships are among the most respected and coveted national awards. We’re thrilled for Michael, and absolutely delighted that the Truman Foundation has selected him for this fellowship that will allow him to build on his interest and strong record of public service.”

The Truman Foundation was established by law in 1975 to honor President Harry S. Truman. Scholars are selected after a rigorous application and interview process. They are chosen on for their academic achievement and likelihood of becoming leaders in public service. Each scholar receives up to \$30,000 for graduate study, and priority admission

and supplemental financial aid at certain graduate institutions. They also receive leadership training, career and graduate school counseling and a 10 week internship in Washington, D.C.

The award is the latest in a series of achievements for the Sarasota native.

In 2010, he was elected as a freshman to the first of two terms as co-president of the New College student government. And in June 2011, at age 19, he became the youngest person elected to chair the Florida Student Association and the youngest person to serve on the Florida Board of Governors, which directs the State University System.

In 2012, he was named a Kremlin Fellow, one of 15 college student leaders nationwide selected by the Russian Federation’s Federal Agency on Youth Affairs to travel to Russia and meet officials, business leaders and students. In spring 2013, he studied at Yonsei University in South Korea as one of 40 U.S. college students chosen by the Council on International Education Exchange.

Long also serves on the advisory group to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, a way of giving back. After an arrest for minor offenses in high school, he completed a program that rehabilitates juvenile offenders. Long, an avid sailor and captain of the New College Sailing Team, also recently founded SailFuture, a nonprofit group that teaches juvenile offenders how to sail and pairs them with community mentors.

His sailing hobby had him planning to study marine biology, but his experiences have led him to change course. “I came in thinking I would go into natural sciences, but I realize my strength is in working with people,” he said. “I realized when I was smiling

the most wasn’t when I was in the biology lab, it was when I was out working with people.”

He credits New College for developing his critical thinking skills, and the ability to communicate and work with people. It starts, he said, with the way that students have intense conversations with advisors about their coursework and academic plans. It continued in student government work with the College’s board of trustees and with the Board of Governors.

“New College taught me to listen when people say no, but not to let a bump in the road stop you from getting to where you want to go,” he said.

Long decided to apply for the award after talks with New College staff and advisors, and with a 2010 Truman Scholar he met during the Kremlin Fellows program. The friend encouraged him to apply, if for no other reason than as a self-awareness exercise.

“Prior to a year ago, I had no concept of graduate school,” Long said. “The Truman forced me to start thinking about graduate school. The rigor of the application process forces you to think about yourself and your future.”

After graduating from New College, he plans to attend a graduate school program in public policy with a focus on criminal justice and juvenile justice.

## New College Student Joseph Shepherd Named 2013 Newman Civic Fellow

New College student Joseph Shepherd has been named a national 2013

Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact for his work in building a tutoring program in one of Sarasota’s poorest neighborhoods.

“New College students are known for being leaders who bring about positive change,” said New College President Donal O’Shea. “Joseph is exemplifying that leadership and extending the College’s mission into our community.”

In his recommendation letter, O’Shea called him “the ultimate problem-solver: Calm, supportive, low-key and cerebral, he thinks through the layers of intertwined issues to come up with a pragmatic solution.”

Shepherd, a second-year student studying literature, began working as a tutor at the Robert L. Taylor Community Center in January 2012 as part of a group study project. He and other New College students began researching best practices in after-school programs and studied socioeconomic issues and educational philosophy.

The one-month project grew into a semester-long tutorial, and this year, Shepherd has applied his work-study position at New College to serving as a liaison between the College and the center, recruiting, scheduling and even transporting tutors to ensure consistent coverage four days a week.

“We began as a small group – less than a handful of us going to the shelter on a not-entirely-regular basis – but word has spread about the work we do now and how much fun we have doing it, and there are





now at least three or four of us ready to help out every day,” Shepherd said.

“Having a diversity of volunteers is allowing us to meet students’ personal and academic needs more fully than ever before. For me and my fellow volunteers, our experience at the Community Complex has been one of the most enriching, challenging and informative periods of our lives.”

Shepherd, from Greensboro, N.C., is one of 180 students nationwide honored as a 2013 Newman Civic Fellow. Fellows are invited to participate in a private online network designed to let them share information on the work in their communities and retain the title for life. He is considering joining Teach for America and becoming a secondary-school teacher.

Campus Compact is a national coalition of almost 1,200 college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education to improve community life and educate students for civic and social responsibility.

### New Book from Professor Susan Marks Explores Early Jewish Weddings, Without Ritual or Rabbis

It may be difficult today to imagine a Jewish wedding without rituals led or



performed by a rabbi. But in her first book, Susan Marks, associate professor of religion at New College, finds that in the early days of Judaism, most weddings did not include familiar rituals, let alone rabbis, who later gravitated toward the ceremonies as a way to grow their religious movement.

“First Came Marriage: The Rabbinic Appropriation of Early Jewish Wedding Ritual” combines ritual and historic perspectives to examine the processes by which early Jews married and the ways rabbis minimized, elaborated or codified the practices.

“The earliest rabbis, the Tannaim, were not interested in wedding ritual. They were probably a fairly ascetic movement,” Marks said. “So that it’s actually a big change when in the fifth century, in the Talmud, the rabbis begin to articulate blessings for weddings. I think that change hasn’t ever been observed. And one of the reasons it hasn’t is because of the presumption that whenever there were marriages there would have been blessings.”

Marks juxtaposes sources ranging from the Mishnah and the Tosefta, texts written by early rabbis, to inscriptions on headstones and vases that detail relationships between men and women, often slaves, who would have been excluded from marriage rituals.

“Just because slaves couldn’t legally marry didn’t mean they didn’t do things that looked like marriage,” Marks said. “This is the kind of extra-Talmudic evidence that helps fill in what we’re talking about.”

Examining the restrictions on those relationships helps us understand how rabbis construct citizenship,

while the literary sources reveal the limited extent of early rabbis’ stake in those practices. Later rabbis, the Amoraim, appear more frequently at weddings, appropriating ritual as a way of legitimizing their role and expanding their reach.

“As Rabbinic Judaism is trying to grow its movement, there is actually a need for rabbis to appear at weddings, even if they’re not of their own disciples,” Marks said. “If somebody’s cousin is getting married and would like a rabbi to say a blessing, you have a good way to grow the movement.”

Judaism scholars have been re-evaluating the role of rabbis in the early days of the religion, but Marks is unique in doing so through an investigation of marriage ritual. It contributes to an evolving perception of the Rabbinic Movement. “The rabbis become the predominant voice for Judaism. What we have nowadays is the legacy of Rabbinic Judaism,” Marks said. “But people have begun to recognize that they were one of a variety of alternatives in the year 300. They weren’t the big show in town.”

Marks is the Klingenstein Chair of Judaic Studies at New College. She received her doctorate in Religious Studies from the University of Pennsylvania, her master’s degree and rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion, and her bachelor’s degree from Reed College. “First Came Marriage” was published in January by Gorgias Press.

## New College Gets Physical (Continued)

She got to practice with them and became an unofficial extra on the Mexican competitive fencing team. Throughout her life she has continued swimming, running and dancing. A former Foundation board member, Landesman feels that fencing is the perfect sport for Novo Collegians.

“It’s really about your pre-frontal cortex,” she observes. “Fencing is a brainy sport, requiring planning, anticipating, being strategic. It’s a good match for the type of student who goes to New College.

“I think New College is a place where things have always been wide open,” she adds. “Being physically active is one of the great things in life. The healthiest form of college sports is when students choose what they want to do as part of their college experience, but it’s not the only reason they are going to college.”

The fencing team also has a coach, alumnus Lawrence Levine, who entered in 1992 and recently returned to complete his studies. Since 1996 he had been living in Charlottesville, VA, where he became a “serial entrepreneur.” In a serendipitous event, physical chemistry professor Steve Shipman spent the summer there and fenced at Levine’s club. When Levine decided to move back to Sarasota in June 2011, Shipman connected him with then student Rose Marz ’08 who had invigorated the New College fencing club, and he became the team coach.

“Fencing is a phenomenal sport because it’s very individual and a natural fit for a place like New College,” states Levine. “Although it has team components,

*The New College fencing team. (Taken in September of 2012.)*



*Lark Baxter '75 poses with some of her teddy tennis students.*

it really is one person being challenged by another. It’s physical chess, a thinking sport where you use strategy to set your opponent up, many moves ahead. You can’t just muscle your way through.

“All of this accentuates why New College should continue to be supportive of the sport,” he continues. “Fencing is associated with the best academic schools and all the Ivy Leagues. So why not New College? It’s perfect for the students who are already here and could be really attractive for those who aren’t.”

Levine says that the team recently attended its first intercollegiate competition, traveling to Florida Atlantic University, where they competed with three schools and took second, third and fourth place. The team practices four times a week usually for about two hours in the yoga and dance room, which he notes is too short for a fencing strip. “We do the best we can,” he says. “We’d love to have a place that’s big enough. We also desperately need some modern equipment, some of which I donated, and more clothing.”

When he’s not fencing, Levine has been building technology companies under the umbrella of Comet Capital. He has eight active companies right now, including one of the leading computer security companies in the world. Levine is currently helping to set up a technology business accelerator for the college as part of his thesis.

“I personally believe New College is a school of student entrepreneurs,” he says. “It’s just a question of giving them the right tools to be capable of who they are. I think it’s going to be a real boon for the school.”



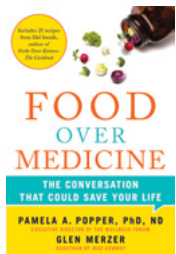
# 60's

**John Lentini '69** appeared on 60 Minutes on Easter Sunday this year to talk about the 1970 Pioneer Hotel fire in Tucson, Arizona which took the lives of 29 people. Read more about the episode here [http://innocenceproject.org/Content/Watch\\_Arizona\\_Arson\\_Case\\_Featured\\_on\\_60\\_Minutes.php](http://innocenceproject.org/Content/Watch_Arizona_Arson_Case_Featured_on_60_Minutes.php)

# 70's

**Randall Moon '73** was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and will be inducted along with Bruce Springsteen, Robert DeNiro, and John Glenn this October.

**Glen Merzer '74**, is co-author of *Food Over Medicine*, released in June by BenBella Books. Merzer has co-authored other books on nutrition and health including *Mad Cowboy* (with Howard Lyman), *No More Bull!* (with Howard Lyman and Joanna Samorow-Merzer), *Unprocessed* (with Chef AJ), and the forthcoming *Better Than Vegan* (with bestselling chef/author Del Sroufe). After co-authoring five books, Glen is setting his sights on one day becoming an author. Glen has also recently adapted *Mad Cowboy* for the screen.



**Robert Thompson '77** is now board certified in Medical Management. Robert is the Medical Director of the Anesthesia Preoperative Evaluation Clinic at Penn State Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

The Certifying Commission in Medical Management (CC MM) designated Robert a Certified Physician Executive (CPE) in March, 2013.

The CPE designation, used in signatory, indicates that a physician has achieved superior levels of professional excellence and management education, while also demonstrating effective knowledge and leadership skills. The Certifying Commission in Medical Management currently lists more than 1700 Certified Physician Executives.

CCMM is the national certifying body for physicians specializing in medical management, and is a not-for-profit corporation chartered by the American College of Physician Executives (ACPE) to establish and maintain the high standards required for physician executive certification. The ACPE is the nation's largest organization of physicians in healthcare leadership. The college is recognized by the American Medical Association as the specialty society representing physicians in management, and holds a seat in the AMA House of Delegates.

**James McDonald '78** For the seventh consecutive year, Fisher & Phillips LLP's Irvine, Calif. Managing Partner James McDonald, Jr. was selected for inclusion in 2013 Southern California Super Lawyers®. For more than 28 years, James has practiced labor and employment law exclusively representing management.

Southern California Super Lawyers are chosen by their peers and through the independent research conducted by the Thomson Reuters, Legal division. Each year, the research



team at Super Lawyers undertakes a rigorous multi-phase selection process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, independent evaluation of candidates by the attorney-led research staff, a peer review of candidates by practice area, and a good-standing and disciplinary check. The top 5 percent of Southern California attorneys are selected for the recognition.

This year's honorees will be featured in the February issues of Los Angeles magazine, Orange Coast magazine and the Los Angeles and Orange County distribution lists of The New York Times along with the San Diego edition of Southern California Super Lawyers magazine.

James' practice involves litigation of all types of employment disputes, including jury trials, bench trials and arbitrations, with special emphasis on wrongful termination, sexual harassment, employment discrimination, Americans with Disabilities Act, mental health issues in the workplace and trade secrets and unfair competition matters. He also counsels employers on labor and employment aspects of mergers and acquisitions. James is lead editor of the treatise *Mental and Emotional Injuries in Employment Litigation* (BNA Books 2001) and author of more than 50 published articles on labor and employment law. He also serves as Vice Chair and General Counsel of the Irvine Chamber of Commerce.

# 80's

**Terri Drake '82** received her doctorate in Contemporary Psychoanalysis at the Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis in Los Angeles California in June of 2011. She is now officially a

psychoanalyst.

**John Short '87** recently published his book *Magic Lantern Empire*. The text examines German colonialism as a mass cultural and political phenomenon unfolding at the center of a nascent, conflicted German modernity. John draws together strands of propaganda and visual culture, science and fantasy to show how colonialism developed as a contested form of knowledge that both reproduced and blurred class difference in Germany, initiating the masses into a modern market worldview. A nuanced account of how ordinary Germans understood and articulated the idea of empire, this book draws on a diverse range of sources: police files, spy reports, pulp novels, popular science writing, daily newspapers, and both official and private archives.



**Jennifer Granick '89** was interviewed by PBS for a series on the constitution. Jennifer is the Director of Civil Liberties for the Center for Internet and Society at Stanford Law School. She is best known for her work with intellectual property law, free speech, privacy law, and other things relating to computer security, and has represented several high profile hackers. Other experts profiled include Sandra Day O'Connor and Barney Frank. You can watch the entire Constitution series online at PBS.org

# 90's

**Laurel Isbister Irby's '91** song writing was recently featured on the visitmississippi.org website

as a part of the project "A Poet's Mississippi." The tumblr and Sound Cloud pages associated with this project showcase the collaborative work of Isbister Irby and poet Brandi Herrera as well as a week-long journal of Herrera's sojourn in and around areas of literary interest in Mississippi. Isbister Irby has been living in Mississippi for ten years and focuses her creative and non-profit management work on the reconciliation and revitalization of life in the post-desegregation culture of this southern state.

**Fiona Lewis '94** published a new book entitled *Broken in Soft Places*, on May 14th. The book release party was held in Tampa on May 25th.

**Kelly Samek '94** completed the requirements toward an LL.M. in Environmental Law & Policy at Florida State University in December of 2012.



**Amanda Loos '95** is Assistant Professor of Humanities & Fine Arts (Cinema Studies/Art History) - and Chair

of the Department of Humanities and Music - at Harold Washington College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago. She and her husband, Steve Logan, gave birth to their first daughter, Sonia Ruth Anne Loos Logan, on June 12, 2012. Just weeks before going into labor, they bought a big old house, in a state of total disrepair, on a big huge lot, a block and half from Lake Michigan, where they plan to build, re-build, garden, and love-up their growing family (which also includes a 14 yr old chow chow, Ashleigh Bear, and an old turtle, named Turtle.) Any alums interested in community college teaching/administration should drop a line!

**Eleanor Stanford '95** released a new book this March. Entitled *História, História: Two Years in the Cape Verde Islands*, Eleanor's memoir deals with her experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer on the West African islands of Cape Verde. In this beautifully alien place, Eleanor watches everything she knows about relationships get flipped upside-down and attempts to hide the eating disorder she's developed, which threatens both her marriage and her life.

Part travelogue, part cultural documentary, *Historia, Historia* combines journalistic excellence with the gripping style of personal memoirs to bring you this lyrical, moving portrait of an enchanting, little-glimpsed geography. Fans of factually informative and emotionally moving nonfiction will be drawn towards this haunting meditation on love, fidelity and self-image.

**Jeremy McMinis '96** graduated from the University of Illinois with a Ph.D. in Physics. He is working at Lawrence Livermore National Lab developing algorithms to study the electronic structure of condensed matter.

He and his wife Jenny are living in Livermore with their wonderful 2 year old Leigh. They enjoy reconnecting with other New College students in the bay area.

**Mollie Lee '97** was one of 5 San Francisco lawyers who defended gay marriage equality in front of the Supreme Court on March 27, 2013.

**Steven Wheeler '98**, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry at Texas A&M University who specializes in computational quantum chemistry, has received the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development Award, also known as the CAREER award. The research will be

funded at \$413,000 over five years, and is titled, "Controlling Supramolecular Self-Assembly of Planar and Curved Polycyclic Aromatic Systems."

Wheeler's research group uses computational models to understand and predict the behavior of molecules. One particular goal is to understand and learn to control the weak, non-bonded interactions between molecules that are vital to the packing of molecules in the solid state.

The CAREER award will support research aimed at controlling the molecular packing of large planar and curved molecules of interest for the development of organic electronic materials -- essentially new, non-silicon-based materials with unique electronic properties. The award also supports the development of an intuitive, freely available computational chemistry "app" for the Apple iPad, Wheeler said.

"The app will enable the incorporation of computational chemistry into the undergraduate chemistry curriculum and allow students to explore chemical principles at their own pace," Wheeler said.

Wheeler's research emphasizes building simple conceptual models that are useful to chemists, he said. Wheeler hopes to foster close ties and collaborations with experimental chemists to maximize the impact of his group's work on the community of chemistry researchers.

Wheeler joined the Texas A&M in 2010 after serving three years as a National Institutes of Health National Research Service Award postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of California, Los Angeles. He earned his doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Georgia in 2006.

Wheeler recently received the highly competitive American Chemical Society COMP OpenEye

Outstanding Junior Faculty Award for 2013 intended to provide greater visibility for worthy rising research stars. In Wheeler's case, his work on understanding and modeling non-covalent interactions has broad application in multiple areas ranging from biological chemistry to surface enhanced nanophenomena to atmospheric chemistry.

**Hunter Felt '99** is currently writing, about sports of all things, for the US edition of the Guardian. He's moved to Boston, as he threatened to all during his days at New College, although once there he has mostly kept inside. He has a wonderful girlfriend, a brand new wardrobe and is almost making enough money freelancing to cover his expenses (the key word there being "almost") Those interested in following what he talks about, mostly lots and lots of the NBA and MLB, can find him at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/profile/hunter-felt>.

# 00's

**Justin Clarke-Doane '01** has taken a permanent position as Birmingham Fellow at the University of Birmingham (UK). He taught previously in the Philosophy Department at Monash University, in Melbourne, Australia, and will remain Honorary Research Fellow there. He received his Ph.D. in September of 2011 from NYU.

**Laura Ginsburg '01** earned her M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana in May 2013. Her studies focused on supply management in Montana's dairy industry. Laura also received a Fulbright to study dairy policy in New Zealand, and will be headed there next year. Additionally, she is working as a project coordina-



tor for cooperative development in the food and farming sectors in Montana, an exciting new opportunity to empower farmers to take control of where their crops go and how much they are sold for. And perhaps most exciting, she notes, she and her partner have started the process of building their own grass-based, seasonal dairy in western Montana. She says "If anybody is ever in the area, you are welcome to stop by for a visit!"

**Silas Durocher '03** and The Get Right Band have released their first CD, entitled *Shake*.

Born out of Asheville, North Carolina's supergroup Soulgrass Rebellion, The Get Right Band has been touring the East Coast and the Caribbean heavily since their inception in April, 2011. The band has rocked hard and jammed relentlessly every step of the way. The Get Right Band's debut CD was released on February 22nd. The rock n' roll album features stripped down but creatively layered and produced performances of the band's original tunes. From the seductive blues of "Voodoo Doll" to the dance party vibe of "Chromaticize" to the Caribbean influenced "Touch The Holy," *Shake* passes through many genres while being held together by The Get Right Band's distinctive style. The album is fun, full of energy, and should be listened to with the volume turned way up.

The Get Right Band consists of Silas Durocher (guitar/vocals), Jesse Gentry (bass/vocals), and Chris Pyle (drums/percussion).

For more information about the

band please visit: <http://reverbnation.com/thegetrightband>.

**Erica Schoon '05** moved to Atlanta after graduation, and loves that so many of her friends here are New College alums (none of whom she says she was friends with while in college.) Erica works as the camp director for Peacebuilders Camp at Koinonia Farm, a summer camp for middle schoolers with a focus on peace and justice issues. She also lives as the Friend-in-Residence at Atlanta Friends Meeting and provides support for a new national year-of-service program headquartered in Atlanta called Quaker Voluntary Service. Erica has enjoyed providing hospitality for students and alums passing through Atlanta since she moved here and says she is glad to continue doing so.

**Jesse Harrington '04** was recently awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship in the area of Social Psychology. Jesse is a doctoral student in Social and Cultural Psychology at the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Naomi Ardjomand-Kermani '04** graduated from UF with a Master's in Public Health with a concentration in Social and Behavioral Sciences, December 2012.

**Lauren Fields '06** published her second novel: *My Dear Watson* with Lethe Press in April 2013. The novel was nominated for the American Library Association's Over the Rainbow List. The list serves a bibliography of books which exhibit commendable literary quality and significant authentic LGBT content.

Lauren will publish her third novel: *Dysfunction* (a sequel to *Maladaptation* which was completed at New College) from Rebel Satori Press in June 2013.

**Mary Barnes '06** received a Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. State Department to continue her study of Indonesian. Mary is a graduate student at the University of Washington where is pursuing her M.A. in Museum Studies.

## Obituaries

### Stephen Coats '69

Stephen R. Coats, 61, beloved husband of Kim Bobo, loving father of twin sons Benjamin and Eric, cherished son of Rev. Robert and Patricia Coats, fond brother of Margaret Spors, Mark Coats, John Coats and Scott Coats, uncle of many nieces and nephews, and a force for social justice in Central America and human rights around the world. Lying in state Saturday, April 6th at 10:00a.m. until time of service 11:00a.m. at North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood, Chicago, IL. Visitation Friday, April 5th from 4:00p.m. till 8:00p.m. at Drake & Son Funeral Home, 5303 N. Western Ave., Contributions in lieu of flowers can be made to USLEAP.

To read a remembrance of Steve, please visit <http://ncf.edu/remembrance>.

For more information about Steve's incredible work in defending the rights of Latin American workers please visit <http://>

[en.maquilasolidarity.org/node/1121](http://en.maquilasolidarity.org/node/1121)

### Norbert Musial '67

Norbert Musial passed peacefully on April 29, 2013, of complications due to Alzheimer's disease.

Norbert was born in Walldürn, Germany, on May 21, 1949, and was raised both in Germany and Pensacola, FL.

Norbert was a devoted son, husband, father, brother and friend. He was married to his wife Peggy for 25 years and together they raised their son Matthew, now age eighteen. Norbert was a member of Mensa, an avid river kayaker, world traveler, defender of his beloved Wekiva River, nature photographer and gourmet chef. He was both an accomplished classical pianist and accordionist; and he never met a piece of technology he couldn't master.

Norbert graduated in 1974 from New College, Sarasota, FL, and found a rewarding career as a senior systems architect and consultant with NCR for 30 years.

Both in work and in his private life, Norbert was a brilliant and kind man, a combination that drew many people to him as lifelong friends.

*\*Below is a photo from a ceremony held in memory of Norbert Musial.*



274  
followers  
on twitter



## The NCAA Unveils its NEW Facebook Page!

The New College Alumnae/i Association is relying more and more on social media to get the word out about events, opportunities, and alumnae/i news. We have re-assessed our presence on Facebook and recognize that some changes are long overdue. We will be discontinuing and deactivating the Facebook user N.C. Alum and the New College Alumnae/i Facebook group as of August 1, 2013.

We have recently launched an official New College Alumnae/i Association Facebook Page which can be found at the link on the right. While this page will serve as our exclusive facebook communication tool to the entire New College alumnae/i body, there are many smaller facebook groups which remain active and which we encourage you to join in order to get to know members of your local communities including the 50th Charter Classes Reunion, New College of Florida New York Alums, and many more.



Like us at [facebook.com/newcollegealumassociation](https://facebook.com/newcollegealumassociation)

Join New College's social media network on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter. Each day we inform and engage alumnae/i about a variety of topics and events.

We are currently building our Facebook chapter pages and LinkedIn groups. Be sure to inquire to [ncalum@ncf.edu](mailto:ncalum@ncf.edu) about joining your local chapter group on Facebook or one of our professional groups on LinkedIn.



# nimbus

New College Alumnae/i Association  
The Keating Center  
5800 Bay Shore Road  
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## Congratulations 2013 graduates!

The NCAA welcomes you to the alumnae/i community. We are here to be your resource in the years ahead so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns pertaining to life as an alum. Reach us at [ncalum@ncf.edu](mailto:ncalum@ncf.edu) or 941-487-4900.

