FOR THE
LOVE OF LYNN
Helen and Don Ross
look back on
35 amazing years
Ross Reflects

Thanks for the Memories

As many of you know, Helen and I will be retiring from the university on June 30. After 35 years on this campus, I’m often asked about my fondest memories of the university. It’s a difficult question to answer, because every one of our years here has been filled with many wonderful moments, but I would have to say that five in particular stand out:

- When my good friend, Frank Robino, purchased bonds in 1971 to help save Marymount College. Frank was a trustee at Wilmington College, which Helen and I had founded in 1967. If it weren’t for his help and that of other dedicated people, Marymount would not have survived and developed into the magnificent institution we have today in Lynn University.
- An unexpected $100,000 personal check from insurance magnate Eugene Lynn at Christmastime, not long after Marymount was renamed the College of Boca Raton. It was Gene’s first major gift to the college and the beginning of a cherished relationship that helped this institution become all that it is today.
- A surprise 25th anniversary celebration given in my and Helen’s honor by the students in 1996. The students, with our faculty and staff, feted us on the lawn outside the Schmidt Building. It was quite an occasion and deeply touched us.
- The addition of our Conservatory of Music in 1999. The music division of The Harid Conservatory was going to be closed immediately, and its students, who had been recruited from around the world, would be sent home.
- Another surprise—our new alma mater composed and led by Joe Carey at commencement on May 4, 2002. Joe, media coordinator for the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn College of International Communication, is also a very gifted musician. Up until then, our young institution had lacked this important musical tradition. When the ceremony drew to a close and it was time for our platform party to lead the recessional from the gym, instead, the announcement came for us to remain seated. I wondered what on earth was going on and then was treated to this beautiful composition sung by the graduating class and the Lynn chorus. Talk about music to your ears! I was absolutely speechless.

These are just a few of the highlights of many happy and productive years here at Lynn University. Thanks to all of you who have made them so memorable.

—Donald E. Ross, president

Entrepreneurial Vision

Believe it or not, this issue of Lynn Magazine was not planned with an entrepreneurial focus, but that is precisely the theme that emerged. From our cover story on Donald and Helen Ross to our features on alumni entrepreneurs and Lynn’s strategic plan, words like “innovation,” “creativity” and “tenacity” spring to mind.

Lynn University itself is an entrepreneurial institution, a place where new ideas are encouraged and rapidly put into action. No single person exemplifies that trait more than President Donald Ross, who at the young age of 32 first visited the university back in 1971 when it was a faltering two-year women’s college. The average person would have seen a bankrupt, small college surrounded by strawberry and bean fields, thought “what a shame” and moved on. But fortunately for us all, President Ross instead recognized a beautiful young college with tremendous potential and decided to save it. He never abandoned his vision, even in the leanest times.

That’s the unshakable vision of entrepreneurs, and it is one of President Ross’ greatest legacies to Lynn University. Today, we see that same kind of vision in action, as Lynn confidently moves forward with a strategic plan called Lynn 2020. Check it out in this issue on page 14 and on the Web at www.lynn.edu/2020. It’s the future of Lynn University. Take a look at all that’s in store for Lynn, and be a part of it.

—Liz McKey, editor
Planning for the future with 2020 vision

After months of research, discussion and fine-tuning, Lynn’s new strategic plan, “Lynn 2020,” is complete. Read about the initiatives well under way that will shape Lynn University into one of the nation’s most innovative, international and individualized small universities.

 Builders of Dreams

After 35 years of service to Lynn, President Donald E. Ross and First Lady Helen L. Ross begin a well-deserved retirement on July 1. Lynn Magazine looks back on their many contributions in transforming a struggling two-year women’s college into the dynamic international institution Lynn University is today.

Seed of Success

An entrepreneur, like a gardener, requires the touch of a “green thumb”—a combination of innovation, hard work and determination—to grow an idea into a flourishing business. Meet three Lynn university alumni entrepreneurs who planted and nurtured the “seeds of success” into their own thriving enterprises in public relations, transportation and screenwriting.
Like Father, Like Daughter

I enjoyed reading the article about families who have attended Lynn (“Family Tradition,” Summer 2005 Lynn Magazine). Both my father and I graduated from Lynn. Here's my story of how I followed in his footsteps.

When I thought about college, I pictured myself at the “big schools” with large enrollments. I always knew I was going to go to school in Florida, so I applied to FSU, FAU, UF and UM. My parents supported any decision I made for my college career choice. My father, Jules, had one request. He asked me to apply to Lynn University as well. “Well of course I'll do that just to please him,” I thought, “but I know I won't go there.” Why did he want me to apply to Lynn anyway? He's an alumnus.

Ah yes, Lynn University—College of Boca Raton, Marymount College. I knew it all well. I heard the stories. My dad lives for these stories. The famous story he tells most often is of how he came down on the bus with Dr. Ross from Wilmington College and was the first one to jump in the pool upon arrival. I've even heard about my father and Greg Malfitano ['75, today Lynn's senior vice president for administration] being in the same classes together. What year it was, I don't know. My father changes it each time I ask him. He always told me to go ask Greg. For years, I've meant to make my way to Lynn's archives to dig up his yearbook.

When it came time to make the college visits in Florida, I had already ruled out some schools, but Lynn was still in the running. I considered it my safety net. After filling out some admissions information, our tour guide took us around the campus, which was absolutely gorgeous. The students were very nice, and the extracurricular activities, organizations and events seemed right up my alley. And the communications school had just received its own floor with all-new technology.

Greg Malfitano took my family and me to the Christine Room for lunch. After about two more hours, we were back in the car and on our way to Florida Atlantic. I remember telling my father to just go back to the hotel, because I didn’t want to go see FAU. I was going to start school at Lynn University. I will never forget the smile that was on my father's face. I know he was saying to himself, “Like father, like daughter.”

Danielle B. Winn, '02
Boca Raton, Fla.

Team Nostalgia

I attended Marymount College in 1973-1974, and the college always had a special meaning to me. I enjoy reading about Lynn, and its references to Marymount and Wilmington College. I was reading the summer 2005 edition, in particular, the article on page 14 (“Family Tradition”) when I noticed the basketball picture with the O’Tooles. I played on Marymount's team the following year. Thanks for making my day.

Lieutenant Timothy P. Fogarty
New Jersey State Police
Homeland Security Branch
Trenton, N.J.

Letters

Marymount's 1972-1973 men's basketball team: (front row, left to right) Bill Peskin, John Vetti, Mike Ryan, Drew Eatmon, Gary Pancoast, (back row, left to right) Brian O'Toole, Kevin O'Toole, Fred Hirsch, Steve Kane, Don Patrick and Mark Cleary.

Editor's Note: Timothy Fogarty's fellow team members on the '73-'74 squad were Mike Kolb, Mike Ryan, Bob Bogle, Cliff Beek, Jeff Sarno, Kevin Leahey, Tim Wahl, Tim Oakes, Bill Peskin, Ziggy Leah, Buddy Shipman and Alan Mosher. The team was known as the Blue Marlins and was coached by Ed Freel.

Write on!

Lynn Magazine welcomes letters from our readers. Please include your name, class year (if applicable), address, daytime phone and e-mail address. Letters may be edited for length, clarity or style. Write us at Lynn Magazine, Lynn University, 3601 North Military Trail, Boca Raton, FL 33431-5598 or (e-mail) lynnmagazine@lynn.edu.
Lynn weathers the storms

During the most active hurricane season on record, Lynn University prepared for and weathered well not one, but two hurricanes—Katrina in August and Wilma in October.

Lynn’s campus escaped the brunt of Katrina when it made landfall on Aug. 25 in South Florida as a Category 1 storm. On its first stop in the United States, Katrina primarily impacted Broward and Miami-Dade counties before barreling across the Gulf of Mexico and hitting southeastern Louisiana on Aug. 28 as a Category 4 storm. Hours later, it made its third and final landfall.

For its second hurricane of the season, Lynn faced a greater hazard as Hurricane Wilma, after devastating the Yucatan coast on Oct. 22 at Category 4 strength, made landfall as a Category 3 storm on the southwest Florida coast. By the time it rolled across southeast Florida, the storm was at Category 2 force—and the most powerful experienced by Lynn University in its 43-year history.

Most of the storm’s damage on campus was seen in landscaping (110 trees lost) and downed light poles, signage and awnings. Because, like the rest of the region, Lynn was without electrical power, the university closed for 14 business days.

Throughout that period, the campus was kept safe and secure by a dedicated and well-coordinated team of staff members.

Security personnel maintained 12-hour shifts during the storm. Hurricane briefings were made to students daily at 1 p.m., and Lynn’s hurricane team met each day at 9:30 a.m. The university housed and provided food service to resident students and employees who worked on campus during the storm. Hot showers were provided in the gym several hours each day. Generator power allowed Student Activities to organize nightly games, movies and activities. And Lynn’s Information Technology department became a hub of student communication. Thanks to quick thinking and ingenuity, a power strip was hooked up to a generator for cell phone chargers and laptops, and an outgoing phone line was available for students’ use.

Lynn also maintained critical communications for everyone off campus. By phone, Lynn provided regular updates on its information hotline for parents and employees. The Web site, www.lynn.edu, proved to be a lifeline for many. Between Oct. 18 and Nov. 1, approximately 120,000 individuals visited the site, viewing almost 600,000 pages.

E-mails from grateful parents poured in from around the world. Annie Galatzan from Puerto Rico wrote, “Your hurricane planning team is excellent. My daughter stayed in her residence hall during the emergency and we felt she was safe the entire time. Thank you!” And Lorraine Young from the UK wrote, “Thank you for your efficient updates on the situation in Boca Raton. It has been extremely reassuring due to not being able to contact my son during this difficult time.”

By early November, Lynn University was back in full operation. All employees returned to work on Nov. 2, the residence halls reopened on Nov. 5 for those students who evacuated before and after the storm, and all classes resumed on Nov. 7.
Students move into remodeled Trinity Hall

It has been home to thousands of students and several Marymount, College of Boca Raton and Lynn University administrators—even President Donald E. Ross and his family for a few years in the 1970s. But hardly anyone would recognize the venerable residence hall today, after a $3.5 million renovation last summer.

“It’s a new building, inside and out,” says Greg Malfitano, ‘75, senior vice president of administration, of the 1962 structure, one of Lynn’s original buildings. Among the many transformations are new impact-resistant windows; wireless Internet access in every room; new air conditioning; electronic card access (instead of keys) to rooms; room safes for securing valuables; new plumbing, sinks and vanities; and new carpet, which replaced the tile flooring.

In addition to the new exterior, which blends beautifully with Lynn’s campus architecture, Trinity is home to new offices of the Hannifan Center for Career Development and Internships. The offices are located at the front of the center and have their own direct entrance, which is convenient for both students and alumni who visit the center.

Lynn senior is among Broward’s top volunteers

Koren Lang, a senior at Lynn, has been recognized as the Volunteer of the Year by the Broward County Board of Commissioners/Civil Rights Division and the Broward County Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities.

As a high school sophomore, Lang was one of the founding volunteer coaches for the nation’s first Special Olympics color guard—the non-musical section that provides the visual aspect of a marching band performance.

Lang’s passion and dedication to children with emotional and learning disabilities was sparked early in life through contact with a family with an autistic boy. Koren became “curious about his circumstances” and that led to her involvement with other special needs children and the creation of the Special Olympics color guard.

A resident of Coral Springs, Fla., Lang now works at North Broward Preparatory School where she teaches color guard. She plans to attend graduate school and eventually open a dance/music therapy studio for children with emotional and learning disabilities.

Will is a former U.S. Senate staff member and National Review editor. His newspaper column has been syndicated by The Washington Post since 1974 and appears in just under 500 newspapers. In 1977 he won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary. Will is also the author of several books on political theory and baseball. His “Men at Work: The Craft of Baseball” was on The New York Times bestseller list for two months.

Speaking before a capacity audience of about 350, Will criticized the spending of the Bush administration, pointing to a projected federal deficit of $70 trillion. “We keep adding to the cost of the welfare state,” he said, adding that President Bush “cuts taxes like Ronald Reagan but spends like Lyndon Johnson.”


Before addressing the luncheon guests, Woodruff shared her thoughts on the political landscape, current issues and her career with Lynn students. “Follow your passion because school allows you the opportunity to do anything you set your mind to,” she said.

When McCaffrey retired from active military duty in 1996, he was the youngest and most highly decorated four-star general in the U.S. Army. His last military assignment was Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces Southern Command, coordinating national security operations in Latin America. In February 1996, he was appointed by President Bill Clinton and confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate as director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. He remained in that post through Jan. 7, 2001.

The Dively Frontiers in Globalization Luncheon Lecture Series is sponsored by the Roland A. Ritter Foundation and was established in 1993 through a grant from the George S. Dively Foundation. Reflecting Lynn's commitment to international education and sharing global perspectives, the series brings to the campus outstanding individuals whose achievements have contributed to world progress.

**Lynn names Lannon dean of education**

Lynn University has named Pamela Saylor Lannon dean of the Donald E. and Helen L. Ross College of Education. From 2000 to 2004 Lannon served as school superintendent for Lake County (Fla.) Schools with 36,000 students and a $400 million budget.

She brings to Lynn 25 years of experience in education, from teaching social studies for Dade County (Fla.) Schools in the early 1970s, to serving as guidance counselor, administrator and later as staff attorney (1997-2000) for Lake County Schools.

Lannon received her JD and M.Ed. in guidance and counseling from the University of Miami. She holds a BA in government from Skidmore College (N.Y.). Her professional affiliations include the Florida Bar Association, the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, the American Association of School Administrators, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Bellsouth/Schlechty Center Superintendents Leadership Network, and the Florida Academy of Professional Mediators, Inc.
Former students of art and design professor Ernest Ranspach may remember a pet project of his: a multitasking workstation for artists and designers. Now, his invention, named The RAK, is beginning to hit the big time—earning top awards, four patents and proving to be invaluable wherever space is an issue—in schools, homes or offices.

Necessity has always driven innovation for Ranspach, who taught at Lynn from 1969 to 2004. In 1984, Ranspach and then-philosophy professor Bob Curran rolled up their sleeves and fashioned from wood 16 drafting tables with built-in storage cabinets.

“They were sturdy, but the problem was, they had only one function and were immovable,” Ranspach recalls. Over the years, with classroom space becoming more and more at a premium, Ranspach knew there had to be a better way.

“I had observed how universities have separate rooms for each type of art class or how the equipment has to be moved each time a different class is taught,” Ranspach says.

His solution: The RAK, a highly versatile workstation with an aluminum frame and casters. The sleek but sturdy RAK can be set up horizontally or vertically with different work surface attachments for drafting, drawing, sculpture, painting, graphic design or desk work. This allows one classroom to be used to teach five art subjects. In addition, the table’s height can be adjusted from 29 to 36 inches, allowing artists to work from sitting or standing positions. The RAKs can easily be moved for different classroom arrangements to suit the instructor’s teaching style. Best of all, when not in use, The RAK doesn’t require storage; it can be turned on its side and double as a table or bookstand.

Ranspach developed the idea over 10 years, starting in 1994. In 2002, he approached Vice President for Academic Affairs Kathleen Cheek-Milby and Academic Dean Gregg Cox, who was also dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, about using the invention at Lynn. They approved the concept, and Ranspach installed 16 of the workstations in Assaf Hall in room 212—the very classroom in which he taught for 35 years and that was named in his honor when he retired.

Today, word of The RAK is spreading far beyond those walls. Last June, Ranspach and his grandson, Ryan, a Lynn sophomore, traveled to Pittsburgh to showcase the workstation at INPEX, the nation’s largest invention trade show. The RAK was selected from more than 1,000 inventions for top honors in the art and education categories. Ranspach has found a distribution channel and is exploring manufacturing options. He also is developing a wooden version in an arts and crafts style for use in home offices and university residence halls.

As Ranspach continues to refine his invention and work out the production details, his “retirement” has been far from idle. The RAK, he admits, “has taken on a life of its own.”
Lynn offers new programs of study

Lynn launched two new programs of study in fall 2005: a Master of Music in performance and an undergraduate Certificate in Emergency and Disaster Management.

The Master of Music degree focuses on advanced performance, allowing students to hone technical skills, expand their performance experience and repertoire, and develop the ability to communicate an artistic vision.

“The program was carefully designed to train the graduate student to attain professional competence in his or her chosen field of performance,” says Jon Robertson, dean of the conservatory.

Students complete 36 credit hours, including four semesters of applied music study, four academic music courses and various performance requirements.

The Conservatory of Music also offers a Bachelor of Music in music performance and a Bachelor of Arts in music.

In addition to offering the new master's degree, the Lynn Conservatory of Music has renamed and changed the requirements for its Professional Studies Diploma Program. The new Professional Performance Certificate focuses on advanced music performance and does not require the study of academic subjects.

Also new in fall 2005 was Lynn's undergraduate Certificate in Emergency and Disaster Management. The program consists of five upper division online courses in emergency and disaster management, totaling 15 credits. Students enrolling in the program are required to have a bachelor's degree or be enrolled in one simultaneously.

An internship course, providing a practical component, is also offered as an option. Applicable to both the public and private sectors, the program provides a foundation for the rapidly growing field of emergency management. Various emergency management theories, concepts and contemporary practices are examined, providing an understanding of crises within an intergovernmental framework. Students who complete the undergraduate certificate course work may be eligible to receive a minor in emergency and disaster management.

Certificate in Emergency and Disaster Management
This latest addition to Lynn's undergraduate certificate programs provides a foundation for the rapidly growing field of emergency management.

Master of Music
This two-year, advanced program of the Conservatory of Music emphasizes advanced music performance to enable students to perfect their musical artistry.

Fall enrollment sets new records

Fall 2005 brought new enrollment records for Lynn University. Below are highlights based on comparisons to fall 2004:

Applications increased by 22 percent.

Undergraduate day enrollment grew by 9 percent, to 2,020 students.

Total enrollment grew by 10 percent, to 2,761 students.

The average SAT score of newly admitted students increased by 4 percent.

The average GPA of newly admitted students climbed 4 percent.

“This was a banner year for Lynn University,” says Karla Stein, senior vice president for international relations and head of the admissions office. “We welcomed the largest number of new students in university history. Clearly, Lynn's reputation as an outstanding small private university continues to grow domestically and internationally.”
Ask the Professor
A Five-Minute Interview with a Lynn Professor

LIZBETH KEILEY, English

What led you to teaching?
As an undergraduate English major I had some phenomenal professors. I was impressed by how articulate they were and their grasp of literature. I remember being drawn to listening to them and being disappointed when class ended…. It became very clear to me that that was who I wanted to become.

How would you describe your teaching style?
Overall, my style is interactive. I like to work as a facilitator, a coach in the learning process. Teaching, for me, is like a dance: moving back and forth between the presentation of key concepts and literary terms, while providing analytical opportunities for students. The goal is engagement with the text.

What do you enjoy most about teaching?
I like to share what I understand about the nature of literature, particularly, its relevance to everyday life. I also enjoy the excitement of class discussions as they build and blend into each other. I find, over the course of one or more semesters, that I really enjoy getting to know students as individuals, rather than simply anonymous people who show up at a certain time in a certain classroom.

Do you feel there is a renewed interest in poetry now—in particular, here at Lynn?
Definitely. I’ve been really fortunate to be the sponsor of the Poetry Club and coordinator of the monthly Poetry Coffeehouse here. It’s grown by word of mouth. Last month 60 people attended. Beyond the attendance, I think the Poetry Club and Coffeehouse have helped to reshape what the typical student thinks about poetry. It’s not just for hoity-toity people. Everyone can benefit from expressing themselves.

When did you discover your passion for poetry?
Very young. As early as I could write.

Who are your favorite poets?
Do you mean this week? It’s very difficult for me to answer that question, but here are a few: Elizabeth Bishop, Gertrude Stein, Wallace Stevens.

How would you describe your own poetry?
I would characterize most of my work as surrealistic and experimental, though lately, I think it’s become more accessible, less abstract and less dense. I like to tap into the hidden aspect of the imagination found in dream landscapes, those unusual narratives and images derived from the unconscious mind. I also find myself eavesdropping on conversations, listening for comic phrases to jot down, and perhaps, later use in a poem.

Do you have other interests or hobbies?
Are you kidding? When I’m not at work, I spend time with my 10-year-old son, Shannon. We do stuff like baseball, bike riding or swimming, just about everything.

If you could have dinner with any three people, past or present, who would they be?
Jon Stewart, John Lennon and Socrates.

—Liz McKey
Parents enjoy NYC holiday reception

Parents of Lynn University students enjoyed holiday cheer at a reception on Dec. 2, 2005, at Manhattan’s elegant University Club. The event was hosted by Hagood and Cis Ellison, chairs of the executive committee of the Parents and Families Association. The Ellisons and their son, Adger, who attends Lynn, hail from Columbia, S.C.

The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for Lynn parents to become acquainted and catch up on the latest happenings at Lynn.

Since its establishment two years ago, the Parents and Families Association has become a thriving organization, with more members and activities. Future receptions, both across the United States and internationally, will be hosted by other Lynn parents.

If you’d like to get involved in the association and its activities, please contact Susana Fernández, director of alumni and parent relations, by phone at 561-237-7433 or e-mail at sffernandez@lynn.edu.
A bequest of more than $4 million from Dina McMenimen Bickel received over the last two years and a $500,000 grant from the Dodson Family Foundation are among recent gifts to Lynn University amounting to $6.2 million in total philanthropy for fiscal year 2005.

“Lynn University is profoundly grateful for the long-standing support of our alumni and friends,” says President Donald E. Ross. “In this past fiscal year especially, we thank our benefactors for their exceptional generosity and unwavering loyalty. Their gifts will greatly enhance the educational experience of Lynn students today and for generations to come.”

The $6.2 million represents a 35 percent increase from the previous year. Over the same period of time, the number of Lynn’s donors jumped 52 percent.

Some of the success can be credited to an expanded staff of seven new employees in the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, a move designed to help Lynn meet the financial challenges that come with the continued growth of academic programs and the number of students.

“This was a year of exponential growth for advancement,” says Ross. “It is clear that we have bolstered our staff with the type of ambassadors who represent Lynn University in a very positive way as we prepare for our future efforts.”

In the spring, the Warner Family Foundation gave $250,000 in support of Lynn’s Institute of Achievement and Learning. It is the single largest donation ever received to directly benefit the institute, which works with individual students to help them reach full academic potential.

Lynn’s Burton D. Morgan School of Aeronautics received a new airplane valued at more than $250,000 from Jim and Bette Cumpton, longtime benefactors of Lynn. In addition, Harold and Mary Perper gave $50,000 toward scholarships for the aeronautics program. Jan Middlebrook, a longtime supporter of Lynn University, gave $50,000 toward overall academic programs.

Financial support for Lynn athletics has grown as well, perhaps spurred by recent successes on the field that include last year’s NCAA women’s national softball championship. That brings to 18 the number of national championships won by Lynn athletics. Donations to the Blue & White Club, which supports Lynn athletics, are up more than 70 percent, including a $66,000 gift from an anonymous donor.

The Lynn Annual Fund, which seeks out new donors and solicits gifts from faculty and staff, enjoyed a 96 percent increase over last year. Similarly, Lynn students raised more than $95,000 through Lynn’s Knightline program, which reaches out to alumni and friends via telephone solicitations.

The Lynn Parents and Families Association raised more than $20,000 to fund campus projects that directly benefit students. This year’s campaign reached out to all parents and families of undergraduate students.

Membership organizations such as Friends of the Conservatory, The Excalibur Society, and Jan McArt’s Theatre Arts Society, continue to support Lynn by raising funds for scholarships, programs and equipment, as well as bringing world-class classical music and theatre arts performances to the community. In addition, Boca West and the former Music Guild of Boca Raton donated $42,000 toward the purchase of a Steinway piano for the Conservatory of Music. The conservatory’s Adopt a Student Program, launched in 2003, continues to receive support.

Michael H. James has been named director of gift planning at Lynn University. James has 35 years’ experience in hospital and university development. Over the past 20 years, James organized successful planned giving programs at Eastern Michigan University Foundation, Ypsilanti; St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac; and St. Joseph Mercy Health System, Ann Arbor. He helped found the Planned Giving Roundtable of Southeastern Michigan and Leave a Legacy of Southeastern Michigan.

In 1999, James completed specialized training in family wealth counseling and legacy planning. He holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology and political science from the University of Detroit.

“We are fortunate to have Mike as the university’s first director of gift planning,” says Kevin M. Ross, chief operating officer. “His experience, knowledge and guidance will be appreciated by our constituents as they begin to consider their estate plans.”
Just halfway into the Knightline phone campaign’s second year, Lynn student callers have raised more than $100,000, surpassing the record $95,000 they collected the entire last year.

“Our students are doing an amazing job, in encouraging both new and ongoing gifts to the university,” says Lisa Miller, director of development operations at Lynn. “What’s more, our students are gaining great work experience while helping raise a substantial sum for Lynn.”

The Friends of the Conservatory of Music is a volunteer, nonprofit organization that promotes music performance education for exceptionally talented young musicians, and assists in establishing a superior standard for music performance education worldwide.

Committee members assisting the Milhouses and the Goldsteins were Pam Coffey, Barbara Fox, Annie Green and Patricia Toppel.

For further information about or to join The Friends of the Conservatory, please call 561-237-7766.

Sponsored by The Friends of the Conservatory, the holiday concert was chaired by Marlene and Arnold Goldstein and Mary Ann and Paul Milhouss. The afternoon program featured performances of the season’s most beloved music by the Lynn University Philharmonia Orchestra under the direction of conductor Albert-George Schram. The Lynn University Community Chorus, the Dreyfoos School of the Arts Carolers and the Saint Andrews School’s Chorale and All-American Singers provided a touch of magic to the performance.

“This magnificent event, while pleasing so many individuals, will provide an additional $50,000 in scholarships for the Lynn Conservatory of Music’s young musicians,” says Pam Coffey, president of the Friends of the Conservatory of Music.

More than 650 children, parents and grandparents dressed in their holiday best converged on the Boca Raton Resort & Club for the third annual Lynn University Conservatory of Music Family Holiday Concert on Dec. 11, 2005.

Dreyfoos School of the Arts Carolers add holiday magic.

Golfers raise more than $70,000 for Lynn scholarships

The 14th Annual Frank A. Robino Jr. Golf Classic, held Nov. 7, 2005, at the Boca Country Club, raised $71,792. The 196 golfers who participated came to support Lynn University athletic scholarships despite general disruption and lack of basic services in the area two weeks after Hurricane Wilma struck South Florida.

Kicking off the event, tournament chair David Gerrits, along with Lynn University women’s and men’s golf teams, presented President Donald E. Ross and his wife, Helen, with two putters and a dozen custom golf balls imprinted with “35.” The gesture was a token of appreciation ahead of the Rosses’ retirement in July 2006, following 35 years of service.

First-place prizes in the mixed division went to Tim McDulin, Sal Tiano, Candy Pitman and Larry Hoskins. Winners of the overall division were Louis Capano Jr., Charles Robino, Joe Russo and Dan Fabian. Contest winners included Candy Pitman in the women’s division for longest drive and Mark Cangiano in men’s longest drive. Jack Guido won the closest to the pin contest.

The yearly fundraising event is named in honor of the late Frank A. Robino Jr., of Boca Raton, a longtime Lynn University trustee and benefactor.
That’s smart shopping

Lynn University’s 13th annual Excalibur Society Holiday Extravaganza attracted nearly 200 shoppers to the Boca West Country Club on Dec. 7, 2005. The event has become one of the most anticipated dates during Boca Raton’s holiday season—and a treasured source of scholarship funds at Lynn University.

Serving as honorary chair was community leader Madelyn Savarick. Serving as co-chairs for the second year in a row were Mary Ellen Courier and Lucille Matthews. Both are dedicated committee members who worked hard behind the scenes to make this year’s Holiday Extravaganza a smashing success.

ETOILE presented a runway fashion show with some of Boca’s leading ladies serving as models, including Christine Lynn, Annie Green, Arlette Baker and Mary Anna Fowler.

Every year the Excalibur’s Holiday Extravaganza raises thousands of dollars for scholarship funds. Scholarship recipient Libby Barland told the audience, “I knew that if I was going to compete in the job market, I needed to update my skills. Thanks to the Lynn University’s Excalibur Society I’m able to complete my dream of higher education.” Barland is earning a master’s degree, after finishing her bachelor’s at Lynn last year.

David Stern, a longtime supporter of The Excalibur Society, donated two exquisite pieces of jewelry for the grand raffle prizes. The lucky winners of the jewelry were Liz Wilsman and Millicent E. Duvall. The true focus and drive of event organizers, however, remains in helping individuals achieve a higher education.

“It’s so important for people to have a good education in order to realize their goals in life, and some need that scholarship money to do it,” says Courier, who also serves as Excalibur Society vice president.
Who’s Lynn?

She is. You might say that Marcy Zambelli, class of 1977, used her Lynn University degree to take her family’s business to new heights. After graduating from Lynn and learning every aspect of the company, she’s now the chief executive officer of Zambelli Fireworks Internationale, one of the oldest and largest American fireworks companies. It’s Zambelli’s company that U.S. presidents, the Super Bowl, and world capitals call when they want the kind of event no one can duplicate and everyone will remember.

Innovative. Spirited. Entrepreneurial. That’s Marcy Zambelli, and that is Lynn.
Following months of research, discussion and fine-tuning, Lynn University’s strategic plan was approved by the board of trustees this past October. Titled “Lynn 2020: Focusing on Our Future,” the plan will be used to guide the university’s growth and development over the next 15 years.

“We’ve chosen the name ‘Lynn 2020’ because it describes not only our timeframe, but also the keen vision we are employing to shape Lynn University into one of the most innovative, international and individualized small universities in the United States,” says Kevin M. Ross, Lynn’s chief operating officer.


To draft Lynn’s strategic plan, Keller conducted more than 52 formal interviews and more than 10 focus groups of individuals ranging from board members to students. He also studied data, finances and the facilities, and carried out planning sessions with Lynn’s 21-person strategic planning committee comprising faculty, the university’s management team and the deans.

The result is a plan that details Lynn’s vision “to be recognized as one of the most innovative, international and individualized small universities in America.” In
order to fulfill this vision, Lynn must make strategic changes in five domains. The plan identifies these changes as five “strategic priorities”:

1. Lynn will recast, partially restructure and intensify the focus of its academic offerings.
2. The university will further improve the quality, geographical origins and financial aid of its students, enlarge its graduate and continuing education enrollments, and enhance the accommodations and services for undergraduates especially.
3. The institution will continue to improve the salaries, governance opportunities, workloads, teaching skills, and office and classroom facilities of the faculty.
4. Lynn will complete the construction of its campus and provide for better technological and scientific equipment.
5. The university will establish a new culture of widespread fundraising and grant solicitation.

Each of the five priorities entails several initiatives—51 in total, a number of which are well under way. For example, the many recent improvements to the campus grounds and facilities support the second and fourth priorities; this work includes the remodeling of Trinity Hall and Christine’s coffeehouse, expansion of the wireless network, creation of additional faculty offices, and enhancements to the athletics fields. Another example tied to the second priority is the appointment last summer of Jim Hundrieser, a specialist in student involvement and retention, as Lynn’s new vice president of student development. And more recently, Lynn has completed a student housing market study in preparation for building new residence halls—an initiative tied to the fourth priority.

On Feb. 1, Lynn unveiled Lynn 2020 to the university community and launched a new planning, budgeting and accountability model called FOCUS, which stands for Fulfilling Our Collective University Strategy. Using this model, the university’s academic and administrative units each year will create a budget aligned with Lynn 2020’s initiatives and priorities.

Because strong collaboration is vital to effective strategic planning, Lynn welcomes comments, suggestions and questions from all its constituencies, especially alumni, parents and friends. To provide input and learn more about Lynn 2020, please visit the Web site, www.lynn.edu/2020.

**2020 teamwork**

In launching Lynn 2020, Chief Operating Officer Kevin M. Ross announced shifts in responsibility for two members of Lynn’s management team, Greg Malfitano and Jim Hundrieser, as well as an addition to the team, Chris Boniforti.

“To meet the high marks we have set for ourselves, it is necessary that we ensure the management structure is in place to support these efforts,” Ross says.

The three positions play a pivotal role in moving Lynn’s strategic plan forward.

Malfitano,’75, Lynn’s senior vice president for administration, has expanded responsibilities including all areas related to athletics; administration (campus construction, maintenance, housekeeping, auxiliary services including food service and bookstore); master planning, the active build-out of our campus (campus center, academic center, performing arts center, parking garage, school of business building, student housing, as well as the enhancement of the athletic facilities); and fundraising to help obtain resources needed to secure Lynn’s future. Malfitano has worked at Lynn since 1973.

Hundrieser, vice president of student development, will now oversee student services including residential life, student activities, experiential education, campus ministry, career development, campus safety and security, health services, counseling center, and fitness center and intramurals. In his new role, Hundrieser will have direct responsibility for these areas as well as act as a connection point between admissions, academics and student life. This is Hundrieser’s second “tour of duty” at Lynn. From 1992 to 2001, he was the director of residence life, associate dean for student services and dean for assessment, planning and student services. He returned the summer of 2005.

Boniforti,’02, Lynn’s chief information officer, will continue to manage the Information Technology Department, and as the newest member of the management team he will also develop strategies to help maximize Lynn’s information resources. Boniforti joined the IT Department as a graduate assistant in 1999. For the past seven years, he’s been instrumental in keeping Lynn on a fast technological track. He points out that 90 percent of Lynn’s strategic plan initiatives will have some impact from IT, and he hopes to create a bridge between academics and administration to communicate through technology.
This June a remarkable chapter in Lynn University’s history will come to a close, as Donald E. and Helen L. Ross, Lynn’s president and CEO, and first lady, begin a well-deserved retirement after 35 years of distinguished service. 

Lynn Magazine looks back on the Rosses’ outstanding leadership and vision in transforming a struggling two-year women’s college into the dynamic international university Lynn is today.
Lynn’s international tradition
is a long one, as shown by
these Marymount students in
their native countries’ attire.

A librarian, locates books
for a Marymount College
student

1971
On Nov. 1, Wilmington College’s 27-year-old president, Donald E. Ross, visits bankrupt Marymount College in Boca Raton to purchase its library holdings. Ross convinces Wilmington’s board of trustees to unite with Marymount in a unique consortium. The new college’s board of trustees names Ross as president.

1972
Marymount’s enrollment increases to about 350 students, about 60 of whom are men.

1974
Marymount’s name changes to the College of Boca Raton. Enrollment grows to more than 800 students from across the United States and 30 other countries.

“If you build it, they will come.” This well-known line from the movie “Field of Dreams” might also be taken from Donald E. Ross’ professional biography. Since the age of 27, he has not only led, but created and nurtured educational institutions that fulfilled important, unmet needs—most notably Lynn University. And, he is quick to add, he has done it all with the support and partnership of his beloved wife of nearly 40 years, Helen.

It all began in 1965, when Donald and Helen first met while working at one of his alma maters, the New York Institute of Technology. He was the dean of students, and through a Ford Foundation grant, she was working with the president’s office in developing a master plan for the institute’s new campus in Old Westbury, N.Y. In July of 1966, they married, and the following year, while both were still in their 20s, they founded Wilmington College in Wilmington, Del.

With his own college experience in the late 1950s and early 1960s still fresh in his mind, Donald Ross believed higher education should be more student-centered. “I saw the need for a small private college that could offer students...
more individual opportunity and a faculty and staff dedicated to the education of each student,” he explains.

As he would his entire career, he put his conviction into motion. Starting with a former restaurant, gas station and motel, and 25 acres of land, the resourceful and determined young couple set to work in creating Wilmington College. Helen Ross recruited the first class of 194 students. Within a few short years, the college was on its way.

An Auspicious Visit

In October of 1971, Wilmington College received a gift from Mary Louise Raskob Duffy to purchase additional library books. Donald Ross was told about a young two-year women’s college, Marymount College in Boca Raton, Fla., that was bankrupt and would soon be closing its doors. On Nov. 1, he and two colleagues visited Marymount to purchase its library’s collection. Instead, he wound up with a much greater mission.

“I walked all over campus and could not believe how beautiful it was,” he says. “It had everything Wilmington didn’t have—it was majestic, residential and tranquil…. I found myself taking a hard look at the situation, and it became my vision to take the philosophy of Wilmington College and transform it on Marymount’s campus.”

Marymount was run by the Religious Order of the Sacred Heart of Mary, a sisterhood of Catholic nuns. One of those nuns was Kathleen Clunan, who today is archivist for Lynn University. She’ll never forget meeting Donald Ross.

“It was All Saints’ Day,” she recalls. “[Colleague] Sister Euphrasia called me and said, ‘There are three men on campus! Before you leave, come to the chapel and meet them.’

“Just to hear Dr. Ross’ enthusiasm for this place was so encouraging,” Clunan continues. “You felt there was hope.”

At that time, the students had even begun their own grassroots effort to rescue the college. They went from door to door with soup cans from the cafeteria and signs that read, “Save Our College,” collecting whatever they could for Marymount. President Ross read newspaper articles about their work and was touched by their dedication. Soon, he, Helen and their young daughter, Ellen, moved to campus in Trinity Hall. Several months later, their family grew to include a son, Kevin, who, as an adult, would serve Lynn in key leadership positions—as associate dean of international communication, vice president of institutional advancement, and chief operating officer.

Their family dinners usually included faculty members and campus visitors. “Helen would cook for 12 or 13 people every night,” President Ross remembers. “It was an interesting time. I think many spouses would have fled, saying ‘This isn’t for me.’”

Their days were filled with serious work. Marymount was $6 million in debt, and there was no shortage of naysayers.

“I was told by a prominent Boca Raton resident, ‘No one wants to bet on a dead horse, Dr. Ross,’” recalls President Ross.

Undeterred, President Ross convinced the board of Wilmington College to enter into an affiliation with Marymount, and he and his wife signed personal notes taking on the financial obligations of the college. Several trustees, including Art Landgren and the late Frank Robino, also purchased bonds to support the college.
“It’s hard today for people to really understand the difficult times that this institution faced,” President Ross says. “There were many months when our accounts payable were way over the top and payrolls were not going to be met. From 1971 until as late as 1978, this institution really struggled for survival, but somehow, we were able to do it. We made a commitment, and we were here to make sure the commitment was met.”

Professor Ernie Ranspach, a member of the faculty from 1969 to 2004, has vivid memories of President Ross during those early, lean years.

“All day long, you’d see Don Ross on the campus, coattails flying, with three or four people following along, just trying to keep up,” he says. “Things were getting done.”

Ranspach also recalls a conversation with President Ross in his office during the early 1970s. “His secretary interrupted us to say that Florida Power & Light was on the line and threatening to shut off our electricity if we didn’t send them money that day. Without missing a beat, President Ross retorted, ‘Tell them if they want to be known as the kind of company that would shut off the lights on a bunch of students learning, to go ahead and do it!’ Then, he resumed our conversation as if nothing had happened. Of course, the lights were not shut off, and it made me realize we had the right man for a job that was tougher than any of us knew.”

A Time for Building

From their campus home, Donald and Helen Ross worked virtually “24/7” to revive Marymount. Top priorities were increasing the enrollment from a meager 300 students and establishing credibility within the community. Marymount College, which had opened its doors to male residential students in 1971, was renamed the College of Boca Raton in 1974, and through alliances with local corporations, the college developed innovative programs that both met industry needs and better prepared students. In 1983, the college began offering four-year degrees.

One of the college’s greatest alliances was with insurance magnate Eugene M. Lynn, who had moved his insurance company from Kansas City, Mo., to Boca Raton. In 1974, President Ross asked him to give the college a mortgage, but Lynn declined. At Christmastime, however, Lynn surprised President Ross with a $100,000 personal check. In subsequent years, Lynn and his wife, Christine, funded many important additions to campus, among them the Lynn Residence Center, E. M. Lynn Residence Center, the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Library and the Lynn College of International Communication.

“It was the beginning of a long and wonderful friendship,” President Ross says. “In 1991, we changed CBR’s name to Lynn University to reflect our academic growth and to honor the Lynn family, who continued to be generous benefactors of the college. The university lost a cherished friend when Gene died in 1999, but his wife, Christine, the current chairman of our board, has embraced their legacy and remains our strongest supporter.”

1987

The men’s soccer team wins the college’s first national championship. In subsequent years, men’s and women’s soccer, softball, tennis and golf teams bring home 17 more national titles.

1990

Lynn introduces an Intensive English Studies program to provide language training to non-native speakers of English and to increase the multicultural awareness of the university.

1991

The College of Boca Raton is renamed Lynn University to honor the Lynn family, longtime donors.

The Lynn Residence Center funded by Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn, opens.

Lynn breaks ground for the new Count and Countess de Hoernle Sports and Cultural Center.

Lynn’s new degree program in international relations and international specializations in business, hospitality and communications mark the formation of an international curriculum.
A University Flourishes

From a struggling two-year women's college located on an isolated parcel of land, Lynn University today is a far different institution. It is a multifaceted, coeducational institution in the heart of one of the nation's most desirable communities. Offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, Lynn comprises five colleges, a school of aeronautics and an acclaimed Conservatory of Music. Lynn enrolls 2,521 students from 93 nations and 46 states. Lynn also has become a formidable competitor in intercollegiate athletics, winning 18 NAIA and NCAA national championships. And Lynn's reputation as a leader in international education continues to grow, through programs like those with its sister institution, American College Dublin, Ireland—which President and Mrs. Ross also founded in 1993.

But even more impressive than the growth in numbers, programs and rankings is Lynn's distinct character—international, individualized, embracing diverse learning styles, and exceptionally adaptable and innovative. All these qualities reflect priorities fostered by President Ross over many productive years of service. His tenure is exceeded by only one individual today (Norman C. Francis, president of Xavier University of Louisiana for 38 years).

According to the American Council on Education, the average tenure for presidents of private colleges is about seven years; for public-university presidents, it is even less—five years.

In a Sept. 13, 2002, article titled “Staying Power: How some presidents go on for decades when others are out after a few years,” The Chronicle of Higher Education noted, “…building and transforming a college or university typically requires more than five or seven years. Presidents who manage to stay a decade or more have a better chance of achieving lasting accomplishments.”

Donald Ross has never forgotten that at the heart of a thriving university are students. “That’s what it’s all about,” he says. “Don’t forget that I’ve seen how empty this place is when there aren’t many students!”

Keeping attuned with students is vital, he believes. “If you live in ‘the ivory tower’ or are away from campus too long, you can become isolated—not only from students, but also the faculty,” he says. “That’s why I have breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. You get to know the students by name, and you stay connected with the faculty, as well. Our faculty is very engaged beyond the classroom, and our administrators are involved in campus life, too. This is a very friendly campus with a true spirit of community. I’m very proud of that.”

After 35 years at the helm of Lynn and scores of accolades and honors, what does Donald Ross regard as his greatest achievement? Without hesitation he responds, “The thousands of people out there who have passed through our portals and for whom, I hope, we’ve changed their lives for the better.”

“It was All Saints’ Day. [Colleague] Sister Euphrasia called me and said, ‘There are three men on campus! Before you leave, come to the chapel and meet them.’ Just to hear Dr. Ross’ enthusiasm for this place was so encouraging. You felt there was hope.”

KATHLEEN CLUNAN

1993
Lynn introduces a study abroad program in association with the American College Dublin in Dublin, Ireland.

1994
Lynn breaks ground for three new buildings: the Sensormatic Wing of the Ronald and Kathleen Assaf Academic Center, the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Library, and the Count and Countess de Hoernle International Center.

1996
Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn dedicate the new Lynn Library on Feb. 1.

1998
The Louis and Anne Green Center for the Expressive Arts opens.

Lynn receives approval for a Ph.D. program and announces its intention to take over operations of the music division of The Harid Conservatory of Boca Raton. Today, Lynn’s Conservatory of Music is considered one of the leading conservatories within a university environment.
When Donald Ross became Marymount’s president, the college gained quite a bonus: his wife, Helen, the consummate first lady.

“Without her, the university would not be what it is today,” says President Ross. “If the truth be told, there are many donations that were given to this institution because of her graciousness, charm and commitment.”

A native of New York, Mrs. Ross graduated from Packer Collegiate Institute and Hofstra University. She began her professional career with the New York World’s Fair as assistant to General William Potter, the former governor of Panama. There, she worked in public relations, hosting world dignitaries who came to visit the fair. She also taught at the Greenvale School, a private school on Long Island. In 1965, she joined the New York Institute of Technology to help develop a master plan for its new campus in Old Westbury, N.Y., and met Donald Ross, a young dean of students, whom she would marry in 1966.

Their nearly 40 subsequent years together have been filled with many blessings: two children and four grandchildren, plus three colleges—Wilmington College, Lynn University and American College Dublin, Ireland—and a private school, Dorado Academy in Puerto Rico.

Helen Ross is perhaps best-known for creating Pine Tree Camps, Boca Raton’s oldest and one of the country’s finest children’s camps. Soon after moving to Boca Raton, Mrs. Ross recognized the need for a quality children’s camp in the area. Operating on the Lynn University campus, the camp enrolled 26 children its first year in 1978. Since then, it has grown to attract more than 3,000 girls and boys each school year.

1999
Longtime benefactor and friend of the university Christine E. Lynn is elected chair of the board of trustees on Sept. 17.

2001
Lynn introduces the Adirondack Experience, a six-day pre-orientation wilderness adventure for students in the New York mountains.

2002
Lynn partners with the Pompano Beach, Fla.-based National Intelligence Academy to offer the nation’s only Master of Science degree with a specialization in Criminal Justice Administration - Technical Intelligence Operations.

Lynn requires that all students complete four study abroad credits, three of which must be in their major. Since then, other colleges and universities, including Harvard, have adopted the study abroad requirement.
“In many ways, a college president is married to the job,” says President Ross. “By having Helen on my side, I was fortunate to have two of us in this marriage.”
Seed of Success

Operating your own successful business requires vision, hard work and tenacity. It all begins with a winning concept—call it the “seed of success.” Meet three Lynn University alumni who have seen their ideas become firmly rooted as thriving enterprises in public relations, transportation and screenwriting.

A marketing and public relations entrepreneur lends her image to a 32-foot billboard in New York’s Times Square to advertise her own firm…The son of a Chicago businessman is inspired by his father to create three transportation companies with total annual revenues of $7 million…A screenwriter creates more than a dozen television and big-screen credits including “Have a Nice Life” for MTV Films and “Happily Never After” for Disney…

They are just three of an untold number of Lynn University alumni who early in their lives decided to sidestep a career working for others, choosing instead a path of entrepreneurship and self-determination.

They are also part of a large segment of working Americans who are starting small businesses or creating something new altogether. But interestingly enough, they are by definition, not risk takers.

“Entrepreneurs are risk-adverse,” says John Cipolla, professor in the College of Business and Management at Lynn. “They understand that, in fact, the biggest risk a company or a business person may take is not being innovative or entrepreneurial.”
Dana Hill, ’97, whose image adorned the corner of 52nd Street and Broadway last summer, is the owner of Hill Girl, Inc., a Boca Raton-based public relations firm with ties to the National Football League.

The Oklahoma native decided to strike out on her own after a five-year career as a fashion model and a brief, but hugely rewarding, stint as marketing director for a chain of restaurants owned by NFL legend and former Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino.

“When I graduated from Lynn I had this whole big world of choices before me,” says Hill, who earned a degree in communication. Yet aware that thousands of other college graduates would be scrambling for jobs, she knew she had to find a way to stand out in the crowd.

She traveled to Atlanta with some friends and fashioned a sign that read, “Recent College Graduate with Student Loans Due. Show Me the Money.” With sign in one hand and copies of her resume in the other, she ventured into the city’s business district to hunt for her first job after college.

By day’s end, the stunt had yielded an entry-level marketing job at a health firm. But after six months it was time to return to Florida in search of “something more entertaining.”

She promptly finessed her way to a coveted job as a director of marketing and publicity for Dan Marino’s chain of restaurants.

“It was huge,” Hill says, “a career highlight.”

The position was a gateway to establishing valuable business relationships. When Marino retired from the NFL three years later in 2000, Hill was well poised to launch Hill Girl, whose firm motto is “Go big or stay home!” Today her clients include many NFL players and all
types of corporations she dealt with under Marino.

Hill has four full-time employees and a small office space in Boca Raton. Her specialty, entertainment marketing, focuses on assisting clients with planning and marketing events.

Hill is a strong believer in creating new concepts and ideas to help clients stand out. “Once you step ‘out of the box,’ it becomes your responsibility to put something new, fresh and unique into the world,” she says.

**Jets, Vans and Limousines**

Dennis Adams, ’73, is doing just that. The owner and CEO of Celebrity Limousine and Livery Coach Software in Malvern, Pa., recently launched his third business, Celebrity Jet Charter.

*LCT* (Limousine and Chauffeured Transportation) magazine took notice and wrote in its December 2005 issue: “[Adams’] newest endeavor links private charter jets with the chauffeured ground transportation industry. Limousine operators can directly book charter reservations for their clients with Celebrity Jet Charter and will earn a commission for referring the business, offering a revenue stream and value-added service for clients using chartered jets.”

Adams, a Marymount College graduate, had reason to celebrate during a recent trip to Boca Raton in January to promote his new business. “We’re doing great,” he says of Celebrity Jet Charter. “Six months ago I had a company that was on paper, this week we did three charters.” It was an early but significant milestone in the life of a young company.

Adams, who grew up in Boca Raton, left Dun and Bradstreet in 1997 after a 15-year marketing career. Six years prior he had founded Celebrity Limousine and Transportation Services with one car and wanted to devote himself full-time to his business. In 2000 he acquired Livery Coach, a company producing the software used by 120 top limousine operators in the country.

Today his three businesses have 100 employees and an estimated $7 million in combined revenues, according to Adams. What’s the driving force behind all this success? “Everyone tells me that I have a good vision of the future,” he says. “You can’t let the day’s disappointments get in the way of tomorrow’s goals.”

A cordial man with a humble demeanor, Adams credits his parents for his values. “My father was a successful businessman in Chicago,” says Adams, who nevertheless worked his way through college waiting tables and driving a cab. After earning an associate degree from Marymount, he received a bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University.

“Part of it is how your parents raised you,” he says. “It’s about having a good work ethic, having tremendous drive and working to the best of your abilities.”

And he adds, “I’m never 100
percent happy unless I keep setting my bar higher. I open my eyes every morning and say, ‘What do I need to do today?’”

**Taking on Tinseltown**

Some entrepreneurs take a creative path to success. Gregg McBride, ’83, is one of them. He draws on some of his most difficult experiences in high school to dream up innovative movie scripts that end up on television or movie screens.

“In high school I weighed well over 300 pounds,” he says from his home office in West Hollywood, Calif. “I got treated differently and mostly became an observer.”

Observing, he reasons, led to his writing.

His film credits include “If I Die” (2005), “Have a Nice Life” (2002) and “Epicenter” (2000). Among his TV credits are “Romeo!” (2003), “Before and After” (2001) and “Strip Mall” (2000). McBride also was a staff writer for MTV.

So what does it take to be a successful screenwriter in Hollywood? “Forty percent inspiration and 60 percent determination,” McBride says. “When someone [turns down your script] you have to go and find someone else who'll say yes.”

The son of an Air Force officer, McBride was born in Germany and grew up living in several different countries. However, his adolescence was marked with an obsession for American culture.

“I remember one time being at the Taj Mahal and thinking to myself, ‘I just want McDonald’s.’”

After receiving his associate degree in liberal arts from the College of Boca Raton in 1983, he went on to get a bachelor’s degree in communication from Florida State University. He then embarked on a successful advertising career that took him from Kansas City to New York. In the mid-1990s, he decided to move to Los Angeles and start a freelance business as a writer, director and graphic designer.

“You have to have discipline,” says McBride, who starts his day at 4:40 a.m., works out and then writes for three to four hours. The afternoons are typically taken up by meetings with producers and others.

Before starting on a script, he’s thought about it for weeks.

“Then one day I start writing,” he says. “The first 30 pages are the most difficult to get through.”

Although McBride’s early struggles with weight are behind him—he peaked at 400 pounds while living in New York before slimming down a decade ago—he’s never forgotten some of the hardships that came with being overweight. Portions of his work reflect that.

As he explained in a May 2000 interview with *Mode*, a fashion magazine for full-figured women: “I’m one of the most commercial writers you’ll ever meet. I want to entertain, but at the same time, why not make a difference? If I can create fun, commercial vehicles with characters that inspire hope while challenging prevailing stereotypes and preconceived notions, that is worthwhile.”

After all, entrepreneurship can take many forms.
Cherene Hiesl was named Lynn University’s head softball coach. Hiesl becomes the fourth softball coach in program history and inherits a team that won the 2005 NCAA Division II National Championship.

The Lynn post is Hiesl’s first collegiate head coaching job. She comes to the Fighting Knights after a successful season as softball coach of West Boca Raton Community High School. In her only season with the Bulls, her team finished second in the district and saw three players garner post-season recognition by the Palm Beach Post.

Hiesl was a member of Canada’s 2000 Olympic Softball Team. She has won a silver medal and three bronze medals over nine years on the Canadian National Softball Team.

Lynn names Greenwood men’s golf coach

Chris Greenwood has joined Lynn University as the new head men’s golf coach. Greenwood takes over a program that returns all five starters and reached the NCAA National Tournament for the first time in program history.

Greenwood comes to the Fighting Knights after an eight-year playing career on the Canadian Golf Tour. He tallied five professional wins, multiple top-10 finishes and set a tournament record with a 22-under par at the Eagle Creek Classic. A 1992 graduate of North Carolina State University, Greenwood was a member of its golf team and an assistant coach there.
Men’s soccer reaches NCAA Division II semifinals

Lynn University’s men’s soccer team reached the NCAA Division II semifinals for the fourth time in program history and the second time in three years. The Fighting Knights lost to the eventual National Champions, Fort Lewis, but took many positives from a season filled with challenges. LU, ranked third in the nation in the final poll, led Division II in goals per game (4.21) and set an NCAA tournament record for goals per game (5.5).

Scroggins headlines post-season awards

Lee Paul Scroggins led a Lynn University men’s soccer squad that garnered 11 individual post-season honors. Scroggins became the fourth individual to be named First Team All-American for Lynn and seventh overall since 1996. The Bolden, England, native also earned First Team All-South Region for the first time in his career and was a First Team All-Sunshine State Conference selection for the second consecutive year.

David Benn and Leon Jackson also were named to the All-South Region First Team, giving the Knights three First Team All-Region selections for the fourth time in program history.

And despite finishing second in the SSC, the Blue and White led all schools with seven All-Conference selections. Scroggins, Benn, Chris Knox, Carl Wallace and Lee Porter garnered First Team recognition while Jackson was named to the Second Team and Liam Bull was an Honorable Mention. In addition, Porter was the only freshman to earn First Team honors.

Taylor inks pro basketball contract in Australia

Alumnus James Taylor, ’05, has signed a professional basketball contract with the West Sydney Razorbacks in Australia.

In his first year as a Fighting Knight, Taylor was named SSC Freshman of the Year and to the Division II Bulletin National All-Freshman team. The Haines City, Fla., native also was voted to the All-SSC teams his sophomore and senior seasons.

Always a spark on the floor while in the blue and white, Taylor graduated from Lynn as the program’s all-time leading scorer with 1,406 career points. He etched his name all over Lynn’s records, finishing third in games played (113), second in field-goals made (463), fourth in three-pointers made (146), second in free-throws made (334), third in rebounds (512), fourth in assists (299) and fifth in steals (155).

Taylor graduated from Lynn last May with a degree in business administration.
Change and growth

Change is in the air at Lynn University. Since taking the helm in 1971, President Donald E. Ross has ushered the institution through its days as Marymount College, College of Boca Raton and now, Lynn University. Under his vision and leadership, the university has evolved from: 306 students to 2,521; 31 faculty members to 215; 16 countries represented by students to 93; 102 classes to 841; one sports team to 11; seven buildings on campus to 23; 400 alumni to 10,000; and four degrees to 13.

The university’s survival and rapid growth are due in large part to its ability to keep pace with an ever-changing global environment. Today is no exception. As membership in the Alumni Association has grown, so has the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations. I am pleased to announce that Susana Fernández has been named director of alumni and parent relations after having served as the associate director for the past year. I am confident that under her leadership the Alumni Association will continue to flourish.

As she takes on the job I have held for the past four and a half years, I am delighted to announce that my professional career will continue with Lynn as a major gifts officer in the development office. Consequently, I will still see many of you at alumni events and in my travels to meet with alumni and parents.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you—our alumni—for your support while I served as the director of alumni affairs. I am proud of what we developed and accomplished in a relatively short time—an Alumni Association that you can be proud to be a part of and one that graduating students look forward to participating in.

I extend a special thanks to the Alumni Association board of directors. Your leadership, commitment, dedication and friendship have been very meaningful to me. I could always depend on you, and for that I am eternally grateful.

Gareth Fowles, BSBA ‘99, MBA ‘01
Major Gifts Officer

On the scene in Fort Lauderdale (all photos, left to right):
1. Jason Sundermeier, ’02; Jennifer O’Hanlon, ’02; Anthony Greco, ’02; and Kedra Kouvelis, ’02
2. Wayne Jarvis, ’96; Norma Lora, ’93; Lynn’s Larry Cowan and Jean-Marie Fiske
3. Salvatore Salpietro, Joseph Salpietro and Stephanie Montford, ’03

Mixing and mingling in Miami (all photos, left to right):
5. Bradley Magrid; Megan McDonald, ’05; Ashley Fricke, ’05; and Josh Silverman, ’04
6. Lynn’s Susana Fernandez, Lynn parent Daniel Diaz and guest Ana Maria Canseco
7. Tim Heatley, ’04; Laura Apy, ’02; Karlton Brown, ’99, ’01, ’03; and Susan and T.K. Heatley
Fort Lauderdale, Miami and NYC

In fall 2005, Lynn University’s Office of Alumni and Parent Relations blazed a trail from South Florida to the Big Apple, hosting receptions for alumni. On Sept. 29, more than 65 Lynn University alumni from the classes of ’83 to ’05 mixed and mingled during a cocktail reception held at Fort Lauderdale’s Blue Martini lounge.

Lynn’s next stop was on Nov. 10 at the Chart House in Coconut Grove, Fla. Nearly 60 alumni and their families and friends from the Miami area had the opportunity to reconnect while taking in superb waterfront views of Dinner Key Marina and Biscayne Bay.

On Dec. 2, the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations traveled to New York City to host its annual Alumni Holiday Reception at the trendy Providence in Manhattan. More than 100 alumni from 1970 to 2004 attended and had the opportunity to give their good wishes to President and Mrs. Donald E. Ross, who will retire from Lynn this summer. Also present were Christine E. Lynn, chair of the board of trustees, and Becky Carlsson, ’95, president of the Alumni Association board of directors.

If you missed the fun but want to see your former classmates who attended, check out Lynn’s online photo albums at www.lynn.edu/alumni. You’ll also have the opportunity to attend receptions this spring and summer in Boston, Chicago, Palm Beach, Long Island, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and other cities (see schedule in this section). Watch for updates on the alumni Web site and be on the lookout for invitations soon.
Save these dates for alumni events

Would you like to catch up with old friends and classmates? Lynn University is planning several events for alumni across the country. Be sure to note the following dates on your calendars and plan to join us when we come to a city near you:

April 20
Boston Alumni and Parents Reception

May 12
Graduation Golf Classic

May 18
Chicago Alumni and Parents Reception

June 1
Palm Beach Alumni and Parents Reception

June 20
New Jersey Alumni and Parents Reception

June 22
Long Island Alumni and Parents Reception

July 11
Philadelphia Alumni and Parents Reception

July 13
Washington, D.C. Alumni and Parents Reception

Aug. 3
Connecticut Alumni and Parents Reception

Invitations will be mailed approximately four weeks prior to each event. For more information, visit the alumni Web site at www.lynn.edu/alumni or contact Susana Fernández, director of alumni and parent relations, by phone at 561-237-7433 or e-mail: sfernandez@lynn.edu.

New York Alumni Holiday Reception
(all photos, left to right):

1. Kathryn Klayman, ’03; Michelle Hainey; Farley Rentseker and Angela Annibale
2. Willie Ruiz; Shannon Viard, ’93; and Chris Papandrea, ’92
3. Roberta Fedorko, ’78; Ann Brent; Kathleen Waldron, ’72; and Felicia Nair, ’05
4. Eric Shaw, ’03; Melanie Samson, ’01; and Evan Glugeth, ’03
5. Eji Hagiwara, ’94, and Mark Mendlen, ’82
6. Lynn University First Lady Helen Ross; Aline Slattery, ’99; Lynn’s Gareth Fowles, ’99, ’01; and John Slattery
7. Jeremy Eisenberg, ’02, and Liz Biel, ’03
Making the holiday season brighter for many children, the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations hosted its annual Florida Alumni Holiday Reception on Dec. 8 at the Boca Raton Resort & Club. More than 220 alumni—some from as far away as New York and Philadelphia—joined together to celebrate the season and to donate 120 toys for needy children.

“This was a great way to involve our local alumni in giving back to the community,” says Susana Fernández, director of alumni and parent relations. “We collaborated with the Salvation Army on this effort and received a good response from everyone.”

A raffle held at the event benefited the Alumni Association Endowed Book Scholarship, which is awarded each semester to a Lynn junior to help defray the cost of textbooks. Prize donations included gifts from Tiffany & Co., J. Crew, Ann Taylor, Landau, Hilton Suites—Boca Raton, Anny Stern Jewelry, and Crabtree & Evelyn. Members of the Student Alumni Association sold the raffle tickets.
1980
Roberta Nestor operates her own financial service business, TSM Financial, in West Haven, Conn. She is married and has a daughter, Christine, 12.

1985
Sal Giardina and Laurel (Ricciardi) Giardina, ’87, reside in Valerico, Fla. Sal is an account manager with the Nabisco division of Kraft, and Laurel works for a local sporting goods store. They are parents of three children, Carmine, Sal and Kristina. Like their dad, who played and later coached baseball at the College of Boca Raton, all are athletes. Carmine, who will graduate from high school in May, has verbally committed to the University of Texas for a baseball scholarship. The younger Sal and Kristina are active in travel baseball and soccer.

1987
Ivan McKinley is head coach of the U12 boys team at the Palm Beach Soccer Academy in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. After graduating from Lynn, McKinley was signed by the Fort Lauderdale Strikers and then played several seasons abroad with West Ham United, England; Nancateul Zamat, Switzerland; and the Manning Rangers in South Africa. He also played nine seasons with Major League Soccer, including stints with the Tampa Bay Mutiny, New England Revolution, D.C. United, and Miami Fusion. He finished his professional career last year with the Charleston Battery in the A League.

1991
Lisa Santanello is a massage therapist in Westfield, Mass.

1992
Michelle Finizio lives in Boca Raton with her two Chinese pugs and works as a management assistant at Office Depot corporate headquarters. She recently lost 126 pounds.

1994
Steven Cooke returned to Jamaica two years after earning his master’s degree from Lynn and was married on Sept. 25, 1999. His “first and only son so far” was born on Dec. 2, 2000. He works with his family’s cinema business as concessions manager. His family hopes to expand that business overseas and recently started a Blue Mountain coffee company.

1995
Christian Arakelian and Katerina Grigova were wed in Lake George, N.Y. on Aug. 6, 2005. A number of their Lynn University friends attended.
1996
Mark Crews and Gokcen Hayirli, ‘98, were married at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Fla., on Nov. 4, 2005.

Sheryl Ryan is district manager for Knowledge Learning Corporation, where she is responsible for after-school tutoring programs in Florida, Alabama, Maryland, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. She and her husband, Stephen, live in Gainesville, Fla., and have two adult sons, Joseph and Jonathon, who fondly recall their days at Pine Tree Camps on campus.

1998
Keri (Leif) and James Baker, ‘99, met at Lynn, where he played baseball and she played soccer. They reside in Destin, Fla., with their daughters, Ryan, 2, and Payton, 4 months.

Byron and Erin (Tassi) Warner, ‘00, moved back to Erin’s home state of Hawaii in February 2005. Byron works for Bank of Hawaii as a commercial banker, and Erin is home with their daughters, Kealani and Malia.

1999
Lindsay Staloff resides in Los Angeles and is key locations manager for the TV drama, “Commander in Chief,” starring Geena Davis and Donald Sutherland. Staloff previously worked on the TV series “Judging Amy.”

George Ackerman recently graduated from Nova Southeastern University, where he earned MBA and JD degrees, and the Miami-Dade Police Academy. He is pursuing a master’s degree in criminal justice at Boston University and a Ph.D. in psychology at Fielding University. He runs a personal training company, Fitness for the Professional.

2000
Virginia Van Antwerp recently began working as development director for CARE House, Inc., the Baldwin County child advocacy center in Bay Minette, Ala.

Hong Chen Ma lives in Fort Worth, Texas, where he has worked as a police officer since 2003. He is pursuing a master’s degree in criminal justice and criminology.

2001
Trisha Fitzgerald recently married a British Royal Marine in Dumfries, Scotland, and moved to Boca Raton. She is a teacher in the Palm Beach County School District, and he will attend the Broward Fire Academy this spring.

Bryan Sweet works at Whole Foods in Ridgewood, N.J. He also volunteers at his church to feed the homeless.

2002
Yu-Ho Chou and Jeanette Francis, associate professor of computer management systems in Lynn’s College of Business and Management, presented a paper, “The Assessment of Online Trust Marks in Taiwan,” at the 11th Conference on Information Management Implementation in Taipei, Taiwan, on Dec. 12, 2005. The article was published in the conference proceedings.

2003
Olga Brunner is the founder and president of an elder care management company, A Good Daughter, Inc., which provides services in Broward and Palm Beach counties.

Lee Dukes and Lauri Lalumondiere were married on Oct. 8, 2005, in San Francisco, where they now reside. Lee works in the Study Abroad Program at Stanford University.

Joey Fago added to his family’s many businesses by opening a real estate office in conjunction with their development site in Palm Beach County.

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Lee and Lauri Dukes

Erin and Byron Warner with their two daughters, Kealani (left) and Malia

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Joanne Donnelly Archer, ’66

THEN: Joanne grew up in Manhasset, N.Y. Her parents (who just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary) owned a vacation home in Fort Lauderdale, and they and Joanne visited nearby Marymount College soon after it opened. Joanne fell in love with the school and enrolled, attending with her childhood best friend, Diane Wands Zurfluh. An interesting requirement of Marymount, Joanne recalls, was a physical education course each semester. “Somehow I missed that memo,” she says. “I was dancing, swimming, golfing and playing tennis all in my last semester.” She fondly remembers Mother de la Croix, president of Marymount; Sister Gerard, dean of students; and Professors Murry and Wixted. “But it was the students and friends we met, many of whom I’ve been in contact with all these 40 years, who made the Marymount College experience so wonderful,” she says.

NOW: After graduating from Marymount, Joanne and classmate Mary Jane Miller Dwyer (“Murf”) were roommates at St. Louis University, where Joanne earned her BS degree in history/philosophy. Today, Joanne and her husband, John, live in Ridgewood, N.J. They have a daughter, Shannon Louie, and a granddaughter, Ashleigh Louie. Joanne has worked as a middle school teacher, in business as one of the first women sales representatives for 3M Company and in health care as director of volunteers for a hospice program. The latter experience, she says, changed her life and inspired her to pursue a lifelong dream of doing stand-up comedy. “At 47 years old,” she says, “I moved from tending the sick to tending my shtick!” She produced comedy shows across New Jersey and founded a comedy workshop for young comedienne. Currently, Joanne is president of Everyday Heroes Inc. and host and executive producer of a weekly cable television show, “The Blond in the Hood.” Each week the show features ordinary people from New Jersey, New York and Connecticut doing extraordinary things that make a difference in the lives of others.
Are you a collector extraordinaire?

Do you have a collecting passion? Maybe it’s antique cars, coins, Fiesta dinnerware, classic movie posters, comic books, Barbie dolls, baseball cards, Star Wars action figures or even Pez dispensers. If you’ve got a collection you’re proud of, tell your fellow Lynn alumni all about it in a future story in *Lynn Magazine*.

Send us a brief summary about your fabulous collection to: lynnmagazine@lynn.edu. Please include your name, major, class year, photo and a daytime phone number. In the subject line of your e-mail please write: Lynn Collector.
Samba! Brazilian students get into the rhythm at Lynn’s Multicultural Day on Feb. 16. Lynn students from around the world shared their cultures and cuisine on a day filled with sunshine and smiles.