A Presidential Note:
AY 2014-15: A Remarkable Year of Growth and Reflection

There was something remarkable about the Academic Year now drawing to a close. It was a moment in time in which the covenant between the College’s past and future were revealed in the most tangible of ways.

AY 2014-15 marked the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Beacon’s defining entry into the diverse arena of American higher education. The celebration of Founders’ Day in October provided a singular lens through which a grateful community could recognize, honor, and reflect upon the bedrock vision and sacrifice of a quarter century. These achievements were most succinctly captured, I believe, in the citation honoring our Trustee-emeritus, Dr. Vincent Ziccolella:

“The work of our pioneering spirits created and shepherded a College that has profoundly changed the attitudes and expectations of the American higher educational system, redefined the ethos of undergraduate preparation for students who learn differently, given confidence to parents and young people who had become hostage to the limitations of ‘managed expectations,’ transformed students and set them on a course of worthy work and independent lives, and, yes, created a brick and mortar institution that could bring this all about.”

It was from this uncommon mission and these humble beginnings that our extraordinary storyline of achievement has unfolded.

Certainly, as Chair Marinakis has pointed out in her Navigator message, the foundation of the past has served us well in the present, with campus growth on an unprecedented scale. In August, the College purchased the property now known as Beacon Commons to accommodate our growing upper-class student population. At the same time that month, Beacon enjoyed its largest enrollment (221). By December, the College had been approached and accepted the offer of the Burbank Family Trust, acquiring what is now Burbank Hall on December 30, 2014. So too, as the reconstruction of the Leesburg Railway Depot continued over the Spring semester, the College signed lease/
HERE COMES SUMMER

Students often think that the joy they experience at the conclusion of the Spring Semester belongs to them alone. How wrong they are! As summer approaches, and with it plans cemented for travel and rest, Faculty and Staff alike are also in a celebratory mood. While the College’s Administrators close out the reports on the 2014-2015 Academic Year (AY) and take a deep breath reviewing many achievements, plans are already underway for yet another stellar year of advancements.

This concluding AY saw the purchase of the Beacon Commons Apartments and the long sought procurement of the former Social Security Building, now dubbed Burbank Hall. The protracted renovations to the Railroad Station are readying the facility for use as a Student Union and Fitness Center. The Board of Trustees thanks you for your patience as the Administration worked its way through bureaucratic entanglements related to City requirements. During this semester, dining additionally became available at the Navigator Café, now under Beacon College management.

Credo, the organization contracted to develop a Master Plan for Beacon College, is expected to deliver their final report to the Board of Trustees, President Hagerty, and the Senior Staff in early August. This report will significantly contribute to the design of the next Strategic Plan for the College. The Plan is expected to be finalized in October of this year. As you likely recall, a Steering Committee was formed in the Fall of 2014 to work with Credo, whose representatives have held multiple sessions with the various campus constituencies, so that all segments of the Beacon College community would have a voice in the final Master Plan design. For your participation in the process, the Board of Trustees thanks you.

You have previously heard me say, “The best is yet to come.” I trust that you have confidence that the Board of Trustees, in partnership with President Hagerty and the College’s Administration, is working diligently to make that statement a reality. Beacon College is on the cusp of amazing advancements. Just watch us grow!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I offer to our graduates our congratulations and best wishes for success and happiness in your future ventures in graduate school or the world of work. You have made us at Beacon proud. We look forward to your future returns to Alumni events. To our returning students, enjoy your well-earned summer’s rest. Have fun with your family and friends. Travel safely and return to your academic home reinvigorated. And finally, to our Administrators, Faculty and Staff, we offer our sincere appreciation for your continuing commitment to Beacon College, its students, and its special mission. We wish you a well-deserved vacation.

Enjoy the summer of 2015,

Eileen Marinakis
Board of Trustees

Enjoy the summer of 2015,

Eileen Marinakis, Chair
Board of Trustees
The College has begun to consolidate all existing and future auxiliary programming and activities under a single organizational unit: The Beacon Center. The creation of the Center within the College allows for the coherent and efficient management of all programming that is not necessarily tied to our traditional curriculum and undergraduate programs. The Center is now responsible for overseeing the management and budgeting of all professional outreach initiatives and non- and low-credit programs for students, monitoring and assessing the performance of all Center programs, and attracting new and innovative auxiliary enterprises relevant to the College’s mission.

The Beacon Center is charged with essential functions both internally and externally. Internally, the Center operates as an oversight, management and quality control mechanism for all non-tuition sponsored programs and initiatives. Externally, the Beacon Center will tangibly extend the scope and reach of the College’s distinct mission beyond those defined by our formal undergraduate degree programs. Ms. Kim Baggett has assumed the role of Founding Director of the Beacon Center.

One of these programs, previously mentioned in the Spring Issue of the Beacon Navigator, is the COMPASS Program, a four-week (July 20th – August 20th) intensive residential educational program for rising high school junior and senior students from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Conducted in partnership with the King Salman Center for Disability Research (KSCDR) in Riyadh, Beacon will welcome ten young Saudi men to the Leesburg campus to participate in a program tailored specifically to assess and address in a traditional American collegiate environment the students’ individualized learning styles and differences. COMPASS has been collaboratively and purposefully designed by the KSCDR leadership and Beacon to be a total immersion experience...academically, culturally, and linguistically. Employing a metacognitive curricular foundation, the Program elicits in students a deeper understanding of and appreciation for their individual learning styles, strengths, and challenges, as well as the learning strategies that are most supportive of and beneficial in achieving academic success.

During his April trip to the KSCDR, President Hagerty signed a Memo of Understanding and Program Agreement with Dr. Sultan T. Al-Sedairy, Executive Managing Director of KSCDR, solidifying the arrangements for the COMPASS Program (pictured right).

The COMPASS Program is one of the inaugural “non-traditional” initiatives that will extend the mission and reach of Beacon and, in so doing, help strengthen and diversify the College's undergraduate culture.

Please stay tuned for announcements of future exciting Beacon Center programming that will further define the “Beacon difference.”
On a sunny spring day that matched the joyous mood of the occasion, members of the Beacon College community came together to celebrate Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2015, the College's 26th graduating class. Forty-four students participated in this ceremony, including nine that had officially completed degree requirements in December.

In the days leading up to the big occasion, seniors made their final memories as Beacon College students with formal and informal celebrations, including the beloved annual traditions of Senior Luncheon, Senior Day, and the Parent & Grandparent Reception held the day prior to Commencement. At the Senior Luncheon, awards were presented and students were recognized for their contributions to fundamental College programs, such as the Peer Tutor, Teacher Assistant, and Resident Assistant Programs. Qualified graduates were inducted into Psi Tau Omega Honor Society.

Senior Day this year was transformed, due to popular demand, into an overnight event. On Thursday, the students headed to Universal Studio's Cabana Bay Resort and spent a fun evening at City Walk in advance of their Friday visit to the theme park. The Friday Parent & Grandparent Reception provided an opportunity for faculty, staff, and Board members to mingle with families and graduates, as well as a chance for the College community to express pride at the graduates' accomplishments and for the graduates to thank everyone who had supported them throughout their college experience.

The Commencement Ceremony was held on Saturday, May 2nd at Lake Receptions in Mount Dora. The room was packed with happy families and friends, excited graduates, and proud faculty, staff, and board members. Dr. Andrea Brode, Dean of Student Success, presided over the ceremony. Associate of Arts degrees were conferred on 11 students, and 33 students received Bachelor of Arts degrees.

The honored Commencement Speaker was Dr. Shelly Chandler, current Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs and historically a favorite Beacon College faculty member. In introducing Dr. Chandler, President Hagerty declared, “Dr. Chandler defines what it is to be a consummate educator...she has touched and defined every element of our institution.” In Dr. Chandler's Commencement Address, titled “The Gifts of Beacon,” she focused on the community aspect of Beacon. Dr. Chandler advised that research indicates that the happiest people are those that feel a sense of community, and that is exactly what students experience at Beacon, with daily support available from numerous personnel around
campus as well as from peers. Students, likewise, contributed to the community through their personal traits and ambitions. Dr. Chandler listed some of the academic, professional and personal achievements of the Class of 2015, including their plans following graduation. Dr. Chandler declared, “Many of the members of the 2015 class displayed remarkable resilience, compassion, persistence, and the ability to inspire others” and is confident that graduates will “take the gifts of Beacon with them.”

Students were recognized and honored for their academic achievements. A total of six students graduated cum laude, thirteen magna cum laude, and nine summa cum laude, as indicated by their yellow honor cords displayed atop their academic regalia. Ariel Ben-Chitrit, Peter Volkov, and Bryan Westphal were recognized for having earned the highest GPAs in their respective departments. Peter Volkov was also presented as the Class Valedictorian, and Daniel Bordenkircher as the Salutatorian.

In his Valedictory Address, Peter Volkov recognized and thanked those faculty and staff who personally contributed to his academic success. Amongst the uncertainty of life, Peter has some advice for his fellow graduates. He insists, “Like a student in an art class, we have to make our lives vary and stand out…If you make a mistake, improvise and take it as a chance to start something new. Crafting a life that satisfies you will take years, but it’ll be worth the effort in the end.”

In his Salutatory Address, Daniel Bordenkircher declares, “There is no other place that is quite like Beacon College.” His speech focused on encouraging his classmates to be aware of themselves, their strengths and weaknesses, especially in terms of their learning disabilities. He states, “Awareness — get, start, work at, and nurture the awareness of your strengths, abilities, and talents that have been put in you that uniquely work in the person you are.”

In his final remarks, Dr. Hagerty created a new tradition at Beacon, requesting that all graduates, faculty, and staff sign the College yearbook so they would leave a piece of themselves at Beacon, something they could check out in the Founders Room upon return visits to campus. Dr. Hagerty concluded the ceremony with a quote from Henry David Thoreau: “Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life that you have imagined.” The final message to the graduates was inspired by the motto featured on the College’s seal: “Live life well...and abundantly.” View all the photos on Flickr at https://www.flickr.com/photos/beacon_college/sets/72157650039273953.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!
Beacon College Celebrates the Arts

The first Beacon College Arts Festival was held from Thursday, April 16th to Saturday, April 18th. The event featured workshops taught by art professors Russ Bellamy, Van Galyon, and Kim Watters; a food art demonstration by Chef Aud; and sidewalk chalk art, an open opportunity for creative expression. The spotlight of the festival was, of course, art exhibitions. The Kristin Michelle Mason Art Gallery housed the work of Beacon College students, including Chuck Novak’s senior exhibition, “Everything But Me.” Burbank Hall was used for the work of the high school students and their art teachers.

Cash prizes were awarded for both student art exhibitions with awards provided for Best of Show, Best 2D, Best 3D, and Honorable Mentions. Prizes for the Beacon College Student Art Show were awarded at a reception held on Thursday, April 16th, which served to officially open the Arts Festival. Senior Shaheed Nu’Man was awarded Best of Show for his piece, “The Dogon Ratio.” In the categories of Best 3D and Best 2D it was Alex Parker-Jones for his “ Constructed Connection” sculpture and David Neal for his drawing “Crossed Gloves.” Honorable Mentions were awarded to Chalitza Cortes-Rivera, David Dietrick, Jessica Layne, Chris Padilla, and Jay Savey. In the high school student exhibition, Mount Dora student Hannah Austin took home Best of Show for her piece “Fleur.” Angelica Brown, from Tavares, was awarded Best 2D for her photograph “Dance Struggles,” and Umatilla High student Sadie Shipes won Best 3D for her “Woodland ‘T’ Pot.” Honorable Mentions were provided to Elizabeth Burry, Katie Hacic, and Brittney NeSmith. The Saturday evening reception, catered by Gourmet Today, served to officially close the first Arts Festival, and it was well attended by the high school students and teachers, accompanied by their proud families.

Over the course of the three-day event, visitors to campus toured the gallery exhibitions, watched a food art demonstration from Chef Aud, and participated in workshops and sidewalk chalk art. Nearly 100 hands were cast through the Life Casting workshop, examples of which can be seen in the Kristin Michelle Mason Art Gallery. The Glass: Process and Memory workshop taught participants to create a unique self-portrait in glass, starting with a digital photograph. Not only did students in these workshops leave with a finished product, they were also given new skills and techniques to build on for future artistic projects. Sidewalk chalk art allowed freedom of artistic expression for all ages, and the results can still faintly be seen on the path next to Beacon Hall.

The first Beacon College Arts Festival received such an overwhelmingly positive response from participants that it has already been determined that this should become an annual event. With the arts such an important part of the curriculum, this is a great opportunity to reinforce the significance of creativity at Beacon College and to introduce the public to the works of students and the talents of our own professors. It is expected that planning for next year’s event will begin in the fall, so stay tuned for updates. Photos from the event may be found on Flickr (https://www.flickr.com/photos/beacon_college/sets/72157652006224322).

Contributed by Gretchen Dreimiller, Director of Communications
During the spring semester, members of the Beacon College Community were invited to put their creative talents to work and design the new College mascot. While the name “Navigators” has long been in place, there has never been an official mascot to represent this concept. With the increase of team sports on campus through intramurals and various clubs, students began requesting a mascot for their apparel and, eventually, to be represented at College athletic functions.

Quite a few students accepted the challenge of creating an original mascot design. Four potential designs were presented to the College community for an open vote, and there was a clear winner: the alligator drawn by rising junior Armon Colzie (pictured).

At the reception for the Student Art Show held at the end of April, Dr. Hagerty unveiled the selected mascot design, and Armon was presented with his prize — an iPad Mini. He, of course, also has won bragging rights, which are rightly deserved, considering all of the time and effort he put into drawing such a popular design!

The drawing now needs to be digitally recreated, and a professional artist has undertaken this task. We anticipate receiving a polished product over the summer, and we hope to begin utilizing the mascot on Beacon College Bookstore apparel beginning with the fall semester.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to developing our new mascot, whether by creating a design or by voting. The name of the mascot has yet to be officially determined. The possibilities so far are “Navigator” or the “Navigator Alligator.” Feel free to come forward with name suggestions or recommendations as we continue this process of finalizing our new Beacon College mascot.

Beacon’s First Career Fair

Beacon College’s first career fair took place on Friday, April 17th with many great companies in attendance, including J.P. Morgan Chase, SunTrust Bank, Jet Blue Airways, the Army, and Interim Healthcare. It afforded all students, irrelevant of class year and need for a job, an opportunity to network, see what job possibilities exist for them, and practice the skills they have been learning through the Career Development Program. Whether they were there looking for internships, job shadow opportunities or handing out resumes, everyone had great networking chances, and learned a lot about different companies and what they have to offer.

One lesson that Beacon College students clearly understood was the necessity of dressing for a career fair as one would for an interview. This was clearly evidenced around campus on Friday, as students were seen wearing professional attire. This certainly made a good first impression with the recruiters representing these prestigious companies.

Kimberly McCormick, Career Development Placement Coordinator, reports, “During my conversations with several of the representatives from the companies that attended our career fair, I was told that many of our students were confident, prepared, and communicated very well.” These representatives indicated an interest in offering internships and paid positions to qualified students, and there is potential for developing stronger partnerships between the College and select companies.

Several of the companies that attended are national and provide many positions for various majors in many different fields. In the end, participants left feeling great, with an increase in confidence in job seeking skills and a wealth of information about new companies and positions to explore. It is expected that another career fair will be held during the fall semester with the main goals of students finding appropriate internships for either the spring semester or the summer and for December graduates to have an opportunity to look for possible employment options. Hear Susan Ward’s review at this video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zi9oAFVeV_Y.
It has become an annual tradition at Beacon College for the students in Sandy Novak’s Photoshop class to develop potential designs for the cover of the upcoming year’s Academic Catalog. Steps in the design process include a visit from Dave Brown, Registrar, and Dr. Shelly Chandler, Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs, a field trip to Ford Press to experience the printing process firsthand, and a feedback session for students to comment on one another’s designs. This project permits wide latitude, and students are encouraged to use their creativity. The field has been winnowed to three final designs, and members of the Beacon College Community are now invited to cast their vote for their favorite.

Each year, the project begins with a “client visit,” where the students are presented with the goals and guidelines for the product and are given an opportunity to ask any clarification questions necessary to best meet the vision of the clients. While students were restricted in terms of the size of the cover and the text of it, the design elements permitted complete freedom. Students were able to use their own original artwork or photographs, or they had the option to use royalty-free images from PhotoSpin, which they could then enhance and adapt to make their own.

In developing their designs, students must consider what images best depict and represent Beacon College, including both the external and internal resources it offers. This year, several students opted to use their own photography for their designs, allowing them to not only show off their artistic skills but also to illustrate the campus and surrounding Leesburg community. Dave Brown notes, “We have many talented and creative students in the Web & Digital Media program, so it’s nice that this publication can be used to show off their work. We deliberately permit creative freedom because we know the lack of restrictions will result in a unique piece.”

As part of the design process, students presented their two finished designs for class feedback. During this session, words of encouragement and delight were interspersed with tips and suggestions for revisions. Peer comments deeming a design “attention grabbing” were mingled with ideas for changing the font or moving design elements to different locations. This class session also offered a chance for students to discuss issues and challenges with the project, including the importance of finding the right images at the appropriate size. The topic of copyright was discussed at length, with the students all having gained a new appreciation for locating and crediting desired images.

Members of Senior Staff were presented with the polished designs, and they were tasked with limiting the field to the final three designs. Now that this difficult decision has been made, the entire Beacon College Community is welcome to place a vote for the final selection. Check out the options and vote now!

Voting is open on Facebook at https://apps.facebook.com/my-polls/cover until 5 PM on Monday, June 1st, or you may email socialmedia@beaconcollege.edu with your choice. Designs may also be viewed here: http://www.beaconcollege.edu/2015/05/students-develop-designs-for-the-2015-2016-academic-catalog-cover/.
Beacon College Loves FRAG!
Contributed by Keri Jo Phillips, Director of Development

This year’s Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) Legislative Meeting was held on March 11, 2015, in Tallahassee (pictured). Attending this year’s trip to the Capitol accompanied by President Hagerty and Director of Development, Keri Jo Phillips, were the nominated ICUF Presidential Fellows, Jessica Balot and Michael Huey. After attending the ICUF Council of Presidents meeting, the entire group headed to the Capitol to lobby for the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG). FRAG funds can only be used in behalf of a student at a Florida private college or university. The group, as a whole, met with several different legislators, including Representative Larry Metz, Representative Marlene O’Toole, and Senator Alan Hayes, and discussed the importance of FRAG. They were also honored to meet Governor Scott. It was an awesome learning experience for our Presidential Fellows, Jessica and Michael.

It was a victory for the faculty/staff of Beacon on April 10th...finally! Regardless of who wins, the Annual Staff vs. Students Soccer Game has become a favorite tradition at Beacon!
On April 21, ten Beacon College seniors were initiated into Psi Tau Omega Honor Society. In order to qualify for the honor society, students must have a minimum grade point average of 3.55, display a high level of academic integrity, and receive support from the majority of the faculty.

Pictured from left to right: Michael Tabankin, Peter Volkov, Rachel Yellon, Michelle Underwood, Mitchell Pospyhalla, Eric Hammer, Peyton Forster, Tiffani Clause, Shia Byers, and Daniel Bordenkircher.

The Peer Tutoring Program celebrated its third year at the College and in a short time has become an important and integral part of the exceptional support services offered through the Center for Student Success. This academic year, the Peer Tutors/TAs have been busy helping their peers in classrooms, the Center for Student Success, and in additional locations on campus such as the Library, the Media Lab, and the Art Center. This academic year, our tutors logged 1,122 student contacts and 1,090 student contact hours. This translates to 45 full days of committed service to their peers!

Additionally, there have been several Program enhancements this academic year including revisions to The Beacon College Handbook for Peer Tutors and extensive training curriculum upgrades focused on the Beacon College teaching model to better serve our student population. Also, our Peer Tutoring application is now available online.

After completing his first semester as a TA for Ms. Berger’s Writing Lab, Lucas Stewart reflected in his training essay, “I was surprised to find that unlike my other jobs at Target and as a kennel worker, I enjoyed working as a teacher’s assistant. I liked being able to see that I was making a difference in the lives of others, and I discovered I really enjoy helping people. I recall having to work with students on developing their thesis statements. Initially, they were convinced they had nothing to write about. After talking with each student individually about their interests, hobbies and passions, they were able to develop their topics. The key to success was to relate the assignment to something important to the student. During my time as a Peer Tutor, I was fortunate to work with a group of cooperative, kind, and determined individuals.”

We are proud of and grateful for all of the Peer Tutors and TAs who continue to demonstrate commitment, service, and dedication to assisting their peers and the College throughout the academic year. The power of peer tutoring is palpable on campus and provides academic assistance and leadership opportunities for students and tutors alike.
Beacon Alums Unite

Contributed by Gretchen Dreimiller, Director of Communications

On Saturday, April 18th, in a weekend full of firsts, Beacon College held its first official Alumni Reunion on campus, providing another exciting moment in the College’s history. Beacon alumni were given an opportunity to reconnect with one another and meet new people; tour the changed campus; participate in career workshops; listen to guest speaker, Patricia Latham; and enjoy a barbeque with members of the Beacon College Community. In short, a lot of activity was packed into this fun-filled day! It was a day to remember, and alumni are already requesting another reunion.

The eventful day began with a welcome from Chelsea Eubank, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, and President George Hagerty, who reviewed the College’s position in history. A campus tour soon followed, which was fittingly led by Admissions Counselor, Jack Callahan, himself a 2014 graduate of Beacon College. Alums were surprised and impressed by the changes to campus, which include the acquisition of Burbank Hall, formally the Social Security Building. Even those who have visited campus recently saw a new and improved College environment.

Chelsea Eubank officially established the Beacon College Alumni Association at the Alumni Reunion, upon reading and reviewing the suggested by-laws to all attendees and receiving unanimous approval. Nearly half the reunion attendees indicated an interest in joining the Council. Following an open vote, the following alums have been selected for the first Council: Ariel Ben-Chitrit, Rosalyn Johnson, Arun Kapoor, Nathan Plung, and Stephen Staik.

Alumni were given an opportunity to select between two career-oriented workshops. Alums had previously been polled as to which workshop topics they would be interested in, and the clear winner were ones geared toward career growth. In Susan Ward’s workshop, participants were given concrete ideas for how to search and find the appropriate job for them. In Dr. Shelly Chandler’s workshop, participants began the session with a computer-based test designed to assess their aptitudes and determine what career would best match with the test taker’s personality and skill set (pictured right).

Judging by the immediate insistence on another reunion, we would say this event was an absolute success! Check out some more photos from the Reunion by visiting this Flickr link: https://www.flickr.com/photos/beacon_college/.

If you are a Beacon College alumnus interested in hosting a regional alumni gathering in your area, please contact Chelsea Eubank at ceubank@beaconcollege.edu.
In early March, Beacon College celebrated a Grand Opening for its newest dining venue, the Navigator Café. (The College became the concessionaire for the Leesburg Public Library, assuming the management of the former Z-Café.) Members of the campus community as well as the public are welcome to experience this enjoyable and comfortable establishment, which is being managed by Paul Fish, who has ample experience in the restaurant industry and was formerly a member of the Chopping Block dining staff. Beacon students also serve as support staff. Menu offerings include NY style bagels and assorted pastries for breakfast and salads, sandwiches, and soup for lunch with daily specials being offered each day.

Beacon also continues to improve and expand its facilities in the downtown Leesburg area, endeavoring to revitalize buildings which have faithfully served the City over the last century. Plans are currently underway to redecorate the exterior façade of the Beacon Art Center (preliminary design pictured right). This work will integrate the “academic look and feel” of the campus on Main Street by blending the brick and stuccowork of Beacon Hall (next door) and the Leesburg Public Library (across the street).

Also included among these restoration projects is the Railway Depot that will be opened for use starting the Fall 2015 semester as a fitness center. Brickwork and additional building entrances including a disability-access ramp were recently installed (pictured left). The College has also acquired the property immediately adjacent to the Depot and is currently refurbishing a building that formerly served as a lawn mower repair shop into areas that will be used for the Studio Arts program.

Through a generous, anonymous donation, the land next to the mower shop which contained vacant houses has been cleared and graded for future enjoyment as a park. Beacon continues its partnership with the City to revive existing, underutilized structures into purposeful, usable educational spaces, creating value anew in the community and transforming the Beacon experience.

A Word of Thanks from our Chief of Campus Safety and Transportation

As the Academic Year draws to a close, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all the students, parents, faculty, and staff for your support and communication. We are excited and looking forward to serving you and continuing to provide a safe Beacon Community during the 2015/2016 Academic Year. Pictured left to right: Chief James Ashworth, Travis Dalrymple, Matt Manfredini, Jim Middleton (back row), Mirta Fuentes, Chris McCrea, Ryan Nesbitt (front row), and Frank Valentin. Not pictured: Ronny Calloway.
During the Spring 2015 semester, the Robert and Jane Weiner Writing Center held writing contests in the categories of poetry and personal narrative. The Writing Center staff enjoyed reading all of the great works submitted by the Beacon College student body and had a very hard time selecting winners. The first prize in Poetry was earned by Audra McGowan for her work, "Why Do I Feel This Way?", and in their first semester at Beacon, Carlos Ramos earned second prize in Poetry for "The Story of Someone I Know," while Frankie Vargas earned first prize in the Personal Narrative Category for "Memoir of Frankie Vargas." Choosing pieces of the winning works to share with you, the reader, proved difficult, but below are a few excerpts:

In "Why Do I Feel This Way?" Audra McGowan ponders:

"I’m not a Jew, I don’t have the tattoo, and I don’t have the painful memories but I do have a heart and a soul.

I have the deepest sympathy for the people who went through this hell.

Why do I feel this way?"

In "The Story of Someone I Know," Carlos Ramos describes a person’s hardships:

"Brown eyes lost his ability to hear. Faced challenges at a young age yet was still full of joy.

Rocks thrown at him just because he was different and couldn’t stand up for himself."

Frankie Vargas begins his memoir with a description of his own life:

"Being adopted from Romania and coming to America was a dream come true, a gift from God, and it changed my life into something perfect."

The consultants in the Robert and Jane Weiner Writing Center had a lot of fun reading all the entries and can’t wait to see what the students submit in the Fall of 2015 when the categories for the writing contests will be Poetry and Short Stories!

On Saturday, May 9th, Team Beacon participated in the March of Dimes Walk for Babies. Beacon College recognizes the importance of giving back to the community and the special work that the March of Dimes does to ensure that all babies are happy and healthy. Team Beacon raised over $1,500 for the March of Dimes and the team really enjoyed the early morning exercise. Team Beacon 5k participants included Kim Baggett, Erin Bisanti, Dr. Andrea Brode, Dr. Shelly Chandler, Brett Daly, Gretchen Dreimiller, Drs. George and Oksana Hagerty (pictured top left), Kelly Mouriz, and Heather Reed. Taking an early lead, Dr. Chandler and Ms. Bisanti (pictured bottom left) finished in the top 10! Beacon plans to make this an annual event and looks forward to welcoming all to Team Beacon for the next March of Dimes Walk for Babies in 2016.
Spotlight on Triathlete, Constandinos “Dean” Logus

Constandinos “Dean” Logus, a Studio Arts major in his freshman year, has been participating in triathlons since the age of 15. He has entered both Sprint and Olympic-length triathlons. On Saturday, March 21st, he successfully completed a sprint triathlon, which included a quarter-mile swim (time 7:11), eight-mile bike ride (time: 28:09), and three-mile run (time: 26:48). With his total time including transitions being 1:06:44, he came in Seventh in his age group!

Dean next competed in a sunset sprint triathlon on April 25th in Clermont, Florida. This time, he came in First for his age group with a finish time of 1:07:31 (swim: 8:04, bike: 27:05, and run: 28:01)!

Since his last competition, Dean has trained with Mr. Jon Hovius, the USA Olympic Triathlon Team Leader, on the Beacon College campus. Dean will be meeting with Mr. Hovius two more times before he is back on the road with the USA team. Mr. Hovius was very positive about Dean and would like for him to compete in three more triathlon races listed as Collegiate for Beacon College in September, October, and November. Mr. Hovius would also like to take Dean to the National Collegiate Competition at Clemson University in April 2016.

Due to Dean’s stats at his last triathlon on April 25th, he has qualified and been invited for the Olympic-Distance race at the 2015 USA Triathlon on August 8, 2015 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Unfortunately, he will not be able to attend this event, but it is an honor to have qualified and been invited.

We are very proud of Dean’s athletic achievements and wish him the best as he trains and competes in future races!

SAVE THE DATE: Parents’ Weekend is October 9-11, 2015!

Rachel Yellon Presents at National Conference

Contributed by Dr. A. J. Marsden, Assistant Professor, Human Services and Psychology

On May 1, 2015, Rachel Yellon, a recent graduate of Beacon College, presented her original research at the Midwestern Psychological Conference held at the Palmer House in Chicago, Illinois. In the Fall 2014 semester, Rachel designed and conducted a psychological research study on the correlation between college students with ADHD and cigarette smoking for her Research Design class with Dr. Marsden. Rachel’s presentation went wonderfully, and she received many comments on the importance of her work. Although she is now graduated, Rachel hopes to continue her research. The Beacon Community couldn’t be more proud of Rachel’s accomplishment!
The Performance Club show took place on Friday, April 17th at the Tropic Theater in downtown Leesburg. Long-term members Sal Attardo, Brian Kaminski, and Brandon Reeves will all be graduating this year, making the event that much more memorable and meaningful.

The theme for this semester’s show — Disney. Talents ranging from singing to dancing to joke telling were on display in this performance, and students from every class year were represented. Everyone who performed clearly worked hard this semester on their routines.

The show started off great with comedy stylings from Sal and Ethan, the hosts of the show. There were some astounding singers, dancers, and comedians. Each performer did a great job, and the crowd went wild. This was the last show for many seniors, so it was a sad one, but also a joyful one, with welcome and congratulations to the new President and Vice President for the fall along with thanks and goodbye to the graduating seniors. In the end, everyone did a great job, and the show was a big hit, providing not only great entertainment for the evening but also creating fond memories of the Beacon experience.

We definitely can’t wait for next year’s show!

A Presidential Note...

purchase options on two adjacent properties, one intended for the expansion of our academic programming, and the second to provide the College’s first dedicated site for intramural sports and fitness. Each of these efforts helped solidify the campus footprint and provide the new space required for our developing academic community and its programs.

I believe that the most effective way that we can honor the past and present is by envisioning an intelligible and coherent future for our campus and the College upon which it is situated. The commissioning by the Board of the Trustees of the national firm, Credo, to conduct a comprehensive campus experience and facility Master Plan is a necessary and initial step to the long-range planning of an institution that has accomplished much in a relatively brief period of time. This first all-encompassing planning venture in which the College has engaged, and the Credo report, due to the Board at its August Retreat, should set the stage for a well-conceived and commonly shared vision of the Institution and its development over the course of the next five to ten years. Certainly, as the new academic year begins, there will be much more to report on this pathway forward.

In closing, I wish for all a magnificent summer season, and for our students, a safe return to your academic home in August.
**Faculty News**

*Contributed by Dr. Shelly Chandler, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs*

**Dr. Nesbitt Selected as Seminar Participant**

We are pleased to announce that Dr. William Nesbitt, Chair of the Interdisciplinary Department, is one of a select group of faculty members nationwide chosen by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and the Center for Hellenic Studies to participate in an Ancient Greece in the Modern Classroom seminar on “Song Culture of Athenian Drama.”

CIC and the Center for Hellenic Studies recently selected 19 faculty members to participate in “Song Culture of Athenian Drama,” which will take place July 20–26, 2015 at the Center for Hellenic Studies campus in Washington, DC. Dr. Gregory Nagy, Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University, and Dr. Kenneth Scott Morrell, Associate Professor of Greek and Roman studies at Rhodes College, will lead the seminar. The seminar is generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

**Dr. Nesbitt’s Recent Publication**

Dr. Nesbitt’s work entitled “A Contradiction in Human Terms: Jackie Robinson’s HUAC Testimony, Double-Consciousness, and the Politics of Baseball; With an Appendix that Addresses Robinson’s Cultural Legacy” was recently published in the Route 7 Review, a publication of Dixie State University in St. George, Utah. His article can be found at [http://www.route7review.com/#!15-cover/c1pdk](http://www.route7review.com/#!15-cover/c1pdk).

**ALUMNI NEWS**

*Contributed by Kelly Rogers, Faculty, Career Development:*

Congratulations to James Harris, Class of 2015, who accepted a position as an Energy Consultant with Solar City. He also shared that he was given this higher paying position with the company because of his bachelor’s degree. Good luck, James, as you begin your new position and your new life in California!

Other employed graduates include Dan Bordenkircher (Beacon College), Shia Byers (paid internship at the Administration of Community Living Federal Agency in Washington DC), Peyton Forster (Easter Seals Camp Challenge until joining AmeriCorps in August), Sean Marley (Wet n’ Wild), Chase Richards (Drone Photographer, independent contractor for real estate industry), and Enrique Zamora (paid internship in Nicaragua).

*Contributed by Sandy Novak, Associate Professor, Web & Digital Media:*

Two of Beacon’s Web & Digital Media graduates, Jason Barnard (pictured left in the left-side photo) and Bryan Westphal (pictured right in same photo), continue to work as interns at Lake Front TV, the City of Leesburg’s Community Channel. On March 19th, they assisted in filming a new parent video for Rimes Elementary School as pictured below. Dr. Anna Marie, the producer for Lakefront TV, is thrilled with our graduates and says “keep them coming!”