

Landscape

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF LANDMARK COLLEGE

Summer/Fall 2015

Getting to Harvard ... by Way of Landmark

Through her research, alumna Tracy Wilkinson is a voice for students who learn differently.

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Landmark College’s mission is to transform the way students learn, educators teach, and the public thinks about education.



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* Starts August 2015.

From the President’s Desk

Dear Alumni and Friends of Landmark College,

Each year, we celebrate the accomplishments of our students, past and present. This year is no different, except that we are also celebrating a significant milestone: Landmark College’s 30th anniversary. While we recognize this achievement in various ways, we must remember that young colleges face the greatest risks of any institution in higher education. We do not have a century’s worth of universal recognition, financial holdings, and outcomes that in many ways protect long-standing colleges. Simply put, younger institutions — in today’s climate where the very value of a college education is increasingly scrutinized and where some want to rank or score all colleges and universities with one very blunt assessment tool — are often at risk.

Many factors contribute to a young college’s sustainability, survivability, and success; however, one common element figures prominently: its ability to evolve, adapt, and redefine itself in response to marketplace and societal changes, without losing its identity or straying from its fundamental mission. Landmark College’s ability to thrive over the decades has been due to the very nature of potential and actualized change that’s contained, figuratively speaking, in the College’s DNA. Indeed, while we too are susceptible to the threats facing other small nonprofit colleges, LC has always relied on innovation and adaptive pathways to fulfill its mission and remain more than simply viable. From its opening day in 1985, Landmark has prided itself on being a college that embraces and even pioneers change.

We’re now a four-year college as well as a two-year college, with the addition of our first bachelor’s degree in 2012 and two new offerings this fall (a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science). In August, we will open the new Nicole Goodner MacFarlane Center for Science, Technology & Innovation, which was conceived out of the necessity for more STEM graduates and for improved facilities for the Landmark College Institute for Research and Training (LCIRT), and which was brought to fruition by the generosity of alumni, their families, and our many other friends and supporters. We are focusing on a new athletics field and the enhancement of our Click Center recreation space in the next year. We are engaging alumni and friends of the College in a way that has everyone stepping up to support us at levels never before seen in LC’s history.

As we set our sights on another 30 years of important work, we will change even more. Yet we will remain a small, highly focused, and heavily resourced liberal arts institution that provides increasingly career-oriented experiences to our students. And it is this combination that will serve our graduates so well. Just as nobody went to college 15 years ago expecting to work at Google, we cannot predict the jobs and careers of the future, but we can prepare our students with fundamental skills and strategies that will allow them to adapt and survive — and thrive — in the decades ahead.

I invite you to visit us this fall to witness and become part of the development of this still-young and ever-important enterprise. Together we will change, we will adapt, we will compete in higher education, and we will measure our outcomes one unique and important student at a time.

Dr. Peter Eden
President, Landmark College

Getting to HARVARD ... by Way of LANDMARK

By Nicole Colson

The academic struggles of Texas native Tracy Wilkinson '02 started in elementary school. But it wasn't until her sophomore year of college that she "crashed and burned."

Fast forward to today: Wilkinson holds a master's degree from Harvard and a Ph.D. in special education from the University of Maryland.

And in her current role as a research scientist with ACT, she's become a voice for students with learning differences. Based in Iowa City, the nonprofit organization develops standards for college readiness. But ACT is perhaps best known for creating the first college entrance exam. (The other is the SAT.)

Wilkinson is researching "how current policies on testing are affecting students," she explained. "It's the sort of research we hope will impact policy at the state and federal level."

The Path to Landmark

Diagnosed with ADHD as an 8th grader, "I always found ways to work around the issues I had," said Wilkinson. "I was a fairly early reader, but I got to the point in second grade when everyone caught up to me. I hit a brick wall. My comprehension went from very good to nil."

When she started forgetting homework assignments, her parents decided to get help. By high school, Wilkinson was receiving special services and accommodations.

But when she enrolled at the University of Texas, she began failing her courses. "I went from a very supportive environment in high school and getting good grades to hardly any support," Wilkinson said. "I crashed and burned." She was placed on academic probation in Spring 2002.

Continued on next page

An avid runner, Tracy Wilkinson '02 enjoys an afternoon run in Iowa City, Iowa, where she works at ACT.

Her mother did some research and discovered Landmark College. Reluctantly, Wilkinson agreed to a summer campus visit.

“Not only was it beautiful, but everybody I met was interested in helping me be successful,” she said. “I was blown away. I didn’t know people would care that much in an educational environment.”

That same summer, Wilkinson was diagnosed with dyslexia. “That explained a lot,” she said. “I had reading issues growing up that I thought were related to my ADHD. It was as if the words were swimming off the page, and I was trying to catch them and make sense of them.”

“***The first time I was around people like me, I didn’t know how to react. But I quickly learned that people at Landmark understood what I was going through.***”

She enrolled in LC in the Fall of 2002. “I was from a small, conservative town in Texas that wasn’t hugely accepting of anyone all that different,” she said. “There weren’t many other people with ADHD or learning disabilities. The first time I was around people like me, I didn’t know how to react. But I quickly learned that people at Landmark understood what I was going through.”

Discovering New Possibilities

Before enrolling at LC, Wilkinson planned a career in fashion design or business.

“Landmark College made me realize I could be incredibly powerful as an advocate,” she said. “It gave me a purpose in life.”

As a student with ADHD and dyslexia, Wilkinson felt comfortable in the Landmark College environment. “Classes were small. I had an extra advisor to meet with every week who taught me different ways of taking notes in class and ways of reading material,” she said. “I was issued a computer with screen-reader software so my material could be read aloud.”

She also attended group discussions with fellow students after classes. “We’d meet up to discuss the text more,” she said. “The concept of talking it out to make sure you comprehend correctly, whether with a classmate or a professor, was so helpful.”

Several courses actually helped lead Wilkinson to her career as a research scientist with ACT.

The most influential was a course called *Self and Community*, which was taught by former Professor Julie Forsythe. “It covered a mix of things,” she said. “We learned about how our learning disabilities manifest themselves in the brain, and we learned about policy, namely the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* and how that would affect us.”

When she left LC in 2003 and returned to the University of Texas, Wilkinson was still unsure whether she could succeed. She took a reduced course load and earned a 4.0 GPA her first semester back. “Before [attending Landmark College], I was trying to prove I belonged,” she said. “I never wanted to draw attention to myself. After attending Landmark, I wasn’t ashamed. Landmark taught me confidence and gave me a taste of college success.” Today, she sits on the Alumni Advisory Board (see related story on page 22) and frequently attends events on campus.

She went on to earn a master’s degree from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education and a Ph.D. in special education, with a concentration in policy studies, from the University of Maryland. In fact, Landmark College was the subject of Wilkinson’s master’s thesis. “I studied how the *Self and Community* course affected students’ abilities to be advocates for themselves,” she said.

Making a Difference

In November 2014, Wilkinson and a colleague published “Monitoring Implementation of the Read-Aloud Accommodations for English Language Arts Assessment” in *ACT Research & Policy*.

The report has generated significant coverage for providing guidance to states and districts on how to properly monitor the still-controversial read-aloud accommodation for English Language Arts testing.

“My learning disability has been a great asset in my work,” says Wilkinson. “I can see things in a different way from other people.”

Most of all, Wilkinson’s experiences at the Putney campus helped her to discover her true passion. “I didn’t know what I wanted to do with my life,” she said. “LC helped me find that, and I’m forever indebted. If I can help just one person avoid what I went through, that’s enough for me.”

“***Landmark College made me realize I could be incredibly powerful as an advocate. It gave me a purpose in life.***”



Creating Art at Landmark

As Landmark College prepares to introduce its new Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art degree, we celebrate the many forms of art created by our faculty, students, staff, and alumni that are visible throughout our campus.

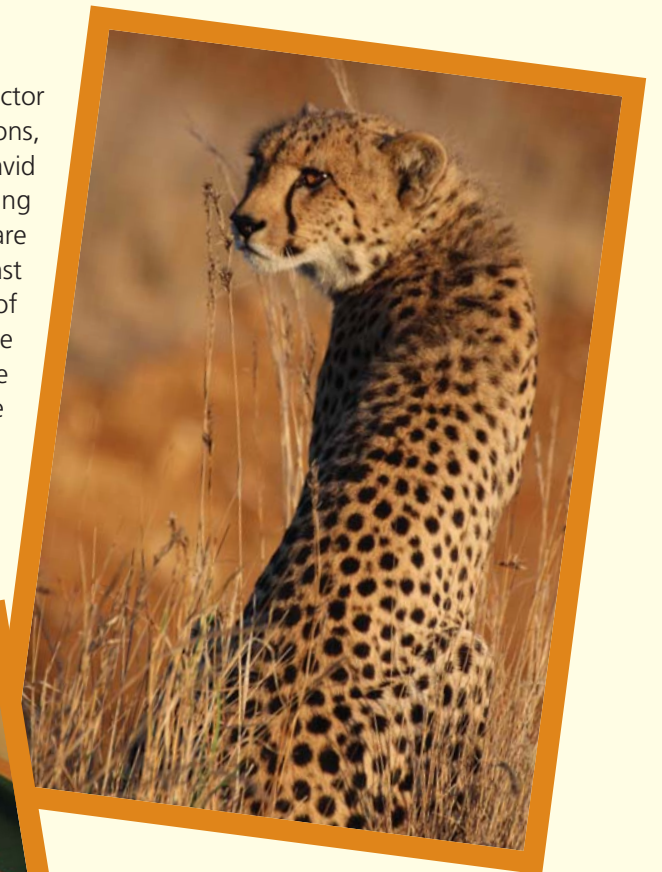


In May 2015, the Fine Arts Gallery hosted an exhibit of student-created artwork. The Gallery, which opened in Fall 2013, hosts student art exhibits each semester.

Ten new outdoor banners displaying artwork by students and faculty were added to campus this spring. The banner project began in 2014 with the installation of 18 student art banners as a way to fill campus with vibrant visual arts. One of the new banners (pictured) features art by **Tom Kosiba**, who shot this photograph of the ceiling of a silo in Missoula, Mont., in August 2014. Kosiba is a founding faculty member at Landmark College.



When **Corrado Paramithiotti**, director of Facilities Planning and Operations, visited South Africa, the avid photographer captured some stunning images. Many photos from his trip are currently on display in the East Academic Building. "A number of state and private reserves provide sanctuary for wild animals to be free and protected in their true environment," he explains.



David Gardner '13, a passionate billiards player with dyslexia, wanted to express life with a learning difference through the game he loves. "To a person with dyslexia, reading a page of text can seem similar to a scrambled table of billiard balls that must be shot in a certain order," he says. "Learning to use the cue ball to strike an object ball in billiards is similar to learning how to crack the code of language." Gardner's work is on permanent display in the Academic Affairs Suite of the East Academic Building.

Homecoming 2014

On Sept. 27, 2014, 90 alumni came back to campus to connect with classmates, faculty, and staff for a day full of fun activities.



Graduation Dinner 2015

On May 16, 2015, 77 graduates earned degrees, our largest graduating class ever! The Graduation Dinner (pictured below) took place on May 14, 2015.



Performing Arts on Campus

Theater

In April 2015, Landmark College presented a lively evening of comedy with *You Can't Take It With You*. The play was directed by Landmark College Assistant Professor Nevada Bromley, with lighting design by Ira Wilner. There were 17 students in the cast and 10 in the crew.



African Dance

Caro Diallo, master dancer and choreographer from Senegal, West Africa, taught an African dance class for Landmark College students on the stage of the Greenhoe Theater in September 2014. Caro is an amazing, high-energy teacher, and he taught new moves to beginners and advanced dancers alike!



IT WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR LANDMARK COLLEGE Athletics and Wellness

From learning Japanese long sword to scoring on the playing field, our students were on the go!



DONOR PROFILE



Fay Carroll '14

What student leadership positions do you hold at LC?

For the past few years, I have been a Resident Assistant at LC. I am also a part of the Young Alumni Committee.

Why do you choose to give back to Landmark?

I choose to give back to Landmark because we are a community. Each member of the community has the power to change and influence it as a whole. A positive way to do that is to give back time, insight, or money.

Why did your class gift (a stained glass brain that will hang in the MacFarlane Center) mean so much to you?

I was in Anatomy and Physiology II when I first heard of Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor. We were learning about the brain, so we watched her TED talk. Her story kind of resonated with me — her journey to recovery reminded me a lot of my own struggle with my LD. When I heard she made stained glass brains, I thought it would be perfect. Not only was that the semester we had the first graduates in the Life Sciences degree program and were starting on the new STEM building, but her story represented all of our stories.

What do you like best about the work of the Young Alumni Committee?

The best thing the Committee does for the College is to help instill the idea of community into students and how that community extends to a network of alumni out in the great world. We are not just LD students getting an education, we are Landmark students — or even better, we are Landmark Sharks for life!

Why do you think it is important to give as a student?

It is important to give as a student because the community of Landmark should not only be influenced by past students but present as well. I am grateful now, so I give now!

How have donations to the College directly benefited you?

The only reason I am able to go to Landmark is because of my scholarships. Like me, many LC students depend on donations for our education.

What would you say to future donors?

When someone asks for a donation, we all usually panic: “I don’t have any to give,” or “No thanks — it will not really matter.” But a donation does not have to be a lot. One dollar multiplied by enough people can give LD students the education they deserve. Also, donations don’t have to be money. Alumni have valuable knowledge, connections, and inspiration that can help a student more than they know. Students can help the community directly by helping at events. Money is not the only thing that will make Landmark stronger. People are by far more powerful.

HOMETOWN: Ellicott, Md.

ENROLLED AT LC: August 2011

DEGREES SOUGHT: A.A. in Life Sciences, May 2014; B.A. in Liberal Arts (Expected May 2016)

GIFTS: May 2014 Class Gift, YAC Fundraisers, and Alumni Giving Day

“Money is not the only thing that will make Landmark stronger. People are by far more powerful.”

Faces

MEET THE NEWEST FACULTY AND STAFF AT LANDMARK COLLEGE

FACULTY



Clark Johnson
Academic Advisor

“Landmark College is an amazing institution,” said Johnson. “It is unique in that it lets students know we believe in their ability to be successful, and we support them in overcoming whatever obstacles are along their path. I see firsthand how powerful it is to bring learning differences into the light, allowing students to own what they need to achieve their goals both now and in the future.”

Johnson holds an M.A. in marriage and family therapy from Antioch University New England. He has more than 20 years of experience in the field, working as both a family therapist and an academic advisor. He noted, “Much of my life’s work has been to help students open the next chapters of their lives, to become the person they strive to be.”



Dr. Jenn McCollum
Assistant Professor of English

Dr. McCollum holds three degrees in English literature: a Ph.D. from the University of Washington, an M.A. from Clark University, and a B.A. from Westfield State College.

“Landmark College’s English Department faculty impressed me with their vision for this College and for the development of the new B.A. program,” McCollum said. “I saw that this College is serious about making higher education accessible to unique demographics through cutting-edge pedagogical approaches.”

McCollum will be a featured speaker in the Landmark College Academic Speaker Series, delivering a talk titled “Sexing the Zombie: The Changing Body of a Timeless, Global Fixation” on Oct. 26, 2015.

Dr. Brian Young
Assistant Professor of Natural Sciences



Dr. Young realized his love of science while receiving his B.S. in biology at Lewis and Clark College in Oregon. He worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal, West Africa, then as a high school science teacher in Colorado, Egypt, and Alaska. At the

University of Alaska Fairbanks, he obtained an M.S. in biology and a Ph.D. in natural resources and sustainability, focusing on the diversity of boreal forests. Recent projects include reshaping reforestation guidelines with the Alaska Division of Forestry, revitalizing archival forest inventory data with the U.S. Forest Service, and working on the Campuses for Environmental Stewardship program at Landmark College.

Young was drawn to LC because of its progressive and innovative learning and teaching environment. He stated, “Helping students to explore their personal path of discovery, be it in science or another field, is the most enriching part of my job. Working with the brilliant, diverse learners at Landmark has further shaped and sharpened my interests and skills in teaching and learning.”

STAFF

Dr. Rick Bryck
Assistant Director of LCIRT and Senior Academic Researcher



Dr. Bryck received his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Oregon. His current research interests revolve around understanding disparities in executive function related to developmental delay and/or mental health issues.

He said, “I was drawn to the clear passion Landmark College staff and faculty have for solving the tough problems facing students who learn differently. It’s crucial to me to work for an institution with a mission of impacting positive change.”



Patrick Connelly Dean of Students and Director of Student Engagement

Connelly received a master's in education from Central Connecticut State University and is currently a doctoral student in higher education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He was a fellow with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and has presented at more than 50 colleges and universities on leadership and student engagement. He is the co-author of two national student leadership curricula and co-edited *The College Union Idea*, second edition. He worked previously at Smith College and Dartmouth College.

"Landmark College doesn't just talk the talk, it walks the walk every day with the programs and opportunities we offer to students," Connelly said. "The community at LC is incredibly accepting, and every day I am reminded of that in my work with students."



Tiffany Dyer Resident Dean

Dyer holds a bachelor's in English and a master's in student affairs in higher education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Prior to LC, she worked in the residence life department at Pitzer College. Her background includes work with the first year experience, the LGBTQIA population, housing and residence life, holistic wellness, sexual and domestic abuse education and advocacy, and leadership training. Dyer worked with students to launch several new programs this year, including women-only math tutoring, a women's walk/bike/run, a talk on "Sex, Love and My LD," webinars on gender and sexuality, a trip to the Women's Economic Opportunity conference, and the creation of universal signage for 17 gender-neutral bathrooms on campus.

"I love seeing the growth in students every day and throughout the year," said Dyer. "Seeing someone gain confidence in their academic abilities, seeing students find lasting friendships, and being part of the journey of a student who is questioning who they are while growing into a brand new person who loves who they are — those are the moments I enjoy the most."

Idonas Hughes Director of Student Conduct and Community Standards

Hughes earned a bachelor's in counseling psychology from the University of Maryland College Park and a master's in education from Michigan State. During his career, he has worked with college students in a variety of settings, including public, private, religious, women's, and professional schools ranging from more than 20,000 students to fewer than 400. His most recent position was as the associate dean for student development and the coordinator of judicial affairs at Cazenovia College.

"The dedication to and support of students by my colleagues in Student Affairs has been a positive inspiration," said Hughes. "What is most rewarding for me is when I am able to address the concerns of a student or when discussions of policy violations result in an understanding and change of behavior."

Stephen Murrell Director of Campus Safety and Emergency Management

"The part of the job I enjoy the most is interacting with the students, faculty, and staff," Murrell said. "Everyone is pleasant and friendly. The best is the expression on a person's face when I or one of the campus safety officers is able to solve their problem or help them to succeed here at Landmark College."

Murrell hails from New Jersey's Andover Township, where he served as a sergeant and patrol officer for more than 15 years. Before his career in law enforcement, he worked for the New Jersey Parks Service and volunteered on conservation projects in South Africa and Costa Rica. He holds a B.S. in criminal justice from Felician College in New Jersey, graduating with honors in 2010.



Dr. Zachary Alstad '02 Research Associate at LCIRT

A Landmark College alumnus, Alstad joined the College staff in November 2014. In his role, he is working on two National Science Foundation grants, both of which focus on learning and students with learning disabilities.

Alstad's connection to Landmark College goes back to 2001, when he was a student living in Frost Hall. He put a Post-It note with the letters "Ph.D." on his mirror; this note would serve as a "process quietly running in the background" while he studied at Landmark through 2002. After leaving Putney, Alstad earned a B.A. in psychology from St. Olaf College, an M.A. in educational psychology from the University of Colorado, and a doctorate from the University of Washington.

His current research is in educational technology, but his interests lie with broader questions like the psycho-social development of digital natives and the therapeutic potential of virtual reality.

When asked what propelled him through the hard times, he emphasized the importance of supportive family and faculty. "My mother had infinite patience," he said. "All of us who have the opportunity to go to Landmark College should meet the experience with gratitude."

Alstad, who has been diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD, offers this advice to college students and alumni who learn differently: "Pick a passion and charge headlong into it," he said. "You are fine tuning yourself all the time. Understand the value in your own frustration and how that is part of your growth process."



Mike Simpson Resident Dean

Before coming to LC, Simpson was the area coordinator for living learning communities at the University of Idaho. He completed an M.S. in college student personnel and administration at the University of Central Arkansas and a B.S. in secondary education at St. Cloud State University.

"I was drawn to Landmark College's small, intimate campus, as well as its unique mission," Simpson stated. "There are high expectations regarding being a positive presence in student's daily lives, and I enjoy that responsibility. I'm also learning a lot about learning differences and how that affects student success."

Ellen Smith Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Smith trained as a psycho-therapist and moved into the development field in 1999. Most recently, she served as the executive director of development and community relations for Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. During her eight years at the hospital, she built their annual fund,



completed two successful capital campaigns, created their Legacy Society, and was responsible for a \$5 million legacy gift.

"I love the mission of Landmark College," Smith said. "I love seeing the growing confidence in the students and celebrating their successes. It is an exciting time to be here, with the growth in degree programs, a new building under construction, and online learning initiatives. A lot is happening — there is an energy and excitement about the place."

Maeve Spiegler Resident Dean

"As the advisor of the LGBTQIA club on campus, I love watching students explore their identity," said Spiegler. "They have driven a lot of change in the group, educating each other as well as taking a vested interest in the Landmark College community and in educating their peers outside the group."

Spiegler has a B.A. in speech-language pathology from Loyola University Maryland. As a resident assistant at Loyola, she was very active with the LGBTQIA group there. Speaking about her role as a resident dean at Landmark College, she said, "Being able to have regular contact — to see successes and to work through issues — is invigorating and reminds me often of the impact I have and the importance of my job."



Speakers on Campus, 2014–15



Acclaimed author and scientist **Dr. Temple Grandin** launched our 2014–15 Academic Speaker Series.

A cultural icon for neurodiversity, Grandin is best known for her work in animal science and autism advocacy.

During her day-long visit, she met with faculty, staff, and students; attended classes and a session with LC Professor Abigail Littlefield's therapy dog Mr. Wells; and spoke to a packed house at the Greenhoe Theater. You can view her campus lecture at landmark.edu/temple.



Aaron Wolf '02 and Mark Gessner '02, keynote speakers at Fall 2014 Convocation, told new LC students to “karate kick the doors open on your dreams.”



Scout MacEachron '12, keynote speaker at Winter 2015 Convocation, told new students, “I discovered my passion for journalism at Landmark College.” She is pictured with Drew McDowell, assistant director of Transfer and Career Services, and Michael Luciani, vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life.



Bruce Rosenstein spoke in September 2014 about the life and work of Peter Drucker, the father of modern management. Rosenstein is the author of *Create Your Future the Peter Drucker Way*, in which the author praised Landmark College for its innovative and Peter Drucker-like approach to educating students with learning challenges. He wrote:

“Having a school of higher learning that is focused on only this type of student is not only innovative, but fairly revolutionary. And note this Drucker-like comment on its website: ‘We embrace students’ strengths.’ This is an obvious case where weaknesses are minimized, and strengths are built upon. I don’t know if Drucker was aware of this school, but I believe he would have approved of the finding and exploiting of a particular niche, a need in society, and creativity and innovation in learning. Plus, his love of learning and realization that different people learn in different ways are at the core of what this school represents. Landmark wants to be a leader and a trailblazer, and its administrators, along with the faculty and students, are certainly creating change, not just managing it.”



Rosenstein talks with students in Professor Roxanne Hamilton's Marketing class.

In addition to Temple Grandin, other presenters in the 2014–15 Academic Speaker Series included:

- Vermont author **Howard Frank Moshier**, who read from his new book *The Great Northern Express*.
- Writer, painter, and carver **Tim Brookes** on “Disappearing Alphabets and the Future of the Written Word.”
- University of Vermont educator and LGBTQA Center director **Dorothea Brauer** on “Queering Education.”
- Research hydrologist **Peter Murdoch** on the role of integrated science to help predict the impact of climate change and move toward global sustainability.
- Author and word-of-mouth marketing expert **Brad Fay** on the link between marketing and the social side of human behavior. (*Fay is the son of late Professor Emeritus Robert Sargent Fay, a member of the Landmark College English Department for 10 years.*)
- Landmark College assistant professor of natural sciences **Dr. Andrew Stein** on human-lion conflict in Botswana.
- Interdisciplinary filmmaker **Cauleen Smith** on projects loosely inspired by Sun Ra and the psychogeography of several American cities.

30th Anniversary Celebration

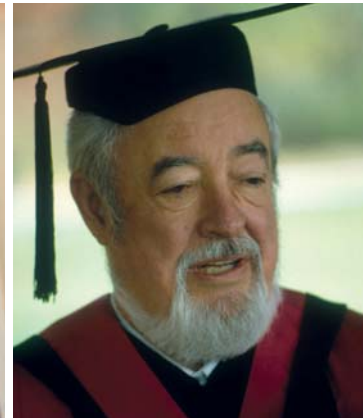
By Solvegi Shmulsky



In the College's early days, the entire student body could fit on the steps to upper campus for a group shot!



New bachelor's degrees in Studio Art and Computer Science will launch in Fall 2015.



Dr. Charles Drake, founder of Landmark College.



The \$10M, 28,500-square-foot, highly energy efficient MacFarlane Center will be home to state-of-the-art natural science and computer science labs, classrooms, research areas, and gathering spaces for students, faculty, and staff. The MacFarlane Center will open in August 2015.

Students with talent, college aspirations, and learning disabilities have been attending Landmark College for 30 years. In Fall 2015, Landmark College will celebrate three decades of providing education to college students who learn differently. **On Sept. 17, 1985, 77 students were served by 55 faculty and staff in a model based on individual attention and the belief that everyone can learn in the right environment.** Those core values continue to define the College, which has grown to serve 500 full-time students and hundreds more each summer, with a faculty and staff of more than 200. This historical anniversary will be commemorated at Family Weekend and Alumni Homecoming on Sept. 25–27, 2015.

At a time when private colleges have been challenged by economic realities, Landmark College has continued to grow with steadily increasing enrollment, new programs, and building projects. "The mission has sustained the College for 30 years," said Dr. Peter Eden, Landmark College president. "It is simple, focused, powerful, and it is truly operational."

Landmark College was founded by Dr. Charles Drake, a Harvard-trained educator who lived with dyslexia. Drake and his wife Marjorie had founded Landmark School in Beverly, Mass., a school for students with dyslexia. According to institutional legend, Drake was so inspired to start a college that he single-handedly moved to purchase the Putney property of then-closed Windham College. In 1983 Landmark College was legally established, and in 1985 the first students were admitted to campus.

“Always think of Landmark College as another home for you, a place of welcome, of hope and confidence, a place you can and will return to over the years, where people will continue to care about you.”

— **Dr. Charles Drake's** address to the first graduating class of Landmark College in 1988

Since Drake's time, four presidents have led the College in its evolution to become the first degree-granting college exclusively for students who learn differently. Current President Eden has initiated program expansion into STEM fields and baccalaureate-level education. In the last three years, three degrees at the bachelor's level and two at the associate level have been accredited and launched. The first students ever to earn a B.A. at Landmark College will walk across the stage in Spring 2016.

Eden and the Board of Trustees have expanded the physical campus by acquiring adjacent land and have built the MacFarlane Science, Technology & Innovation Center with the generous support of donors. Named for alumna Nicole Goodner MacFarlane, the MacFarlane Center will open in August 2015. It is the first new academic building in the history of Landmark College.

Reflecting on changes at Landmark College, Robert E. Lewis, chair of the Board of Trustees, said he has seen programs grow and "an already excellent academic staff become even stronger." He added that the biggest change is to the identity and purpose of Landmark College. "It was once primarily a place of transition for students who

intended to transfer," he said, "and now it is a destination college with bachelor-level offerings."

The fourth decade of Landmark College begins in academic year 2015–16. Directions for the road ahead include reaching more students and improving education outside Landmark College. "Going forward, we must use our greatly strengthened fundraising capabilities so more students have access to our model," said Eden. "We must continue to develop our strategic use of technology to reach students, including educators and professionals at the graduate level. We see a great opportunity for alliances with educators who can enrich the campus and bring our insight to settings outside the College."

Looking to the future, Lewis underscored the importance of making the College financially accessible to more families. He also envisions increasing the presence of alumni on the Board of Trustees, the majority of whom are parents of former students. "I am most proud of the spirit, energy, and morale here," Lewis said. "We are building something that people are proud of."

Meet the Alumni Advisory Board

“The acceptance I found at Landmark College gave me the freedom, belief, and tenacity to fulfill my dreams.”

— Rafael Rivera '92



Alumni Advisory Board Officers Andrea Tolliver '00, Michael Macho '04, and Theo van Roijen '00.

“The Alumni Board is special because it is here for the true love of the College.”

— Stephen Sack, Jr., '92

Alumni From Day One is the motto of the Alumni Advisory Board (AAB). The AAB serves those who have been enrolled at Landmark College, whether for a semester, a year, or a degree program. “This group cares deeply for the College and, most importantly, for the students,” said AAB member Brian Press '95.

Established in August 2007, the AAB provides counsel, advice, and recommendations to help the College remain strong for future generations of students. “The AAB has the special opportunity to get the word out about Landmark,” said Kerri Bennett-Silva '97. “We can fundraise to sustain and grow important programs, mentor current students and alumni, and promote the ideal of giving back.”

“It is vital for alumni to stay connected with the College in any capacity they choose,” said Michael Macho '04, AAB president. “We want to come up with a way to engage new alumni to help the College and its mission.”

Alumni who would like to learn more about serving on the AAB can contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@landmark.edu.

LANDMARK COLLEGE ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP, 2015

AAB Officers

Michael Macho '04, Chairperson
Andrea Tolliver '00, Vice Chairperson
Theo van Roijen '00, Secretary

AAB Representatives

Kerri Bennett-Silva '97
Jason Guyan '97
Philip Hansteen '03
Katherine Kandravy '89

Genevieve Friend Land '97
Robert Morgan III '02
Brian Press '95
Rafael Rivera '92
Stephen H. Sack Jr. '92

Erich Seifert '11
Jennifer Sokolower '06
Detmar von Hardenberg '96
Tracy Wilkinson '02

Class Notes

1990s

William Seymour '92

William wrote, “I have been trying to get in touch with two classmates: Mark Young (a roommate of mine back in 1993) and Takashi Nacouchi. I drove by Landmark about six months ago and was amazed at how much the Putney area has remained the same, though it has changed some.”

Joshua Goodman '97

Joshua is currently employed as an environmental scientist specializing in protecting endangered and threatened plant and animal species, as well as keeping pollution out of local waterways. He reported, “I live in a quaint (almost New England-like) town on the banks of the Delaware River with my wife, three dogs, and our goats and sheep. Hope all my friends from Landmark are doing well!”

Richard Stodulski '97

“I recall a conversation I had with the former dean of admissions, Frank Sopper (www.openbooklearning.com), in which he made an analogy comparing me to Dr. Charles Drake,” Richard wrote. “I had difficulty seeing the similarities until a 10-year vision of mine recently became a reality, and 1812ada, Inc., a nonprofit organization, was created. We provide advocacy and mentorship to members with ADHD, dyslexia, and other learning disabilities in three areas: K–12, college, and employment. All Landmark alumni owe great gratitude to Dr. Drake; most would agree that our lives would be very different without this special place.” Richard added, “Fernando Shabaznia, I am looking for you, so send me an email so we can catch up. Joan McNichols says hello.”

Katherine “Katie” Forster '99

Katie and her dog Charley are living in a “funky cabin with the view of the mighty Wallowa Mountains in Wallowa County, Ore.” She reported that she is busy with two jobs, working as a personal care assistant at the Center for Wellness and as a special education teacher for an elementary school student with autism. “I am so excited for the 30th reunion this fall,” Katie added. “I will be driving across country with Charley! Can’t wait to see my East Coast family and Landmark friends!!!”

2000s

Christina Tedesco '00



Christina is living in Somerville, Mass. She works at Harvard University as a museum attendant in the Harvard Art Museums that just opened this past November. She received her M.F.A. in studio arts from the Museum School/Tufts University in 2010. She is a practicing artist in Somerville, works as the coordinator of the Volunteer Show for Somerville Open Studios, and has recently been working with some Emerson students who are doing their final documentary story on her.

Ryan Thresher '00

Ryan served as video director and video wall tech on the first national tour of the Broadway show *Ghost: The Musical*. <http://youtu.be/Sw5a5beilSw>

Alexis (Ott) Burns '01

Alexis received her master’s in special education in 2013 from Mount Saint Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, Md., where she is now a learning and disability specialist. She lives in Emmitsburg with her husband, T.J., and their two children, Tierney (4) and Keane (2).

Garrett Burris '01

Garrett graduated summa cum laude from Baker University in 2014 with a bachelor’s in business administration with a concentration in finance. He added, “4.0 GPA!!!” After Landmark College, he moved to Charlotte, N.C., for five years, where he was a Papa John’s general

manager. He has been in Kansas City for the past eight years. He works as a casino pit boss and is currently looking for new job opportunities now that he has graduated.

Meghan Hopkins '01

Meghan currently works as a special education teacher in a K–1 class of children with autism. She lives in Staten Island, N.Y., with her husband of 10 years and her 8-year-old daughter, Kyla.

Megan Moyer '02

“I continue to work as a behavior therapist for autism services at Long Beach Unified School District,” Megan wrote. “This past year, I was part of a team that created a pilot program for students who struggle with severe aggression and self-injurious behavior. Our program significantly reduced the time these students spent isolated with their instructors, and has allowed many of them to remain in their classrooms and engaged with their peers. In my ‘spare’ time, I am working toward a degree in speech pathology.”

Anne Oliphant '02



Anne wrote, “Things are great down here in Northern Virginia! I am getting married this fall to a wonderful man that I have known since 4th grade. I am still teaching dance at night and during the day I am a CA and a physical therapy technician. I am happy that I still have many of the great friends that I made at Landmark.”

Twenty-five alumni braved one of Boston’s biggest winter snowstorms on Jan. 29, 2015, to attend an alumni gathering.



Sarah Alley '04
"I am getting married on June 7!" Sarah reported.

Quinn Bradlee '04
Quinn wrote, "I am still working on FriendsOfQuinn.com. I have become an esquire in the Most Venerable Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, which is an English order of chivalry, and I have become an elected fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland."

Peter DiFonzo '06
After graduating from Landmark, Peter went on to attend the University of Vermont, where he studied political science and marketing. He graduated from UVM in 2008 and has lived in Burlington, Vt., since. He works for www.unionstreetmedia.com as the new business development and sales manager. He wrote, "Many of the skills I learned at Landmark help me succeed daily. I am getting married this September in Stowe, Vt., and spend much of time my on the slopes snowboarding, hiking, playing, and eating yummy local foods. Many of the passions I now have, I developed while I was living in Putney, and Putney holds a very special place in my mind and soul. I still am a horrible proofreader. Hope you still have the writing center — I spent hours there."

Sheila Brown '07
Sheila married Greg Brown, a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Lowell Engineering School, on Oct. 25, 2014. She is currently working full time for HMShost.

Evert Fairman & Elizabeth (Leelee Bookwalter) Fairman '07
Evert and Leelee got married in 2012 and are working on fixing up a hobby farm. They welcomed a baby boy in early March. They are living in Minnesota, where Evert works as an electrical engineer.



Elizabeth J. Boudreau '08
Elizabeth wrote, "I love my job as sauté cook on the seacoast of New Hampshire!"



Sixty alumni, parents, and friends of the College gathered in Philadelphia on Nov. 7, 2014.

Emily D. Freling '08
"In classic Landmark College alumni fashion, it's taken me three years to share the update that I received my master of education in elementary education from Lesley University in May 2012," Emily wrote. "I couldn't have done it without the support and foundation that Landmark gave me."

Anna Harris '08
Anna wrote, "Hi, everyone. I have a job at Kohl's now, and it's going really well for me. I miss everyone at Landmark. I can't begin to explain how much the faculty and staff changed my life for the better. I hope to come visit in the fall for the 30th anniversary!"

Mirabai E. E. Collamore '09
Mirabai is a full-time core para substitute in San Francisco for students with learning disabilities. She is applying for a teacher's assistant job in the same field. She wrote, "Thank you so much, Landmark — if it wasn't for this college, I wouldn't be going toward my dream of wanting to be an OT, speech therapist, school counselor, or special education teacher!"

2010s

Genevieve Conradi '10
Genevieve and **Robert Bunis '10** are happy to announce they are engaged after dating for six years. They met at Landmark in 2008. Both of them enjoyed going to the flat rocks, enjoying the famous Putney Club at the Putney Co-op, going into Keene, and just enjoying what Vermont has to offer when not busy with school work. The wedding is to be in St. Louis, Mo., where Genevieve grew up.

Jenna Austin '11
In May 2013, Jenna graduated from Castleton State College with a B.A. in psychology. She is now working at Health Care and Rehabilitation Services as a case manager/house manager for the Community Placement Program. She reported, "Every day, I help kids with autism and PTSD. My job is so rewarding! I am now looking into getting my master's in counseling. I have been lucky enough to find a supportive boyfriend as I keep working at school. We are looking into buying a home together and starting the next chapter in our life."

Meghan Benzel '11
"As of Nov. 22, I am the new family services coordinator for Habitat for Humanity Sussex County in Delaware," Meghan wrote. "I work directly with the manager of family services to expand and strengthen Family Services through the implementation of programs and processes that execute Habitat's mission of providing safe and affordable housing for low-income families in need. I assist in recruiting, educating, and empowering partner families with the skills necessary to become and remain successful homeowners and dynamic members of their communities."

Muryah Farrell '11
Muryah shared, "Aug. 3 will mark two years with my fiancé **David Scouten '12**. I met him at Landmark. He and I will spend the summer in Illinois with his family. I plan on getting a job there, hopefully an office job of some sort. I am currently writing a book called *Living with a Learning Disability*. I hope that, through my stories, I can help other students with learning disabilities and let them know they are not different. Also, I plan to talk about Landmark. My fiancé and I plan to get married next summer."

Andrew Garcia '11
Andrew wrote, "I am currently working as a corporate recruiter/human capital specialist for NorthPoint Digital in Boston. Without my education at Landmark College, this job would never have been an option for me. The skills I learned in organization and executive functioning are paramount to my role here, as it requires me to multitask and switch gears on the fly. At this point, I've found a company that I can truly grow with and can contribute in a much deeper and more meaningful way than I ever have been able to before. I am also in a committed relationship. For those who knew me in years past, this was never really something that I was able to manage properly and it led to a lot of anxiety and heartbreak. Today, I have the ability to manage my own life and also have enough time and compassion to allow someone to share it with me. Again, none of this would have been possible without the life-learning experiences that Landmark College provided. I am eternally grateful for it all!"



Theo van Roijen '00, Sarah Holmes '11, and Christine Lorentzen '11

"Life has treated me well since graduating Landmark," Sarah wrote. "I finished my B.A. at Lesley University and went on to work for a year as a vocational counselor at MAB Community Services in Boston. I recently started working at McLean Hospital as a community residence counselor in a transitional program for young women with borderline personality disorder. It has been AMAZING so far. I have learned so much already and have fantastic support from my coworkers. In other fun news, Landmark alumna **Katie Godowski '12** will be moving in with me in May. It's very exciting and will be a fabulous time!"

Marshal Kass '11
After Landmark, Marshal transferred to Wheelock College, where he received his bachelor's in history. He is currently working on his master's degree in education, with a dual license for secondary history and moderate special education at Simmons University.

Andrew Kourakos '11
Andrew graduated from Seton Hall University in May 2014 with a degree in communications studies.



Alysia Madrid '11
Alysia wrote, "I miss Landmark so much and the great staff that worked with me not only as a student but while I performed my duties as a student leader. I enjoyed working with Mrs. Stanley at the Women's Center and playing for her in softball. I was also given the chance to play for Mrs. Stanley and Mrs. Wood during basketball season for the lady Sharks. I miss those days so much! Miss you all."

Ian O'Connor '11
Ian recently completed master diver training at The Ocean Corp, and he is now working as a commercial diver and hyperbaric welder.



Elizabeth "Lissa" Piercy '11
Lissa wrote, "I just completed my bachelor's degree in social work (with a minor in juvenile justice) at Wheelock College in Boston. In addition, I am now a full-time spoken word poet and teaching artist and will be competing in the National Poetry Slam in Oakland, Calif., as part of the Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam Team this August. The performance group I perform and teach with, Flatline Poetry, recently published its website (www.flatlinepoetry.com) and is excited to be working on a CD of poetry to come out in the fall!"

Jessica Winslow '12
Jessica wrote, "I just received my B.S. in hospitality management and tourism degree from Mitchell College, with a 3.55 GPA."

Michael "Sonny" Howard '13
Sonny is currently a student at South University, pursuing his bachelor's in psychology. He works at American Concert Entertainment Services, Inc., in Troy, N.Y. He wrote, "I am also currently writing my first book, which should be finished this year. The title of the book is *Bipolar Diaries: 365 Days of Living Manic*. I am a spokesman for the National Bipolar Association. I have also applied to join the Peace Corps."

Mihai Tripp '13
Mihai wrote, "Hi, Landmark College community! After I graduated from Landmark in 2013, I went on to Lyndon State College in Lyndon, Vt. I'm currently working toward my degree in electronic journalism arts (broadcast journalism). I work a few days a week as a reporter and production assistant for the school newscast, the only one in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. I couldn't attend alumni weekend this year because of a schedule conflict. I hope to make one another year, though!"

John "Johnny" Hayes '14
Johnny wrote, "I auditioned to be a Disney character, and I hope to get the job!"

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Send your personal news, career updates, and photos to the Office of Alumni Relations at landmark.edu/classnotes.

LEAP Grants Fund Innovation

By Solvegi Shmulsky

In 2014, faculty member Rick Joyce started technology company LucidityVR, Inc., which created the virtual reality Explorer. Many students have been involved in the project, including Lead Programmer Sean Halnon '14 (A.S. in Computer Science). "I wanted to do something real, something more than just earn grades. I wanted to build something useful from the ground up," said Halnon. The result of students and faculty collaborating on a business venture, LucidityVR is the first project to be supported by a grant from the Landmark Entrepreneurial Acceleration Program (LEAP).

"Our LEAP program pulls students into a realm of discovery and application that prepares them for the realities of business and innovation," said Dr. Peter Eden, president of Landmark College.

Winners of the annual LEAP competition can gain up to \$10,000 in grant funding. Funding is made possible in part by a generous gift from economist Paul McCulley, father of 2014 Landmark College graduate Jonathan. McCulley donated \$1 million to create the Morgan Le Fay Center at Landmark College and to support progressive pedagogy for students with LD in economics, business, and entrepreneurship.

In addition to funding, winners have access to faculty advising and lab space in which to collaborate, experiment, and work. "LEAP is an overt demonstration of our commitment to innovation," said Eden. "We are creating space in the new MacFarlane Center for CS-related discovery work, due in part to LEAP funding this year."

“Our LEAP program pulls students into a realm of discovery and application that prepares them for the realities of business, entrepreneurship, and innovation.”

— Dr. Peter Eden, Landmark College President

Eden explained the importance of supporting student endeavors in business. "For students to achieve their greatest potential, they need opportunities that allow them to demonstrate skills and true strengths that are outside of the classroom."

While the first award went to a computer science project, wide-ranging ideas are expected to emerge through the new grant program, "I envision receiving meritorious proposals from any discipline at the College, due to the talents and ideas on this campus," said Eden.

In Fall 2015, applications will be accepted for the next LEAP grant, to be awarded in 2016. Current students are eligible to apply, as are recent graduates who were recipients of LEAP funding while attending the College. "Projects must incorporate entrepreneurial thinking and will be judged according to creativity, feasibility, and viability," said Dr. Monika Bissell, vice president for Academic Affairs. "Diverse applications will be considered."

For more information or to apply, contact Lynne Feal-Staub, director of Grants and Sponsored Programs, at 802-387-7199 or lynnefealstaub@landmark.edu.

Computer Science Professor Rick Joyce, alumnus Thomas Jeffries '14, and LC student Ryan Cosgrove test an upgrade to the Explorer, a virtual reality product that they, along with two other students, developed through LucidityVR (lucidityvr.com). The company is currently working with art directors on several major motion pictures.



3rd Annual Shark Day

FEB. 11, 2015

The Landmark College community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni enthusiastically took part in the annual Shark Day celebration.



In addition to shark tank photos and selfies with Finn over lunch, activities included a pep rally and co-ed basketball game. We had great participation from students, faculty, and staff in the crowd and on the team. Student-led sponsorship was high, with Young Alumni, SGA, and RAs all taking leads in event programming. Student Affairs provided great support at all levels.

Our alumni pride was very strong, as shown by the many photos and comments posted on social media (#LCSharkDay).

Check out the Landmark College Alumni Facebook page for photos of Shark Day, as well as other events, news, and happenings. Go Sharks!

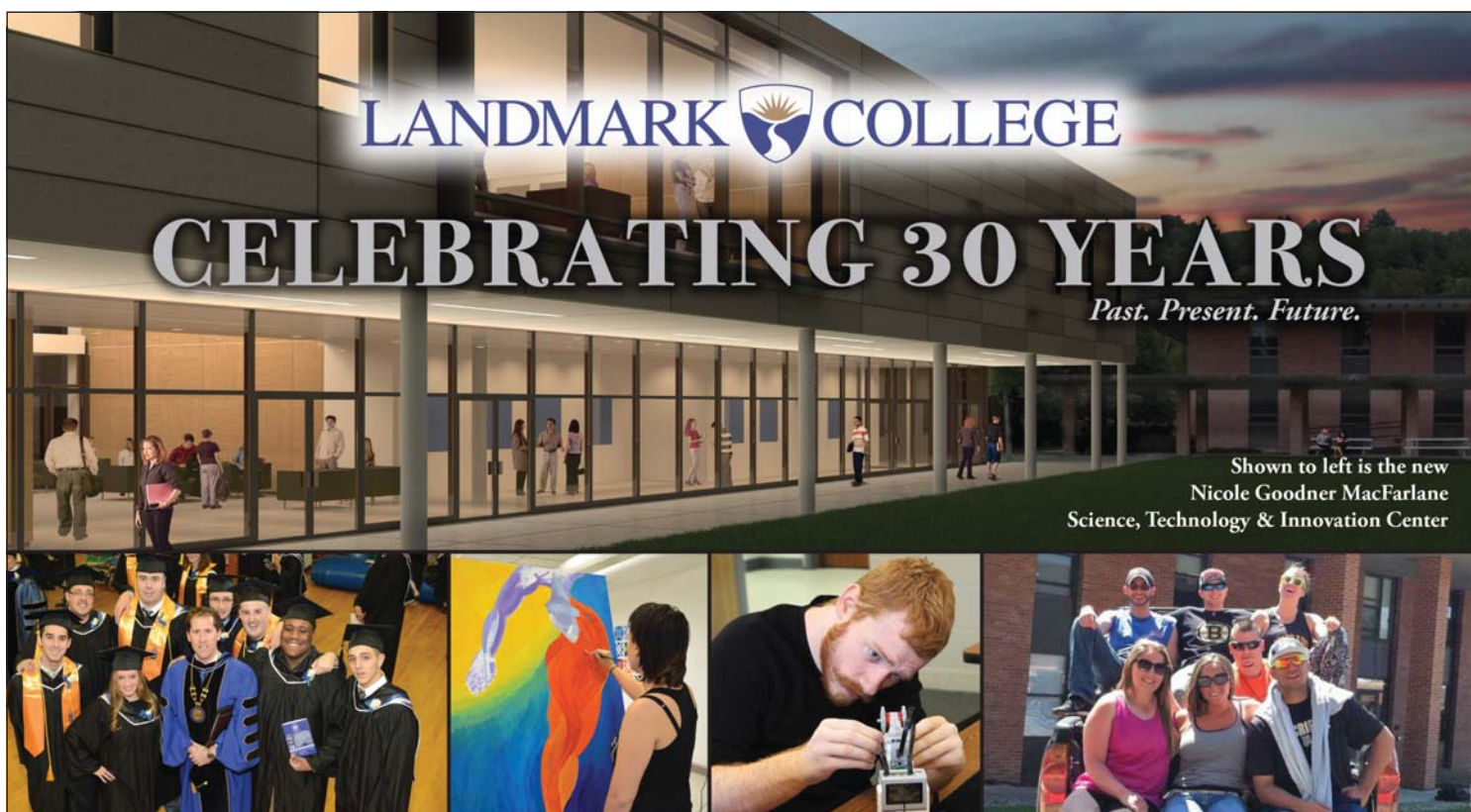


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Shown to left is the new
Nicole Goodner MacFarlane
Science, Technology & Innovation Center

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Landmark College changes lives every day.

Over the past 30 years, Landmark College has added new programs, new academic degrees, and new facilities. Our teaching has been informed by research and new technologies developed on campus. Yet our mission remains unchanged: we offer transformative education to students who learn differently.

Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

We will celebrate:

- Opening of the Nicole Goodner MacFarlane Science, Technology & Innovation Center
- Alumni Homecoming
- 30th Anniversary Grand Reception

A complete schedule of workshops and events for the weekend can be found at landmark.edu/30.

Questions? Contact Lisa Lawrence • 802-387-7161