

# Landscape

For Alumni and Friends of Landmark College



## COMING FULL CIRCLE

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**Rae Jacobson '06** talks about her ongoing journey of self-discovery and professional success.

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**FIRST CLASS OF  
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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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“We are truly an inclusive community that **adapts to the evolving needs** of our students and their families.”

Many colleges and universities claim, but few actually deliver, a promise to be “mission focused and market sensitive.” One of Landmark College’s strengths has been our ability to remain constant in our mission to transform education while providing access to all learners. This has resulted in significant neurodiversity among our students and reflects a distinguishing characteristic of LC: that we are truly an inclusive community that adapts to the evolving needs of our students and their families.

The past year has seen several milestones that have been visible affirmations of LC’s ability to succeed with adaptive change. These include the:

- Opening of the Nicole Goodner MacFarlane Science, Technology & Innovation Center
- Addition of two new bachelor’s degree programs: a B.A. in Studio Art and a B.S. in Computer Science
- Establishment of a strategy and structure that allows many LC students to gain professional experience in the workplace through internships and other hands-on opportunities
- Dedication of Alumni Hall (formerly Middle Hall) to recognize the invaluable contributions of LC alumni over the past 30 years
- Launch of a major gifts campaign to build an all-weather athletics field — scheduled for completion later this year
- Graduation of our first Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies recipients

Connecting all of these are our students, who become part of the LC family once they declare their intention to enroll. In this publication, you will read about the successes of our extended family — students and alumni — from near and far. Our cover story features a meeting of past and present when recent

alumnus **Adam Weinberg ’16** interviews **Rae Jacobson ’06**, comparing notes on their experiences as LC students and finding kinship over shared personality traits, which the outside world sees only as “differences.”

LC’s focus will continue to be our students, while also striving to erase the “deficit model” the outside world imposes on those who learn differently. The most effective way we combat negative perceptions is by producing alumni who blaze into the world with all the strengths they honed while at LC.

With the graduation of our first baccalaureate-level graduates, we are beginning an even more exciting era in our history. But we all recognize that challenges still exist. Just as our students and alumni face challenges, LC must continuously work harder to generate funds for campus improvements and student scholarships. Access to our education remains a challenge for many families, and scholarship resources must be increased each year. In April, we held our second New York City fundraiser, with the theme of “Unlocking Futures,” to raise scholarship support for LC students. With help from our LD Luminary Award recipient **Holly Robinson Peete**, alumni like **Aaron Wolf ’02**, and current LC students **Alicia Keating** and **Isaac Alam** (pictured above on the right, with his father, Bob Alam, and me at the Bryant Park Grill in New York), we raised nearly \$250,000 in scholarship funds.

We will maintain the momentum the College has built over the past 30 years, even as changes in the economy and in higher education continue to challenge us to think and even operate differently. We are grateful for, and welcome, the support and involvement of you, our extended family, in Landmark College’s continued dedication to its mission.

Dr. Peter Eden  
*President, Landmark College*



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a red and black plaid shirt, is sitting at a small round table outdoors. She is looking down at a notebook on the table, with a pen in her hand. A coffee cup is also on the table. In the background, there is a building with a sign that says "GO" and "AB".

# COMING FULL CIRCLE

A decade after graduating from Landmark College, writer and author **Rae Jacobson '06** talks about her ongoing journey of self-discovery and professional success with recent LC graduate (and aspiring writer) **Adam Weinberg '16**

*Photos by Suzanne Sutcliffe Photography*





For many Landmark College students, organizing and planning ahead is nearly impossible. Time management? Life down the line? How about life in two weeks? Constant stress and anxiety not only cloud our current self-images, but also contaminate and erode confidence in our futures.

Like so many of us, Rae Jacobson '06 crashed and burned — and crashed again — before finding Landmark College when she was 21. “I was in this mode where I was like, ‘I suck, and this is all on me!’” she says in a recent interview.

Thankfully, tales of struggle and success can inspire dispirited souls, especially souls like mine that tend toward demoralization brought on by repeated failure. As a current LC student talking with an LC alumna 10 years removed, I felt an immediate kinship with Rae when I called to set up an interview. (I graduated with an A.A. in Liberal Studies in May, just a few months after conducting this interview.)

Among our common bonds is an identical diagnosis of ADHD. At each of her disclosures, I found myself gushing, “Holy smoke — me too!” I couldn’t conceal my excitement at finding a fellow traveler.

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Rae’s journey highlights the ruts that characterize the struggle of a student with LD and Landmark College’s epitomic essence as a place where you can embrace your brain and learn what you are capable of achieving.

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Each of us had battled on two fronts: we felt flanked by academics on one side and authority on the other, and were forever anxious about being overwhelmed. I often landed myself in the principal’s office or, worse, got suspended because of my disrespectful words; Rae was flipping off teachers between hisses of spit. When I ask her how hapless she was before finding Landmark College, she laughs.

“Ha! Hapless would definitely be the best description,” Rae tells me from her home in Brooklyn, where she lives with her five loves — husband, Adam; two dogs, Ellie (a 17-year-old pit bull) and Stas; and two cats, Gray Cat and Black Cat — and pursues a successful career as a writer.



“Before Landmark, I never had any idea I was failing until the last minute, and I was very **good at pretending everything was OK.**”





# ‘A LONG, BLEAK COLUMN OF F’S’

These days, Rae is enjoying a fruitful career as a staff writer and content engagement specialist with The Child Mind Institute in New York City. She also freelances and has been published in websites and magazines such as Understood.org, *The Daily Beast*, and *New York* magazine. She's currently writing a book titled *This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things*, specifically about the experiences of women and girls with ADHD. In her articles and public talks (including one at LC's annual Summer Institute this past June), Rae speaks candidly about the struggles that women and girls have with ADHD, something that is too often thought of as "hyperactive boy disorder."

At 21, though, Rae had given up on what seemed an impossible dream: finishing college. Having failed out of two different colleges — "really, really failed," she says — Rae was still undiagnosed. "I saw how I was supposed to be, but the gap between that and how I was actually doing always felt massive ... I wanted so much to do better, but didn't know how to change things. I was sick of feeling bad about myself."

Throughout school, Rae had been able to compensate for her academic weaknesses and "slide along, unnoticed, until the hammer fell at the end of the semester, and I was left staring at a long, bleak column of F's."

In another development that will sound familiar to many LC alumni and students, it was Rae's mother who suggested visiting the campus in Putney, Vermont.

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"In a weird case of serendipity, my mother had attended Windham College (which previously occupied the campus where LC now stands) in the late 1960s and was aware of Landmark and its mission," Rae says. "My mom also has ADHD and had been a fierce advocate for me all my life. She had read about the College and knew how unhappy I was. She asked me to come with her."

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Rae agreed, skeptically, expecting nothing more than a nice ride out of Brooklyn and into the verdant mountains of Vermont. As she and her mother sat listening to a student panel at an open house, though, they looked at each other and saw that they both were in tears.

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"I was in a place of real shame when I visited Landmark," Rae recalls. "I'd never been around other people who'd had experiences like mine and knew how to talk about them. These kids were telling stories that sounded so much like my own, but they seemed so at ease with themselves in a way I'd never been. It was a very emotional moment for me."

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She says she had the sense that she was in the presence of "brilliant people" who were talking openly about doing all the same things she did — things she'd been trying to hide for so long. After that, Rae underwent testing. She arrived at LC in Fall 2004 knowing she had an LD.

Once she enrolled, Rae found LC's focus on strengthening executive function and organizational skills to be a revelation. "Something as simple as using a binder instead of a notebook made a huge difference in my life."

Rae had made a habit throughout school of avoiding her grades until the end of the semester. But her LC advisor, Jean Fulton, would have none of that. "Before Landmark, I never had any idea I was failing until the last minute, and I was very good at pretending everything was OK," Rae says. "But Jean told me that checking grades weekly was part of her policy. I'd always get in a panicky flutter, but she helped me manage my anxiety, and I ended up seeing the system as a powerful way to stay on track. Knowing where I stood forced me to break the old habit of turning a blind eye to my report card until it was too late."

Another major influence was English professor Meg Baronian, who, Rae says, "Was really good at taking away anxiety before offering skills. Getting to college when you barely know how to keep a binder is embarrassing and stressful. It's hard to admit that these little things that seem so simple for other people are difficult for you. But Meg was great at helping us get rid of that shame. She never made anyone feel bad for not knowing something. Meg would say, 'It's not that you can't do this, it's just that no one ever explained it in a way that makes sense to you.'"

# ‘THE STRUGGLES ARE MORE KNOWABLE’

All of this added up to having, for the first time in her life, a successful school experience. Rae was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa at LC and graduated magna cum laude in 2006 with an Associate of Arts degree. She went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in creative writing and literature from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and a master’s degree in mental health counseling from Loyola University in New Orleans.

Like me — probably like most LC graduates — Rae’s struggles have not gone away. They linger, but they become more knowable.

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“The greatest tool I got from Landmark was learning to advocate for myself,” she says. “I used to try to hide my LD, but these days I’m very comfortable speaking up for what I need at work, in relationships, and even with clients.”

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Rae’s confidence even shows through in the volume of her voice. “People have told me that I speak more loudly now than I did before going to Landmark,” she says. “Friends would say, ‘You’re mumbling, speak up,’ when I thought I was speaking normally. After Landmark, I had confidence in people hearing what I had to say, even if they didn’t like it. I knew how to explain myself, and I knew I didn’t have to explain myself if I didn’t want to.”

That, she thinks, sums up what she’s gained most from attending LC: Not one tool, not one strategy, but a continuum of experience that shaped who she is today.

“What I really got from the school is hard to quantify. It’s these intangible things that inform my life without me even realizing that they’re there. Landmark taught me that I don’t have to batter myself for being myself. It gave me wonderful friends and a sense of community and pride. I have confidence, I know how to talk about my learning disability, and I’m comfortable doing it. But if I’m having a bad day or feeling frustrated or alone, I also know who to call. It’s invaluable, and it’s something I couldn’t have found anywhere else.”

*As a recent graduate of Landmark College, I continue to think back on my interviews with Rae. Her extensive odyssey buoys my faith that the seeds of a Landmark College education planted in Putney will grow in my case as well.*

*In May, after graduating from LC, I moved back home to Los Angeles. Even in this semi-arid climate, I have no doubt that saplings will flourish in years to come.*





**“I HAVE CONFIDENCE,  
I KNOW HOW TO TALK  
ABOUT MY LEARNING  
DISABILITY, AND I’M  
COMFORTABLE DOING IT.”**

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



*Adam Walter Weinberg '16 earned his Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies on May 14, 2016. During his time at Landmark College, he introduced new students to the College as an Early Orientation Leader. He also served on the Student Government Association as a senator for one semester and as its director of communications for two semesters. In the summer of 2015, an internship through LC with the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation led to writing a number of articles that were published in Vermont's Brattleboro Reformer.*

**“LIKE ME — PROBABLY  
LIKE MOST LC GRADUATES  
— RAE’S STRUGGLES HAVE  
NOT GONE AWAY ... THEY’VE  
ONLY BECOME MORE  
KNOWABLE.”**

*Adam Weinberg '16*









# A New Era for Athletics *and Wellness at LC*

by Solvegi Shmulsky

Landmark College is in the final stages of a major gifts campaign to fund a new athletic field to support sports and wellness activities on campus.

The regulation-size soccer and lacrosse field will be located on a flat stretch of campus along the east side of Charles Drake Lane. It is designed to beautify the southern entrance of the College and to be easily accessible from the main campus. The project is expected to be complete by October 2016.

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“As long as we provide programs for our students, we must provide adequate facilities for such,” said Dr. Peter Eden, president of Landmark College. “We offer athletics, recreation, wellness activities and programs, so we need a proper field for many of the teams and physical education activities.”

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The new field (pictured at left, in lower right photo, in the architect’s rendering) is intended to contribute to the local Putney community and to help with recruitment and retention of Landmark College students. While most supported the project, some members of the campus community questioned the priority of building a field. College officials said the pros and cons were carefully considered before moving forward. “Prioritizing an athletics field was a difficult decision for the leadership and the Board of Trustees, because it was not universally accepted as our top need,” said Dr. Eden. “We considered the experience of current students and our challenges in attracting more students to the institution, and decided that this facility is a strategic addition.”

Athletic Director Steve Stanley will be organizing the teams and activities that use the field. He said, “Building this field is a very important step for the department of Athletics, Fitness, and Recreation at Landmark, but also for the growth of overall wellness on campus.”

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“We are very excited for the field,” said Stanley. “It will give all of our student athletes, especially our soccer players, an opportunity to play on a state-of-the-art turf facility.”

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Preparations for building the field began in late spring. As part of the project, the current Facilities, Planning, and Operations Department will move to College property across River Road from the new field. Details on a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be shared with the community.







# "Unlocking Futures" *Fundraising Gala*

Photos by Suzanne Sutcliffe Photography





Alumni, parents, students, and other Landmark College supporters traveled from across the country to New York City's Bryant Park Grill for the "Unlocking Futures" fundraising gala in April. The event raised nearly \$250,000 in student scholarships for the College.

Read more about the gala and the generous support of its sponsors at [landmark.edu/gala](https://landmark.edu/gala)



Actress and philanthropist Holly Robinson Peete, whose teenage son RJ is on the autism spectrum, accepted the Landmark College LD Luminary Award on behalf of the HollyRod Foundation, which supports families affected by autism or Parkinson's disease.



LC alumnus Aaron Wolf '02 (center) received a Landmark College Accolade, given to LC community members who support and give back to the College in powerful ways. Wolf accepted Accolades on behalf of himself and Mark Gessner '02 (who was unable to attend) from Board Chair Robert Lewis (left) and President Peter Eden.





Long-time College benefactors Charles Strauch, chair emeritus of the LC Board of Trustees, and his wife Nan, a current board member, received Landmark College Accolades.



Ted Maynard, whose wife, Robin Dahlberg, is a member of the Board of Trustees. Their daughter, Sophie, currently attends LC.



Dr. Mitchell Berger and Cindi Berger, parents of LC alumnus Spencer Berger '16, with LC President Peter Eden.







## Student Speakers

Gala attendees also had the opportunity to hear current students share the experiences they've had at LC, made possible through generous scholarship support.

Watch their presentations at [landmark.edu/gala](https://landmark.edu/gala)



Board member Diane Tarbell, whose daughter, Sarah Tarbell-Littman, is a 2010 LC graduate.



Student Alicia Keating told the audience that she's now planning a career in neuroscience because of her experiences as a student intern in the Landmark College Institute for Research and Training, adding that she's only been able to attend LC because of the scholarship support she has received.



Helen and John D. Lobrano, parents of alumnus Jack Lobrano '11. John is an LC board member.



Barbara Epifanio (right), whose son William graduated in May with an A.S. in Life Sciences and will stay on for his bachelor's at LC. With her are William's grandmother and uncle, Judith and William Higgins.



Alan and Cici Wilkinson, parents of current LC student Lily Wilkinson.



Anette and Robert Lewis, chairman of LC's Board of Trustees.



"My mother and I cried when I received the financial aid package," said student Isaac Alam, "because we knew it would be life changing."



# Bright Futures

by Solvegi Shmulsky

*LC's first baccalaureate graduates celebrate their accomplishments.*

Twelve students made history on May 14, 2016, receiving diplomas for the first-ever bachelor's degrees awarded by Landmark College since its opening 31 years ago.

"This is a tremendous milestone in the life of our College," said Adrienne Major, Ph.D., Landmark College academic dean. "It affirms the vision of our founder, Dr. Charles Drake, in triumph!"

Each graduating student received a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in 2012, LC's program has grown to 68 students, including 11 who earned associate degrees in May and plan to stay at LC to complete their bachelor's degree.

Dr. Major said the success of the program — combined with the strategic aim to offer more program choices — led to the development of two additional four-year programs. Accredited in 2015, the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art programs both expect to see their first graduating classes in 2018.

"Our first B.A. graduates were trailblazers who helped us to build the four-year degree program from the ground up," said Dr. Major. "Their achievements, insights, leadership, and championship of our program have been a great gift to the College."

"When I found out Landmark had added a B.A. program, I thought it was awesome," said graduate Will Sutton, who earned his Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, along with minors in communications and psychology.

Sutton, who had earned an associate degree from LC several years earlier, decided to return to campus for his bachelor's. "At first I was apprehensive, but then I saw familiar faces — both friends and faculty," he said. "I was home again. This is the only college where I thrived academically and socially."

“Being part of this new program helped me to transform,” said Rhea Weinstein, who graduated with a psychology minor. “I learned to advocate for myself and for the program.”

Associate Dean Jill Hinckley, who worked with the B.A. graduates as they completed their culminating three-credit project during their final semester, said, "These students will have a strong and significant voice as they move on to their next endeavors."

Following graduation, some of the graduates went on to full-time employment, while others went on to gain hands-on work experience through internships in a variety of fields, including education, writing, government, law, and parks and recreation.

## LC'S INAUGURAL CLASS OF BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES

Front Row (left to right)

**SARA FRADKIN**

**MICHAEL SINATRA**

**RHEA WEINSTEIN**

Middle Row

**JOSEPH EDER**

Top Row (left to right)

**SCOTT MCGIFFORD**

**RACHEL BROWN**

**WILLIAM SUTTON**

**MALCOLM MIGEL**

**MICHAEL ESPOSITO**

**OMOEFE OGBEIDE**

**JEAN-PIERRE HENDRIX**

Not Pictured

**JACOB TOBIN**

Listen to remarks these graduates presented at Commencement at **[landmark.edu/BAgrads](http://landmark.edu/BAgrads)**



## DONOR PROFILE



Theo (right) with fellow alumna and LC Alumni Advisory Board member Andrea Tolliver '00 at the College's April 2016 New York City gala (see page 10).

**FULL NAME:** Theo van Roijen '00

**HOMETOWN:** Cambridge, Massachusetts

**CURRENT CAREER:**  
Kurzweil Specialist, LD/ADD Academic Support Program, Lesley College

**VOLUNTEER POSITION:**  
Secretary, Alumni Advisory Board

“I love making connections with alumni and hearing what they are doing now after Landmark.”

# Theo van Roijen '00

## Why do you give back to Landmark as a donor and volunteer?

Landmark College helped me to find my strengths and to work through weaknesses. LC taught me academic and life skills, especially time management. Those skills continue to impact my work today as a Kurzweil specialist at Lesley University in Boston.

The campus community was very accepting and supportive. My relationships with staff, professors, and students have lasted through the years.

## Why did you become involved in a leadership role?

I love the College and its mission. I am passionate about education and teaching. I am especially impressed with the new studies that the Landmark College Institute for Research & Training (LCIRT) is working on.

## What do you like best about serving on the Alumni Advisory Board?

I appreciate that the other members accept my limitations while reinforcing my ideas and opinions. I've made new friends on the Board, including many from different parts of the country. I like the challenge of give and take in working toward the same goal. Moreover, I've learned the workings of the College and why it's important to give back to Landmark. I love making connections with alumni and hearing what they are doing now after Landmark.

## Why do you think it is important for alumni to give?

I believe it is important to give to my College, which has given me the confidence through education to be successful. I've learned that the donation amount is actually not as important as being an active donor, because when foundations give grants to colleges, they want to see that a high percentage of alumni show interest in the college's mission by giving year after year.

## What would you say to future donors?

Please support Landmark College to help future students work through their learning challenges. Help them to become successful!



# Faces

## MEET THE NEWEST FACULTY AND STAFF AT LANDMARK COLLEGE

### FACULTY



#### **Todd Miller**

##### **Assistant Professor of Physical Education**

"I've practiced physical therapy for 27 years, from Lake Tahoe, to the Midwest, to owning my own practice here in Putney," Miller said. "I've had incredible experiences helping people who took years to go from a coma or a wheelchair to snowboarding and mountain biking again. I've also been lucky enough to work with World Champions and Olympic medalists in bicycling, skiing, and snowboarding."

Miller holds a B.S. in physical therapy from the University of Vermont and an M.S. in physical education-human performance from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. He is a licensed physical therapist and a certified athletic trainer.

Miller explained, "The problem-solving skills used to be a successful physical therapist are remarkably similar to figuring out the best way to teach students who learn differently. Working with exceptionally smart people who are passionate about learning is the best part about my job at Landmark."



#### **Gil Rosenberg**

##### **Assistant Professor of Mathematics & Computer Science**

"I am attracted to the social justice dimension of Landmark's mission," Rosenberg said, "including its approach to learning differences as diversity (which can be appreciated and celebrated) rather than exclusively as disability."

Rosenberg received a B.A. from Swarthmore College and an M.S. from Cornell University, both in mathematics, before teaching high school math in upstate New York for five years. He earned an M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in religious and theological studies from the University of Denver and the Iliff School of Theology. He has worked as a teaching assistant at the University of Denver, as an adjunct at Metro State University of Denver, and as an online instructor with Ashford University.

#### **Rebecca ZuWallack**

##### **Assistant Professor of Mathematics & Computer Science**



ZuWallack hails from a family of educators, but her own path to teaching has been circuitous. She graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a B.S. in oceanography, then spent five years serving as a naval officer. She next earned an M.M. in sound recording technology from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Upon graduation, however, she found herself facing a downturn in the economy with a stack of student loans. So, with her family's encouragement, she gave teaching a try. After a brief introductory period to adjust to the rigors of the classroom — a more difficult mission than any she faced in the Navy — she has not looked back. Before coming to LC in Fall 2015, ZuWallack spent seven years teaching mathematics at her own former high school in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in STEM education through the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. "I have really come to appreciate what a rich and varied group of personalities and thinkers we have here on campus and how lucky we are for it," she noted. "Our small school atmosphere provides a real sense of community."

### STAFF



#### **Jan Coplan**

##### **Director of Transfer, Career, & Internship Services**

Coplan developed "a fervent interest in Landmark College and its approach to learning" when she taught writing in LC's Summer High School Program for several years. She has also been an academic advisor and adjunct professor at Community College of Vermont, and was internship coordinator at the Brattleboro (Vermont) Development Credit Corporation.

She has a B.A. in French and art history from McDaniel College and an M.A. in education from Antioch New England University, and she has served in the Peace Corps.



“The days when I say ‘I love my job’ are the ones when I witness the growth of a student that occurred outside the classroom in the workplace: when a student shares that a concept crystallized for them during an internship, or that they were empowered to actively contribute to the growth of a business, or that they unearthed their career path during a summer internship. That’s when my feet barely touch the ground.”



**Kari Post**  
**Assistant Director of Recreation  
 & Outdoor Programs**

“One of the things I appreciate about Landmark is the emphasis that is placed on the whole student,” Post said. “Physical activity is valued as a way to engage and support students, and seen as a method of helping students achieve academic success. Landmark College understands the importance of providing opportunities for students to engage their mind, body, and spirit.”

Post received a B.S. in health and exercise science teaching from The College of New Jersey and an M.A. in environmental education from Antioch University New England. She has worked as sports director at a YMCA, led instructional backpacking trips for Johns Hopkins University, and taught outdoor education as an adjunct faculty member at The College of New Jersey. Post biked across the United States in 2009 and summited two mountains in the Ecuadorian Andes in 2013. She is an accomplished nature photographer ([www.karipost.com](http://www.karipost.com)).



**Jillian Toce**  
**Resident Dean**

“The part that I enjoy the most about being a Resident Dean,” Toce said, “is that each day is completely unique. I never know what spontaneous conversation I’m going to end up having while walking up the hill, in the dining hall, or with an unexpected visitor during my office hours. That’s when I learn the most about our students, my colleagues, and the reasons why we are all here.”

Toce earned her M.Ed. in higher education administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst while working for Off-Campus Student Services and the Student Veteran Resource Center. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in organizational communication from Merrimack College, with minors in Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations and business administration. Toce has served on the executive board of the New England College Personnel Association (NECPA) since 2015.

“It was clear from the moment that I stepped on campus for my interview that Landmark is an institution that puts students first,” Toce stated.



**Dr. James Vander Hooven**  
**Vice President for  
 Enrollment Management**

“I have been committed, throughout my professional career, to focus on mission-driven institutions,” Dr. Vander Hooven said, “especially ones that

demonstrably make a positive difference in the lives of their students. I knew this was the case for Landmark College. However, it wasn’t until I had immersed myself in the job that the full power of the educational model became fully evident to me. I stand in amazement of how committed and dedicated the faculty and staff are towards the individual successes of the students.”

Prior to joining Landmark College, Vander Hooven was president of Tohono O’odham Community College, a tribal college in Arizona. He has also served as vice president of student affairs and enrollment management at Lakes Region Community College; director of professional education at the Family Firm Institute; and regional dean of academic and student affairs at National American University.

**Dr. Gail Gibson Sheffield**  
**Vice President for  
 Academic Affairs**

Dr. Gibson Sheffield brings key skills to Landmark College during a time of growth and change. During her 18 years at Paul Smith’s College in the Adirondacks, she served in numerous positions — most recently as associate provost and dean of curriculum and student learning. She played a key role during the school’s transition from an associate degree-granting institution to one offering baccalaureate degrees.

In addition to her experience with program assessment, curriculum development, and academics, Gibson Sheffield understands the strengths and challenges of small colleges, which “have to stay nimble ...[always] looking for what’s next, while staying true to the ir mission,” she said. “I’m blown away by how connected everyone at Landmark College is to the mission, to student success, and to providing access to students who may not have been able to unlock that potential themselves.”

Gibson Sheffield holds a Ph.D. in education from Capella University, an M.S. in instructional design from Syracuse University, and a B.S. in communication arts and sciences from Lyndon State College.





## Austin Hunt '12

### Assistant Director of Social Pragmatic Programs & Services

Any given day at Landmark College, you might find him wandering through the dining hall, looking for students who are sitting alone and inviting them to be part of a social roundtable. “It’s the best part of my day because it can be hard for our students to get going and feel like they’re part of the place,” said Hunt. “The roundtable helps them open up and feel safe. That’s the moment I feel most useful.”

A 2012 alumnus of LC, Hunt went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Sam Houston State University. He worked in nursing and geriatric care in Austin, Texas, before returning to Vermont in 2015 to work as a residential director in LC’s High School Summer Program. In Fall 2015, he was hired in the new position of assistant director of social pragmatic programs and services. Hunt jumped at the chance to tap into his passion for working with LC students and to work alongside Director of Social Pragmatics Andy Donahue, whom he considers a mentor. In January 2016, Hunt’s duties were expanded to include coordinator of student affairs for LC’s High School Summer Program.

“Building relationships and getting to know our students as people is a big part of my job,” he said. “There’s no set protocol for how we get students to grow here, so it’s a matter of getting to know them well. It all depends on their interests and what works for them.”

His experience as a Landmark College student helps inform his approach to the job. “Being 28 when I enrolled, I didn’t immediately feel like I belonged, but I fit in right away,” he said. “The other students recognized me right away as someone a little older with some experience, so in a way I started this job on day one as a student.”

Hunt lives right among LC students, too, in a Frost Hall suite. “Landmark is the one college where you can legitimately be yourself,” he says.



## Laetitia Nijmens '05

### Assistant Director of Admissions

“When I set foot on campus, I felt like I was at home,” Nijmens said. “I felt like I fit in. I’ve never fit anywhere else.”

Diagnosed with dyslexia at age 7, Nijmens attended elementary and middle school in Holland (her parents’ home country) and high school in London. She found little support for learning disabilities at her schools in Europe. When she came to the United States at age 18, she was also diagnosed with ADD.

During a trip to the States, Nijmens’ parents happened to drive past Landmark College. Later, they looked it up and discovered it was a perfect fit for their daughter. Nijmens arrived at LC in 2003. “At Landmark, I finally learned how to study for a test, how to write a paper,” she said. “No one ever really sat down with me to teach me those skills. And self-confidence — that was a big thing.”

She went on to earn a B.A. in psychology and elementary education from Roger Williams University and an M.Ed. in special education from Keene State College. She spent five years as a special education teacher in New Hampshire.

In August 2015, Nijmens joined the LC admissions team. She covers New England and New York for the College, attending fairs and meeting with prospective students.

“I love working with students who learn differently, and I know how much Landmark can change a person’s life,” Nijmens said. “I really wanted the opportunity to reach out and find students who would be successful at Landmark.”

Nijmens noted that much has changed since she was a student, including new degrees, a new building, and a larger student body. She said, “I can definitely say that ever since President Peter Eden came to campus, I feel like things have grown.”

# Alumni Advisory Board *At Work for You*



“I serve on the AAB  
to give back to  
the **school that  
changed my life.**”

**Genevieve Friend Land '96**

## **YOUR LC ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD**

### **AAB Officers**

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

### **AAB Representatives**

Sarah Alley Kammerer '04  
Kerri Bennett-Silva '97  
Genevieve Friend Land '96  
Nicole Goodner MacFarlane '98  
Jason B. Guyan '97  
Philip Hansteen '04  
Sarah Holmes '11  
Katherine Kandravy '89  
Michael Langer '15  
Robert Morgan III '02  
Brian Press '95  
Stephen H. Sack, Jr. '92  
Erich M. Seifert '11  
Jennifer Sokolower '06  
Detmar von Hardenberg '96  
Dr. Tracy Wilkinson '02

A small but mighty college, Landmark College thrives on alumni engagement. However you choose to engage with the Landmark community — whether by providing a career connection, sharing your story, or giving your time or financial support — your participation strengthens the whole!

Over the past year, your Alumni Advisory Board (AAB) has been working hard to strengthen such bonds through engagement, events, and on-campus visits. Here are four important ways we've reached out to you and other LC graduates:

### **Coming Home for Landmark College's 30th Anniversary**

More than 150 alumni returned to campus to connect with former classmates on Sept. 26, 2015, and celebrate the historic anniversary of the College's founding. See pages 20-23 for photos.

### **Welcoming New AAB Members**

Three graduates joined LC's AAB in Fall 2015:

- Michael Langer '15
- Sarah Holmes '11
- Nicole Goodner MacFarlane '98

### **Creating a New Alumni Service Award**

This award recognizes the service of an alumnus or alumna who has attained and maintained extremely high stations in his or her chosen field or endeavor, provided exemplary service to society, and/or led in outstanding service to Landmark College. Our first award will be presented at Homecoming 2016!

### **Conducting Our Successful 2nd Annual Alumni Day of Giving**

Cohosted with the Alumni Office and Young Alumni Committee, our Day of Giving social media campaign — coupled with the on-campus student-led “Pie the Shark” event — generated 77 gifts in 24 hours from alumni and students and raised \$3,833.

We want to connect with you, too. Take part in our Alumni Engagement project by having an AAB member call you. Get the latest LC updates or just connect about life after Landmark. Members are ready to connect with you: just submit your request via email at [alumni@landmark.edu](mailto:alumni@landmark.edu)

**We hope to see you at Homecoming in September!**





*Celebrating  
30 Years...  
And So Much More!*



# The Celebration

The nearly 1,200 alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who attended last fall's Alumni Homecoming and Parents Weekend witnessed a historic and exciting day, celebrating three important milestones in the College's history:

- Ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the new Nicole Goodner MacFarlane Science, Technology & Innovation Center
- Festivities to honor the 30th anniversary of Landmark College's founding
- Dedication of Alumni Hall, formerly Middle Hall, with alumni of Windham College as special guests

"We've been here for 30 years," Dr. Peter Eden, president of Landmark College, told those gathered. "Here's to 130 more!"



*Sarah Duffy '13, Marina Dominijanni '12, Steven Querrey '07, and Jamie Nelson (left to right).*



*Theo van Roijen '00, Martin McGough '99, Christina Tedesco '00, Nathaniel Campbell '99 and his wife Jennifer Campbell (left to right).*



*Genevieve Friend Land '96, Damien Cregeau '93, his wife Dr. Pamela Hall, and Dr. Tracy Wilkinson '02 (left to right).*



*Nan Strauch, member of the Board of Trustees; Bob Lewis, chairman of the Board; Nicole Goodner MacFarlane '98; and Dr. Peter Eden, Landmark College president, at the ribbon cutting for the Nicole Goodner MacFarlane Science, Technology & Innovation Center.*



*Founding faculty member Tom Kosiba and Ashley Childs '04.*





Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin (center) with (left to right) Alexandra Libby '09, Shalynn Pommerer '09, and Jay Rivera '09. Gov. Shumlin, a founding member of the Landmark College Board of Trustees, spoke about his personal struggles with a learning disability and his great respect for Landmark College students.



Alumni of Windham College pose with the original Windham College sign, newly installed on campus to recognize the campus's beginnings. Landmark welcomed 100 Windham College alumni to campus for the weekend's festivities.





“Do you know why I’m pumped today? For those of you who doubted yourselves, who struggled in school, who lost confidence ... I am in your club.”

**Governor Peter Shumlin**



Above left: Roger MacFarlane, Ruth MacFarlane, Nicole Goodner MacFarlane '98, and Alex MacFarlane in front of the building that bears the MacFarlane name.

Above right: Lindsay Gravina '10 with her painting at the Alumni Art Show.

Left: Scout MacEachron '12 talks with longtime Landmark College faculty member Sara Glennon at the Alumni Art Show.



Eric Catozzi '10 riding the shark.



Students, alumni, family, and staff kicked off the 30th Anniversary festivities with Finn's Fun Run.



James Stockwell '14 with Finn.



# Supporting Innovation through Partnerships and Grants

by Solvegi Shmulsky

Landmark College is seeing steady gains in funding support for research and special initiatives. In 2015-16, LC had 21 active grants totaling more than \$2 million.

Colleges everywhere depend on external grants to support innovative ideas and worthy projects, and Landmark College is no exception. “As we continually move forward with our Strategic Plan goals, the need for outside grant funding is critical,” said Lynne Feal-Staub, director of grants and sponsored programs. “Developing partnerships with foundations, government agencies, and corporate sponsors is key to developing new programs and building initiatives.”

## Advancing LD Research

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded three grants totaling \$770,000 to the Landmark College Institute for Research and Training (LCIRT) to support discovery research and student research assistants at Landmark College.

“National Science Foundation grants greatly enhance our credibility with the scientific community,” said Dr. Manju Banerjee, vice president of educational research and innovation. “This work puts Landmark College at the front and center of the LD research community.”

The NSF grants include partnership projects with the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, **Technical Education Research Centers (TERC)**, and the **University of Central Florida (UCF)**.

Varied in scope and focus, the three projects include:

- An investigation of the effectiveness of synchronous vs. asynchronous discussions in online learning
- An examination into the importance of educational video games in teaching STEM content
- An investigation of ways to adapt the LC student-support model to large universities such as UCF

“Over the last year, LCIRT has made significant strides in partnering with College faculty and staff to promote research and scholarship on campus,” said Dr. Banerjee. “This year we engaged in 16 research projects, many of which were made possible by federal and foundation grants.”



Recent LC graduates Marc Thurman '16 (left) and Ryan Gonsalves '15 (right) model clothing from their Rxwfxce business venture. The entrepreneurs received a LEAP grant for the social justice-inspired clothing line.

## Supporting Faculty and Student Entrepreneurs

Two years ago, economist Paul McCulley of the Morgan Le Fay Dreams Foundation — also the father of an LC graduate — awarded the College a five-year, \$1 million grant to support the development of pedagogy in business, economics, and entrepreneurship. This ongoing funding has provided valuable support, enabling the College to hire full-time business faculty member Dr. Matthew Pham, provide LEAP (Landmark Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program) grants for promising business plans, and fund professional development. On October 1, 2016, LC will host a free symposium, “Understanding Our Neurodiverse World: Teaching Business and Economics to Students Who Learn Differently,” with McCulley as the keynote speaker.

“Our student entrepreneurs are passionate about what they do and committed to making a positive impact,” said Dr. Peter Eden, LC president. “We are excited to support their entrepreneurial spirit through this generous funding.” This year, two student-designed projects split \$10,000 in LEAP start-up money. Marc Thurman and Ryan Gonsalves created **Rxwfxce** (pronounced “raw face”), a social justice-inspired clothing line designed to create solidarity among those who wear it. Mario Ornelas proposed Brigid’s Bistro, a streamlined restaurant concept that focuses on simplicity, fair employment practices, and locally sourced ingredients.

Additional LEAP funds will be available next year for student and alumni grants.

Other grant-funded initiatives include diverse projects in STEM education, dog-assisted therapy, Windham College Library preservation, and Tree Campus USA. For more information, visit the Office of Grants and Sponsored Activities at [landmark.edu/grants](http://landmark.edu/grants).

# Landmark College Pride

LC alumni are always looking for ways to relax together, renew friendships, and proclaim that they're proud to be LC graduates!



**FENWAY PARK, BOSTON** It was a fun day in April celebrating the achievement of our first class of baccalaureate graduates at Boston's Fenway Park! Thank you to all the alumni who came out and made this event so special.



**SHARK DAY 2016** On Feb. 10, members of the Landmark College community around the world celebrated a day of Landmark Pride. Dozens of alumni donned Landmark gear to post a picture or video to our Landmark College Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages. **#LCSharkDay!**



**NYC WORKSHOP AND RECEPTION** In March, LC alumni met at Winston Preparatory School for a Digital Master Notebook Workshop with LCIRT's lead education specialist, Linda Hecker, to update their skills and try new apps. Afterward, alumni met for an evening of good company and fun at New York City's Zio restaurant.





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Who Learn Differently

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802-387-6734

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# SAVE THE DATE

## Watch for details

or contact the Office of  
Alumni Relations at  
**802-387-6464** or  
**[alumni@landmark.edu](mailto:alumni@landmark.edu)**

## ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2016

**Saturday, September 24,  
& Sunday, September 25, 2016**

### We're all "Alumni From Day One!"

Join your fellow alumni, faculty, staff, students, and members of the community as we showcase our Landmark pride this Homecoming.

### Event Highlights

**Saturday Sept. 24 • 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

- Finn's Fun Run/Walk
- Break-Out Sessions (such as skill refreshers, LD technology, and Alumni Advisory Board mentoring and networking)
- Homecoming Soccer Game and Tailgate Party

**Sunday Sept. 25 • 10 a.m. – Noon**

- Networking Brunch



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