

Landscape

Spring 2024

For Alumni and Friends of Landmark College

More Than Mere Child's Play

Dr. Cierra Gromoff '08 is revolutionizing
pediatric care and so much more

Page 2





Photo by Ed Collier

LC students Zoë Feil and Nailah Quail-Parker enjoy a brisk fall walk on LC's Putney campus.

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From the President's Desk



Landmark College's 2024 fundraising gala in New York City is called "Futures. We Get There Together," which you'll read about in this issue of *Landscape*. Everything we do at LC is focused not only on the present, but also the future of the College, our students and alumni, and of the significance of neurodiversity writ large. Often, one's past (history) can affect one's future, and therefore we always seek input and engagement from our growing alumni population, members of which choose many paths as they move forward. Basically, we aim to get to the future—together.

Throughout its nearly 40-year history, LC has intentionally expanded its programs and identity to accommodate the changing needs of students who learn differently, the families who support them, and the educators who work with them. We continue to improve upon our LC Online programs, such as the brand new Family Resource Hub, which helps families of students who learn differently (see page 7), our graduate-level certificate program, full-time online college programs, high school dual enrollment, and more.

On campus, the master planning process has resulted in a vision and commitment to make the Putney campus stronger, safer, more effective, more efficient, and more satisfying to students, staff, and faculty. A major gifts campaign to raise the funds needed to accomplish some big projects, like a new student social and programming facility on upper campus, a Fine Arts Building renovation, etc., will be launched this year.

Whether you attended LC in the early years or more recently, your outcomes remain the greatest evidence of LC's effectiveness throughout the decades. The alumni

profiled in this issue exemplify the various paths our students take:

- [Dr. Cierra Gromoff '08](#) (the subject of this issue's cover story) is disrupting pediatric telehealth with her recently launched platform, Kismet Health.
- [Keith Murfee-DeConcini '06](#) (page 10) is giving voice to others with disabilities through his advocacy work and influential podcast, "Disability Empowerment Now."
- [Matt Dooman '18](#) (page 12) has become a force in the gig economy with the viral social media account, "Respectful Memes," and by helping artists and others build their online presence.
- [Erin Crosby '18](#) (page 8) is becoming a leader through her service with the National Center for Learning Disabilities and by pursuing a master's degree in disability services.

As our gala theme says, we get there—the future—together. Each of these alumni, as well as our current students and future Sharks, drive forward on their paths through a combination of determination, perseverance, networking, support, and more. Landmark College is often the starting point for development of these core skills and strengths. Help us recognize the past, appreciate the present, and plan for the future. Together.

With regards,

Peter Eden, Ph.D.
President, Landmark College



Photo by Indeliza Marquez

Dr. Cierra Gromoff '08 gets playful with her dogs on a recent family vacation in Crested Butte, Colorado.



More Than Mere Child's Play

Dr. Cierra Gromoff '08 is revolutionizing pediatric care and so much more

by Chris Lenois

Kismet Health is a telehealth platform designed for providers of pediatric care. Since it publicly launched in November 2023, the company has grown in ways that make it truly worthy of the term “market disruptor.”

Kismet Health won the prestigious Oracle Health and Bear Institute for Health Innovation Award in its category last December, and subsequently signed Children’s National Hospital in Washington, D.C., and several digital health companies as clients, along with the federal government’s tribal health clinics.

The rapid ascent didn’t necessarily come as a surprise to [Cierra Gromoff '08, Psy.D.](#), who is Kismet’s co-founder and chief executive officer—certainly not as surprising as her realization that no one else had already thought of the idea. And even as Kismet scales up to support pediatric health providers, she is already thinking about how it can broaden its scope to provide similar diagnostic support for other populations.

“I have a really strong feeling that this is actually going to help a lot more people than we think,” says Cierra.

Cierra’s interest in telehealth started approximately six years ago when she was working as a clinical child psychologist for the Public Health Department in Solano County, California, a largely mixed rural and suburban area situated between San Francisco and Sacramento. She hoped the technology would accelerate her ability to see patients, some who literally had to wait years to get an appointment. But while telehealth was already a well-established tool for treating adult patients, Cierra quickly learned that the technology needed some adjustments to be effective for children, especially those in her specialty area of zero to five years old.

“Very few kids will say their stomach hurts because they ate too much bacon or candy. They’ll just be like, ‘my tummy hurts,’” Cierra laughs. “In order to really get a true picture of what’s happening diagnostically for the kid, you have to inquire in their own language so that they can respond.”

That language, according to Cierra, comes through in how children play. And that’s where the Kismet Health platform advances beyond a simple videoconference session between provider and patient. It includes tools that record biometric data, such as eye movement or respiratory rates, in response to novel stimuli. The video recordings of these sessions are used to “train” Kismet’s artificial intelligence (AI) model, which ultimately gives the

pediatric provider information to formulate a diagnosis.

While working for Solano County, Cierra had to limit the number of programming features to three due to budgetary constraints. But after utilizing it with hundreds of patients, she felt confident that her prototype was something that could be scaled upward. Fortunately, she resided in a part of the country where it wasn't difficult to find software engineers and programmers.

"I basically called everyone I knew and asked them if they knew someone who really understands this tech," Cierra says. "I needed to find my co-founder because I know my strengths and weaknesses. I'm very much a networker and I really love creative and novel things—thank you, ADHD!—but I'm also dyslexic and engineers need a highly detailed roadmap that can't be communicated verbally."

A friend connected her with Christie Sander, whose bio on the Kismet Health website lists previous stops at Google, Apple, and Nest. Sander's bio also references a "life-altering accident" that made her want to pursue a more mission-driven endeavor that served children and families. Cierra recalls showing Sander the 300-page document outlining what the platform should do, and feeling encouraged by Sander's response to what she describes as her "dyslexic ramblings."

"Some of the engineers we were hiring saw that and were not interested. But she said, 'This is amazing! You've thought about this in 30 different ways,'" Cierra says.

With Sander on board as co-founder and chief operating officer, Kismet Health started to take shape and grow at a dizzying pace. In just over one year's time, the two leaders have built a team with more than a dozen staff members, some full-time and some sub-contracted, and built a roster of clients that is providing services through its platform to hundreds of families.



Dr. Cierra Gromoff '08 logs into Kismet Health, the telehealth platform she launched last fall.

"It was not on our roadmap to get these big contracts and infrastructure wins, that was all supposed to be years three and four," says Cierra, adding that they are in hiring mode to keep pace with demand. "I think it highlights the demand for solutions that are flexible and meet children and families where they are when they need it."

That desire to serve families wherever and whenever can be traced all the way back to Cierra's upbringing in rural Alaska. Getting agreements with tribal health clinics are a point of personal gratification for her as a native Alaskan. She was also especially moved by winning \$10,000 in a pitch competition that was specifically providing investments for native and indigenous women last year, around the same time that Kismet Health was launched.

"I believe that even if I fail, I have still actually succeeded by setting the benchmark to show little native girls and boys that they can do hard things. They can be CEO of a company. They can reach out and expect more," Cierra says.

Cierra specifically cites Professors Emeriti Jim Baucom and Ken Gobbo as two Landmark College faculty who really encouraged her to follow her own



Dr. Cierra Gromoff '08 and her husband, Russell Taylor, during a family vacation in Crested Butte, Colorado.



dream of becoming a psychologist. She also credits her educational experience for “imprinting” in her the need to honestly assess one’s own strengths and weaknesses. She calls her neurodivergence a “gift” in the sense that it has provided her with a different way of thinking and problem solving, but she also knew in coming to Landmark College that she was being given the opportunity to learn tools that would help her succeed in more traditional educational settings. She went to the Drake Center every week, and says she uses tools like planners, two-column note-taking, and speech-to-text technology to this very day.

“I really loved it,” Cierra says of her time at the College. “This was before LC had a bachelor’s degree. I always knew I was going to have to transfer and that this was the time to absorb everything and really figure out how to tackle the next iteration because I’m not going have this level of support.”

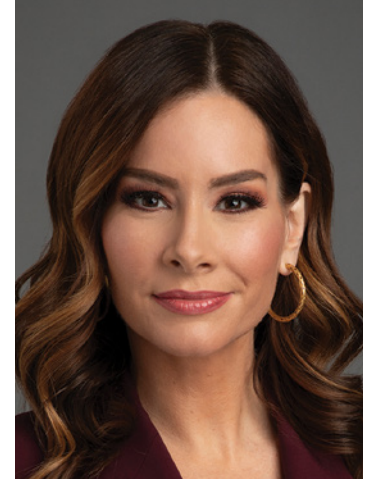
After getting her associate degree at LC and her bachelor’s at Hampshire College, Cierra headed to the Wright Institute in Berkeley, California, for her master’s and doctor of psychology. Other than one clinical rotation at Duke University in North Carolina, she has lived in the Bay Area. She met her husband, Russell Taylor, 10 years ago, and they currently reside in Oakland, with two golden retrievers, named Denali and Wallace, and a Maine Coon cat named Rafa.

“We live near Oakland Hills so I can go out hiking,” says Cierra, adding that they are also big skiers and campers. “Being able to reset in nature is pivotal for my mental health and just getting out of the grind.”

Even with the responsibilities of being CEO for Kismet Health, Cierra still sees a few patients as a practicing psychologist. She says that continuing her clinical work helps her think about things in a patient-centric way, but she also admits that part of her misses “crawling on the floor with kids.” She also continues to look forward at how the Kismet Health platform can be adapted to support seniors and people with learning disabilities.

“We have some really cool things we’re planning on doing once we’re basically in enough systems,” Cierra says. “I really do believe in my heart of hearts that this type of comprehensive telemedicine is going to revolutionize health services. That really fills my cup when I’m working 80-hour weeks. If Landmark taught me anything, it’s that if I’m not passionate about it, it won’t happen.” 🐾

Futures. We Get There Together 2024 Gala



Archival Photo

From left: Deborah Roberts, John Bagge, and Rebecca Jarvis

Retired LC faculty member John Bagge to be honored at Gala

Deborah Roberts and Rebecca Jarvis of ABC News are special guests at the April 18 event

“**Futures. We Get There Together**” is the theme of Landmark College’s 2024 fundraising gala, to be held Thursday, April 18, at Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York City. Retired faculty member John Bagge will receive the Founders Award for his role in helping to establish LC in Putney. The gala will also feature honoree Deborah Roberts and special guest Rebecca Jarvis, both of ABC News.

Bagge graduated from Windham College. Later as town manager of Putney, he played a key role in helping Landmark College find a home on Windham’s former campus. He became a founding member of the College and began coaching baseball in 1985. Bagge joined the faculty in 1986 and later served as a resident dean before retiring in 2010.

Deborah Roberts is an award-winning ABC News correspondent and co-anchor of the prestigious news magazine, “20/20.” She is a regular contributor to “Good Morning America” and has served as a guest co-host on “The View.” Roberts has authored two books, “Lessons Learned and Cherished: The Teacher Who Changed My Life,” which was a New York Times Best Seller, and “Been There, Done That: Family Wisdom For Modern Times,” which she co-wrote with her husband, Al Roker. Roberts and Roker are the parents of a current LC student.

Rebecca Jarvis is ABC News chief business, technology and economics correspondent and host and creator

of the critically acclaimed podcast, “The Dropout.” Jarvis is also an executive producer of the Hulu series “The Dropout,” which is based on her podcast. Her work can be seen on all ABC News platforms, including “Good Morning America,” “World News Tonight with David Muir,” “Nightline,” “20/20,” and “This Week with George Stephanopoulos.”

The evening’s program will also include a live auction, fund-a-need auction, and stories from students, parents, and trustees about how Landmark College helps neurodiverse students achieve their academic and career goals. An online auction and 50-50 raffle will also be part of the fundraising efforts for the gala.

Proceeds from the event will provide scholarship and programmatic support for current and future Landmark College students. Since 2014, Landmark College galas have raised more than \$3 million. Past guests and honorees have included Seth Meyers, Whoopi Goldberg, Al Roker, Holly Robinson Peete, Amy Brenneman, John Elder Robison, Sheinelle Jones, and Trustee Emeritus Chuck Strauch.

Tickets for the “Futures. We Get There Together” gala are on sale now at landmark.edu/gala2024, with options to attend both in-person and online. For more information, please contact the Landmark College Office of Institutional Advancement at advancement@landmark.edu or 802-387-6734. 🐦

Academics



Writing Across the Curriculum wins Exemplary Award

Landmark College's Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program was recently named the winner in the "Emerging (1-5 years)" category of the inaugural Exemplary WAC Program Awards.

Founded by Professors Sara Glennon and John

Kipp, Landmark College's WAC program provides resources and opportunities for conversation, consultation, and support to: faculty who use writing in their courses; staff who support student writers; and students working to become effective, confident, and flexible writers and readers in a variety of contexts.

The Exemplary WAC Program Awards series was created by the Association for Writing Across the Curriculum and the WAC Clearinghouse. It recognizes the extraordinary achievements of WAC directors and administrative teams to establish, maintain, and sustain programs that foster and facilitate exemplary engagement with Writing

Across the Curriculum at their institution, as well as institutional commitments to support these achievements.

Lindsey Harding, associate publisher for resources at the Writing Across the Curriculum Clearinghouse, says, "This program is doing more than supporting writing across the curriculum; it is making shifts to the culture of writing on your campus and beyond—having impact at a broad scale."

A WAC training session for LC faculty. From left: Dr. Pamela Sheffler, assistant professor of psychology; Sara Glennon, professor of core education; Liza Burns, associate professor of professional studies; and John Kipp, professor of writing.



Photo by Todd Miller

LC Online launches new Family Resource Hub

Landmark College has launched a new LC Online product for families of neurodivergent students. The Family Resource Hub provides fully online microlearning modules with topics that include Universal Design for Learning, Choosing the Right College, and Digital Accessibility. Each module is designed to be completed in a 15- to 30-minute single session. The objective is to help parents and guardians support their students' transition from high school to college.

According to Dr. Adam Lalor, Landmark College vice president for neurodiversity research and innovation, the Family Resource Hub occupies a unique space in the realm of education with respect to its comprehensive and interactive nature.

"Members of our Learning Technologies Research and Development team have been working with neurodivergent students and their parents for the

better part of the past year and a half. Together, they have identified the areas where these families need the most support and developed these resources to deliver meaningful outcomes in convenient, easy-to-use formats," says Lalor.

The modules are sold in bundles that focus on specific areas of need, such as "Moving from Stigma to Strengths" and "Identifying and Pursuing Postsecondary Education Options." While these bundles are offered at a discounted price, modules can also be purchased individually.

A free sample module, "Microsoft Accessibility Tools for Neurodiversity," is currently available for parents and guardians to familiarize themselves with the microlearning concept. Visit familyhub.landmark.edu to access all Family Resource Hub modules.

Making a Difference: Leading with LD as a Special Education Teacher

By Erin Crosby '18

During Learning Disabilities Awareness Month last year, I was thinking not only about awareness of what LDs are but how they affect people and how we break the myths and stigma about LDs. I'm also thinking about the amazing, successful leaders with LD that society has not seen as leaders.

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Whether we lead in school, the workplace, or for a cause, there are infinite ways to lead with LD.

When I first thought of what it means to be a leader with LD, I thought of my self-advocacy and my time on the National Center for Learning Disabilities Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC). I also realized that I was leading by being a special education teacher with learning disabilities.

My teaching philosophy is to change how the world views students with learning disabilities by helping students see that they, too, can be successful students with bright futures. I often use my experience as an LD student to inform my practice, and it has had great success with my elementary school students. There are many ways that I lead with LD as a special education teacher, but the most prevalent way is how I engage with my students, especially on the harder days.

I will never forget one day this past school year with my second grade reading group. We were learning a tricky sound and how that one sound shows up in two different, yet very similar, diphthongs (a nightmare for students with dyslexia and other LD).

That day was what we call a "hard day" in my class. It is when something is still hard no matter what, even when we are doing our best. I noticed two hard-working students suddenly go from engaged to silly, and then they somehow ended up under the table.

Photo by Nathan Ochole



Erin Crosby '18.

Rather than continue the torture, I realized we needed to stop and do something different.

I said, "Let's stop and do something else since I see we are having a hard day. I have a story I want to read to you."

I pulled out a book about a child who also has trouble reading and felt the same frustration my students were feeling. I remember sitting on the floor, showing the pictures, and reading the story to my students as they listened wherever they were. My students slowly chimed in and shared their connections with

the story. One of them said, "That's what it looks like when I read!" with such enthusiasm, it still fills my heart when I think about it.

The read-aloud and conversation allowed my students to express their frustrations, have their feelings and experiences validated, and see how learning differently does not mean you won't be successful or have a bright future.

To add to the conversation, we talked about how it is okay (and normal) to feel frustrated about our challenges and to have hard days. As their teacher, I wanted to make sure my class knew that this is a space where they can feel frustrated and talk about it when they need to.

I told my students that I had a hard time learning to read, write, and do math when I was in school, and

that I felt frustrated and hopeless, just like them. But I made it through school, was working as a special education teacher, and preparing for further education—all proof that they have the potential to be successful and future leaders for those with LD.

I told them that it won't be this hard forever, even if it feels like everything will be hard forever. I felt like I was never going to be good at anything, no matter what, but I eventually found what works for me. I wanted them to know that they will find it, too, and when they do, they will be unstoppable. You can be the successful person you want to be, especially when you find the right tools and people to cheer you on.

The read-aloud and conversation with a “successful” LD role model is something that my students needed but didn't know they needed. I certainly needed to

interact with LD role models and leaders when I was their age, but I had no idea I needed that until I was in college.

Reflecting on this experience with my students made me realize that teaching with LD is an underappreciated and highly needed form of LD leadership.

Conversations and teaching moments such as these show that LD special educators, their experiences, and their leadership are essential for students with disabilities, and contribute to truly equitable and safe schools for all. Because when students with disabilities feel seen and heard, they thrive and become strong, confident, successful students, people, and leaders. ✨

Erin Crosby '18 earned her Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies from Landmark College and is currently pursuing a master's degree in disability services in higher education at CUNY School of Professional Studies. She served a two-year term with the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) Young Adult Leadership Council from 2020-2022 and is still involved with NCLD as a council alumna. A version of this article first appeared in the October 2023 edition of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Blog.

Come Home to LC! Re-Enrolling is Easy!



“My Life Science major covers a variety of interests, and it's where my passion is.”

—Yar Deng '23 earned an associate degree at LC and returned years later when the Bachelor of Life Science was introduced. Have you thought about returning to LC?

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From Dragon Slayer to "Disability Empowerment Now"

Keith Murfee-DeConcini '06 makes his voice heard and helps others tell their stories through his popular podcast

By Mark DiPietro

During his time at Landmark College, Keith Murfee-DeConcini '06 earned a nickname that makes him particularly proud.

Born three months prematurely with mild cerebral palsy, Keith found that Dragon Naturally Speaking, the speech recognition software he used at LC, could not easily transcribe his spoken words.

"I was constantly working with LC's assistive technology department to try to teach Dragon how to pick up my voice," Keith said during a recent interview. "I was nicknamed the Dragon Slayer because I kept having to teach it, in vain, how to pick up the nuance in my voice."

Dragon might not have been able to hear Keith, but he has made his voice heard in the years since. A passionate advocate for disability rights, Keith created the popular "Disability Empowerment Now" podcast, which premiered in 2022 and is about to

enter its fourth season with more than 60 episodes available to listeners. The podcast features interviews with performers, policymakers, influencers, and others, many of whom have a disability.

Earlier this year, Keith also fulfilled a lifelong dream by starring in the musical "It's Not Just Cricket," staged on Zoom in January by the professional off-Broadway theater company, Theater Breaking Through Barriers.

"I've never met a musical I didn't like," says Keith, relating how his parents "bathed" him in Broadway musicals during his youth, and nearly blushing as he ballparks his collection of original Broadway cast recordings at around 500.

In "It's Not Just Cricket," Keith played the title character, "a former child TV star who, at the age of 30, is full of himself still. Throughout the entire play, I'm belting out tunes from 'Newsies' to 'Les Miserables.' This is the dream!"

Keith's many interests were nurtured at LC, where he enrolled in 2005 after attending Grove School in Connecticut.

With LD including ADHD, dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia, Keith says he now recognizes that he didn't utilize all the tools LC made available to him. "That is my one regret, because looking back, I can see the ingenious way Landmark tried to teach me and prepare me for my later academic success."

While at LC, Keith discovered a "pathological love of Shakespeare" as well as a strong interest in electronica. The latter was developed through a music class taught by now-retired Professor Charlie



Keith Murfee-DeConcini '06 at his home studio in Arizona, where he records the "Disability Empowerment Now" podcast.

Schneeweis. A creative writing class taught by Professor John Rose also stands out in Keith's memory. He credits both Schneeweis and Rose as "big influences, although they did not know it at the time, and I certainly did not appreciate it at the time." Study Abroad trips to Great Britain and Ireland were also highlights for Keith.

"Receptive to the Captain Beefheart antics of his instructor, Keith is an alumnus who clearly stands out in my memory," says Rose. "He was a fine creative writer with a mastery of prose."

After graduating from LC with an Associate of Arts in General Studies, Keith went on to earn a bachelor's degree in creative writing and a minor in music from the College of Santa Fe. He also earned a master's degree in public administration and disability policy from the University of Arizona and a master's degree in disability studies from the CUNY School of Professional Studies. Along the way, Keith secured internships with United Cerebral Palsy, Santa Fe Trails (the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico's public transit system), and the Young Adult Institute of New York (YAI). Keith was appointed by Santa Fe's then mayor to work on Americans with Disabilities Act compliance issues within the system.

The *Huffington Post* picked up some of the pieces Keith wrote for YAI. His other writing includes two books, "A Second Chance for Hope: The Story of Nyumbani" (2004) and an autobiography called "Not So Typical After All" (2007). The former was co-authored with his parents, Elizabeth Murfee and Dino J. DeConcini, after their trip to the Nairobi, Kenya, to the Nyumbani Children's Home for HIV-positive children. Last year, Keith was named to Marquis Who's Who, which says it chooses individuals based upon "position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in a field."



Keith Murfee-DeConcini '06

Now living in Tucson, Arizona, Keith is focused on his influential podcast, which is catching the attention of influencers and disability advocates. Keith grows a bit starstruck retelling how he met famed autism advocate Dr. Temple Grandin at a book festival, gave her a business card, and expected her to "toss it immediately after I was out of eyesight." Instead, Grandin visited Keith's website, listened to some episodes, and emailed him to say she'd like to be a podcast guest.

Another favorite interview was with actor and athlete Kurt

Yeager, a below-the-knee amputee who has appeared in "NCIS" and "Sons of Anarchy," among other films and TV series. Yeager found Keith's LinkedIn profile and contacted him about appearing on the podcast.



Photo by Valerie Cox

Keith's 2007 autobiography is available for loan from the LC library.

"I was like, 'Do you know who you are? You've been on every iteration of "NCIS," one of my family's favorite franchises, and you want to do an episode of my podcast?'" Keith counts the Yeager interview as one of the liveliest and most memorable of his podcast, punctuated by Yeager's assertion that the day of the near-fatal motorcycle accident that resulted in his disability was the best day of his life.

A storyteller at heart, Keith relishes the opportunity to

bring the personal stories of his guests to a broad audience. He remains humble about his role in all of this, however.

"I give more credit to my podcast crew and the guests. My team puts it all together and I consider myself a step or two down from being a figurehead of the podcast," he says. "They are very loyal to me, but what's most important is that they have the passion for this project." 🐾

Going Viral

Matt Dooman '18 is carving out his space in the gig economy

By Chris Lenois

For millennials who have grown up using social media platforms, memes have become the *lingua franca* for expressing ideas, opinions, and emotions.

What's more, the ability to create a meme that becomes a cultural touchstone—garnering millions of views and shares on platforms like Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, or TikTok—is considered a valuable commodity in the digital economy.

“Relatability” is the word alumnus **Matt Dooman '18** uses to describe what makes a good meme. And he would know, since he has managed social media accounts that have accrued millions of followers thanks to his meme-making prowess.

“If it's good, or funny, or interesting enough, then people will gravitate to it,” Matt says.

Matt got into the meme-making game right around the time he was completing his associate degree at LC in 2018. After submitting one of his creations to “Wholesome Memes” on the ‘X’ platform, the



Matt Dooman '18 in his Burlington, Vermont, residence.

administrator contacted him and asked if he would help manage the account. The number of followers quickly expanded from 300,000 to more than three million under Matt's stewardship.

A couple of years later, Matt was invited to take over administration of a different account known as “Respectful Memes.” He managed to double its following on X in short order and also began making TikTok videos that generated hundreds of thousands of views on that platform.

When asked what makes him so good at creating viral content, Matt's self-deprecating sense of humor shines through.

“I feel like I've got my finger on the pulse. At least for memes, which is one of the least important things to have your finger on the pulse of,” he says with a laugh.

Images from the social media campaign about the upcoming Artemis II mission to the moon that Dooman conducted for a NASA internship.





Follow

Respectful Memes ✓

@RespectfulMemes

#1 Source of Memes to show your Grandma

Joined May 2016

5 Following 1.9M Followers

At top, the banner image and avatar from Matt's Respectful Memes account on X. At right, some of the most popular memes Dooman has created as an admin for Wholesome Memes.

All images courtesy of Matt Dooman '18.

But while Matt may have a knack for creating amusing graphics, he is striving to use his talents for more meaningful results than likes and shares. His website, MattDooman.com, describes his mission to “help artists and socially responsible businesses build their online presence.” His client portfolio includes a fitness app, an organization that provides sailing lessons, the University of Vermont (UVM), and NASA.

“I applied to an internship for making content for specific NASA events,” Matt explained. “I got to cover the naming of the astronauts for the Artemis II mission that is going to take NASA back to the moon. It was very cool. It felt like how people must have felt in the 1960s when they were the first generation to go.”

Reflecting on his time getting an associate degree at Landmark, Matt at first talked about some of the good friends he made, his attempt to start a pep band (“that was hard as a person with organizational problems”), and scoring over a million points on the Tetris machine in the Strauch Family Student Center Game Room. But he also credited the faculty with helping him formulate an organizational system that enabled him to be successful in pursuing a bachelor’s in communications at UVM, as well as building his current career in the gig economy.

“Landmark is good for helping you make your disability work for you,” Matt says. “I feel like I wouldn’t have been able to manage the real world and academics without Landmark.” 🦋

This is how we turned on our computers in the 2000s



Epic Bug Facts



Typing the word “skepticism” is like playing ping pong with your keyboard

REJECT TRADITION



EMBRACE Biodiversity



Call of Cthulhu Could Have Been an Email



On and Around Campus

Photo by Todd Miller



The Centers for Diversity and Inclusion sponsored a prom for LC students in the MacFarlane Center on December 2, 2023.



Photo by Todd Miller

Student Josh Sampaio greeted new students with a rousing speech at the January 2024 convocation.



Photo by Steve Silverman

LC hosted a "The College Tour" watch party in October at its Bay Area Success Center in San Mateo, California (top) with Success Center Director Sandra Fishler (center) and guests. A party in the Montville Township, New Jersey, Public Library (bottom) featured Lindsey Skerker of the Craig School, Associate Director of Admissions Erica Loveland '20, and Danielle Silverman '19. Other parties were held in Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia, and online.

Photo by Todd Miller



Students enjoyed pumpkin carving on the quad last fall. From left: Genevieve Hanna '23, Emma Lucarelli, Jonathan Tauro, Marion Yager, Gabby Killin, and Stephen Soltero '23.



Photo by Briana Watson



Photo by Guinevere Downey



Photo by Owain Lucas

LC Voices wins three 2023-24 Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Awards

Students and faculty attended the ceremony in NYC and toured NBC's "Today" with Al Roker

Landmark College Voices, including WLMC Radio and Voices TV, took home three awards at the 2023-24 Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) Awards in March, including Best College TV Faculty Advisor for Dr. Gyuri Kepes, assistant professor of communication (pictured at top right with Professor Eric Matte). Students Charles Karwowski and Madison Wan also won individual awards: Karwowski for Best Public Service Announcement and Wan for Best Spot News Interview. Other nominations for Voices TV included Best Talk Program, "Neuro-Talks," and Best Student Station Manager, Guinevere Downey. Nominations for WLMC included Best College Radio Station Streaming Under 10,000; Best Program Manager and Best Use of Voice in the Radio Studio, both for Matthew Snell; and the Tom Gibson Award for Outstanding Engineering, Owain Lucas. Kepes and Matte, chair of the Department of Professional Studies, accompanied students to the ceremony in New York City, where they also toured NBC's "Today," met co-hosts Hoda Kotb, Carson Daley, and Craig Melvin, and got a shout out from Al Roker (at center in below photo) during the show's opening. The LC group also had dinner with Roker, whose son Nick is a current LC student. 🐦



Photo by Owain Lucas

Alumni Association Corner

Dear LC Alumni,

First, I want to extend my appreciation for your many professional and personal accomplishments. Your achievements inspire us, the current generation of LC students. Knowing that individuals like you have walked the same halls and faced similar educational, career, and life challenges before finding success instills a sense of pride and determination in us.

As a current student, I am energized by the level of involvement of our alumni community network, as so many of you continue to advocate for Universal Design for Learning and neurodiversity in higher education and the workplace. Your experiences and insights offer a glimpse into the future for many of us.

My journey toward achieving my associate degree at LC helped me attain a job in the life science industry and gain experience in government, forestry, transportation science, biology, and as an assistant veterinary technician, among other things. I then returned to LC and, in Fall 2024, will graduate with my B.A. in Liberal Arts, with a minor in environmental biology. It is my mission to help pave the future for others like me who seek a degree in Life Science and those interested in the applied sciences and environmental studies.

The Landmark College Student Alumni Association (SAA) continues to plan several events and initiatives to foster a sense of culture, community, tradition, and, most importantly, stronger connections between current students and alumni. As the chair of the SAA,

I urge you to participate in these activities, whether through mentorship programs, guest lectures, networking events, or by sharing your story with prospective students. You are a resource to help us grow our connections to neurodiversity-friendly workplaces and internships. Your experiences are a treasure trove of knowledge and a source of motivation for us to strive for excellence.

Thank you for being an integral part of LC's past, present, and future. I look forward to connecting with you further to learn from your experiences and to hear how you continue to live the Landmark College mission. Please feel free to reach out if you have any suggestions or ideas, or want to get involved in any of our upcoming initiatives.

"Forever forging ahead with you for future students and alumni."

Once a Shark—Always a Shark

Cullen R. Elwell '19
Student Leader and SAA Chair
alumni@landmark.edu



Cullen Elwell '23

Photo by Todd Miller



Michael Luciani, vice president for student affairs, introduces student leaders during January 2024 convocation.

Alumni Advisory Board

Andrew Garcia '11, Chair
Sarah Alley '04
Rachel Brown '16
Nathaniel Campbell '99
Sara Fradkin-Dunne '16
Christopher Mathey '04
Blain Namm '00
Marc Thurman '18
Theo van Roijen '06
Petar Petrovic '23, Young Alumni
Cullen Elwell '19, SAA Chair

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- Programs within the Centers for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI)
- Updates to social hubs and learning spaces on campus

The Founders Circle honors the founding of Landmark College in 1985, and recognizes our most dedicated supporters. Collectively, Founders Circle members provide more than 90% of total giving to Landmark College and inspire others to deepen their philanthropy.

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John Kemmerer
Trustee and Landmark College Parent
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April 18, 2024

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Please visit landmark.edu/gala2024 for more information or to register and purchase tickets