

CLASS OF 1972

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Save the Date
- Please share your news
- News from your Editor
- Message from Eleanor
- News from Mary Ellen
- Julie checks in
- Lin brags about Rita
- Marie shares family photos
- Address changes, prayer list

News from the Cliff

VOLUME 3

JANUARY 2009

Save the Date: June 13th

This year the annual Ladycliff Luncheon will be held on Saturday, June 13th 2009. Since this is not Father's Day weekend (as the previous luncheons have been), we are hoping that more of you will be able to attend. Alicia and I will handle the room reservations and together with Sue, Pat, Mary Ann, Linda, Julie, Mary Joy, Terry and others, we will be developing a list of activities for us all to look forward to. As usual, we will plan to arrive on Friday night and meet for dinner. Satur-

day morning we will attend the Ladycliff mass at Sacred Heart Church in Highland Falls, then go the luncheon at the West Point Club. Afterwards we will go on a cultural outing (last year many of us went to the Storm King outdoor art exhibit). We will then meet for dinner. Of course, that will be followed by more catching up back at the motel. Sunday morning is always sad since it means goodbyes after church. The memories linger all throughout the year and we are all

anxious for more of you to experience the joy that the Ladycliff Sisterhood has to offer.

Please check your calendars and try to attend. So far, our class has the largest representation at the annual luncheon and we are the only ones to have our own newsletter. Let's keep that momentum going!

Seeking your news to share

This has become my bi-annual plea, but I'm asking you to submit news that you would like to share with our classmates. Please send birthdays, news of special occasions,

photographs, prayer requests etc. I will start the next issue right after I publish this one so I can keep up with the volume of work it involves.

News from your Editor

So many of you have written to ask me to write a bit about myself that I am finally relenting (okay, so I do have a nice new job to report on). Some of you might remember that when we graduated, I went on to do graduate work at Penn State. I completed a Master's Degree and the coursework and comprehensive exams for my Ph.D. while there. In 1978 I won a Visiting Professorship to Lyon, France thinking that I would be able to finish my thesis during that year. At the time the TGV was not yet in service and Lyon was a 5 hour train ride from Paris. To boot, the National Library in Paris was closed on weekends so the only time I could do research was during my vacations. Needless to say, the thesis didn't get finished that year. As my visiting professorship came to an end, I applied for a position at one of the other universities in Lyon and was hired. I continued the research for my dissertation and spent 5 years at the Université de Lyon III. In 1983 I was offered a position at the Ecole Centrale de Lyon, one of France's top-notch engineering universities, and asked to start an International Relations Office. There I developed student and faculty exchanges, helped develop international research contracts and got the opportunity to do a lot of traveling. That gave me a real insider's view of the different systems of education in Europe. I had a job I truly loved. Of course, it wasn't hardship duty living in the French capital of gastronomy and being able to go cross-country skiing every weekend and over winter breaks! In 1985 I received my Ph.D. I lost my father in 1993 and began to see my Mom's ability to live alone slowly decline. Of her own accord she stopped driving (I only later discovered that it was because she could no longer find her way around) and she wasn't eating very well. In 1996 I brought her to live with me in France (no, she did not speak French). It was a tremendous adjustment for both of us. In the beginning she was quite happy to stay home and read while I went to work but she progressively lost the ability to prepare a meal for herself. In January of 1999, I returned home from work one night to find her gone. My neighbors all pitched in and went off in all directions looking for her. I reported her missing to the Police and was tearing my hair out by 9:30 when I still didn't know what had happened to her. Shortly afterwards, a neighbor came running to get me. My mother had just arrived in a taxi and was trying to pay the driver with a \$5 bill! It turns out that she had done something she had never done before. She got on the public bus and took it all the way into the center of Lyon (France's second largest city) and was found by some gracious person wandering around the main square. She could only give that person my business card and that hero looked up my address in France's electronic phone directory. He or she put my mother in a taxi and directed the driver to bring her back home. Mom had no recollection of why she took the bus or even that she had taken the bus! By now you have probably guessed that Mom was beginning her struggle with dementia. I had to hire people to stay with her during the day so I could go to work and that was a real juggling act. In the summer of 1999 she insisted on going back to the States and living in her own home. She did accept to have live-in caregivers so over my summer vacation we came back to Connecticut and I set that all up for her. That didn't really work out because she did not like taking orders from people she didn't know (and they obviously had no training on how to deal with agitated dementia patients). They insisted she be medicated and she ended up in a coma and was hospitalized in Oct.—only 6 weeks after I had gone back to work in France. I took a month's leave without pay and returned to supervise her care in the hospital and then to find a nursing home placement for her. It was clear that I could not supervise her care from France. I left my job in France and took work at a university in CT. Mom's allergic reaction to the medication that was given her was the sign that she did not have Alzheimer's but another form of dementia known as Lewy Body Disease. By the time she passed away in March 2004, she could no longer walk or talk, was on a liquid only diet and had not recognized me for 3 years. It was heartbreaking and was a tremendously long goodbye. In 2003 I had left my university position and struck out on my own as a consultant in the field of international education because that work enabled me to be more available to supervise Mom's care in the nursing home.

I set out to learn all I could about dementia and became involved with the Avila Institute of Gerontology run by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. Then I teamed up with the Director of the Avila Institute and began teaching dementia care in nursing homes. In 2005 the Carmelite Sisters asked me to help work on proposing their foundress, Mother M. Angeline Teresa McCrory, O.Carm. for beatification and canonization. This has been by far the most interesting project I have ever worked on. I was given full access to all the journals and letters of Mother Angeline and the Sisters adopted me as one of their own. I lived at the convent at least 2 days a week working on the project and as it got closer to the closing date, I lived up there 5 days a week. We submitted over 11,000 pages of documents to Rome (each page numbered and notarized) - it was a monumental task and I loved every single minute of it. I'm hoping to be able to one day attend her beatification ceremony; the Sisters have promised me a front seat!

Now for the good news, after 3 years of searching for a position back in the field of international education, I began work at Columbia University as Director of Global Initiatives in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. I'm back in the field I love. It's been a long journey for me since I returned permanently to the States to live in July 2000. The Ladycliff Sisterhood has been a tremendous support group for me!

As with many of us I have been meaning to sit down and write an update, so here goes.

The girl with the southern accent remained in Maryland for the past 36 years. Wayne and I were married in 1972 and have been celebrating life ever since.

I taught in grades 2 through 5 most of my career with a concentration in gifted education here in Montgomery County, MD. I mentored many student and first year teachers and really enjoyed sharing the “tricks of the trade”. I retired in July 2007 and haven’t looked back.

Wayne worked for Bank of America, surviving 5 bank mergers, and retired in 2005 when they decided to pay him not to work in an early out package. Take it and run! It was nice to come home from school with dinner ready and the housework done!

Our plan is to watch our grandchildren grow and to travel. In the past few years we have been on several Caribbean cruises, to the Imperial Russian Waterways (recommend it highly) and on a Mediterranean Adventure cruise to the east and west for 25 days to celebrate retirement and our 35th anniversary. Our first day on board in Rome was the first day of school, so I had an umbrella drink to all teachers! Trips to Iceland and the Holy lands are scheduled for the fall of 2008. However, our family trip to the Outer Banks in NC is the highlight of the year, 6 adults, 3 grandchildren and a grand dog!

Our son, Curtis (32), graduated from the University of Richmond after playing Division I baseball for 4 years. He is the pitching coach at Georgetown University. He married Sue, a certified athletic trainer, in 2001 and was blessed with two girls, Anna Loretta, age 5, named after my Mom, and Leah Marie, age 2, named after my sister.

Jennifer (31) graduated from James Madison University with an Elementary education major, and then added a master in Reading from Hood College. She teaches kindergarten in Montgomery County, MD. Jennifer married Randy, a claims adjuster for Nationwide, in 2000 and was blessed with Caroline Lindzee, age 2 ½, named after Randy and Wayne’s mothers. They are expecting another baby in February! Hurrah!

All the children live within 50 minutes of us so we see them frequently for play dates, sleep overs, field trips to the petting zoo, etc.

We do all the fun stuff and none of the work of raising children. If I had known grandchildren would be so much fun, I would have had them first!

We have been blessed with good health and an abundance of blessings and happiness. Life is Grand is our motto and live today because who knows what tomorrow will bring.

If you are ever in the DC area, give us a call.

Eleanor Germain Brown
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And just who are these cuties?????????

Proud Grandmother Mary Ellen Croke Imbo shares this photo and story with us:



The oldest is Anna Grace 2/12 in that photo and the little one, Adley Elizabeth, was 11 months in that photo. Anna has light Shirley Temple like curls and Adley is blonde and seems to be getting the curls, too. They are 19 months apart and million dollar babies (fertility babies). The third girl, due March 16 by C-section, is the miracle baby (no fertility treatments and a surprise). There will be 16 months difference between the second and third girl. Three babies in 3 years! 3 car seats! I think that baby girl number three's name is, "THE END." Three C-sections in 3 years is a lot for my daughter-in-law's body. She'll be 30 a month before she gives birth. The irony here is that she is the daughter of a highly successful high school football coach (just won his 5th state championship) and my son is the only child. My son called me New Year's Eve day and told me that they were having a few people over that night and that his oldest was going to spend the night at his in-laws. He told me he got choked up when he heard she was going on her first sleep-over.

He loves his girls! This is a young man who grunted through his early to mid-teens. And, now, he is surrounded by all these females! I told him that when he has 3 teen girls in high school, menstruating, he needs to plan a man's night out once a week! I hope to live to see that!

In all of this, however, there are many blessings. In early March of 2003, Rachel, had an ectopic pregnancy. Then, they went through all of the tests and fertility visits. And five years later, they are blessed with three girls! They were discussing all of this at Christmas and were remarking that they couldn't have imagined having three children back in 2003. They recognize the blessing and they are faithful. I think that they are relieved that they don't have to provide a football squad. I told Rachel's dad, Barry, that he would have to form a girls football team when he retired! He has four granddaughters and one grandson who is already being programmed to be a quarterback (he is 6 months old). Football is KING out here which took a lot of getting used to. My son played soccer from K-12 so what did I know?

As my son and I said good-bye to the oldest, Anna, she kept saying, "Nana, I come with you." Four hours is too long for such an active child to sit in a car. We got in the car for him to drive me home (2 hrs.) and she said to her mother, "Mommy, my daddy and my nana are gone!" Rachel took her out to the car to see us once again. A tough one. But, I needed a rest and I looked forward to talking to my son uninterrupted. That's a rarity these days and will become more so as of March 16th! But, I am grateful for him, Rachel and three granddaughters!

meimbo@gmail.com

A voice from afar from someone still on her journey to Ithaca...

Ithaca [Excerpts]

When you set out on your journey to Ithaca, pray that the road is long, full of adventure, full of knowledge...

Pray that the road is long.

*That the summer mornings are many, when, with such pleasure, with such joy
you will enter ports seen for the first time...*

Always keep Ithaca in your mind.

To arrive there is your ultimate goal.

But do not hurry the voyage at all.

*It is better to let it last for many years; and to anchor at the island when you are old, rich with all you have gained on the way, not
expecting that Ithaca will offer you riches.*

*Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage. Without her you would have never set out on the road. She has nothing more to give
you.*

*And if you find her poor, Ithaca has not deceived you. Wise as you have become, with so much experience, you must already have
understood what Ithacas mean.*

Constantine P. Cavafy (1911)

[Dr. Rae Dalvan would have loved my quoting him...she was one of the best known translators of his work from Greek to English]...

It's been over 36 years since we all started our journey towards Cavafy's *Ithaca*. I haven't had the pleasure of seeing, talking and chatting with many of you; with some it's been easier and relatively more frequent but even then not as systematically as I'd have liked.

Receiving the notes, emails and definitely the newsletter has helped narrow the gap of time and information for me and therefore I'd like to share with you my news—so that y'all will have a sense of where I'm at these days.

A short retrospective about Julie circa 1972 to Julie circa 2008: A month after graduation I moved to Greece along with my automatic Green 1600cc Toyota Corolla (at the time one of the two in all of Greece), taught in the American Community Schools of Athens on the US 7206 Air Base Group in Hellenikon; lived under a military dictatorship and student uprising and the restoration of a democratically elected government; got my MA in Guidance and Counseling from Ball State University (Muncie Indiana) in 1974; returned to NY in 1976-taught in a public school on Long Island and then a private school in NYC where besides teaching I was Pupil Personnel Services Director, and where I met my husband John (a Greek Greek from Greece; I needed to return to the US to meet him—go figure!); we applied for and were approved for federal doctoral fellowships, packed our 1964 Chevy Nova and moved to Tallahassee Florida (which by the way neither of us had ever heard of till then) and began our doctoral studies at Florida State University. Along the way to our doctorates (I defended in 1986 and John in 1987) we had our two sons (Michael Ioannis 1981 and Athanasios Ioannis "Thane" 1985—both currently at university). While there I worked for Leon County Schools, the Florida State Department of Education (Adult & Community Education—responsible for Adult ESOL programs) and then was headhunted by the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services Refugee Program Administration (where I directed the Refugee Research and Policy Unit); did a stint as an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate Program of FSU's College of Education; worked on several National Working Committees on issues related to ESL; chaired the Adult ESOL and Refugee Concerns Interest Sections of TESOL International; flew with the US Coast Guard over the Caribbean looking for Cuban and Haitian boat people and generally did a bit of traveling, to DC as well as both the state and around the country. John settled into teaching first at Thomas College in Thomasville GA and then in the Department of

Administration (where I directed the Refugee Research and Policy Unit); did a stint as an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate Program of FSU's College of Education; worked on several National Working Committees on issues related to ESL; chaired the Adult ESOL and Refugee Concerns Interest Sections of TESOL International; flew with the US Coast Guard over the Caribbean looking for Cuban and Haitian boat people and generally did a bit of traveling, to DC as well as both the state and around the country. John settled into teaching first at Thomas College in Thomasville GA and then in the Department of Sociology at FSU. In 1993 John turned down a teaching position at the State University of Buffalo and was hired by the University of Patras and moved to Greece with our oldest who was then in 7th grade; I waited a year with the youngest to make sure he REALLY wanted to move to Greece. When the final decision was made and a week before I was to fly to Greece, I was offered a tenured faculty position at Florida International University... I moved to Greece and don't regret the move an iota. My unemployed status lasted several years (at 44 I considered 'too old') at 47 I was hired as an adjunct until 2000 when I was offered a position by both the Hellenic Open University and the University of Patras; chose the latter as it was at a higher rank. I continue to teach at both but with my primary employer the University of Patras. At the former I teach in the graduate program for teachers doing their MA in ESL/EFL and at the latter, Multicultural & Multilingual Education: Curriculum and Instruction in the Department of Elementary Education (www.elemedu.upatras.gr) where I also direct the Multiculturalism Unit of the Pedagogical Research Laboratory. I also teach in the Graduate Program of the University of Western Macedonia (Florina) and the University of Ioannina.

About eight years ago a colleague and mentor here at UPatras asked me to join the Children's Identity and Citizenship in Europe Thematic Network (an EU funded body of over 100 university partners), ultimately got elected to its Executive Committee and represent CiCe at the EU funded Archipelago of TNs (Humanistic Thematic Networks). When we formed the corollary scholarly association CiCea (Children's Identity and Citizenship European Association www.cicea.eu) I was elected General Secretary and most recently ran for and was elected President (2010-2012). I do a fair amount of research and university related traveling around Europe—currently have an ongoing research project entitled EPASI (Educational Policy for Social Inclusion in Europe) with partners in the UK, CZ, FR, SE, and SP; previously had TEAM-in-Europe (Teacher Education Addressing Multiculturalism) with partners in the UK, FR, IS, and PL.

Life has been good to me and my family; I have been blessed. The road has been long and hopefully it will continue to be interesting and challenging. I think of you all and our days at Ladycliff—with all the good as well as the not so good; the Cliff left its indelible mark! I often tell my students and friends that Ladycliff shaped the person I have become—in no small part because of the friends and acquaintances made during those wonderful years. Thank you all for being a part of that grand experience. I attach several of pictures (Helsinki, my office and Ljubljana) for y'all. I'd really enjoy hearing from you so feel free to drop a note. With my thoughts and prayers---

Julie [jspin@upatras.gr / multict@upatras.gr]





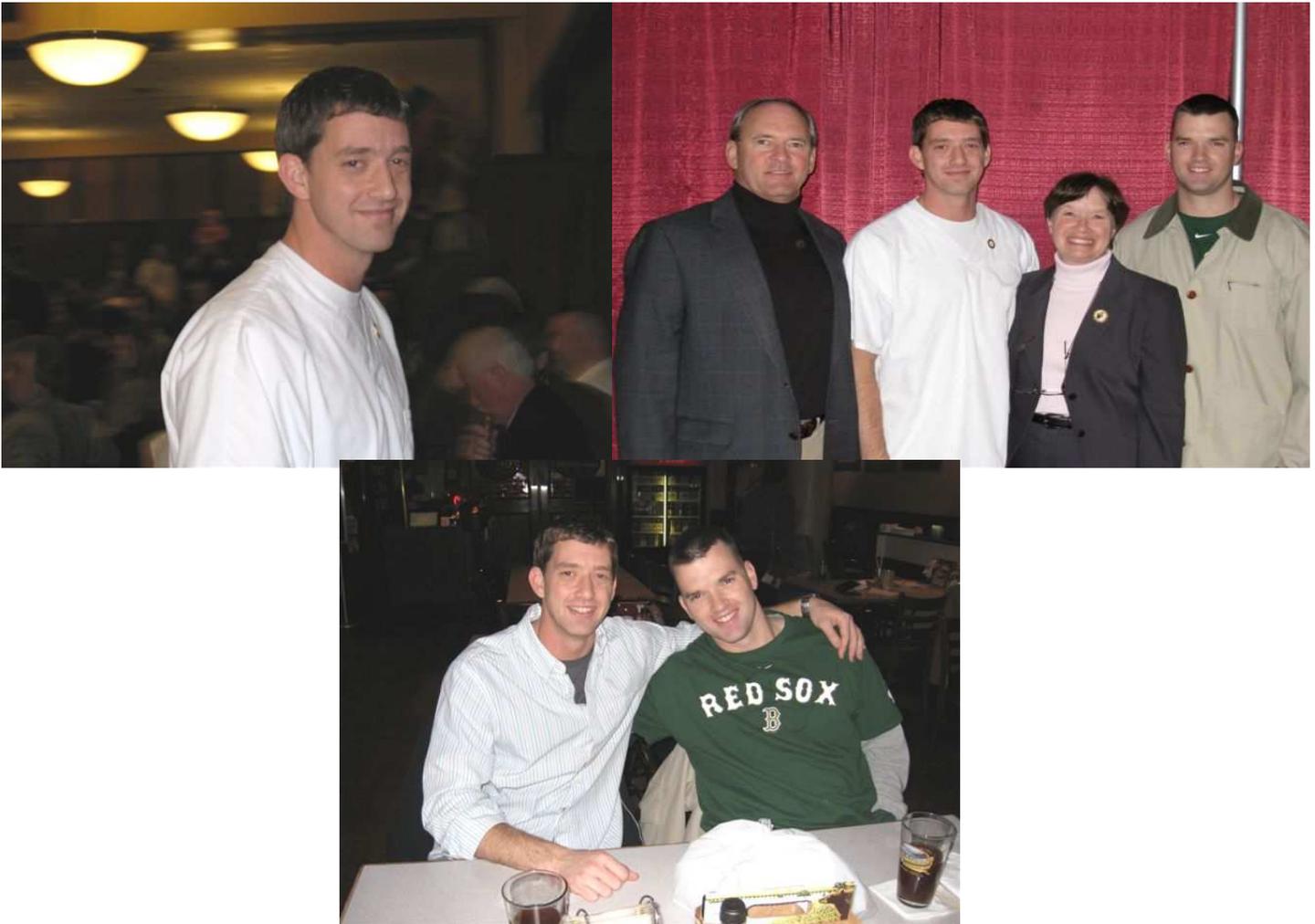
Rita graduated from Penn State on 12/20/08 with a BS, double majoring in Meteorology and Geographic Information Systems. Dale & I are so proud of her. I know her scientific mind didn't come from me. Those of us who took Mrs. Mucci's Chemistry class know how "talented" I was! Rita's now job hunting. Unfortunately, the economy's not on the side of recent graduates, or for anyone else! Those of us with 401(k)'s now have 101(k)'s.

Dale has been with McMaster-Carr Supply Company for 29 years this coming February. He's the systems manager for the phones and computers. He still likes cars and continues to attend NASCAR races with his brothers every summer. When we came out to Chicago in 1980, I began working for EFHutton, which morphed itself into Smith Barney. I'm lucky to have survived all the buyouts. For the past several years, I've been speed walking in 5K's and will attempt a half marathon this coming fall. Never thought I'd be doing that.

I'm planning on our weekend at West Point; hope to see many of you there.

Love to all & God Bless!

Lin Edral ellafan@sbeglobal.net



I wish everyone a very Happy 2009. All is well with us up here in snowy New England. We had the chance recently to attend our older son, Ryan's, graduation and pinning ceremony from Nursing School in Harrisburg, PA. These events occurred in mid - December 2008. Our younger son, John, was able to drive up from his home in Wash, DC and join us in PA, so we had a mini-reunion for a couple of days with both our sons. I am attaching a few photos for you to enjoy. My hubby is going to be doing some consulting work in 2009 and I am continuing my volunteer work at Concord Hospital two days a week, and my weekly email letter writing ministry to deployed friends and their spouses back home.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Ladycliff reunion.

**Love to all,
Marie Curry mariecurry303@comcast.net**



Nancy Nunn Ryan wanted to share this picture of her house during one of the most recent snowstorms. Just in case any of you no longer living in the snow belt have forgotten how beautiful that white stuff can be—especially when you don't have to shovel it!

Prayer List

Mary Joy Ellis Hurlburt requests your prayers. Her mother passed away on November 12th.

Liz Senatore White asks for your prayers writing "I am asking you to pray for me on Feb. 10th...I shall be having a total left knee replacement surgery...I have severe arthritis, bone on bone, so there is nothing left to do but the surgery. I am scared, but hopeful! I shall be off work until April 20th, hope to recuperate down on Marco for the last part of the recovery phase.

ADDRESS CHANGE

**Eileen Daly Howard has moved to North Carolina. Here is her new address:
304 Dowington Lane, Cary, North Carolina 27519—ehoward14233@nc.rr.com**

Please send all articles to regine.lambrech@gmail.com The next issue will come out after the annual luncheon in June.