By Andrew Blom

“Heart, we have a duck over here,” said Jason Margeson.
The 24-year-old, with arms the size of an ordinary man's thigh, rose from a small blue chair that was built for a toddler. He then reached under a table to turn off a toy that someone had left on.
Just another day at the office.
“I would have never thought I would work with children,” said Margeson, who graduated from Curry in 2010 with a degree in psychology and a minor in education. He is now a full-time licensed teacher at the Curry Early Childhood Center (CECC).
The CECC, founded in 1981, is a day-care and preschool on campus that tends to 55 children, from infancy to age 4. The Center employs certified teachers, such as Margeson, as well as Curry work-study students who assist teachers in providing the children a safe and fun learning environment.
As a student, Margeson was a member of the football team from 2007 to 2009. He played running back, cornerback and outside linebacker. As a teacher, he’s still playing, although his new “team” is filled with approximately nine 2- and 3-year-olds, Margeson is also the CECC’s lone full-time male employee, which makes the muscle-bound Brockton, Mass., native stand out a bit from his colleagues.
“Sometimes you don’t really have anyone to talk sports with,” said Margeson on the disadvantages of being the only male teacher. “Well, some of the girls do, but it dies out pretty quick.”
Other than that, Margeson said being the only guy has its advantages. “The women help me out a lot” on the job, he said. “That female influence makes it easy to talk to them about any problems I might have with the children and they have helped me grow as a teacher. They help me calm down.”
Margeson began working at the Center his sophomore year, needing a job—any job—to earn his work-study aid. He said his former teammates would often jokingly tease him about the one he got, but Margeson enjoyed the work and found that he was good at it, too.

“The field, I was very physical and [my teammates] wouldn’t think I could calm down that much to work with children,” he said.
Margeson has used his love of sports

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

### Personal Discovery

For English professor Sandy Kaye, teaching is about opening minds and the doors of possibility

By Vanessa Kelly

Professor Sanford Kaye, better known as Sandy, is a tall man with wispy white hair. On campus, he’s always dressed in a suit and is almost always sporting a smile.
Kaye is something of an institution at Curry, where he has taught English and various writing courses for the past 33 years. The 75-year-old is also a part-time professor at the Harvard University Extension School, where he teaches advanced memoir writing. He is the father of three grown children and lives close to campus, in Dedham.

According to Kaye, he has it all. But it wasn’t easy getting it.
Even though he’s a writer and an avid reader, Kaye says he couldn’t spell very well in his younger years and was a somewhat slow reader throughout his life. He had a tendency to reverse some letters while reading, and discovered during his first semester at Curry that he had learning disabilities.
In his younger years, people often told him he was dumb or wasn’t living up to his potential. Kaye says he initially wanted to be a scientist, but discovered his strengths laid elsewhere. “I would do the work, but couldn’t get the results,” he says, noting that he eventually found enjoyment in creative writing. “I realized I can’t be a

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### About This Issue

Through his 1985 movie “The Breakfast Club,” writer and director John Hughes helped us see something important: People aren’t always who you think they are. Beneath a person’s makeup or baseball cap, a suit or an apron, people are complicated. We all have dreams; we’re all a little insecure. And we do the things we do for reasons that aren’t always clear to others.
On a campus the size of Curry’s, we tend to see the same students, the same professors and the same staff members every day. But that doesn’t mean we actually know these people, or even have a sense of who they truly are.
For this issue of The Carrier Times, we decided to forgo our normal coverage of news and events on campus. Instead, we cast a wide look at the various people who make up the Curry community. It’s a small sampling—there are only 12 students in the Times practicum class this semester, and most are getting only 1 credit!—but it represents a good cross section of individuals.
Profiles range from a longtime English professor to a student in the MBA program, from the goalie of the men’s lacrosse team to the three ladies who run the Hafer Cafe, from an inked-up librarian to an undergrad whose physical disabilities haven’t slowed him down in the least. The following stories aren’t necessarily the definitive word on these 15 individuals. But as Hughes sought to do 27 years ago, they’ll hopefully show that most people are far more than what meets the eye.
**Forever Young**

Hafer Café trio bring smiles, and sandwiches, to Curry community

By Nick Ironside

One takes sandwich orders at the register. Another picks up the yellow Post-it note/order slip and puts putting turkey, provolone cheese and tomato on white bread. The third is wiping down tables. Although they’re usually on their feet, preparing and organizing food or cleaning the seating area, there’s an ever-present smile on each of the three ladies who run the Hafer Café. They love their jobs and enjoy talking with students.

The trio will ask about classes, the weather and if a customer’s day is going well. Being around people is why Irene Whooten, 65, enjoys working at Curry. Joan Bukuras, 81, feels younger when around students. And Barbara Burke, 72, who opens the café at 7:30 each morning, says she’s fascinated by many of the people she serves. None of the women attended college themselves. “I like it here,” says Burke. “You get to meet different students.”

Each lady hails from Boston. Bukuras grew up in Boston’s South End, while Burke lived in Dorchester during her childhood and Whooten spent the beginning of her life in Hyde Park. They all currently live in the area and say they work at Curry—they’re employed by the college’s food services provider Sodexo—because the commute is “convenient.”

Yet, clearly it’s more than that. Behind the trademark smile of Burke, the efficiency of Whooten and the soft-spoken nature of Bukuras is a sincere kindness. They don’t just serve customers. Rather, they joke with students. They truly know the faculty. They respect the often-unheralded staffers.

On a personal level, Whooten and Burke also share a love of animals. “I would have a hundred cats if I could,” Whooten says with a laugh. She owns three Maine Coon cats—Whiskers, Tara and Clohe—while Burke loves dogs. “I have a chocolate lab named Chloe,” she says beaming.

In this regard, Bukuras stands apart. “I’ve always been afraid of them,” she says of cats and dogs. “I think it’s how I was brought up.”

Bukuras says she has stayed close to her Lebanese father’s roots, cooking Mediterranean food in her free time. She clearly took root. Kislus is a former Girl Scout who helped bring recycling to her school and who routinely organized community service trips to local food pantries and to clean up area parks.

As a student at Curry, Kislus focused much of her time trying to find her calling. She has also traveled throughout Europe, enjoying trips to Greece, Italy, Turkey, England and France.

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**Lending a Hand**

Service to others has long defined Caressa Kislus. She wants it to define others, too

By Andrew Blom

On the front door of Caressa Kislus’s office, located on the second floor of the Student Center, is a poster that carries a quote from Mohandas Gandhi: “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

It’s a message aimed at those who enter her office, although it also speaks to the person who taped it there. “I’m a very sociable person,” she says. “I have a hundred cats if I could,” Whooten says with a laugh. She owns three Maine Coon cats—Whiskers, Tara and Clohe—while Burke loves dogs. “I have a chocolate lab named Chloe,” she says beaming.

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“I’ve always worked around food because it creates

**SODEXO**

From organizing Alternative Spring Break to other service projects, Caressa Kislus’s work and passions come together to help others.

“I am teaching, just not in the classroom,” she says. “I’m teaching different life skills: learning to serve and giving back to other people.”

Wootten and Bukuras, both widows, joined Sodexo within the last eight years and are great-grandmothers. Burke, who celebrates her 50th wedding anniversary on May 5, has been working at Curry for 30 years.

“It was just that room back then,” says Burke, motioning toward the small room that houses the F’Real milkshake machine, kitchen and cash register. “They didn’t have this (seating area) when I started working here.”

Burke came to Curry after spending some time as a secretary at the John Hancock insurance company, but found the work “boring.” Before joining Sodexo, Whooten mainly worked in Milton, although her food services experience can be traced back to her first job out of high school: at a McDonald’s in Hyde Park. During the summer, Whooten usually works for Sodexo in the Student Center. Burke does, too, while Bukuras will sometimes take the summers off.

Wootten says she has always liked working around food because it creates more opportunities to interact with people. “I am teaching, just not in the classroom,” she says. “I’m a very sociable person,” she says. It’s almost a requirement for the job, whether serving students or sharing small working quarters with one other. Says Burke, “I couldn’t ask for better co-workers.”
In Pursuit of Justice

Sophomore Jeremy Kittredge is working to figure out his professional future

By Courtney DiBiasio

Jeremy Kittredge’s father, Dave, works in finance and even owns his own company in Pennsylvania. Financialfootprint.com is an online financial guide that helps young adults manage their money. But Kittredge, a sophomore at Curry, has no intention of joining the family business. There simply isn’t enough action.

Instead, Kittredge, 19, wants to pursue a career in criminal justice. He says his cousins, who are both police officers, turned him on to the field. Kittredge would sometimes go on ride-alongs with them and came to realize that he wanted to work in the public sector.

“I don’t want every day to be the same,” says Kittredge. “I want a different day, every day.”

His interest in the law has only increased after taking classes at Curry such as policing and criminal law, Kittredge says. It was through these classes that he realized police work might not be for him.

“A dream job for me would be a career working in a prosecutor's office as a paralegal,” says Kittredge, a member of the Criminal Justice Honors Society. “I would be able to use what I am learning here at Curry, but be able to angle it toward what I am more interested in: the legal aspect of the criminal justice system.”

Kittredge is more than your average CJ major. This semester, he was chosen by Professor Jennifer Balboni to participate in the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences (NEACJS) conference. The annual event will take place June 6-9 at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.; the conference theme is “Intellectuals or Entrepreneurs? Criminal Justice Education and Practice in the 21st Century.”

Kittredge is working with Balboni to write a research paper on two Supreme Court cases—Miller vs. Alabama and Jackson vs. Oklahoma—about whether juveniles should be sentenced to prison without the possibility of parole.

“It’s a big honor for Dr. Balboni to pick me out of everyone,” says Kittredge.

To prepare for his presentation, he has listened to the Court’s oral arguments and analyzed the questions the justices asked.

“He is clearly very bright, prepared and can do a sophisticated analysis,” said Balboni.

When Kittredge isn’t plotting his future, Kittredge can often be found jogging on or around campus. He said his dad was a runner in college, so he can at least follow in his father’s footsteps in that regard.

Walking the Walk

Twenty-eight years after graduating high school, Vernelle Smalls-Cardona is poised to earn a bachelor’s

By Erin Powers

In just a few short weeks, this year’s graduates will cross a stage and receive a piece of paper that they have worked for since freshman year. Vernelle Smalls-Cardona will be among this year’s graduating class, and the accomplishment is no small feat.

“To me, life is complete,” says the 46-year-old continuing education student, a communication major and criminal justice minor. “There are three big things I decided I wanted out of life: a nice house, a runner in college, so he can at least follow in his father’s footsteps in that regard.

From Touchdowns to Toddlers

Continued from Page 1

to connect with many of the children, whether through baseball, soccer or any other sport. He said he once attempted to teach the kids flag football, but “that didn’t go too well. But we tried, and it was fun.”

Margeson said his primary responsibility is ensuring that each child is safe and that they have fun throughout the day. Prior to becoming the teacher for toddlers ages 2 and 3, he spent his first year on staff in the infant room, where his main responsibilities included giving the babies bottles and changing diapers. Among the infants Margeson cared for was then-6-month-old Owen MacDougall, who first met Margeson when his older son attended CECC as well. “He fits the Hollywood stereotype for masculinity, but he’s nice, gentle and patient, and blew this stereotype away, which bodes well for these kids.”

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Compared to playing college football, Margeson described working at the daycare as going from “one extreme to another.” Whereas he used to be intense and physical, his current responsibilities require him to be calm, mellow and patient. Yet, in some ways, Margeson said he takes inspiration from many of his former youth sports coaches. He often views his work at the CECC as simply a different avenue to “make a big impact on a child.”

Although Margeson said his job can be frustrating at times, he quickly remembers how young the children are and simply tries to find solutions that are unique to each child’s personality.

“They’re interested in everything that we take for granted,” said Margeson. “They see everything in such a different way. They haven’t seen the negative things in the world.”

“You can be yourself and they are not going to judge you,” he added. “You can be as silly and as goofy as you want, and they’ll just join in with you.”

Although finance is something of a family business, Jeremy Kittredge wants to pursue a career in law.
Perfect Pitch

Lauren Holmes wants to make people happy, whether through her actions or her voice

By Sebastian Humbert

Lauren Holmes was a little late for an appointment. She had just finished auditioning for the chance to sing the national anthem at this year’s graduation. It’s something she did at her high school graduation and Holmes wanted one last chance to be heard at Curry.

A native of Portsmouth, R.I., Holmes, 22, will graduate this month with a degree in integrated liberal arts studies, and a minor in music (otherwise known as: “I don’t know what I want to do,” she explained). She said she’s been interested in psychology, communication and most everything in between, but settled on integrated studies because its fits her perfectly: she wants to do everything. But with graduation looming, Holmes said she would like to work with special needs populations and perhaps continue her studies in that area. Each summer, she works in birds of prey, taking care of a 25-year-old woman with Rubinstein–Taybi syndrome, a genetic disorder that impairs physical stature and mental capacity.

“Vampire Slayer.”

Vampire Slayer.

Professor U. Melissa Anyiwo, curiosity feeds both the soul and the mind

By Brandan Blom

It was a summer night in London. The wind was howling and the leaves on the trees were fighting for their lives.

Up in her bedroom, a young Uzoamaka Anyiwo was oblivious to much of the noise. She was lost in yet another new book, this one about vampires and other creatures of the night.

“I love reading. That was it,” says Anyiwo, a professor of politics and history at Curry, on how she discovered her passion for life in academia. “I am interested in everything and there was no other career that allowed me to read as much as I do.”

Anyiwo’s interest in vampires hasn’t waned over the years. The 39-year-old has even taught a class on the subject, a First Year Seminar course titled “Being Human. Life Through the Eyes of Outsiders, Monsters and the Undead.” It is scheduled to run again this fall, and may eventually become a mainstay at Curry.

Raised in a Catholic household, Anyiwo says she has always had a hard time blindly accepting others’ sense of reality. “As a critical thinker, I don’t believe in any one thing,” says Anyiwo, who also heads the African-American Studies minor at Curry. “I am curious about all different things.”

That curiosity took her to the United States for the first time in 1994, at the age of 21, when she spent a semester in Albany, N.Y. She returned to the U.K. to finish college and later earned a Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of Wales.

Anyiwo came back to the U.S. in 2004 for a job at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. She spent three years teaching history there (“There is not a lot of American studies departments,” Anyiwo adds) before joining the Curry faculty. Anyiwo says it’s all according to a master plan.

“I have a career trajectory where I wanted to start out at a big state school, then move down to a really small school, and finish off my career at a Catholic school,” she says. “And Curry fits into this trajectory. I like a small school and how you get to know your students, which you can’t do at a big school.”

Some of Anyiwo’s students, and even Anyiwo herself, describe her as being a tough professor. She assigns a lot of work, holds students to high standards, and expects those standards to be met.

While vampires try to suck the life out of you, Professor U. Melissa Anyiwo works to energize and challenge her students.

Professor Lawrence Hartenian, a history professor and departmental colleague of Anyiwo’s, says she covers a lot of material in her classes, “but if students do the work, they should get a lot out of the class.”

As for her “other-worldly” interests, Anyiwo is working on a scholarly project about the former TV show “Buffy the Vampire Slayer.” The work is about violence, family connections, and the portrayal of women in popular culture. It’s about questioning perceived norms and pursuing greater truths…no matter how scary the pursuit may be.

“I am obsessed with vampires,” she says. “In my work, I look at stereotypes and things that make us afraid, which was race when I started my career. Now, I am looking at individual images, so that’s why I am looking into vampires.”
Things Happen for a Reason
A single high school job transformed the life, and trajectory, of Kendra Patick

By Danielle Hausner

Many students are unsure of their futures, but Kendra Patick has sought a career in health services for the better part of the past eight years.

Lynn Zlotkowski has been rooting for the underdog as far back as she can remember. As academic success coordinator at Curry College, she continues to do so.

As a sports fan from Buffalo, N.Y., Zlotkowski knows a little something about underdogs. She has witnessed her beloved Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Sabres struggle mightily to win their first championships, and has remained faithful to both clubs in spite of their woes and failures. She even named her Boston terrier “Miller” after Sabres goalie Ryan Miller.

As academic success coordinator and assistant to the academic dean at Curry, Zlotkowski certainly has her hands full. She provides support to academically at-risk students, connects students to academic resources, collaborates with faculty to provide academic support to undergraduate students, and works with various departments to improve student retention rates.

Zlotkowski also oversees the academic early-alert system, an online system that allows faculty to notify students—and her office—that they are missing assignments, missing too many classes, and/or aren’t doing it makes it that much greater.”

When it comes to the underdog, it doesn’t always work out, but when it does make it that is nice to finally meet someone who is patient and seems to care about what is in the best interest of the students.”

Away from work, Zlotkowski says she enjoys walking her dog, riding her bike or “just doing anything active.”

Zlotkowski is also an avid reader who is currently juggling three books (pun intended). “I mostly read higher education books and really anything that has to do with work,” she says. “But I also read for pleasure and look for fun and interesting books as well.”

Zlotkowski says she finds gratification professionally when the students she works with meet their personal and academic goals. It’s often a challenge getting them there, but they wouldn’t be underdogs if everything came easily.

“I truly put everything that I have into the work that I do,” says Patick. “I truly care about what is in the best interest of the students.”

She says her experience in and passion for sports has served her well at Curry, given that so many students here are sports fans. As a former Division 3 athlete and coach, Zlotkowski says she can often get through to students in ways that others might not be able to.

According to Max Andrus, a junior who works with Zlotkowski, she goes above and beyond to help students she barely even knows. “Lynn never gives up,” he says. “If a student is headed down the wrong path, academically speaking, Lynn makes sure that they get where they need to go.

“She understands that Curry College has trouble communicating between the faculty and its students, and Zlotkowski will actually take time out of her day to make sure the students have a clear grasp about their education,” Andrus adds. “So often at Curry College I have found that situations are handled like an assembly line, so...it is nice to finally meet someone who is patient and seems to care about what is in the best interest of the students.”

As academic success coordinator, Lynn Zlotkowski works closely with students to get their education back on track.

The Secret Weapon
Failure isn’t an option for Lynn Zlotkowski, and students are getting the message

By Brendan Cronin

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Personal Discovery

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kayle Kaye's classes are set up so that everyone, including the student of the News/Multimedia Practicum course. Reporters are registered students of the News/Multimedia Journalism Practicum course. The Currier Times is a student-written and produced print publication that publishes monthly throughout the academic year. Reporters are registered students of the News/Multimedia Practicum course. The Currier Times is printed by MassWeb Printing Co. in Auburn, Mass. To contact the Times, email: jefflemberg@curry.edu.}

 associate professor, learns from each other. Many students say he is not very strict, especially when it comes to homework (there is very little), tests and assignment due dates. His classes—he teaches Writing Workshop I and II, Writing for the Professions, and the Longer Prose Narrative, among other courses—are based on discussions, rather than a singular lecture. Kaye says he wants his students to get involved in class and listen to each other. According to students, it's clear he wants to listen too. "Sandy Kaye has to be one of the only professors I have ever had that was beyond compassionate, whether it was in the class setting or out," says Makayla Smith, a freshman nursing major who is currently taking his Intensive Writing Workshop II class. "I love his teaching methods and the fact he lets us rant as well as completely express ourselves in the way we write." To Kaye, part of teaching is enabling students to figure out who they are and who they hope to become. After all, she got into this business for a reason. "My whole life people have always told me, 'Oh, you're too nice, you're too positive,'" he laughs. Gooley. At times, "you have to be stern. I can be mean. But I would rather not and see where that takes me.'"
The Wonders of Discovery

Benjamin Brudner isn’t your grandfather’s librarian, and that’s a good thing

By Michael Weiss

We’ve all seen the typical “Hollywood” version of a librarian at one point or another. You know the one: an old, crotchety, gray-haired woman with horn-rimmed glasses who shoos you to be quiet.

To be sure, Benjamin Brudner isn’t out of Central Casting. But he’s also not afraid to drop the occasional “shoooh” either.

A reference librarian at the Levin Memorial Library since September 2008, Brudner is something of a hipster by any standard. The 30-year-old Boston native graduated from East Boston High School in 2001, sports a thin beard and routinely wears a scally cap. And although they’re not always visible to the casual observer, Brudner is the proud owner of some eclectic tattoos. One features Elvis Presley. Another, Louis Armstrong. Then there’s the one on his right arm of Albert Einstein and Groucho Marx playing a game of chess with each other. He refers to taking as more or less a “modern ritual.”

Today, Brudner is a long way from his younger days jamming out to punk rock at the Rathskeller in Kenmore Square. He earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology from Keene State in New Hampshire, and then spent a long time searching for work. He says he must have applied for more than 100 jobs out of college. But he found his current career somewhat by chance. While caring for his ailing mother in New Hampshire, Brudner landed a gig shelving books at a local library. He enjoyed the work and decided to turn his love of reading and writing into a full-time endeavor. Brudner returned to school and earned a master’s degree in library sciences at Drexel University.

“Finding information has always been something appealing to me, and the ability to find information quickly is important,” he says.

Brudner was hired as a reference librarian at the New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord, where he worked for a few years before joining Curry as a reference librarian and faculty member. In addition to his responsibilities in the library, Brudner currently serves as co-chair of the college’s Undergraduate Academic Policy Committee.

An avid lifelong reader, Brudner says Steppenwolf by Hermann Hesse is among his favorite books. It’s a story of a middle-aged man struggling to find his place in a world that he thinks little of. Brudner says he read the book in his 20s, and it resonated with him on a spiritual level.

“I think people are in a constant state of re-definition,” he says. “I think, certainly in your early 20s you’re caught between the end of your teenage years and the beginning of your adult years, and it’s a time for massive re-definition. At that point in my life, this book really connected with me.

“While I was against going [to college] as a youth, attending college turned out to be one of the best decisions of my life and the one that inspired a drive and curiosity about life that could not have occurred without exposure to the course work and professors at college,” Brudner adds.

In addition to his love of books, Brudner says he’s passionate about music. He fondly recalls his father taking him to jazz bars in Boston as a little kid, and specifically remembers Wally’s on Symphony Street. A big fan of vocal jazz and indie rock bands, Brudner cites The Clash and Tom Waits as among his favorites.

But what really sticks out about this most unordinary of librarians is his connection to the student body. He’s not too far removed from his own years of teenage angst, and he understands that different people discover themselves—and their passions—at different points in life.

“Besides being a good classroom instructor and a really good reference librarian, he brings a measure of creative thinking, which is really unique to him and to what the library itself offers,” says Curry librarian David Brudner, adding that Brudner often goes out of his way to try to teach students more than just the information they are looking for.

“Even when you’re working with somebody to try and meet their immediate needs, depending on the context you can try to inculcate or point out things that they could remember for next time, and Ben is very good at this…and connecting with students.”

A little arm ink doesn’t hurt, either.

Getting Down to Business

MBA student Marco Decaret believes education is the key to success

By Brittany Jennings

Europe, Central America and the Caribbean Islands are just some of the places Marco Decaret traveled to before receiving a college education.

A native of Chile, he began his collegiate studies at the age of 33. He came to the United States in 1999 to study business, something he practiced for years alongside his parents.

“I grew up behind a counter,” he said, noting that his parents and grandparents owned various retail stores in Chile. “In 1976, we moved to Venezuela and there my parents owned a print shop and my dad also was a sales rep...in Caracas.”

With family in Massachusetts, Decaret chose to attend Bridgewater State, where he earned his bachelor’s degree. Today, at 45, he’s a college student once again, this time in Curry’s MBA program.

Decaret started the program in August 2011 and said he intends to graduate in August 2013. He’s taking classes in economics, accounting and corporate management, and said the interpersonal relationships he’s developed among his classmates has been invaluable.

“The exposure to the course work and professors at college, Indeed, Decaret said he enjoys Curry’s MBA program because it caters to the South Shore, where he lives and works. He’s an active member of a local Lion’s Club, an international community service group, and is getting involved with the South Shore Chamber of Commerce. Having an MBA, he explained, will only help him further develop his business skills and run a successful company.

“Earning a master’s degree opens one’s mind to specialization, which can equate in greater opportunities in any career,” Decaret said. “Curry undergrads should give serious consideration to a graduate degree. It truly makes a difference to have one in the real world. In some cases, one cannot even get an entry-level job without a graduate degree.”

Decaret enjoys education so much that he said he wants to one day earn a doctorate degree. But that doesn’t mean everyone should rush into college.

“I enjoyed myself before I settled down!”
Rolling With It

Born with spina bifida, Alex Danahy hasn’t allowed his physical disabilities to slow him down

By Erin Powers

Underneath a black Red Sox cap, Alex Danahy smiled from ear to ear as he talked about his plans to attend the 2012 home opener at Fenway Park.

“I’ve always loved the sport, since back when I played T-ball,” said Danahy, a native of Hopkinton, Mass., who has his own sports talk program on Curry’s student-run radio station, WMLN.

However, his time on the diamond was short lived. Danahy was born with spina bifida, a birth defect that causes the spinal cord to not develop properly. In Danahy’s case, it greatly impaired his ability to walk, so he has used a wheelchair for most of his life.

Around campus, Danahy, a junior communication major, is lovingly known as “Wheelz.” He said he first got the nickname at age 12 after an argument with a friend. To his chagrin, it stuck. But Danahy has decided to own it, to make it his. His wheelchair is his reality, and there’s no avoiding it. At age 19, Danahy got a tattoo with the words “Life Rolls On” stretching from one shoulder blade to the other.

“I like it now,” said Danahy, 24, of his nickname. “Even some of my teachers would call me it.”

He has undergone 24 major surgeries over the course of his life, and is preparing for yet another one this June. The procedure will remove a shunt in Danahy’s head that essentially “shut down” years ago and has stuck with it. One doesn’t play sports at the Division III level with a .620 save percentage and a 9.93 goals-against average.

Michael Hibbard is not one of those seniors. The starting goalie on Curry’s men’s lacrosse team has other things in mind.

“My friend from home has always had this idea of moving out to Jackson Hole, Wyo., to work on this ski mountain there,” says Hibbard. “He needed someone to go with him, so I said, ‘Why not?’”

Hibbard came to Curry in 2008. He played lacrosse throughout high school and sought to continue it in college. But during his freshman year, the team’s season was cancelled due to an alcohol-related hazing incident. Many players left the school or quit the team, but Hibbard stuck with it. One doesn’t play sports at the Division III level for glory or a ticket to the pros, he explains. You play because you enjoy the game.

“It’s a great guy. Really fun to be around and a very talented goalie,” says Joe Natale, a junior on the lacrosse team. “He always makes me laugh.”

Today, Hibbard is one of the captains of the men’s lacrosse team. He and the other upperclassmen have instilled a mentality of hard work and team unity that squads from previous years seemed to lack. The approach mostly paid off, as the 2012 team started out 6-1 before undergoing a tough stretch of the season. Curry finished the regular season 9-7, a vast improvement over last year’s 5-11 record.

“One of the voices of Curry radio, Alex Danahy is passionate about sports and hopes to one day work in the communication industry.

With graduation looming, Mike Hibbard will soon hang up his goalie stick. In its place will be a rucksack, as the lifelong Massachusetts resident plans to travel the country and explore.

As for lacrosse, Hibbard knows that his competitive playing days are all but over. And that’s OK.

“I’m not going to try to go pro or anything,” he says. “I understand that after this year my playing days will be behind me. I love the sport and I made some great friends playing, but I don’t plan on trying to play at the next level.”

Hibbard says he is proud of the foundation he helped build for the Curry men’s lacrosse program, particularly following the canceled season of four years ago. However, he has other things to focus on now. His lacrosse career is ending, but the rest of his life—wherever it may take him—is about to begin.