

## Rising to the Challenge

As an undergraduate at Wentworth, **Jack Smith, IE '58**, witnessed firsthand the harsh effect that the economy can have on education. While the GI Bill covered his tuition and books, some of his classmates weren't so lucky. "I remember talking with them when they left Wentworth, and they said 'Oh, I'll be back,'" says Smith. Inevitably, a lack of funds proved their promises empty. "They were good, hardworking kids, and they were forced to drop out."

His experiences inspired Smith and his wife, Lillian, to establish a \$500,000 scholarship fund, dedicated to helping Wentworth students who are facing tough financial situations. "The students who are dropping out because they can no longer afford it in these hard times are the kinds of students that we have to save," says Smith, a 35-year veteran and one-time COO of Digital Equipment Corporation.

The gift not only aids current and future students, but serves as a call to action to other alumni. The Smiths have promised to double the amount of their gift if donor participation increases by 10 percent. Named the **Jack & Lillian Smith Challenge**, their donation allows other donors to have a greater impact, regardless of how much they are able to give. "Our gift is the first step," he says. "We will do our part and continue to do our part, and I hope others will meet our challenge." [www.wit.edu/challenge](http://www.wit.edu/challenge)

## Wentworth's Brand New Carr

New Dean of the College of Professional and Continuing Education

Larry Carr is used to helping start big things. In the 1970s, he was working in the corporate business development group at Bolt, Beranek and Newman, Inc. (BBN), while the Cambridge, Mass., technology development company was working with the Department of Defense in designing and building the ARPANET—the famous forerunner to the Internet. “I had e-mail at my desk in 1978,” says Carr with a smile. “Of course, the only other person who I could communicate with was my boss, as no one else had the technology.”

Growth has been a constant throughout Carr’s career. While working in executive positions at the leading organizational development and corporate education firm Linkage, Inc. in the 1990s, the company was twice named to The Inc. 500 list of fastest-growing, privately held companies in America.

As the new dean of the College of Professional and Continuing Education (formerly The Arioeh Center), Carr hopes to bring the same level of advancement to the college’s adult learning programs. The timing is perfect, he says, noting a recent report from the Council of Economic Advisors which projects that the fastest job growth will occur in occupations that require a two-year technical degree. Locally, the

demand for qualified workers is even more acute. “Massachusetts ranks highest in the nation in the percentage of their workforce engaged in science, engineering, and high-tech occupations,” says Carr. “We are taking a hard look at these trends and considering how we can be most responsive to them.”

Carr’s initial plans include, among others, building more strategic partnerships like the ones the college has developed with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the New England Regional Council of Carpenters (NERCC), and more fully integrating e-learning strategies into the delivery options for the college. “There are a lot of white-space opportunities out there,” Carr says. “That translates into more opportunities for us to turn reach into reality.”



Photo: Chris Churchill

### NEW THIS FALL Master of Science in Construction Management

This unique program will prepare construction professionals for leadership positions in design and construction companies through a hybrid of online courses and traditional classroom delivery. After initially projecting an inaugural class of 10 to 12 students, increased interest in the program saw the class rank swell to 28 students.

FACTS >>

If the **1,806** laptops given to students this fall were lined up side by side, they would stretch



## Sweet Tees

### Selling Style by the Scoop

Ryan Pimental, BCET '11, makes T-shirts that speak the language of Boston. His new clothing company, Boston Cream, features designs with city icons like the Zakim Bridge and lyrics to Fenway anthems like "Dirty Water" displayed in a '50s-era font. The shirts, which Pimental named for flavors of ice cream as a nod to Boston's claim as the largest annual consumer of the frozen treat, went on sale in June at [boston-cream.com](http://boston-cream.com), along with a line of belts and stickers.

#### How did Boston Cream start?

My hometown of Acushnet, Mass., has about 10,000 people, so when I moved to Boston, it just blew my mind how big the world was. Being a photographer, I started taking pictures of everything and then making designs. I had the idea for Boston Cream in my head for two years, but I just never did anything with it. At the start of this year, I finally said to myself, "I'm not getting younger."

#### How were you able to secure funding?

At the end of every semester, I sell the textbooks that I don't need any more. Most kids put that money back into tuition or blow it on something stupid, but I thought I might as well put it away for the company.



#### Why base the designs on Boston?

I wanted something that locals could relate to. And I just love Boston so much. You always see something new, something different. I never get sick of it.

## High Water Mark

Freddie the Fire Hydrant, a vision of an interactive children's lawn sprinkler, was one of 20 designs that helped [David Fustino, BIND '11](#), win an undergraduate scholarship from the Industrial Designers Society of America. In addition to helping him secure \$2,500 toward his tuition, the sprinkler design has attracted the attention of product developers, including television marketers As Seen On TV. Fustino hopes to someday make Freddie a fixture on lawns everywhere. [www.coroflot.com/fustinod](http://www.coroflot.com/fustinod)



2,200 feet—roughly 3 times the height of the Prudential Tower or about 1.5 times the length of the Zakim Bridge.



## Toy Stories

### Legos and Tonkas and Barbies, Oh My

Thanks to ubiquitous advertising, children of the 1990s likely remember the Skip-It. A small plastic ball attached to the ankle, the toy spun around the leg, forcing a skip with the opposite leg while a ticker counted each revolution.



This August, a group of Wentworth students took on the challenge of restoring the toy to its former glory, offering an update suitable for the modern kid: an iPhone app that counts the skips.

Their proposal was one of several class projects displayed in Wentworth's Casella Gallery in August as part of

a final project for the summer course *Toys are U.S.: America at Play*, offered for the first time this year. Taught by Assistant Professor Ronald R. Bernier, Department of Humanities, Social Sciences, and

Management, the class examined toys and games from a cultural and social-historical perspective. For their final projects, students were given one of four options: invent a new game or toy; modernize an old one; imagine the future of "play" for a post-human age; or examine marketing strategies employed by the toy companies.



In addition to the Skip-It iPhone app, student projects included a modern upgrade to the Tonka Truck and a Lego- and Erector Set-inspired product called Constructems, complete with a working prototype, advertisements, and a TV commercial. "The group that updated the good old-fashioned Tonka Truck gave me a glimpse into how they played as kids," says Bernier. "Fittingly, a lot of engineering students happened to have loved Legos as children."

## ROCK OF MIDDLE AGES

Twenty-five years ago, Wentworth sophomore **David Lovering, EE '87**, and three Boston friends formed The Pixies, often



using Lovering's parents' garage in Burlington, Mass., as a rehearsal space. The band went on to become a defining rock act in the late 1980s, cited as an influence by everyone from Kurt

Cobain to Weezer. After a decade-long break, the band reunited in 2004; they are touring the U.S. this fall and rumored to be recording their first original album since 1991.



Photo: Getty Images

Haiti's earthquake exposed the country's inadequate construction standards—a factor that played a major role in the high death toll.

## Building a Stronger Haiti

### 'Train the Trainer' Program Prepares Haitians for Reconstruction Efforts



As a native of Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Systems Pierre Arthur Elysee has seen firsthand the substandard construction that contributed to the high death toll from the country's January earthquake.

"I'm not going to say I could predict what was going to happen, but you could see that the buildings were not being built according to norms," says Elysee.

A few weeks after the quake hit, Elysee and his colleague in the Department of Computer Science and Systems, Assistant Professor Magdy Ellabidy, began devising a plan to help. "At the time, we realized there wasn't much we could do in terms of what was already taking place: rescuing, saving people, sending food," says Elysee. "But in the long term, we wondered what contribution we could bring to the table."

Their answer was "Train the Trainer," a two-week, intensive program that brought Haitian nationals

to Wentworth's campus to receive training in either project or construction management. A total of 39 Haitian professionals arrived in June, taking courses in construction methods, safety requirements, and project administration from Wentworth instructors as well as representatives from private industry, including IBM.

Elysee also made sure participants learned the power of networking, making a LinkedIn account with 20 contacts a requirement. "This was an event where Haitian professionals had the chance to meet other professionals in their country," says Elysee. "And now you have nearly 40 people who are bound together and keep in touch with each other."

Elysee says that phase two of the program is set to begin in December in Haiti, and will include further instruction for program participants so they can go on and train others in their communities. "Now the trainee is going to be the trainer," says Elysee.

## DIGITAL DONATION

A child in Chirimoto, Peru, tries one of the 25 new computers that were donated to the local community center by the Chirimoto Development Project, Inc., a nonprofit founded by civil engineering professor Jerry Hopcroft. In addition to helping rebuild the town after a devastating flood, the organization has also served as a co-op for several Wentworth students.

