Stockbridge Celebrates 100 Years
Dear Fellow Stockies,

On behalf of the Stockbridge Alumni Advisory Board and Alpha Tau Gamma, I wish you and your families a happy and healthy new year! 2018 is a special year for our Stockbridge community because it is the 100th anniversary of our two-year program. It’s an honor for me to serve as leader of both our board and the ATG Corporation during our centennial year.

Stockbridge holds a special place in my life. The friends I met and the lessons I learned while I was a Stockbridge student are with me today and every day. I credit my Stockbridge experience for the successes I have had. I have accepted these leadership positions because it’s important to me that Stockbridge is around for the next 100 years. I have confidence it will be if we work together.

We are 9,000 alumni strong. Stockies are often credited as being more loyal and successful than any UMass alumni group. We have been starting companies decades before the word “entrepreneur” became hip. In fact, in this newsletter, you’ll read about Chris Joyce, who is not only my friend and classmate, but one of hundreds of Stockbridge business leaders who began as a business of one.

All of us love Stockbridge. Let’s work together this year to make Stockbridge stronger than ever. Check out our website. Attend our events. Update your address and e-mail. Follow us on Facebook. Hire Stockbridge alumni. Sponsor Stockbridge students. Get involved in spreading good news about Stockbridge because there is a lot of good news to share!

I look forward to seeing you at the next Stockbridge event.

Cheers to 100 more years!
Dan Mayer
Chair, Stockbridge Advisory Board
President, Alpha Tau Gamma

From Our Director

2018 brings us into our second century. In our first 100 years, our school was established at Massachusetts Agricultural College, later UMass Amherst, and the 2-year programs were created. Although many program names have evolved over the years, we remain a prominent, exceptional educational institution for agricultural sciences.

We’ve seen our share of ups and downs, and the school’s enrollment has ebbed and flowed. We’re now seeing a surge in enrollment, with a 15% increase from Fall 2016 to Fall 2017. Our students are engaged in their learning process, and enjoy thrills that include nationwide and international travel for internship and work opportunities. Our faculty have established themselves as key researchers in their industries. And our alumni - you - are among the most successful and involved in the greater UMass community.

For our next 100 years, the Stockbridge School of Agriculture plans to continue developing the next generation of green industry professionals. We may see more ebbs and flows, and we’ll have our share of ups and downs. But as a community, we will flourish, we will embrace each other in our industries, and Stockies will continue to come together.

We have two major events being planned - our March 22 Student and Alumni Mixer, and our October 5-6 Centennial Celebration. We hope to see you there, to meet our next harvest of Stockies and to reminisce with your former classmates.

Thank you for making our first 100 years a success. We look forward to the next 100.

Wesley R. Autio
Director, Stockbridge School
Director: John Phelan  
Starting Class: 37 students  
51 faculty members  
The fraternity Alpha Tau Gamma was founded in 1919 with seven members.

1943
Director: Roland H. Verbeck  
50 graduating students  
62 faculty members  
438 Stockbridge students and alumni were involved in World War II.

1968
Director: Fred. P. Jeffrey  
236 graduating students  
86 faculty members  
Stockbridge students represented the school via basketball, soccer, and rifle teams.

1993
Director: Harry L. Mosher  
153 graduating students  
34 faculty members  
The Class of 1993 went on trips to the Boston Flower Show; New York City; Florida; and Sunday River Ski Resort in Bethel, Maine.

2018
Director: Wesley R. Autio  
34 graduating students  
29 faculty members  
Now in our 100th year, Stockbridge has over 9,000 living alumni.
The Stockbridge School of Agriculture grew out of the very beginnings of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, now the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The Massachusetts Land Grant College was formed in 1863, hiring its first professor of agriculture, Levi Stockbridge, and enrolling its first students in 1867. Twenty-seven individuals graduated in 1871 as the first class of agriculture students from Mass Aggie.

In the early years of Mass Aggie, a variety of Bachelor of Science degrees developed, including pomology, olericulture, floriculture, and agronomy. The arboriculture degree was added in 1893 and was the first of its kind in the United States. Landscape horticulture and turfgrass management were also early B.S. offerings of the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

In 1893 a two-year course was organized at Massachusetts Agriculture College (MAC); however, it was not until 1918 that the Massachusetts Legislature resolved to officially establish the "Two-year Course in Practical Agriculture." In recognition of his significant contribution to the Massachusetts Agricultural College as its first professor of agriculture and fifth president, the college trustees honored the memory of Levi Stockbridge and named the 2-year program the Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

In 2012, the 2-year associate of science and 4-year bachelor of science degree programs were brought together under the Stockbridge School of Agriculture umbrella.

Now, the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst offers six Associate of Science degrees, four Bachelor of Science degrees, one Certificate, and graduate education at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels to highly motivated individuals. It is unique in that all Stockbridge students have close student-faculty relationships.

Stockbridge students are involved in a broad range of activities, including clubs, intramural sports, residential activities, community service activities, national competition teams, and faculty research projects.

The approximately 10,000 Stockbridge alumni form cohesive networks within the farming and green industries. They strongly support the work of the School and its graduates.

Levi Stockbridge was an important individual in the early years of Mass Aggie. He was a Hadley farmer, his homestead just under 2 miles from campus. He became the first farm manager and the first professor of agriculture at the brand new Mass Aggie.

He was a much beloved teacher, professing that experiential learning was critical to an agricultural education. Levi also was an active researcher, developing some of the earliest commercial fertilizers, the proceeds from which helped stabilized the finances of the early Mass Aggie. William Bowker, an 1871 graduate of the first class, said of Levi's research that he led farmers out of the wilderness of speculation into the light of practical method.

Levi Stockbridge served as the fifth president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College before retiring in 1882.

To learn more about Levi and the start of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, visit http://levistockbridge.org/
A Growing Success

As president and owner of the Joyce Companies of Marstons Mills, Chris Joyce describes himself as “a people person who loves to grow things.” And considering his company of 175 employees on 8 1/2 acres of land started with one person and a truck, it’s clear he likes to grow more than plants!

Growing up on Cape Cod in a single parent household, Chris and his five siblings learned early that if they wanted something, they had to work hard for it. At 10 years old, Chris increased his newspaper earnings by offering to mow lawns for the customers on his route. By the time he was 16, he had earned enough to buy his first truck, which he used to mow even more lawns.

When it came time to consider college, Chris had been warned by his mom that he would never make a good living by landscaping. So following her advice, he enrolled at a nearby college to study business. He didn’t like it. When a friend told him about Stockbridge, he gave it a try and loved it. Of his Stockbridge experience, Chris said, “I met an amazing group of people and developed a network that I use to this day to help with my business.”

After he graduated from UMASS in 1994, Chris returned to his beloved Cape Cod ready to build the business he had started at 10 years old. He hired his first 14 employees, including his mother who did pay roll. By the year 2000, he had increased the company to 75 employees. Chris projects 8-10% growth each year for the Joyce Companies, and its focus will always be on the Cape.

Today, Chris and his mom laugh about the advice she had given him many years ago, and are very glad he didn’t listen to her. They both know that a career in landscaping and a degree from Stockbridge was the perfect path. As School Committee Chair of the Barnstable Public Schools, Chris hopes high school kids are encouraged to pursue Stockbridge.

“Stockbridge will give you the tools, knowledge and relationships to catapult you,” he said. “The sky is the limit. You can grow as high as you want.”

Do you also hire Stockbridge graduates?
Do you encourage your employees to apply to Stockbridge to enhance their careers?

Email or Call Allie Thorpe, the communications manager and newsletter editor, to find out how to have your business featured in the next newsletter.

abthorpe@umass.edu 413-577-3102
"Realizing the fact that our Two-Year Course is still in its infancy and that we, the Pioneer Class, in our activities will have considerable bearing on the welfare and future of the classes to follow, it is our desire to leave for the coming classes a high standard of action, both in the class room and among our associates on the campus. Tradition and custom are a determining factor in promoting fellowship and loyalty. Not only must this loyalty be evident while we are in college; we must make it felt when we go out into our life work. We feel that the establishment of this annual publication will help bind us together, and especially will it tend to make us loyal to our college, and our Two-Year Course, when we are alumni."

- Class of 1921

"How futile it seems to attempt to place on the printed page the pleasures we have enjoyed, the wisdom we have gained, and the friendships we have made while students at Stockbridge. No books, no matter how fine, can hope to encompass events as powerful as these. The soul and mind of the individual living them is alone sensitive enough to record their true meaning. ... If you can pick up this [publication] in the days to come when the present has receded into the past, when memories have become dim and life has somehow lost its edge, turn its pages and relive those pleasures, revive that urge for knowledge and renew those long lost friendships, we shall know our work has been well done."

- Class of 1932

"As you turn these pages while reminiscing of school days spent here may you recall with pleasure the many memories of our classmates and our doings. In short, [let it serve] as a key to the treasure chest of Stockbridge memories."

- Class of 1945

"When we look back into the fading years... we realize the dynamic growth since 1918. ... As future years pass in review, we hope to see Stockbridge growing in stature, always remaining a symbol of progress."

- Class of 1957
Now

Arboriculture and Community Forest Management:
If your cat gets stuck in a tree, have no fear! Nicolette Eicholtz, arborist, is here! Nicolette is a 2014 graduate of the Arboriculture and Community Forest Management program, and a 2016 graduate of the UMass Urban Forestry program! She is part of “Cat in a Tree Rescue,” a worldwide network of arborists who make themselves available for this very task. For more information, visit http://www2.catinatreerescue.com/ or contact Nicolette directly by emailing NicoletteEicholtz@gmail.com

Equine (Grads and Enthusiasts):
Planning is underway for a UMass / Stockbridge Equine Reunion in the Fall of 2019. If you are interested in joining the planning committee, email Sheena McNally at mcnally923@comcast.net or Carly Hanson at wieland83@gmail.com. More information to come! https://www.facebook.com/EquineReunion2019/

Sustainable Food & Farming:
Online degrees at UMass rank in the top 20 nationally, according to a survey released by U.S. News & World Report. Stockbridge is now accepting applications for the newest online B.S. degree, our own Sustainable Food and Farming program. Other online Sustainable Food and Farming programs include a fully-online A.S. degree and a 15-credit online certificate.

Plant & Soil Sciences:
Stockbridge student Hesham Abdullah won first place for Best Student Poster Presentation at the 33rd Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water, and Energy! Hesham, who studies Plant and Soil Sciences, won a $1,000 prize for his poster, titled “Engineering Camelina sativa for Improved Seed Oil Yields via Manipulating Triacylglycerol Synthesis Pathway and the Associated Molecular and Biochemical Consequences.”

Landscape Contracting:
On November 16, 2017, Landscape Contracting seniors were able to put into practice skills they have learned to safely and successfully install a green roof on the small overhang of the main entrance to the John Olver Design building. Recognizing that the installation was at best challenging due to the height of and the limited access to the roof, they sought assistance from Pam Monn, Assistant Director for Custodial & Ground Services, Campus Safety Manager Michael Kauffman, and the Physical Plant. This was a great cooperative effort by all involved, and provided the Landscape Contracting students with a valuable experience on many fronts, but most importantly they learned the integral role safety plays in a project like this.

Horticulture:
Horticulture student Evan Chakrin and Sustainable Food and Farming student Dana Lucas are now working year-round at UMASS HYDRO, a hydroponics farm in Clark Hall Greenhouse. The farm produces approximately 70 heads of lettuce a week, every week of the year. Lucas and Chakrin emphasize the importance of this perpetual cycle in meeting the University’s sustainability efforts and are excited to sell their produce at the UMass Farmers Market, directly to students, and to on-campus eateries whenever possible. They hope over time to grow enough produce to partner with the Dining Commons.

Turfgrass:
Three Turfgrass students (Cameron Basila, Renee DeAngelis, and Jacob Arsenault) attended the STMA - Sports Turf Managers Association conference in Fort Worth, Texas last week to participate in the STMA Student Challenge, an exam that tests general turfgrass management and sports turf applications knowledge areas. The 2018 Student Challenge included 33 teams comprised of over 100 students - and the Stockbridge / UMass Amherst Turf team placed 12th! They hope to break the Top 10 next year. Special thanks to the New England Sports Managers Association (NESTMA) for their continued support. NESTMA provided partial funding for our students to attend.
CELEBRATE: Upcoming Events

March 22, 2018
The Gardens at Elm Bank
Join current students, alumni, staff, and faculty for an evening mixer! Bring your resume or business card and make a connection that will last a lifetime.

October 5-6, 2018
UMass Amherst campus
Come back to campus for a weekend of celebrations around the Stockbridge Centennial. Be part of this historic event!

Stay tuned to our website, social media (Facebook & Twitter), your email, and your mailbox for more information. Call us with questions!
413-545-2222