

# Alumni + Students = Momentum

**E**rskine's development and constituent relations program, formally established in 2006, contributes to the school's mission by creating opportunities for alumni, students, parents, employees, and friends to come together to ensure that Erskine's high quality educational program and the availability of rich and meaningful experiences continue well into the future.

Members of the Erskine community are connected by shared experiences and built relationships at Erskine. The development and constituent relations program seeks to nourish, maintain, and expand those good experiences and relationships. Several new initiatives have been established to reinforce these connections.

## Coffee Connection Fridays

Since September, the alumni office has been hosting coffee hours in the cafeteria every third Friday of the month to provide an opportunity for alumni to chat with each other and school staff. A student usually gives an update on what is happening in the coming month at the school. The Coffee Connections are open to all alumni. Future dates will be announced.

## Luncheon with Leadership Students

Last June, a large group of alumni from the Class of 1953 celebrated their 60th reunion at the annual All Classes Reunion. Members of this class were invited in October to a luncheon on campus with student council members and senior class officers. The luncheon provided an opportunity for the 1953 classmates to share their knowledge and memories of Erskine with the students who would be alumni next year, building on the reciprocal relationship between Erskine and its alumni. The stories told, both old and new, were enjoyed by both groups and gave alumni and students alike insight



The Class of 1953 at a luncheon with Student Council members and senior class officers



A Coffee Connection Friday in September

into the traditions that have molded Erskine, the exciting opportunities available for students today, and the promising years ahead.

## Young Alumni Panel

In October, a panel of seven alumni from classes within the last decade sat on a panel discussion to share their experiences with the senior class about their lives after Erskine.



Alumni Panel (left to right): Alina Wright '09; Nate McCray '06; Kate (Reynolds) Bengtson '09; Michelle James '09; Shawn Soucie '13; Todd Jones '12; Billy Peaslee '13.

The panel included **Kate (Reynolds) Bengtson '09**, who attended Yale and is now a full time mother; **Michelle James '09**, who received her nursing degree from Central Maine Medical Center's College of Nursing;

**Todd Jones '12**, who attends Central Maine Community College; **Nate McCray '06**, who is a recruiter in the Army National Guard; **Billy Peaslee '13**, who works full time at Hussey's General Store; **Shawn Soucie '10**, who is in UMaine's engineering program; and **Alina Wright '09**, who attended the military-oriented Norwich University as one of the few females where she studied war and peace.

Under the direction of alumni events coordinator Halda Stout, other opportunities for alumni and student interaction are being planned.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the All Classes Reunion, which will be held on May 31, 2014 in the

James V. Nelson Gymnasium. Classes ending in 4s and 9s are celebrating their milestone reunions this year. ☺