

# Trip: An experience for Bement students

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about taking people into real, working orphanages and experiencing life, even for a short period of time, from what other people experience.”

Throughout the year, the students fundraise for the trip and will hold a buffet dinner at the school Friday at 6 p.m. as a final push.

Bement alumnus Allison Chesky went on the trip last year and is still raving about the experience.

“I wish I could be a carry-on bag and go back,” said Chesky. “It means the world to them.”

While the students are in San Cristobal, they will live in La Suiza. The students will teach English to the orphans and participate in work projects on the grounds including painting a mural and making minor construction repairs to the building.

Far from the coastal resorts, San Cristobal is without power for 14 hours a day. Plastic piping runs around the building, gathering rain water to be used for showering.

Now the Head of the Upper School at Bement, Fusto began his career teaching Spanish at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Gill and has been teaching for 24 years. His philosophy has evolved around his experiences abroad. He first visited the Dominican Republic in 1995. Before that he lived in Spain and has traveled to Puerto Rico. He has accompanied more than 400 students on trips abroad and initiated study abroad programs in Florida, at NMH and most recently at Bement.

Bement, students, alumni and family now sponsor a library at La Suiza.

Fusto speaks fluent Spanish and conversational Vietnamese.

“Every language I’ve learned in my life, I’ve gained



From the left, Wilder McCoy, Gabriel Miranda Sousa, Matt Plager, Madison Baker and Henry Sanford, students at Bement School in Deerfield, pack suitcases with school supplies to be taken with them to the Dominican Republic, where they will be working in an orphanage.

another pair of eyes, another pair of ears and my senses expand,” said Fusto.

His time abroad immersed him in foreign cultures and opened his eyes to new experiences. However, back in the classroom, this kind of immersion was left to a sidebar in a Spanish textbook. Footnotes attempted to convey an entire heritage by describing bull fights or traditional clothing. To Fusto, this missed the mark.

In 2000, Fusto was awarded a fellowship to study Caribbean culture in Puerto Rico. While he was there, he formulated the basis for his book “The Next Best Thing to Being There,” a text that attempts to bring the experience of being abroad into the classroom.

Using a series of classroom activities, Fusto encourages

teachers to synthesize the experience of being abroad in a classroom.

He said a goal of the book is to foster empathy for others by understanding their cultures.

“Only when friendship supplants stereotypes, do we have a chance for true understanding and harmony between people and cultures,” Fusto said.

Fusto’s favorite example is the lesson “Culture Clash.”

Dividing the class into two groups, Culture Clash prescribes different cultural etiquettes to each group. For example, one group would be told that it is polite to whisper and giggle while the other is told to speak loudly and that laughter is offensive. Then ambassadors from each group attempt to learn as much as they can about each culture.

“This is an approach, a teaching philosophy, but not

necessarily something you do every time you walk into a classroom,” said Fusto. “It supplements and complements other styles of teaching.”

For Fusto, cultural experiences, forcing students outside of the box, is fundamental to learning. He has incorporated his teaching style into language classes, psychology classes and leadership courses. He said this has impacted not only the lives of his students but the lives of the children in the orphanage in San Cristobal.

“Just a small effort can really make a difference,” said Fusto. “It sounds cliché, but I can’t worry about what sounds cliché, because these are real people.”

You can reach John Tilton at: jtilton@recorder.com or 413-772-0261, ext. 264

## State/Region Briefs



### Wrecked plane, 2 bodies found on beach

BREWSTER — Authorities say the wreckage of a small plane and the bodies of two occupants have been found on a Massachusetts beach.

The National Transportation Safety Administration says the two dead were believed to be the only ones aboard when the private four-seater crashed Sunday after the pilot reported smoke in the cabin. Spokespersons from the NTSB and U.S. Coast Guard say the two bodies were recovered at the beach in Brewster on Cape Cod. Their identities were not immediately released.

The plane was flying from Martha’s Vineyard to Hyannis, about a 20-minute flight, when it lost contact.

### I-290 expansion joint damages cars

WORCESTER — Massachusetts State Police say an expansion joint that became dislodged on a highway damaged several cars and caused a weekend crash between a tractor-trailer and a pickup truck.

State police said Sunday that the problem on westbound I-290 in Worcester might have been caused by the cold weather in the region, where temperatures were in the single digits in some areas early Sunday morning.

Troopers received several calls Sunday after the expansion joint became dislodged and protruded upward into the path of several vehicles.

It’s considered a contributing factor in the crash between the big rig and pickup truck, though information was not immediately released on the severity of that crash and

whether injuries were reported.

The state Department of Transportation repaired the joint Sunday and reopened all traffic lanes.

### N.H. House works on casino bill

CONCORD, N.H. — New Hampshire’s House has put off a vote on legalizing casinos until Feb. 8, but work on the bill is continuing.

The House Constitutional Review and Statutory Recodification and Ways and Means committees are holding a joint work session Thursday on the bill that would allow the Lottery Commission to license two casinos two years apart. The licenses would cost operators \$50 million and would let them install 5,000 video slot machines.

### Amtrak: ‘Trespasser’ on Vt. tracks struck

VERNON, Vt. — An Amtrak official says a person has been struck by a train in southeastern Vermont.

Amtrak spokeswoman Christina Leeds said the Vermont passenger train was traveling between Washington, D.C., and St. Albans in Vermont when it struck a “trespasser” on the tracks Sunday evening in Vernon.

Leeds said any information about the person would have to come from local officials. The Vernon police had no immediate details. The Brattleboro Reformer reported that a teenager was struck by the train. The paper said parts of Route 142 near an elementary school were closed.

Leeds said 141 people were on board the train and no injuries were reported.

## OBITUARIES

### George Wall Carter

GREENFIELD — George Wall Carter passed away peacefully on January 14, 2012 at Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility. Because of his great health, strength and positive outlook on life, he lived to be 95 years old.



CARTER

George was born on September 4, 1916 on Londs Island, Maine. He was the son of the late Nathan and Mary (Wall) Carter. He was predeceased by his beautiful wife of 54 years, the former Marguerite Linnehan.

George was a graduate of the former St. Dominic’s Academy in Boston. Following high school graduation, he enlisted in the Navy and served in the Pacific during World War II. It was during his time in the Navy when he met his wife at the Charlestown Navy Yard. He lived in the Boston suburbs, Concord and Greenfield and devoted his career to law enforcement by serving on the Concord police force and working for the Massachusetts Correctional Program.

During the summer, George loved vacationing in Maine. He enjoyed boating to his island properties and talking with the local lobstermen. Golfing, gardening, sports and the outdoors were favorites, also.

George was a communicant of Holy Trinity Church in Greenfield. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

George is survived by his children, Thomas of Greenfield, Kathleen Boyden and her husband Frank of Amherst, Carolyn Cote and her husband Leo of Greenfield, his grandchildren, Colleen Boyden and Ryan Boyden and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be private at Holy Trinity Church with burial at St. Bernard’s Cemetery in Concord, MA.

There are no calling hours. Memorial contributions suggested to the American Heart Association 20 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701-4688

Arrangements are under the direction of Kostanski Funeral Home in Greenfield. Sympathy message available at www.kostanskifuneralhome.com.

### Adelia Chula

Adelia (Cembalisty) Chula passed away on January 11, 2012 at Charlene Manor in

Greenfield, Massachusetts. She was ninety-six years old.

Adelia was born in Sunderland on August 8, 1915, the daughter of Joseph and Rozalia (Wroblewski)

Cembalisty. She graduated from Northfield High School and Bay Path Commercial School in Brattleboro, Vermont. After graduation, she was employed by the U.S. Postal Service for over thirty years, much of that time as postmistress at Mount Hermon School. She retired in 1978. A resident of Northfield for over eighty years, she was a member of St. Patrick’s Church, The Fortnightly Club, and the Senior Center of Northfield, as well as the Northfield Golf Club.



CHULA

She leaves five children: Margaret Chula (John Hall) of Portland, Oregon; Kathleen Chula (Howard Behling) of California; David Chula (Karen) of Northfield, Massachusetts; Stephen Chula of San Marcos, California; and Deborah Watson (Ron Douglas) of Palm Desert, California. Her three grandchildren are Andrea Emery (Eric), Cody Chula, and Levi Chula. She is also survived by a great-granddaughter, Ayela Emery, as well as several nieces, nephews, and a cousin.

We will remember our mother as the heart of the family, someone we could always depend on. We will miss her indomitable spirit and her devotion to our well-being. Our family would like to express our deepest thanks to her nurses and physical therapists in the Meadows Unit at Charlene Manor for the loving, attentive care they gave her during the last months of her life.

At her request, there will

be no calling hours. Funeral services will be private and at the convenience of the family. Wrisley Funeral Home of South Deerfield is in charge of arrangements. Messages of condolence may be directed to the family in care of David Chula at chud2@verizon.net

### Donald E. Vetterling Sr.

GREENFIELD — Donald “Don” E. Vetterling Sr., 86, of Smith St., died Thursday 1/12 at the Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield. He was born on January 15, 1925, the son of William C. a n d Katherine B. (Fritz) Vetterling, formerly of River St.



VETTERLING

Don attended local schools in Greenfield and was a graduate of Greenfield High School Class of 1942, where he met Margaret M. Lebert, his future wife. He was a resident of Greenfield his entire life.

In WW II he served with the U.S. Army 442nd Quartermaster’s Corps in France and the Philippines, and rose to the rank of staff sergeant.

After the war, he received business training with the Greenfield Gas Light Co. from 1945-55, and with the B&M Railroad from 1955-57. He became Greenfield’s Assistant Veterans’ Agent in 1957 and then Director in 1963. He retired in 1988, after 30 years of service, with special cita-

tions from the Massachusetts state Senate, the State House of Representatives, and from former Governor Michael Dukakis. Complementing his role as Veterans’ Agent, Donald was a member of the Massachusetts Veterans’ Agents Association, a past president and life-member of the Western Mass. Veterans’ Agents Association, a member of American Legion Post 81, and a member of VFW Post 417. For many years, he also served as Greenfield’s Director of Civil Defense.

Outside of work, Donald had many other hobbies and interests. He played piano and for many years was a member of a professional music ensemble, being also a member and past treasurer of Local 621 of the American Federation of Musicians. As a loyal Red Sox fan for his entire life, he rarely missed watching Boston Red Sox games. He was also an active gardener who grew more than he used, and who donated the excess to friends and to a local food kitchen. To keep his mind sharp, he successfully completed a Greenfield Recorder crossword puzzle every day.

Don was predeceased by his wife, the former Margaret M. Lebert on January 28, 2003 and a daughter, Louise A. Ellis on February 22, 2000.

Among his survivors Donald leaves two sons, William T. Vetterling, Ph.D. and his wife May-Anne of Lexington, Donald E. Jr. and his wife Wendy of Longmont, CO, a daughter Mary K. Vetterling-Braggin, Ph.D. and her husband Allan of Ramsey, NJ, a son-in-law Michael Ellis of South Deerfield, five grandchildren, Jennifer and Jessica Bragggin, Amy Ellis Durini, Neal and Christopher Ellis, and three great grandchildren Samantha, Claire and

Jonathan Ellis.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, 1/19, at 8:15 a.m. at Kostanski Funeral Home, 220 Federal St., Greenfield followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 9 a.m. in Blessed Sacrament Church with the Rev. Timothy J. Campoli, officiating. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery.

Calling hours will be Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Blessed Sacrament Church, 182 High St., Greenfield, MA 01301 or to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

Sympathy message available at www.kostanskifuneralhome.com.

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