

UNH Spanish instructor named to board of directors at children's museum of NH

Terri Ogan
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UNH Spanish instructor Emma Bricker is compassionate and kind-hearted with a killer sense of humor. This past month Bricker was named to the Board of Directors at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire (CMNH) in Dover where her extensive background in education and committee fundraising will surely attribute to the museum's future development.

Bricker's election to the board of directors has come at a crucial time in the organization's 25-year history. In July the museum relocated from Portsmouth to Dover, and changed its name from the Children's Museum of Portsmouth to the Children's Museum of New Hampshire. The museum plans on significantly expanding its audience, reach and programs, said Denise Doleac, director of the museum.

"Emma's background in education was very appealing along with her organization experience with fundraising," said Michael Kenison, an attorney at McLane, Graf, Raulerson and Middleton Professional Association, and the chair of the Board of Governance at CMNH. "Based on having lunch with her, her energy about the museum was apparent, and her experience with other committees fulfills desires as a board member," said Kenison.

When Bricker was first notified of her election to the board of directors she had to process the information, and do quite a bit of research as well. From her past experience with museums, Bricker concluded that they serve a purpose for children under the age of six. Having two children of her own, ages 17 and 13, Bricker wasn't sure if she could contribute to the museum.

"When Denny [Denise Doleac] called and asked me if I was interested, I had to do my research and find out," Bricker said. "Once I did that I was really excited. The museum is great! It's beautiful, the

building is gorgeous, and everyone, regardless of their age can benefit from it."

CMNH falls into its own category of children's museums. A unique facility that provides educational, and engaging activities for people of all ages, there are some outstanding features for young children that adults can enjoy as well, which is very uncharacteristic of a museum, Bricker said.

"There's a green screen that puts you in different countries where you can dance with people from different cultures, and even dress up if you want," Bricker explained. "It's really neat. The thought process behind the creativity blew me away."

Bricker's avidity in education and Spanish, along with her experience in other committees will be her strongest contributions to the museum.

"Emma is passionate about all things Spanish," said her husband and UNH President Mark Huddleston. "There is a growing Hispanic population in this area so she'll definitely be an asset."

Huddleston said Bricker's knowledge of children's museums is due to the fact she has visited museums in different parts of the world, for example, in Boston and in London.

"She'll be a great asset because of her energy and enthusiasm," Huddleston explains. "Everywhere we've traveled she's found children's museums that would interest our kids."

Bricker looks forward to possibly implementing her ample experience with Spanish to different components in the museum. A fascinating exhibit displays a man carving Mexican masks. Bricker's fluency in Spanish could be applicable to provide subtitles for the exhibit, but first she needs to sit down in a board meeting to see how her skill set will fit into the museum's goals, she said.

Bricker first began her career teaching at the University of Dela-

ware while simultaneously holding an after school program for children ages 6 to 12 years old right out of her home. Shortly afterwards she began teaching seventh and eighth graders at the Tower Hill School in Wilmington, Del., which proved to be the most memorable experience in her teaching career.

"The seventh and eighth graders were very interesting to teach," Bricker explains. "They're like sponges in terms of learning, and were very energetic. The number one rule in my classroom was that there was no English allowed unless the students asked permission, but they loved it! They would always say 'Senora, Senora!'"

Bricker spent her first semester at UNH teaching at the Thompson School, where she worked with great people and really enjoyed herself, she said. She is currently a Spanish instructor teaching students of all levels.

At CMNH, each member of the board of directors is elected for a three-year term. Since Bricker is an avid runner she will be working on the museum's road race committee for the moment. CMNH has an annual road race, which will fall sometime in early May.

"Emma will offer a valuable perspective as we organize this important fundraiser - the annual 5k race and children's fun run," Doleac said. "Emma will also be involved in planning exhibit openings for the museum's exhibitions in Gallery 6 that feature works for regional artists."

At the end of Bricker's three-year term with CMNH her time and compatibility will be assessed, and maybe there will be another three-year term in store for her.

"When you meet Emma it is impossible not to be struck by her intelligence, energy, sense of humor and passionate commitment to family, education and community," Doleac said. "All these qualities will be vital as Emma leads the CMNH toward new goals."

IN MEMORIAM

Jessica M. Fubel, 19, died on Monday, February 16, 2009 after a seven-year battle with cancer. Jessica grew up in Quincy, was a 2007 graduate of Abington High School and was a sophomore at the University of New Hampshire where she was studying journalism. She had a passion for soccer and played as a goalie since age five. She enjoyed writing, reading, journalism, music, traveling and politics. Most of all, Jessica loved spending time with her little sister, her dog Lucy, her many friends and her family.



Jessica Fubel

mother and step-father, Vikki and Mario Sindone of Scituate along with her father and step-mother, Joe and Molly Fubel of Winchester. She is also survived by her baby sister Maggie, her yiayia Eva Leinas, her grandparents Herb and Elaine Fubel of Braintree, and her uncles, aunts and cousins in the U.S. and in Greece. She joins her late papou James Leinas.

Jessica will be remembered by family and friends at an open house and memorial service at Scituate Country Club on Sunday, February 22 from 12 - 4 p.m. An informal service will be held at approximately 1:45 p.m. All are welcome. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Jessica's name to the Jimmy Fund in Boston at www.jimmyfund.org.

Jessica is survived by her

Arizona 9-year-old pleads guilty in shooting death

Felicia Fonseca
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. JOHNS, Ariz. - A 9-year-old boy accused of methodically shooting his father and his father's roommate to death last fall pleaded guilty Thursday to one count of negligent homicide, settling the case that shocked and mystified the nation.

Under a plea agreement, he pleaded guilty in the death of the roommate and charges of premeditated murder for both deaths were dropped. Police said the boy used a .22-caliber rifle to shoot the men as they returned home from work Nov. 5.

The boy's plea spares the rural community of about 4,000 from what would have been an emotional trial and prevents the boy from serving time in the state juvenile corrections system or being tried as an adult.

He was polite in court and was never asked to explain any motive for the killings.

The boy has not yet been sentenced. He could be sent to the county juvenile system, which would keep him close to his relatives. Apache County Attorney Michael Whiting wants the boy to undergo extensive mental evaluations and treatment, an option allowed by the plea agreement.

Defense attorney Ron Wood said the plea deal was a compromise that wasn't expected to please everyone.

"I don't know it was the best thing. That remains to be seen," he said. "This resolution of the case causes more potential for working out in (the boy's) favor."

The boy's mother cried throughout the hearing and, through her lawyer, objected to the plea deal, but Superior Court Judge Michael Roca accepted it.

The boy was 8 when he was accused of shooting his 29-year-old father, Vincent Romero, and 39-year-old Timothy Romans, a co-worker who also rented a room from Romero.

Facebook backtracks on terms of use after protests

Barbara Ortutay
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - In an about-face following a torrent of online protests, Facebook is backing off a change in its user policies while it figures how best to resolve questions like who controls the information shared on the social networking site.

The site, which boasts 175 million users from around the world, had quietly updated its terms of use - its governing document - a couple of weeks ago. The changes sparked an uproar after popular consumer rights advocacy blog Consumerist.com pointed them out Sunday, in a post titled "Facebook's New Terms Of Service: 'We Can Do Anything We Want With Your Content. Forever.'"

Facebook has since sought to reassure its users - tens of thousands of whom had joined protest groups on the site - that this is not the case, and on Wednesday morning, users who logged on to Facebook were greeted by a message saying that the site is reverting to its previous terms of use policies while it resolves the issues raised.

Facebook spelled out, in plain English rather than the legalese that prompted the protests, that it "doesn't claim rights to any of your photos or other content. We need a license in order to help you share information

with your friends, but we don't claim to own your information."

Tens of thousands of users joined protest groups on Facebook, saying the new terms grant the site the ability to control their information forever, even after they cancel their accounts.

This prompted a clarification from Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's founder, who told users in a blog post Monday that "on Facebook, people own their information and control who they share it with."

Zuckerberg, who started Facebook while still in college, also acknowledged that a "lot of the language in our terms is overly formal and protective of the rights we need to provide this service to you."

But this wasn't enough to quell user protests, and the site also created a group called "Facebook Bill of Rights and Responsibilities," designed to let users give input on Facebook's terms of use. It apologized for what it called "the confusion around these issues."

"We never intended to claim ownership over people's content even though that's what it seems like to many people," read a post from Facebook on the bill of rights page.

The latest controversy was not the first between the rapidly growing site and its users over its five-year history.



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