



News

'A Distant Memory'

BY MICHAEL GELBWASSER SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

Wednesday, October 10, 2007 1:08 AM EDT

NORTON

When Jennifer Field attended Wheaton College, she needed extra help and time on her tests.

And Evelyn Staudinger Lane was more than happy to provide it.

A near-fatal car crash at age 17 put Field in a coma - "not like the Hollywood version," she says - for two months, and left her brain damaged. She spent the next decade, including her college years, rehabilitating. The injury continues to affect her.

Lane, an associate professor of art history, says she can relate. Her husband suffered a serious head injury in a car accident of his own. On Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Field will perform an autobiographical one-woman show, "A Distant Memory," at Wheaton, where she earned a bachelor's degree in art history in 2000. She graduated magna cum laude. The show, which opened in October 2005, follows Field from her 11 years as a champion equestrian, to her Nov. 17, 1992, accident, in which her car slid on an icy New Hampshire road and crashed into a tractor-trailer, to learning to walk, talk and use her right arm again, to traveling the globe trying therapies.

While at Wheaton, Field hopes to reunite with one of her inspirations, Lane, her former art history professor and adviser.

The two still keep in touch.

"She has really been an incredible role model to me," Field said. "She gave me a lot of extra help, unlimited time on examinations. We just bonded."

"I can't wait to see Professor Lane."

Two of Lane's classes will be in the audience, partly because the admiration is mutual. "She says I'm a role model. She's really a role model for me," Lane said.

Lane says Field was among 15 Wheaton students who helped organize and write a 140-page senior seminar catalog of 75 Wheaton artworks.

The college now has a collection of three catalogs, Lane said.

"She was an inspiration when she was here," Lane said. "To have her come back and meet with a new group of students ..."

Field says she is still affected by the injury to this day.

"I have trouble with words sometimes. Writing is difficult. If something is hard for you, it would be 10 times as hard for me," she said. "My whole purpose for this show is to help people, to be an inspiration."

Now a poet, painter and an acting student in California, Field said she got the idea for her show after seeing the one-man show, "Time Flies When You're Alive" with Paul Linke.

Writing helped her with her emotional recovery from her crash.

"I needed to have a purpose," Field said. "What I really was subconsciously trying to find was the feeling I had being on a horse."

"Instead of training my horse, I now was training myself."

Thursday's show is a new version of her first one.

"It's like putting my whole life out there," Field said. "A lot of people would be scared to do that. I don't know why."

For more information, visit www.jfieldfoundation.org.

MICHAEL GELBWASSER covers Norton for The Sun Chronicle. He can be reached at 508-236-0439 or at mogelbwasser@thesunchronicle.com.

Top Headlines

- Dog's owner sought after bloody attack
- 911 abuse may bring penalties to callers
- NA pet store hit with penalty
- Half a century of speed
- Good news for AHS students

- Print this story
- Email this story
- Photo Reprints
- RSS
- Forums
- AddThis

Come to the 4th Annual
WING OFF
 June-19, 2010
 North Attleboro Elks
 52 Bulfinch Road, North Attleboro
 Great Food
 Great Company
 Live Music!
 Proceeds benefit the 1st Beach Out for Youth and Agencies Campaign.
HOCKOMOCK AREA YMCA
 North Attleboro • Franklin • Mansfield

NEW YEAR, NEW SAVINGS!
 Call
Barrows Insurance Agency Inc.
 The most choices, top carriers, great savings.
508-339-7260

audioconcepts
 AUDIO VIDEO & MORE
 Area's Largest Independent A/V Dealer
 DESIGN • INSTALLATION
 SUPPORT • REPAIR

FRESH CATCH seafood and sushi
1/2 PRICE SUSHI
 Maki Rolls every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday Night Starting May 18th
 BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!
88 UNION ST. ATTLEBORO 508-226-1587

The **PRO'S** auto sales repair car wash detailing auto body
www.proscarcare.com
 (508) 339-4300 46 Chauncy St., Mansfield

local-i-dos.com

 wedding planning made easy.

Northeast Trading Company
 580 Kelley Blvd, Rt. 152
 No. Attleboro, MA

 NRA Certified
 Federal & State Licensed
508-695-4852
800-473-3006