

# "Sweethearts" of UMBC

By Bonnie Moller, English '93

Many couples who began their lives together at UMBC returned to campus February 10 to celebrate collectively at the Alumni Association's first Sweetheart Swing, an event for alumni couples who met at UMBC. Two pairs who met in the mid-80s, however, share a different significant date—April Fool's Day.

The LeContes met on April 1, 1985. **Patti (Hicks) LeConte**, political science '90, was working for the Student Events Board, handing out balloons around campus to promote an April Fool's Day party when she first saw her future husband, **Brian LeConte**, engineering '89. She tracked him down and, in spite of an unfortunate pick-up line, the two dated for seven years before marrying in 1992.

Brian and Patti were both active in Greek life. She was a member of Delta Phi Epsilon and he was the founding president of Phi Kappa Psi, Maryland Beta Chapter.

Patti has fond memories of college. "UMBC was the place where I met my husband, made the greatest friends of my life and learned the most about myself," she says. "Belonging to a group that allowed me to experiment with leadership skills, organization, public speaking and social interaction was a definite plus."

Patti works as an associate at Deutsche Banc Alex. Brown Investment Services Division and Brian is a project manager at Leach Wallace Associates. They have three children, B.J., 7; Bailey, 4; and Peyton, 3.

**Dwayne Price**, information systems '87, and **Lisa (Dates) Price**, information systems '87, didn't meet on April Fool's Day, but they married on that date in 1989. It was the only date available at their reception site and they still have a good sense of humor about it. "We considered it an easy-to-remember anniversary date," says Lisa. "Dwayne always remembers."

Dwayne and Lisa say that sharing the same major allowed them to learn and challenge each other in a field that was then just beginning to flourish. After her first experience in cooperative education, for example, Lisa encouraged Dwayne to register for the program, too.

They remained a close team after graduation. Both earned master's degrees and have worked for such employers as Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Northrop Grumman, COMSTAT, Fannie Mae, MICROS and BET. Lisa is now database director at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and Dwayne is senior database administrator at AARP.

The two are passionate about and fiercely loyal to UMBC. "We feel strongly that the education and co-op experiences we gained at UMBC put us on an excellent course in what is now the ever-expanding field of information technology," says Lisa. "We believe UMBC will continue to have success stories such as ours due to the proactive and visionary plans it has for new freshmen." The Prices' continued involvement with UMBC includes meeting current and prospective students through such programs as "Backpack to Briefcase," IFSM Career Day and student recruitment. Lisa is in her first term as a UMBC Alumni Association board member.

Lisa and Dwayne have two children, Devin, 8, and Layne, 6.

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