

THE College

SPRING 2009

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE • ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE



George Eliot

AND LIFE'S PURSUITS

ON GEORGE ELIOT

What a rebel Mary Anne Evans was.

Throughout her life, she struggled against the bonds of conformity and society, first by defying her father and refusing to go to church. In a collection of Eliot's letters and journals published by her husband, J.W. Cross, it's clear that Eliot's decision caused great turmoil in the family home.

Cross wrote: "This was an unforgivable offence in the eyes of her father, who was churchman of the old school, and nearly led to a family rupture. He went so far as to put into an agent's hands the lease of the house in the Foleshill Road, with the intention of going to live with his married daughter."

Mary Anne eventually relented and returned to live with her father, whom she cared for through a long decline. After Robert Evans' death, his daughter (now Marian) devoted herself to the life of an intellectual, feeding her ravenous mind with works of theology, philosophy, literature—everything she could get her hands on. Female novelists including George Sands, the Brontës, and Jane Austen were on her reading list. She spent her evenings at concerts and soirees, attended lectures by Faraday and Dickens, and immersed herself in the political issues of her day. As the assistant editor of the *Westminster Review*, she fell in with like-minded people, one of whom was George Henry Lewes, a novelist, dramatist, and occasional actor.

Her long and loving relationship—outside of marriage—with the already married Lewes caused great scandal and led her family and many of her friends to shun her. The scandal was one of the reasons Evans adopted the pseudonym George Eliot when she published *Scenes of Clerical Life* in 1857. In a biography, Rosemary Ashton explains how Evans chose the pen name: "She told John Cross that she fixed on George Eliot because 'George was Mr Lewes's Christian name, and Eliot was a good mouth-filling, easily pronounced word.'" Her identity was well known by the time Evans published *Middlemarch*, which was a resounding success and made her quite wealthy.

After Lewes died in 1878, Eliot was devastated. As a way to cope with her grief, she read Dante with her good friend John Cross, who was struggling with Italian. Though it shocked many in her circle, Eliot married Cross, 20 years her junior, in May 1880. He was at her side in their home in London when she died that December.

This issue of *The College* pays tribute to George Eliot and her *Middlemarch* heroine, Dorothea, by exploring the paths of three women at different stages of life and careers. All have approached life hungry for new challenges and the chance to keep learning.

—RH



ST. JOHN'S College

ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE

THE COLLEGE
is published three times a year by
St. John's College, Annapolis, MD,
and Santa Fe, NM

Known office of publication:
Communications Office
St. John's College
Box 2800
Annapolis, MD 21404-2800

Periodicals postage paid
at Annapolis, MD

POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to *The College*
Magazine, Communications
Office, St. John's College,
Box 2800, Annapolis, MD
21404-2800.

Rosemary Harty (AG109), *editor*
443-716-4011
rosemary.harty@sjca.edu

Patricia Dempsey,
managing editor
Jennifer Behrens, *art director*

The College welcomes letters on
issues of interest to readers.
Letters can be sent via e-mail to
the editor or mailed to the
address above.

Annapolis
410-626-2539

Santa Fe
505-984-6104

Contributors

J. Matthew Griffis (SF08)
Jenny Hannifin
Sara Luell (A09)
Cathi Dunn MacRae
J.W. Ocker (AG102)
Jack Owens (class of 1937)
Anna Perleberg (SF02)
Deborah Spiegelman

Magazine design by
Claude Skelton Design

THE College

SPRING 2009

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE

{ CONTENTS }

PAGE 12

CHANGING COURSE

Like *Middlemarch*'s Dorothea, these alumnae left one path in life to follow another, more rewarding one.

PAGE 20

FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

Book lovers revel in places where "stacks of papery happiness" await.

PAGE 26

ALUMNI VOICES

During the Great Depression, Jack Owens (class of 1937) became a "scholar and a gentleman" thanks to the "old" program.

PAGE 30

HOMECOMING

Autumn revels in Annapolis and Santa Fe

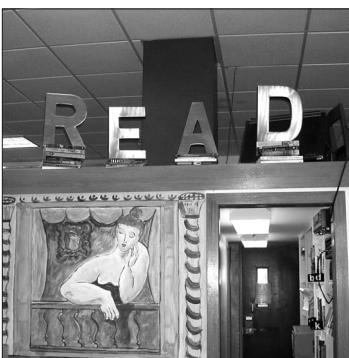
PAGE 48

PHOTO ESSAY

Fueled by his fascination for "odd things," J.W. Ocker (AG102) documents the weird and wonderful on a blog and website.



PAGE 12



PAGE 20



PAGE 30

DEPARTMENTS

2 FROM THE BELL TOWERS

- A strategic plan for the college
- Weathering the "perfect storm"
- Twenty-five years of Touchstones
- The Georgian connection
- A sustainable table in Santa Fe
- A Johnnie masters a Mongolian art
- A Truman Scholar named in Annapolis
- The master of Temple Iglehart
- Every day a different challenge
- St. John's is a "cool" college
- EC graduates help current students master languages
- Philanthropia's new leaders
- A man who changed lives
- News and announcements

11 LETTERS

28 BIBLIOFILE

- Sallie Bingham (SFG194) explores love and loss in "Red Car," a collection of short stories.
- Alumni books in brief

32 ALUMNI

PROFILES

- 32 Laura Crawshaw (SF75) makes angry bosses happier.
- 36 A publishing venture allows Darius Himes (SFG100) to promote art and photography.
- 39 Fun and games—and business—come together for Dominic Crapuchettes (A97).

46 OBITUARIES

50 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

52 ST. JOHN'S FOREVER

ON THE COVER

George Eliot

Illustration by David Johnson

“THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE”

It takes a clear vision to guide a college, and the vision statement for the college's 2008-2013 strategic plan is both straightforward and lofty:

Liberal education at St. John's College involves adherence to an ideal that we attempt to embody in activity. By engaging students in an examination of the fundamental questions that human beings need to consider and by giving students the responsibility for their own learning, we hope to open the world to them in such a way that they become excellent citizens, parents, partners, colleagues, and friends. We aspire to provide the best possible educational experience guided by our mission and supported by appropriate resources. As one college on two campuses, including Board, faculty, staff, students and alumni, we strive to build a community where careful listening, respect for the contributions of others and thoughtful attempts to reach a shared understanding extend to all aspects of the life of the college.

The college's Board of Visitors and Governors formally voted to adopt the strategic plan at its fall 2008 meeting in Annapolis. The document was crafted by faculty, staff, board members, and alumni of both campuses who met to review and discuss every aspect of the college, from admissions to public safety. It identifies seven primary goals:

1. Maintain the health and vitality of the program of instruction for undergraduate and graduate students
2. Promote a student experience that complements and enhances the program of instruction and supports retention
3. Provide the means to support the program of instruction and address college priorities
4. Ensure optimal organizational structure, practices, and compensation that are necessary to maintain the health of the program, promote effective operations, and improve sense of community
5. Develop a physical environment for each campus that is worthy of the program and college community
6. Engage alumni in a lifelong relationship with the college
7. Strengthen involvement with the greater communities within which the college exists

The college's previous strategic plan covered the years 2000-2008, a time of intense activity dominated by the college's capital campaign, but also marked by a change in leadership on the Santa Fe campus with the arrival of Michael Peters in 2005.

The campaign raised \$134 million in support of the college's priorities: increased funding for financial aid, improving tutor salaries and providing more faculty development opportunities, and improving student life. Both campuses have been transformed by the campaign: two new dormitories stand in Annapolis, and Santa Fe will begin construction soon on its new Graduate Institute Center, the Norman and Betty Levan Hall.

Even with a sharp economic downturn to contend with, the college is better positioned to address future needs. Leadership on the two campuses is strong, and the Management Committee unites the two campuses together as one college in effective ways. A committed and talented board helps guide the college. The Program remains under constant review, and with

increased opportunities for faculty study, new approaches to program works and studies have been undertaken, to the benefit of students and tutors.

Still, the challenges for the college remain clear:

- How do we sustain what we value? Keeping the college small presents continuing financial challenges.
- How do we continue to attract students and expand our applicant pool in today's higher education climate?
- How do we shape our campuses' physical spaces so that they are best suited to the pursuits of the program?
- How can we become the best community of learning—and what does that mean for each member of the college community on each of the campuses?

- How can we reach out to the world beyond in ways that will benefit those who participate in what we offer and best bring benefit to the college?

“How we address and move forward with respect to these questions will determine important directions for the college,” says Barbara Goyette (A73) vice president for advancement in Annapolis and one of the chairs of the strategic planning committee. “We hope to continue to improve the educational experience for our students and provide the best possible environments for carrying out the mission.”

The complete Strategic Plan can be found on the college website: www.stjohnscollege.edu, click on “About.” ❖



THE PROGRAM IS AT THE HEART OF ST. JOHN'S, AND THE NEW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COLLEGE HAS THAT PRINCIPLE AS ITS FOUNDATION.

WEATHERING THE “PERFECT STORM”

In January 2008—well before the global economic crisis was apparent—members of the college’s Board of Visitors and Governors decided the college should undergo a planning exercise to prepare for difficult times.

St. John’s has long benefited from the expertise of a particular group of board members who serve on the Finance and Investment committees, says Bronté Jones, treasurer in Annapolis. Most have extensive experience in areas such as investing and business development. They serve as a ready brain trust for Jones and Santa Fe Treasurer Bryan Valentine, who work together on strategic financial planning for the college.

“The committees asked us to participate in what we called ‘the perfect storm’ scenario, where we looked at what we would do if all these bad things converged on us at once,” says Jones. The practice scenario included a drop in enrollment, a reduction in donor support, and a stock market slump. Both treasurers worked through the numbers and presented strategies to the board members in meetings and conference calls last year. “At the time we were thinking it was just another exercise,” Jones says. “But all of the strategies we drew up in planning are what we’re drawing from now.”

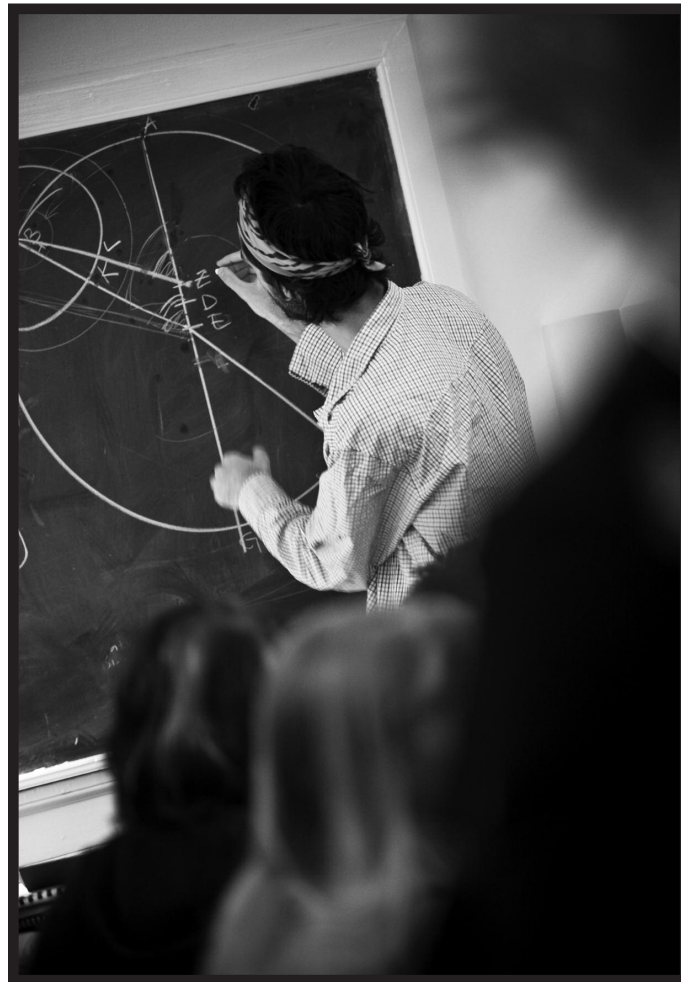
Endowment has dropped about 20 percent, to about \$105 million as of December 31. The college draws up to 5 percent of endowment to help fund annual operations, so both campuses are trimming budgets in response to the shortfall. The Advancement offices anticipate a reduction in philanthropic giving, and both campuses are planning a 2009-2010 budget with less tuition revenue. The Maryland

General Assembly—coping with the state’s \$1.1 billion budget shortfall—has made cuts to the Sellinger Program, which supports private institutions in Maryland. And mindful of the effects of the recession on students and their families, St. John’s adopted the smallest tuition increase (2.9 percent) in two decades.

The college is confronting the same issues faced by many colleges and universities. A survey conducted in December by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) found that 97 percent of respondents

were concerned about falling endowments and 52 percent were worried about fall 2009 enrollment.

As a faculty member for the Higher Education Resource Institute (HERS), Jones recently led a budget planning session for female college administrators, where she gained a picture of how other colleges are coping. St. John’s is facing tight budgets, Jones acknowledges, but many colleges are in serious crisis. Wellesley College, for example, is cutting about 85 jobs this year, in part because of a \$200 million hit to its endowment.



KEEPING CLASS SIZES SMALL AND MEETING INCREASED DEMAND FOR FINANCIAL AID ARE THE COLLEGE’S TOP BUDGET PRIORITIES.

Some college budgets depend more on endowment, others on enrollment. St. John’s falls somewhere in the middle—a recent development, Jones points out, because increased giving to the college over the past five years has boosted both Annual Fund support and the endowment. “I consider us quite fortunate compared to some other institutions,” says Jones. “We are trimming budgets, but some other institutions are calling donors to help pay their utility bills.”

On the plus side, Jones says, “we have a larger endowment, we have loyal donors, we’ve got access to resources—the contingency fund.” Since 2000, the college has been putting a percentage of budget surpluses into a rainy-day fund that stands at about \$1 million, part of which either campus can tap to help meet shortfalls this year. For the next fiscal year, both treasurers have asked campus department heads to find cost savings in every budget line. “We’re cutting everywhere we can to help us meet the needs of our students,” says Jones. “We are preserving financial aid—in fact we are increasing what is available to students with need—and we are keeping class sizes the same.”

Both Valentine and Jones are planning for a storm that will last a few years. But like emergency responders who have drilled and practiced for a major accident, both are ready to respond to rapidly changing developments. “It’s a challenge, but this is what we have prepared for,” Jones says.

Valentine says the crisis makes for some long workdays, because both treasurers are constantly examining budgets and revising figures. “We can’t budget on what we hope will happen, we have to be prepared for all kinds of scenarios.” ❖

TOUCHSTONES AT 25

After tutor Nick Maistrellis asked the opening question, there was dead silence—for 90 uncomfortable seconds. Maistrellis waited as the middle school students in Hartford, Connecticut, stared at each other, at the floor, or at their Xeroxed copies of the reading, the Cain and Abel story from the book of Genesis. In the back of the classroom, tutors Howard Zeiderman (class of 1967) and Geoff Comber were observing, along with some of the school's teachers and administrators. "It was terrifying," says Maistrellis, recalling the details with clarity 26 years later.

Finally, one student spoke up. A seminar happened. Though there were moments of chaos as students embraced their new freedom, they responded to the text and to each other.

Maistrellis realized later that if he had broken the silence and prodded the students, the experiment would have been a failure. "The students never would have taken control of the discussion," Maistrellis says. "That was the beginning of making them responsible for the class."

From its debut in the Hartford Public Schools in 1983, the Touchstones Discussion Project—started by tutors and fueled in part over the years by St. John's graduates, current students, and alumni volunteers—has grown into an organization with international reach. More than 100,000 students in Jordan have read Touchstones texts in their middle schools. Last year, at the invitation of the government of Tanzania, Zeiderman led seminars for business and government leaders with the goal of forming coalitions to work on long-range plans for the country's development. Prisoners in Maryland have been reading Touchstones texts with volunteer tutors (alumni and current students

among them), and Zeiderman has even led seminars for personnel of the National Security Agency and Central Intelligence Agency.

In the United States, at least 7,500 schools have included Touchstones in their curricula, from elementary grades through high school. The organization has 27 Touchstones volumes in print, plus three volumes in Spanish, a volume in Arabic for Jordan, and a volume in Burmese, used in Myanmar.

Although it takes many of its approaches from St. John's, Touchstones differs in what it hopes to achieve in participants, says Zeiderman. "Touchstones is a four-stage process to develop in students the skills of exploring and thinking both collaboratively and individually. In Touchstones, all—and I mean all—students learn to participate. It is also a program in how students can govern themselves as a seminar group and learn to lead the groups themselves."

The idea developed over long mid-morning breakfasts that Zeiderman and Maistrellis enjoyed every day at an Annapolis restaurant. Tutors at the college were often getting requests to share the St. John's "method" by schools with ambitious and innovative programs. (Hartford, for example, was a magnet school with aspirations to send more students to college.) Comber (H95), now tutor emeritus, was also involved from the beginning, using contacts across the country to bring Touchstones to schools in places such as



AT TOUCHSTONES' ANNAPOLIS OFFICE ARE (BOTTOM ROW, L. TO R.): JOAN CROKER (AG108), JEREMY JOKELL, AND TUTOR NICK MAISTRELLIS; (BACK ROW, L. TO R.): STEFANIE TAKACS (A89), JOHANNA ANDERSON (AG109), RYAN PHILLIPS (AG107), AND GIULIANA DE GRAZIA (AG109).

rural Alabama, Pittsburgh, and Chicago. The effort was shaped into a nonprofit organization and incorporated in 1985 as a 501(c)(3).

Today, Touchstones is headquartered in a building in historic Annapolis and has a staff of eight, most of them Johnnies with a missionary zeal for education. Adam Meyers (A08) began working for Touchstones right after he graduated last year. He runs the Touchstones program at the Maryland State Correctional Institution in Jessup. He coordinates volunteers and works through the bureaucratic red tape, but he also gets to choose the readings and lead seminars. Sitting down to discuss a text in a correctional facility "was so far from anything I'd ever experienced before," says Meyers. "Now that I've done it a while, what keeps me interested is the humanity of these men. It's so easy when you go through your normal life to pigeonhole them as hardened criminals who have no place in regular society. You can't help but notice that they're exactly

the same as you are. It leads you to learn something about yourself."

For years, Maistrellis took time away from St. John's to help run Touchstones, but by the early 1990s, he had to leave the organization and return to full-time teaching. Looking back, he's pleased at what Touchstones has accomplished and how it has evolved. "We thought we had the opportunity to do something really big," that would make a difference, he says. "We did."

Zeiderman has turned the day-to-day management over to Stefanie Takacs (A89), Touchstones' new educational director, but he's still involved in leading Touchstones seminars and training for a diverse group of people and organizations. His long-range plan for Touchstones? "I want every student in the world to do it," he says. Short of that, he'd be happy if "every student in the United States did it." ❀

—ROSEMARY HARTY

ST. JOHN'S, GEORGIA STYLE

Although the country of Georgia has become the focus of international news during the past year in its war with Russia and collapse of infrastructure, when Nini Aduasvili (A11) came to St. John's, not many students had heard of her home country. It was Aduasvili's "passion for her country and her culture" that drew fellow Johnnies to learn more about Georgia, says Noel Brockett (A09). Together, Aduasvili and Brockett founded the Organization for Liberal Education in Georgia (OLEG),

a group committed to spreading liberal education and introducing St. John's to the people of Georgia.

OLEG's first accomplishment was a trip to Georgia in the summer of 2008, when students immersed themselves in the culture and engaged in seminar-style classes with Georgian people. Brockett (OLEG's executive director), Aduasvili, her sister Miriam Aduasvili (A12), Vincent Tavani (A11), and Acacia Pappas (A11) accompanied Dwayne Lacey (then a

tutor in Annapolis) on the trip. With a group of about 40 Georgians at New Gelati Academy, part of Gigol Robakidze University in Tblisi, OLEG held seminars on the *Meno*, Euclid, Heraclitus, Joseph Black, and Jacob Klein. "We were bringing St. John's to them," says Tavani.

With help from OLEG, New Gelati Academy is developing a program based in part on the St. John's curriculum. Because of traditions and the focus on the community, says Brockett, "there is a particular potential in Georgia for an education like

St. John's." One tradition of the Georgian people is the *supra* feast, when everyone sits down together at a table and takes turns giving lengthy toasts on a variety of topics. While giving the toasts, says Tavani, "they get really philosophical

because they are taking their time to appreciate and contemplate what makes life life. It was a lot like seminar sometimes. It reminded us of the *Symposium*."

In addition to *supra*, Georgians have a long oral tradition of poetry, often singing and dancing to poems. Many of these Georgian poems will be integrated into the New Gelati program. "To be a good St. John's student, you need to really enjoy reading and have the enthusiasm," says Brockett. "The Georgian people definitely have that passion."

What's next for the group? Alex Lawson (A03), an alumnus who has worked in the nonprofit development field, is helping Brockett make OLEG into a nonprofit organization, and the group is recruiting board members. Recently, OLEG was awarded the \$10,000 Davis Peace Grant, which will help fund a project to send four St. John's tutors to Georgia for three weeks. ❀

—SARA LUELL (A09)



ACACIA PAPPAS

NINO ADUASHVILI (A11) TEACHES GEORGIAN DANCE ONE NIGHT A WEEK, ONE OF OLEG'S CULTURAL PROJECTS ON THE ANNAPOLIS CAMPUS.

A SUSTAINABLE TABLE IN SANTA FE

Organic peanut butter from Portales, apples and apple cider from Dixon and Alcalde, honey from Taos, and hydroponic tomatoes are all part of the daily food service on the Santa Fe campus. Changes began in 2007 when Rex McCreary came on board with Aramark, which runs the dining operation there. Students wanted food service that was organic, fair trade, local, and healthy, and McCreary delivered. "They wanted it, and they deserved it," says McCreary, who began

the process by talking with folks at The Tree House, an organic café and bakery. First to arrive were organic fruit and vegetables purchased from La Montanita Co-op or directly from farmers. This year almost all food served, including meat and turkey, is organic and bought locally.

Not many colleges in New Mexico commit to this level of sustainable food service, but McCreary says it's pretty easy once you let vendors know what you need. Getting bread made without refined sugar,

for example, came about just by asking. But sustainable food service does require more people—students, staff, and tutors—to get involved in the process. Places like La Montanita create weekly pick lists that allow McCreary to steer towards seasonal (and thus less expensive) choices.

McCreary participates in a panel discussion during freshmen week, and at campus "town hall" meetings, so students and parents know he is willing to hear their suggestions. Currently in the plan-

ning stages is a kiosk with web-based access to full descriptions of all the food products served, which will be created and supported by Aramark. Until then, students can always get a full listing of ingredients just by asking. Recycling, green cleaning supplies, and biodegradable disposables (trashbags, to-go boxes, cups, and paper plates) are all part of the efforts. Going tray-less eliminated waste and reduced water use. Food donations to Kitchen Angels (which delivers food to homebound residents of Santa Fe) or the St. Elizabeth Shelter are made when possible. ❀

SINGING ON THE STEPPES

On the vast steppes of Mongolia the nomadic culture is in transition. "It's not unusual to see nomads carry Russian satellite dishes with them each time they move," says Colin Forhan (ART), who lived on the steppes last summer. "[They] set up satellite dishes next to their homes, called *gers*. These Mongolians call a home a *ger* rather than use the Russian word *yurt* because they prefer to use their native language." Forhan is also learning another native Mongolian language: throat singing.

There are numerous types of throat singing (sometimes called harmonic chanting or overtone chanting) practiced around the world, but Forhan has taught himself a basic Mongolian form known as *khoomei*. When he sings this way Forhan keeps his tongue in a fixed position to produce harmonics clearly. In throat singing, the singer creates resonance and amplified sounds with constrictions and shapes; the tongue and mouth filter out certain tones and draw forth others. The effect is like a loud, vibrational human guitar string. Its history is rooted in a desire to mimic natural sounds such as wind and water. "The sounds of throat singing travel great

distances," says Forhan.

"The landscape is so vast in Mongolia. This is [in part] the way this singing started. Standing at the top of a mountain you can hear your voice in every direction. Sounds are louder and more pure."

Forhan was in high school in his hometown, Takoma Park, Md., when he first heard throat singing. "I was listening to NPR and someone was throat singing covers for popular Western songs. It was the most beautiful thing I had ever heard." He became obsessed and began teaching himself throat singing by listening to CDs and surfing websites for demonstrations. "It took me three months to make a semblance of a sound."

By the time Forhan was a freshman at St. John's, he decided to spend the summer in Mongolia to learn firsthand from nomads who are throat singers. To get to Mongolia, Forhan joined an archaeology program offered by the University of Pittsburgh. After a brief stay in the capital city of Ulan Bator, his group traveled 13 hours to the province of Arkhangai and pitched their tents. They were three hours from the closest town, and they lived like the

nomads. "I even ate boiled goats' heads and drank some of the worst vodka I've ever tasted. It was a homebrew made from goats' milk." Forhan sang with several of the nomads and plans to return this summer to Mongolia on his own. He will stay with friends in Ulan Bator, then head back to the nomads to throat sing in the steppes.

In Mongolia, throat singing is a folk music much like bluegrass is in America, says Forhan. "It's a special folk music that everyone there has heard of, though not all Mongolians can sing this way." Some of the forms take a lifetime to master, and Forhan readily admits that he may never learn the more difficult techniques. He describes how in one such technique "the note coming out of the throat singer's mouth is an



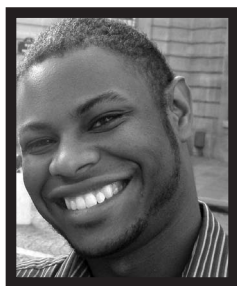
COLIN FORHAN LIVED LIKE A NOMAD IN MONGOLIA, WHERE HE FEASTED ON BOILED GOATS' HEADS.

octave lower than the sounds emitted by the vocal chords." For now Forhan is happy to learn the basics. "When I demonstrated my throat singing for the nomads, they thought it was hilarious—an American trying their singing." ❖

—PATRICIA DEMPSEY

TRUMAN SCHOLAR

Annapolis junior Jamaal Barnes (ARO) has been named a 2009 Truman Scholar by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. Barnes is one of 60 students from 55 colleges and universities in the United States who were selected for their leadership potential, intellectual ability, and desire to make a difference.



Barnes is from Sanford, N.C. He serves on the Delegate Council and as a student representative to the college's Board of Visitors and Governors. He is a co-founder of Epigenesis, a student outreach program designed to instill leadership skills in disadvantaged

JAMAAL BARNES HAS HIS SIGHTS SET ON A CAREER IN EDUCATION.

youth; a member of Primum Mobile, a group that sings sacred music; and a resident assistant. He has long-term plans to earn a doctorate in education and work for the reform and improvement of public education.

"This well-rounded and personable young man brightens up every room he enters," Annapolis President Christopher Nelson (SF70) wrote in his recommendation letter to the Truman Foundation. "He is a natural leader whose passion for helping others inspires those around him."

Each scholarship provides up to \$30,000 for graduate study. Scholars also receive priority admission and supplemental financial aid at some premier graduate institutions, leadership training, career and graduate school counseling, and special internship opportunities within the federal government. Recipients must be U.S. citizens, have outstanding leadership potential and communication skills, be in the top quarter of their class, and be committed to careers in government or the not-for-profit sector. ❖

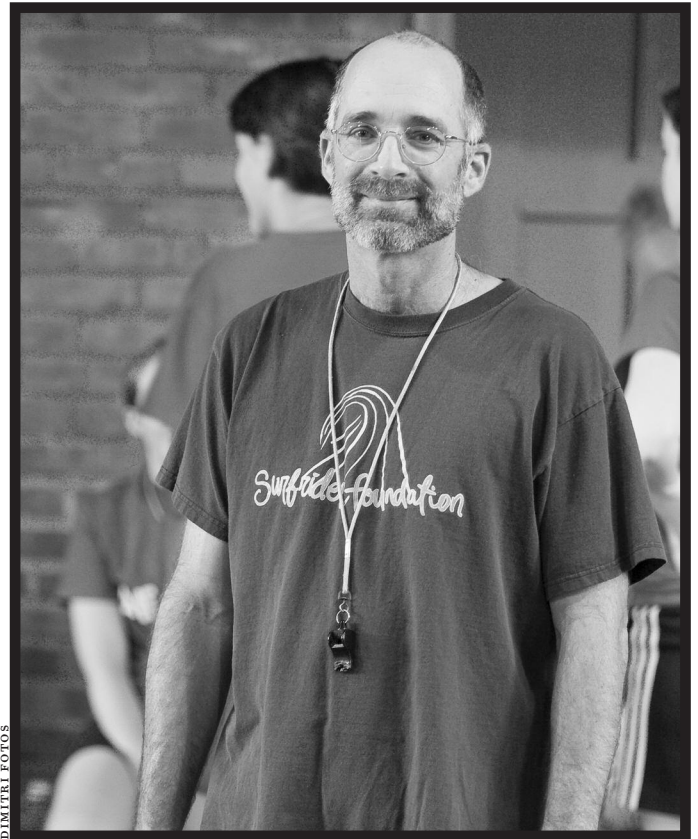
TWENTY YEARS OF *THUMOS*

Leo Pickens (A78), who marks his 20th year as athletic director in Annapolis this year, believes in playing sports for fun—but give less than your best effort at crew practice or on the soccer field, and you’ll hear from him. When he talks about *thumos*, he usually smacks one hand into the other for emphasis—give your heart to a game, Pickens says, and you’re a winner regardless of the outcome. In Temple Iglehart, he’s also a tutor: *kunai* basketball games are sometimes interrupted so he can be sure novice players have a grip on the rules.

As he was inspired by his mentor, longtime athletic director Bryce Jacobsen (class of 1942), Pickens hopes to inspire Johnnies to take up sports with passion and purpose. As a student, Pickens played for the Druids: soccer, flag football, basketball, and softball. In a year spent in Santa Fe, he played soccer and ran in the mountains.

Although today he devotes himself to yoga (his headstand is a thing of beauty), Pickens considers running up Atalaya “one of my greatest achievements as a human.”

“If memory serves, it’s about a two-mile run from campus to the top. The elevation gain over that two miles is approximately 2,000 feet. In those days there wasn’t any development behind the college, so the trail ran through nothing but that lean, austere natural setting of piñon and Ponderosa and sage. I ran alone, and remember the purity of the air, scented with the sweetness of the pine, and the ever-expanding views as you climbed higher up the mountain. The final very steep ascent was excruciating—one of the hardest things I’ve ever done physically, and hence the pride. But once up on top you could see forever, and the effortless, screaming (figuratively speaking, but sometimes literally!) run down the mountain was as close to flight as I’ve ever come. Closer to a religious experience, really, than an athletic one.” ❀



DIMITRI FOTOS

LEO PICKENS LEFT A CAREER IN BANKING TO RETURN TO THE COLLEGE, WHERE FOR 20 YEARS HE HAS HELPED JOHNNIES DISCOVER THEIR INNER ATHLETE.

EVERY DAY A DIFFERENT CHALLENGE

Johnny Zamora grew up just a mile from the college in what was then a virtual village removed from downtown Santa Fe. As a boy, he and his buddies would regularly climb Monte Sol. Little could he have known that his view from the top included the future site of the St. John’s campus. Nor could he have imagined that a two-week temporary stint would turn into a 42-year career in the college’s buildings and grounds department.

Zamora’s retirement party in March was a laid-back affair; he would have preferred to leave quietly, although he was honored to receive from President Michael Peters a plaque in

recognition for his service.

Just as he saw his old neighborhood change as the city grew, Zamora witnessed the growth of a college that was once also quite isolated. “I started at the college on February 8, 1967,” Zamora says. “The lower dorms had just been finished.” One of his first tasks was to help outfit the dorms with furniture and amenities.

Over the course of his career, Zamora acquired the licenses necessary to maintain plumbing, electricity, gas, boilers, and refrigeration. “Every day,” he says, “was a different challenge,” from dealing with leaky roofs and snowstorms to refurbishing dorms on a tight

schedule for summer program participants.

Among his greater challenges was the 1976 “attack of the moths.” For unknown reasons, millions of moths descended on Santa Fe, possibly blown in from Arizona. “There were 500 inside our own home and tons at the college,” Zamora says. One distressed student called Zamora’s office, and he sent a crew to deal with the problem. Later, he received another call from the student, who protested: “You sent ladies with brooms.”

Students were also part of Zamora’s life in personal ways. When Zamora married in 1974, a student played the

organ for his wedding. This particular student seemed to consider Zamora and his wife, Sylvia, his family away from home. “He’d call my wife and ask her what was for lunch, and if he liked it, he’d come over. We didn’t mind at all. This is what you do with family.”

Tutor Lynda Myers (SF72) has known Zamora since her freshman year. “His friendly smile and upbeat greetings have always been part of life at St. John’s for me,” she says.

A motorcycle aficionado, Zamora now has more time for his hobby. “We’ll miss him here,” Myers says, “but it is nice to picture him and Sylvia driving off on their baby blue Harley, in pursuit of adventures.” ❀

SEMPAI AND KOHAI

The innovative method Santa Fe tutor Michael Bybee uses in the Chinese language tutorial of the Eastern Classics program demonstrates how St. John's is a learning community. "This is nothing more than taking the St. John's College method as seriously as we can, and applying it to the study of literary Chinese," Bybee says.

In Bybee's method, *sempai* (Japanese for "senior students," in this case Eastern Classics alumni) assist *kohai* ("junior students," those currently enrolled in the program). This year's sempai are Joyce Spray (SFG176, ECo8), Alistair Hake (ECo8), Claudia Watson (ECo8), and Michael Johnson (ECo8). Past assistants have included Kay Duffy (SFO4, ECo5) and Wendy Skelley (ECo5). By dividing the class up into small groups, more language drills can be completed, which has proven to be a very effective way of learning language.

In the four years since Bybee began inviting EC alumni to help in the Chinese tutorial, he's never had a problem recruiting volunteers. He first learned this approach to language acquisition from the Japanese educational system in Hawaii and practiced it for years while at the University of Oregon.

At a Graduate Institute dinner in August 2008, Spray agreed to help. Hake was already on board, and the two

were joined by Watson and Johnson. The student-tutors attend each language tutorial (Mondays and Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.) and, after a general introduction by Bybee to the entire class, break up into small groups to proceed with the day's lesson. Fall 2008 texts were chosen to establish groundwork in the language. Texts this spring focus on Confucius' *Analects*, the *Xiao Jing* (often called "the Classic on Filial Piety"), some Tang dynasty poetry, and all of Lao Zi.

In 90 minutes students and tutors go through that day's lesson verbally, then nut through the translation at hand. Bybee is quick to point out that they are not translating but rather "reading Chinese." The sempai-kohai approach makes language a real community effort: the identification stops being student to tutor and becomes a richer experience of junior student to senior student.

Volunteers have varied reasons for participating. For Spray, tutoring "helps use a part of my brain that hasn't been used in a long time. Working with Chinese is a stretch—no matter how old you are, it's a good thing to do."

Eager to retain what she learned in the program, Watson relishes her role as



JOYCE SPRAY, WHO COMPLETED BOTH GRADUATE PROGRAMS, HELPS CURRENT STUDENTS WITH ANCIENT CHINESE.

sempai. She may pursue a PhD in Chinese history or anthropology. After years of studying the texts of traditional Chinese medicine, Johnson enjoys working on his own translations and appreciates the assistance he gets from Bybee. Johnson is interested in Chinese language, history, and philosophy, and says "teaching it only makes it better." Hake spent four years studying Chinese medicine texts in England and, much like Johnson, finds that tutoring keeps him active and engaged with his own personal Chinese studies. He is working on an Eastern Classics master's essay.

The preparation materials are an important part of the process and must at least partially respond to a common assumption made when studying literary Chinese: to do so one needs to have completed three years of modern Chinese. Austin Volz (SFO9) worked on the language materials used in the Chinese class as an Ariel intern (there are 30 literary Chinese prepa-

students to read literary Chinese with no background in modern Chinese," says Bybee, and the needs of today's Eastern Classics students require that to be a viable project. The goals of Eastern Classics students, and the prior academic experience they have coming in to the program, have changed over the years. Now it is not uncommon to have a native Chinese speaker enrolled in the EC, or a student with an undergraduate degree in the language, and their future goals might include a PhD in an Eastern Classics-related field.

Eastern Classics alumni are certainly making their way into the academic arena, a point illustrated by an experience of Bybee's son, Jon Wheeler. While investigating a Philosophy of China and India class at Occidental College, Wheeler asked Professor Alan Tomhave where he had acquired his background in the subject. It turns out Dr. Tomhave took an Eastern Classics seminar at St. John's; Bybee was the tutor. ❀

"This is nothing more than taking the St. John's College method as seriously as we can, and applying it to the study of literary Chinese."

MIKE BYBEE, TUTOR

ENERGIZING ALUMNI GIVING

The financial downturn calls for creative ways of engaging alumni to support St. John's, and Philanthropia co-chairs Matthew Calise (Aoo) and Michael Zinanti (SF92) are up to the challenge.

Philanthropia is the college's alumni development council, established in 1997 and fueled by energetic volunteers. The group's support is one reason St. John's has experienced a steady increase in alumni giving. The Campaign for St. John's College, which ended last July, raised \$134 million for the college, and alumni contributed 60 percent.

"Typically alumni get jazzed up by a campaign. . . then the excitement tapers off," says Calise. "The opportunity and challenge for Philanthropia is to maintain that high level of energy. This is our charge regardless of the economy, but now more than ever we need to keep relationships going through peer-to-peer outreach and good communications."

Calise, an associate director at Georgetown University Law Center's office of alumni affairs, believes it is important to lay the groundwork for the future by cultivating relationships with students. St. John's has just

9,000 alumni, he pointed out. "That's an intimate community," Calise says. "So we can easily reach out not only to each other, but to current students to embrace the future of philanthropic support for the college."

"St. John's alumni really care about ensuring that today's students have the same opportunities that they did to study at the college," adds Zinanti. "I believe we can appeal to this concern by finding ways to directly affect the lives of the students and, where appropriate, create personal bonds. In tough economic times, it is important for our alumni to reach out to today's students and really touch their lives."

Zinanti, an engineer at Ball Aerospace in Westminster, Colo., helped out with Annual Fund phonathons as a student in Santa Fe. A hockey fan, Zinanti also told Jeff Morgan, then campus vice president for advancement, that the college needed an ice rink. When Morgan responded by inviting Zinanti to head up a fundraising effort to build one, Zinanti gained an education in how philanthropy supports every aspect of life at St. John's.

Tuition pays just 70 percent of the cost of educating a student at St. John's; Annual Fund gifts

help make up the rest. "Most undergraduates are not aware of the fact that, whether they are on financial aid or not, their education is subsidized by philanthropic gifts," Zinanti says. "It was an epiphany for me. I was on financial aid but I had taken it all for granted."

At Georgetown, Calise works with law school alumni to "build communities of engagement."

He sees a natural fit for this experience with Philanthropia. "We have two powerful advantages going for us in the world of philanthropy," he says. "We have a fantastic cause—the education, the distinctive Program that St. John's offers. And we have the need—60 percent of undergraduates receive financial aid." ❖

— PATRICIA DEMPSEY

A MAN WHO CHANGED LIVES

The college lost a good friend when Loren Pope, former *New York Times* editor and author of "Colleges that Change Lives" died last fall. Many a St. John's students learned of the college from the small book, which promoted institutions that are "outdoing the Ivies and major universities in producing winners."

Long before colleges and universities began criticizing rankings, Pope urged students and their parents to look beyond big-name schools to find the college that was the right fit. St. John's, he wrote in the most recent edition, "is a hard-working Shangri-La for the life-of-the-mind teenager who may hate or is bored by high school or is disgusted with education's stupid SAT system. St. John's has the courage to reject all that stuff; it's what you are and what you want out of college that count."

Annapolis Admissions Director John Christensen said the book is often mentioned in admissions essays. Christensen met Pope when he came to the college soon after Christensen joined the college in 1978; at the time Pope had a counseling service in Virginia and often recommended St. John's to bright high school students. "My predecessor told me to expect calls from him from time to time," he says. "He did call with some frequency, and those calls were somewhat intimidating at first because I was new to the college and quickly realized he knew more about it than I did. But he was a friendly and patient man and those to whom he recommended the college always seemed a good fit." ❖

A VERY COOL COLLEGE

St. John's recently earned four pages in a college guidebook called *Cool Colleges for the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, and Just Plain Different*. The only "downside" the guidebook pointed out is actually a point of pride for most current Johnnies:

"The students at St. John's gain mastery of an intellectual tradition that goes back several thousand years, but they may not know the latest in teenage street fashion or other aspects of contemporary culture. However, the students I spoke with didn't care. Basically, the students who are drawn to this curriculum seem not to find any fault with it." ❖



PHONATHON VOLUNTEERS LET ALUMNI KNOW THAT EVERY ANNUAL FUND GIFT, NO MATTER THE SIZE, IS APPRECIATED.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEH, HODSON GRANTS

Last fall, the National Endowment for the Humanities made a \$1 million challenge grant through its “We the People” initiative to St. John’s in Annapolis to support the study of works and ideas in American history, events, and culture. In December, The Hodson Trust—established to support four private colleges in Maryland—gave St. John’s a \$3 million gift, matching the NEH grant in full.

“We the People” is an NEH program that aims to encourage and strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture through libraries, schools, colleges, universities, and cultural institutions. The funding will provide additional support in four areas that are already part of the college’s academic program and mission: faculty study groups on works related to American themes, support for preceptorials, lectures on American themes, and educational outreach to the community.

The Santa Fe campus also received a challenge grant from the NEH: \$300,000 for support of Tecolote, a series of Saturday programs for New Mexico’s K-12 teachers created by tutor **STEVEN VAN LUCHENE**. The colloquia (centered on a different theme each year) provide occasions for genuine liberal learning through the discussion of carefully selected texts, led by St. John’s faculty and other experienced leaders. The grant requires a 3-1 match over the next four years, and the college is actively seeking additional support for the program.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

TUTOR MATTHEW DAVIS (A82) has been appointed director of the Graduate Institute in Santa Fe, succeeding Krishnan Venkatesh. He will begin his

new duties in June. Davis has a master’s degree in Philosophy from Dalhousie University and earned his PhD in Political Science from Boston College. He has been a tutor at the college since 1998.

In Annapolis, tutor **SUSAN PAALMAN** will succeed Anita Kronsberg as assistant dean. Paalman has a bachelor’s degree from Rice University and a PhD from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She has been a tutor at the college since 1997.

Tutor Emeritus **CURTIS WILSON** published an article, “The Nub of the Lunar Problem: From Euler to G.W. Hill,” in the November issue of the *Journal for the History of Astronomy*. The paper explains how G.W. Hill (1838-1914), a mathematician working for the

U.S. Nautical Almanac, found the curve—not an ellipse—as the basis on which a theory of the moon could be constructed. It proved much more accurate than any earlier theory.

Wilson is also the author of a review of a volume of Jean le Rond d’Alembert, published in November by the international quarterly, *Historia Mathematica*.

MELISSA LATHAM-STEVENS, art director in the Santa Fe Office of Communications, has won several awards for publications design from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District IV. Her Homecoming 2008 brochure won an award for visual design, and her Summer Classics brochure won three visual design awards.

The Annapolis campus has a new library director: **CATHERINE DIXON** joined the college in February. She previ-

ously worked for the Library of Congress.

HALL OF FAME

Earlier this year, **WARREN WINIARSKI** (class of 1952, Board of Visitors and Governors member) was inducted into the Vintners Hall of Fame at the Culinary Institute of America, in Napa Valley. In 1976, two fledgling California wineries made history in France by winning a tasting that changed the world’s opinion of New World wines. One of the wineries was Winiarski’s Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars. In the years that followed the now-famous Paris Tasting, Winiarski has relentlessly pursued a quest for excellence in winemaking.

PRAISE, PRIZES FOR SCIBONA

SALVATORE SCIBONA (SF97) continues to win accolades for his first novel, *The End*. Scibona, who was a finalist for the National Book Award, recently received the New York Public Library’s \$10,000 Young Lions Fiction Award.

MORE SINGING IN SANTA FE

Composer and conductor **ROY M. ROCOSIN (SFG108)** has joined the college in Santa Fe to develop and lead two new extracurricular choral groups on the campus. The St. John’s Community Chorus is aimed at providing an opportunity for Johnnies, as well as select members of the Santa Fe community, to sing and perform a broad spectrum of choral music from antiquity to the present. The Chamber Singers, for which members must audition, also provides new opportunities for campus singers. Rogosin is a professional conductor with international credits ranging from the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and Royal Albert Hall in London to the sound stages of Hollywood and the stages of Broadway. ♣



CAPITALIZING ON CONTROVERSY

Who says Johnnies are indifferent to political controversy? The students spearheading Senior Prank fundraising this year are selling t-shirts pitting Euclid against Lobachevski. The project was the brainchild of Nate Oesch (A09), who says that early returns show Euclid has the edge in the voting. Above, Clint Richardson and Molly Rothenberg (both A09) model the front of the shirts. The back of the Euclid says: “Perfection Without Defection.” The back of the Lobachevski: “Four Rights Make a Wrong.” ♣

UNFORGETTABLY KIND ACTS

Thanks for the profile in *The College* [Fall 2008] on Jean FitzSimon (A73). She did some unforgettably kind acts as a Johnnie, and I'd like to recognize her and the countless other Johnnies who befriend freshmen and help them out. An example of what she did for me:

I was tall (in the Northeast, a six-foot female in the 1960s got only stares and "it's the 50-foot woman" comments), and I had led a swimmer's life and not much else, although I had books instead of Michael Phelps' iPod. Since I wasn't in the top 10 in the nationals, I had no Olympic dream (before Title IX). I never regretted stopping swimming or going to St. John's. In fact, I eventually won the St. John's men's foul-shooting contest and got to play on their basketball, volleyball, and badminton teams until they made me women's athletic director! This would never have happened but for students at the gym, like Jean, who were willing to play with someone who'd never held a ball, just for the love of playing, occasionally skipping the usual search for someone to learn from so that they could give a little time to someone who wanted to learn.

When I came to St. John's, I had a budget of \$5 (\$27 today) every two weeks for books, clothes, laundry, culture, etc., which meant I worked several jobs. I still wore my warm-up jacket, a castoff from an old Holy Cross team, and my first "grownup" flats, Converse All Stars. My school uniform was completed with men's jeans and my brother's old leather belt, and I was often mistaken for a boy. I routinely took off my glasses to go to the dining hall, assuming that I would otherwise notice the sniggers. (Years later, I found out that my unconscious



NOW A JUDGE IN PHILADELPHIA, JEAN FITZSIMON (A73) COMMITTED AN ACT OF KINDNESS HER CLASSMATE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER.

lope had earned me the nickname of "the fabulous filly" by the seniors.)

One day the girls on my floor played let's-dress-Jane-like-a-girl. The next thing I remember is Jean FitzSimon, whom I didn't even know, taking me to a clothing store in downtown Annapolis and buying me the first slinky (and first full-price) dress of my life with her checkbook, telling me I could pay her back later. I even copied that dress as a pattern when it fell apart about eight years later.

To say that I was a nerd without social skills would probably have been an under-

*"One day the girls
on my floor
played let's-dress-
Jane-like-a-girl."*

JANE (D'AGNESE) ATWOOD (A74)

statement. But Jean didn't just tell me to believe in myself, she just believed in me, and changed my life. She made me confident enough to become actually somewhat popular at St. John's, although what has lasted is the love of thoughtful conversation, and the belief that it, like Jean FitzSimon's generosity, can change the world. I even got profiled in an early newsprint

version of *The College*. A year later, a younger Johnnie asked me to be her friend because "I seemed happy, like someone popular, but kind." I never told Jean that she started it all!

I have always mentored younger people, in and outside my family, and often tell them of what someone I didn't even know did for me at St. John's, whenever I give them money or "too much." In this, Jean is inspiring the next generation and doesn't even know it. I'm not the only person who remembers and thanks Jean even now.

I hope that the Johnnies who could help freshmen will read and learn from this story just how gratifying it is to risk making a fool of yourself or annoying someone, to try to give them your time or something you think might be useful to them. I rank this lesson and the mighty power of thoughtful conversation as my most valuable gifts from St. John's.

JANE (D'AGNESE) ATWOOD (A74)

PHILOSOPHERS' SONGS

Thank you for publishing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic of Letters" [Fall 2008]!

Annapolis transfers had told me of it, but I had never learned it. It was so much fun to learn to sing, and now I sing it (and march along) almost every day as I walk to work. Another song the Annapolis transfers used to sing had the line "Immanuel Kant was a big pissant who was very rarely stable." Does anyone know how the rest of that song goes?

ERIN HANLON (SFO3)

Editor's note: Thanks to editor Cathi Dunn MacRae, The College has an answer: "The Immanuel Kant line comes from a song within a popular 1970s Monty Python comedy sketch titled 'Bruces.' It is usually referred to as 'The Bruces' Philosophers Song.' The sketch appeared on Monty Python's Flying Circus television show, Episode 22, featuring four professors, all named Bruce, from the philosophy department of the fictional University of Walmaloo in Australia. It's apparently available on YouTube.

The College welcomes letters on issues of interest to readers. Letters may be edited for clarity and/or length. Those under 500 words have a better chance of being printed in their entirety. Please address letters to: *The College Magazine*, St. John's College, Box 2800, Annapolis MD 21404. Letters can be sent via e-mail to Rosemary.Harty@sjca.edu.

CORRECTION: The photograph on the back cover of the Fall 2008 issue of *The College* was taken by Clarke Saylor (A08). The credit was inadvertently given to another photographer; we regret the error.

CHANGING COURSE

BY ROSEMARY HARTY AND DEBORAH SPIEGELMAN

“Far off in the bending sky was the pearly light; and she felt the largeness of the world and the manifold wakings of men to labor and endurance. She was a part of that involuntary, palpitating life, and could neither look out on it from her luxurious shelter as a mere spectator, nor hide her eyes in selfish complaining.”

George Eliot’s *Middlemarch* inspired this collection of stories about alumni who have considered—and reconsidered—their paths in life. It seems every major character in Eliot’s novel harbors some great ambition, a desire to make something of his or her life, to gain notice, to achieve greatness. Some characters are motivated simply by greed and shallow personal ambitions, while others—humble Mary Garth, for example, or the shabby Mr. Featherstone—seek lives of integrity and service.

Casaubon devotes his entire being to “A Key to All Mythologies,” the manuscript that all but its author seem to realize is a hopeless boondoggle. After

discovering his passion for medicine, Lydgate sets out to reform the profession and make great scientific discoveries. Things end quite badly for these two.

But consider Fred, who rejects family expectations and the hypocrisy of a career as a clergyman, to settle happily into working the land as the assistant of an estate manager. Ladislav tinkers with art and politics as he considers the best way to use his education and energy. Then, there is passionate Dorothea, who after seeing one ill-fated dream die, is willing to let it go and follow another—in spite of the condemnation of family and friends. And in changing course, she finds greater rewards—in love and in work—that will make a difference to others.

For the women in these profiles, making a living hasn’t been the driving force in their lives; their course changes—from teacher to nurse, from engineer to lawyer, from lawyer to librarian—have always been most driven by the need to love what they do.

OPPOSITE: AFTER 12 YEARS AS A MONTESSORI TEACHER, SARAH BITTLE IS NEARING THE COMPLETION OF A NURSING PROGRAM AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY. SHE’LL BE A LABOR AND DELIVERY NURSE.



GARY PIERPOINT

"I started thinking that I wanted to be part of something different."

SARAH BITTLE

"YOU WANT TO LOVE WHAT YOU'RE DOING"

Sarah Bittle (A96)

When it came to working with children, Sarah Bittle was a natural: patient, nurturing, and eager to share her zeal for learning with others. It was her success in this field—and a crystal-clear view of its limitations—that led her to look for another way to make a difference in the lives of children.

During a break from St. John's, Bittle taught in an after-school science program. There she discovered her innate teaching skills along with the rewards of seeing children who were excited to learn. "That led me to Montessori, which is all about kids teaching themselves," she says. The Montessori philosophy focuses on developing each child's unique potential as a human being.

Bittle traveled to Colorado to earn her certification from the Montessori Education Center of the Rockies. After she completed her training, she found a job in Kensington, Maryland, as an infant/toddler teacher at the Crossway Community Montessori School. The school was part of a nonprofit organization with a focus on outreach to low-income, at-risk families in the greater D.C. area. Bittle managed two classrooms with six infants apiece and two classrooms with nine toddlers each. Working with very young children offered the opportunity to

help shape their lives in a positive way. However, her choice was one she had to explain to friends who wondered how she could change diapers and deal with temper tantrums. Where was the intellectual challenge?

But Bittle could see reflected in the youngsters she worked with each day the concepts she read about in Kant and Aristotle—how experience and potential came together for the children in her care. She could help children acquire language, take in new experiences, and make sense of the physical world. The more they mastered, the more they grew in confidence. She especially enjoyed working with the mothers of her students, many of whom struggled with serious problems such as drug addiction and homelessness, and helping them learn to be better parents. "You could have hopes that the world would be different for them," says Bittle. "I was really proud of what we accomplished. The program was running before I got there, but I was able to help take it to another level and make it consistent. It comes with its frustrations too; you have some victories and some disappointments."

Working closely with parents, Bittle saw that good health-care and health education were critical to improving the quality of their lives. "One of the things I could see with our mothers was that they had no idea how to build a relationship with a doctor. If anything goes wrong, they know they can be seen by going to the Emergency Room. The ER often became their primary care clinic," Bittle explains. "When they could get regular medical care, I would go with them to pediatrician appointments, and for the most part what I saw really curled my toes. Not only did the parents not know how to ask questions, they were offered revolving-door medicine from doctors who didn't listen. I started thinking that I wanted to be part of something different."

Bittle knew she couldn't teach with the same dedication or energy for many more years; becoming a school administrator wasn't appealing. When she began to see how much good prenatal care and health-care education would help both mother and child, she settled on a new career direction

SARAH BITTLE WORKED FOR 12 YEARS AS A MONTESSORI TEACHER BEFORE DECIDING TO PURSUE A SECOND CAREER IN NURSING.



"I don't seem to do anything the easy way."

KAREN COOK

as a labor and delivery/ neonatal care nurse and three years ago, took the first steps to pursue it. She investigated accelerated nursing programs and settled on Johns Hopkins' 13-month BSN program. She shifted to a part-time schedule at work and took prerequisite courses in biology, anatomy, physiology, and statistics at a community college. She applied for loans, gave up a great apartment and social life in D.C.'s Adams Morgan neighborhood, and moved to an apartment in Baltimore. "I have two roommates who are also in nursing school," says Bittle. "We have a medical dictionary called *Mosby's*, and we all sat there the first few nights, thumbing through it and looking at these pictures of these horrible things."

While she is among the oldest students in the program, Bittle hasn't found the curriculum to be very difficult. "I put a lot of energy and emotional commitment into this, but I actually have more spare time now" than as a Montessori teacher, she says.

Nursing can be stressful, physical work, and often emotionally demanding, Bittle has found. The "amazing moments" she has with patients, just as a student, have shown this career choice was the right one. For example, on a recent rotation she spent time with a patient who had suffered a stroke. Although he was alert and aware of everything that had happened to him, he wasn't able to articulate his thoughts. "He was so intelligent and well-educated, and literate, very Johnnie-like. He knew what he wanted to say, but he would get stuck on a word he couldn't remember or translate," she says. "It was incredibly frustrating to him, but he bore it with such incredible grace, and I felt so privileged to have known him."

Bittle will finish the program in July and has already begun investigating the Washington job market. At a time when unemployment is high—and with student loans to pay off—she's glad that nurses are in high demand. "I'm really looking forward to having a full-time job again," she says.

Most Johnnies, Bittle observes, have two qualities that foster the openness to make dramatic changes in their lives. "I think it has a lot to do with the college, either because of the type of people who are drawn to the Program, or because of what we read in the Program. It's probably a combination of both."

— ROSEMARY HARTY (AGI09)



KAREN COOK ENJOYED BEING A LAWYER, BUT HAS A REAL PASSION FOR LIBRARY SCIENCE.

"I FEEL LIKE I'M DOING SOMETHING WORTHWHILE"

Karen Cook (SF74)

Anyone who has ever pondered Socrates' "examined life" would probably understand why Karen Cook has made so many changes in her life.

Over the past four decades, she has married, started a family, earned a law degree, and worked in private practice. She divorced, remarried, and put career goals aside to devote time to a new blended family. She traded the law for library science, left her library job for a corporate position, and walked away from another good job to pursue a doctorate. She is happily settled (for now) as an assistant librarian at Louisiana State University in Monroe, where she is also a government documents and reference librarian.

"I don't seem to do anything the easy way," says Cook.

Sacrifices were always involved, such as uprooting her family and selling a home to live the humble life of a doctoral student. Yet new pursuits led to greater rewards. Recently, Cook—a newly minted Doctor of Communication and

"I missed the books."

KAREN COOK

Information Science at age 55—learned that she received the University of Alabama Outstanding Dissertation Award for 2008-2009 for her thesis, "Freedom Libraries in the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer Project: A History." It was a gratifying achievement, but finding a topic she cared about and devoting herself to it—that was even better.

While she had the encouragement and support of family, Cook had to convince herself that it wasn't too late to enter a doctoral program at 49. "I do have to say that I didn't have the energy that some of the younger students did," she says. "But when I got into the research projects that I really loved, I found the work energizing. It stopped being something I was doing for my career and became something important in and of itself."

Her independent spirit was one reason Cook chose St. John's. She left St. John's after her junior year to marry another Johnnie, Carl Huffman (SF74). She finished her bachelor's degree, in psychology, at the University of Colorado, and they moved together to Austin, where Huffman earned his doctorate in ancient Greek philosophy. In Texas, Cook attended law school, graduating in 1979. When her husband joined the DePauw University faculty, they settled in Greencastle, Indiana, and Cook put her career on hold for four years to raise their children.

After 12 years of marriage, the two divorced. Cook met her second husband, Robert Bremer, through her son David, who was best friends with Robert's son Derek. Bremer had a law practice, and Cook went to work for him. She enjoyed the variety of a general practice, where she worked on wills, divorces, appellate work, small claims, "all kinds of stuff." After eight months, the two were engaged. "We were best friends before we fell in love and we fairly quickly decided to get married—we had so much in common," Cook says.

Bremer also had a daughter, Shannon. Cook had two other sons, Peter and John. Together, they had a son, Arthur, who is now 20. With a big, new, blended family, Cook knew change was imminent. "It was too challenging to have the two of us in practice together and try to raise these kids," she says. "In a law practice you're at

the mercy of a judge. You have a hearing scheduled for 1:15, a child with a dentist appointment at 3:30, and the judge comes back from lunch at 3. That kind of thing started getting very difficult. It was also difficult to get away from the tension of the practice. When life at work was nuts, it was really hard not to have that come home with us."

Cook took time to consider the long view of her life. What was she good at? What did she really love to do? "I kept coming up with two things: books and computers," she says. "And I finally settled on becoming a librarian." She began working toward her MLS part time at the Indiana University, an hour's drive away, while working part time at the law firm. Then, in Cook's words, "life gets really interesting." Her husband was burnt out on the law. "We decided it was time for my career to be driving the train," she says. "I had followed the husbands' career paths long enough."

Cook took a job at a public library in southern Indiana, and her family followed. She was hired to head up technical services—cataloging, acquisitions and preservation. Her knowledge of computers and interest in technology found fertile ground for development. She was put in charge of selecting a new computer system and soon was named systems librarian. "I learned just about everything there was to running a library," she says, but after three years, "it was starting to get routine." Cook next went to work for a library software

company in Huntsville, Alabama, where she was the public library product manager, traveling the country and working with libraries to ensure the systems met their need. "I almost doubled my salary," Cook recalls. "It was nice to be able to earn a decent salary, nice to go to conferences without having to share a room with six people."

She held that job for nearly five years before she felt the familiar hunger for a new challenge. "I became increasingly interested in the Web and I was also suffering from library withdrawal," she explains. "I missed the books, and I missed the environment where you are seeking knowledge for knowledge's sake. For



IN 2008, COOK COMPLETED HER DOCTORATE; SHE ALSO WON AWARDS FOR HER DISSERTATION.

WHEN YOU'RE CONSIDERING A CHANGE

Don't be hasty! Take time to reflect, do some reading and research, and make contacts, say the directors of the Career Services offices in Annapolis and Santa Fe.

Margaret Odell in Santa Fe recommends:

Paul D. Tieger and Barbara Barron-Tieger, *Do What You Are: Discover The Perfect Career for You Through the Secrets of Personality Types*, Little, Brown, 2001

Shoya Zichy, *Career Match: Connecting Who You Are and What You'll Love to Do*, AMACOM (a division of American Management Association), 2007

Marsha Sinetar, *Do What You Love and the Money Will Follow*, Dell Trade Paperback, 1987, "a bit dated but still great reading."

Bureau of Labor Standards, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2008-2009 edition (also available online at www.bls.gov/OCO)

"I would urge working with a career counselor or life coach," says Odell. "Also, don't forget that the Career Services offices can put career changers in touch with alumni in a wide variety of fields who are happy to share information about their careers."

Advice from Shahrzad Arasteh in Annapolis:

Richard Nelson Bolles, *What Color Is Your Parachute?* 2009 Edition, Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, 2009

Barbara Sher, *Wishcraft: How to Get What You Really Want*, Ballantine Books, New York, 2nd Edition, 2003.

"Any Barbara Sher book would be a wonderful resource for both career changers and career seekers," says Arasteh. "One general piece of advice I would share (in addition to working with a career development professional) is to take a little bit of time to explore and evaluate your skills, passions, values, and interests before deciding on a new career field. It is also important to research and test out, in some way, the potential career field or fields. Then make a commitment to one that is a good fit and work on getting the experience and knowledge necessary to transition to it."

Contacts:

Santa Fe Office of Career Services: 505-984-6067, modell@sjcsf.edu

Annapolis Office of Career Services: 410-626-2501, shahrzad.arasteh@sjca.edu.

librarians, part of what drives us is that need to share information with others."

A former colleague led Cook to a job with a contractor at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. She worked as an online publisher, editor, and web developer for "NASA Explores," an online resource and curriculum guide for K-12 science teachers. "I was working in an educational environment, but I found being a government contractor a little problematic," says Cook. "I like to speak freely, and that was the final thing that pushed me completely out of the corporate environment. I didn't want to compromise my integrity."

It was time, Cook decided, to go back to school. In 2002, she enrolled in the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. In searching for a dissertation topic, she discovered that some alternative libraries created by volunteers in Mississippi were instrumental in contributing to the civil rights movement through programs designed to facilitate participation in democracy, further adult literacy, and address the needs of the

poor and disadvantaged. "Only half of the counties in Mississippi had public libraries, and only eight in the whole state served African Americans," Cook says. Activists for the Congress of Racial Equality and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee started community centers and libraries that offered wider access to books, newspapers, and magazines. By 1964, 250,000 volumes were donated to the "freedom libraries." Cook's dissertation topic "brought together all the things I feel most strongly about," she says, namely, literacy, education, and democracy. She's now at work turning her thesis into a book. "These were amazing people, forgotten by history, and they deserve to have their story told."

Cook graduated in May 2008. Her husband, who had worked in institutional advancement after leaving the law, earned a Master of Library Science degree and commutes to the Louisiana Tech library in Ruston. At LSU-Monroe, Cook is a government documents and reference librarian, a job she took knowing it would not offer the long-term challenges she

"I didn't have a playbook the day I left St. John's that said, 'I'm going to change careers and make it all merge in the end.'"

LIZ TRAVIS (SF84)

needs. Earlier this spring she began to shop around for new opportunities, and at this point in her life, she believes many doors are still open to her.

Feeling accomplished isn't just about salary or prestige, Cook says. "People do look at me strangely, sometimes: 'You've been a lawyer, and now you do this?' It's nice to have money, but that is not a sufficient reason to do something. I like to feel good about what I do at work. I feel like I'm doing something that's worthwhile, and I'm also in an environment where I'm encouraged to keep learning. That's probably what you hear from most Johnnies. There's always something new to learn."

—ROSEMARY HARTY (AG109)

"I NEED TO BELIEVE I MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

Liz Travis (SF84)

For Liz Travis, the roads taken were neither preordained nor premeditated, but they have brought her full circle, back to Santa Fe and ultimately to a job that brings together a liberal arts education, an engineering background, and a law degree.

Travis' career path illustrates the importance of taking time out for reflection. At key stages in her life, Travis took periodic breaks to assess where she was and where she wanted to go. After her sophomore year, Travis took time off from St. John's, working first as a lifeguard in Florida and then traveling home to California, where she took "fluffy" classes at the local community college. "My brain needed a break," she says. After a year, she returned to St. John's to complete her degree, imagining that she would become either a lawyer or a theoretical physicist.

Her first job was with Rockwell Space Division in California, where she worked as an analyst in the development of the space shuttle. When nearby Northrop Grumman, an aerospace and defense technology company, announced a "cattle call," Travis applied and got the job—in part, she admits, through sheer nerve. First, she pointed out to her interviewer that the advertisement specified that applicants have strong analytical and communications skills, but not necessarily an engineering degree; second, she highlighted the math and science in the Program. Then she challenged him: "I bet you that on day 89 [of the 90-day probationary period] you'll want to give me a raise."

While she didn't get the raise exactly as she'd wagered, Travis attributes her success in the job to skills learned at

St. John's: the ability to listen, to respect others' points of view, and demonstrate proofs—all of which provide "an amazing toolbox that can be applied to any career," she says.

Having thus embarked on her first career, Travis made progressive jumps, from assistant engineer to specialist, earning a Master of Science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California along the way. "I learned everything one could possibly want to know about [then secret] 'Stealth' technologies, about management, and about people," she says. Taking another leap to lead Alcoa's research and development group in the areas of logistics and industrial engineering seemed like a natural progression. When her facility closed after two years, Travis decided to spend time traveling and reflecting before her next career move. She took a "sabbatical" from work to live in Mexico and Guatemala, helping nonprofits and small businesses with process improvements.

Returning to the West Coast via New Mexico, she visited a fellow Johnnie who was in law school at the University of New Mexico. "I sat in on a first-year torts class," Travis recalls. "The discussion was about assault, and actually about whether butt slaps, like in a locker room, could be assault. The room was filled with people from every background and age, and the discussion was lively. On my way home to California, I had one of those 'aha' moments and knew I was going to law school."

Travis enrolled in the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, where she discovered a focus for her passion. "I loved the study of the law from the start, but I really got hooked on natural resources and environmental law, along with local government and administrative law," she explains. "I realized that I was most interested in helping at a community level after years in the corporate world. I saw and see my role as helping the decision-makers in their role as fiscal stewards of the public's money and trust."

With law degree in hand at age 40, Travis was asked by McGeorge to help recruit prospective students while awaiting her bar exam results. The summer stint turned into a three-year job as the director of admissions, during which she also worked pro bono in a legal services clinic. Finally, she decided it was time to undertake the law formally.

Her return to Santa Fe constituted a converging of paths. Around the same time that she learned St. John's was looking for a director of major gifts, she faced a "life-changing" health crisis. "It was like all the stars were pointing in the right direction," and she fulfilled her desire to move back to her college town. When the position was not offered to her, Travis took and



TERI THOMSON RANDALL

passed her second bar exam, this time in New Mexico. Afterwards, Travis used her legal skills to help friends in business start-up and development. “Suddenly, I was useful again, combining the past life of business with the business of lawyering in a place where I really wanted to live,” she explains.

Travis is currently assistant general counsel for the New Mexico Department of Transportation. “It’s the most perfect job [because] I’m working on construction,” she says. “I’m talking to the engineers; I’m understanding the engineers; the whole first half of my business life is translated into being the lawyer for the engineers.”

Had she not taken the path to law school via a first career in engineering, Travis imagines that her life would not have been nearly as interesting or fulfilling. Career change requires courage and confidence, Travis says. “I didn’t have a playbook the day I left St. John’s that said, ‘I’m going to change careers and make it all merge in the end.’”

IF THE WORK YOU’RE DOING EVERY DAY DOESN’T RESONATE WITH YOU, SAYS LIZ TRAVIS, IT’S PROBABLY TIME TO CONSIDER A CHANGE.

A guiding principle for Travis has been the need to feel that she is contributing to a greater good—something one can also gain in volunteering, such as the service she gives as a member of the college’s Alumni Association board. But when so many days are spent working, that work should resonate, she says. “I need to believe I make a difference, and I need to be challenged to continually learn and grow. Without that challenge, I begin to feel as if something is missing and that I should be doing more. . . . When you spend so much of your time at a job, that time should resonate with you so that it doesn’t feel like ‘work’ all of the time.” ❀

—DEBORAH SPIEGELMAN

FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

Sleeker design. More storage. Longer battery life. Over 250,000 books available in under 60 seconds. And now Kindle can read to you. Our revolutionary wireless reading device just got better.

—from Amazon.com

This is not an anti-technology rant. Progress, often, is good.

We have iPods, we read e-mail on the BlackBerry, and we post photos and notes to Facebook pages. We check out audio books from the library for long car rides. Great conveniences, all.

But it's sometimes hard to say goodbye to the good things that our gadgets replace. Sure, a scratchy vinyl record can be improved upon, but where are those hole-in-the-wall music stores full of interesting characters? Facebook is instant, but there's nothing like finding a handwritten note from a good friend in your mailbox.

Independent bookstores are not just places to read books; to a genuine book lover, they're sacred temples. On a trip to a new city, they're one of the first places you investigate. Is there good coffee, and not a chain brew? A poetry reading? Comfortable chairs in hidden nooks?

New paperbacks smell good. Old books have a history. Kindles may be convenient, but what about writing notes in the margins?

The College asked three alumni to venture out and report back on the delights found in their favorite bookstores. For Anna Perleberg (SFO2), it was easy—she works in one. Matthew Griffis (SFO8) found good bargains and a good story in beautiful Gig Harbor. And Jennifer Donnelly (A96) lives in Paris—enough said.

Johnnies don't need to be told to buy books, of course, but May is National Independent Bookseller's Month.

Go celebrate.



J. MATTHEW GRIFFIS

NO DEARTH OF BOOKS, GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON

By J. Matthew Griffis (SF08)

I had to walk nearly a mile. The gas money I saved by not driving was hardly a reason to forgive the orange-suited construction crews who with their mighty road cones forced me to leave my van and take to the streets, like an Arabian desert trekker whose camel has just died.

But this is a story about books, and a store that sells them. As I trod the sidewalks of Gig Harbor, Washington, dodging couples with dogs and contemplating the tranquility of the bay, I realized that by walking about in the fresh air and plunging into the organized chaos of whatever catches the eye, I was tapping into an era that while not entirely vanished, is confined to an ever-decreasing space.

Approaching No Dearth of Books, I had no idea what to expect. I had no references save the phone book listing that identified it as probably the sort of independent store I wanted. Eventually my eye was caught by a window filled with stacks of the good stuff. Not a neat display of just one current bestseller, but books laid flat atop one another, piles and piles that completely negated the value of the window as a means of seeing inside. The bookstore occupied half a

J. MATTHEW GRIFFIS FOUND THE TINY NO DEARTH OF BOOKS JUST TO HIS LIKING.

low-slung, one-story building with a dingy “I’ve-seen-better-days” aspect. The other half contained a Mexican restaurant. Excellent.

There was no front door. Sneaking around the side, I opened a door and discovered a hallway with glass along both sides. Much smaller than expected, the bookstore was about the size of a large bedroom. Overflowing shelves covered the walls. Occupying most of the floor was an island of stand-alone shelves and small tables, with stacks rising nearly as high as those on the walls. A walking track ran all the way around, towers of tomes looming on both sides. There was room to walk and room to turn, but only just. I felt that if I tripped and fell, I’d take the whole store with me, everything collapsing like rows of oversized dominoes. I loved it.

Interlude: I do enjoy the chain bookstore—clean, roomy, and organized, where the marketability of a product decreases in proportion to its creases. Everything is perfect; nothing is surprising. Contrast this utopia with its polar opposite: small, cluttered rooms with insufficient lighting, a musty smell, and a sense of magical discovery. What treasures might be hiding around the next turn or in the box shoved under a table? All bookstores are variations on these two themes, and No Dearth of Books, with its naked, tubular bulbs



lining the ceiling, its pleasant odor of dust, and its stacks of papery happiness, is a perfect example of the latter.

In spite of the chaotic feel, the stacks weren't really disorganized. Signs indicated groups by genre, and if the proprietor did not know exactly where and what every book was at all times, he did an excellent job of faking it. Harry Dearth, a kindly older man with a quiet wit, has owned and managed this store for 11 years.

With an emphasis on nautical volumes and Northwest history, his store contains a plentiful supply of everything else, from mass-market fare to psychology texts to Program heavies such as Tolstoy, Homer, and Shakespeare. Pricing is used-book standard, with the majority of books half off list price. I've been spoiled by St. John's Meem Library book sales, where paperbacks cost a dollar and hardbacks \$3. I bit the bullet and committed to a copy of *Anna Karenina* in excellent condition (\$8) and a humor piece with a promising title, *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories* (\$4.50). As I checked out, Mr. Dearth knocked another \$1.50 off the Tolstoy novel. Nice.

I asked Mr. Dearth about business these days. He told me it was up and down, less than in previous years, which he blamed more on the struggling economy and gasoline woes than on decreased interest in books and reading. People from all over the world, including South Africa and China, had signed his guestbook.

Was Mr. Dearth familiar with the Amazon Kindle? He was not. I explained that it's a portable digital reader; you store books in digital form in the built-in memory and read them on its screen. I expected a rant against newfangled technology that reduced the joy of reading. Instead, he joked that such a device would "drive you blind," and then said that he had no opinion and was sure there were several sides to the issue.

I agreed, but was surprised—as a member of the technology generation, I was more concerned than he was! So I'll supply the rant.

A DISPLAY AT WATERMARK BOOKS IN KANSAS CITY, WHERE *WAR AND PEACE* WAS A TOP SELLER.

I support technological innovation, as long as its creators keep the dangers in mind. (Don't these people read science fiction?) I love the iPod. A device that lets me take the writings of Douglas Adams, Terry Pratchett, Chaim Potok, Will Shakespeare, and Tom Clancy with me, without having to lug around a small elephant, sounds wonderful.

The Kindle can do that. Yet I'm a lover not just of books, but of the reading experience. No other medium offers the intimacy of reading. Holding the book and supporting its weight, feeling the pages and hearing the sound they make when turned—these sensations build a whole that deserves the name "experience." However casual we may be about reading, it is a deeply personal activity that works on more senses than just sight, and more levels than just thought.

Aren't there some things that can't be improved upon? As our society speeds toward an Internet-driven digital world, I feel some apprehension amidst my excitement. One day we might wake up and realize we've lost something irreplaceable, to our sorrow. Perhaps it is groundless anxiety, backlash from *Fahrenheit 451*. I don't lose sleep over it. After all, when an e-book is a mouse-click away, there are people who get to their feet and visit stores such as No Dearth of Books.

I asked Mr. Dearth if he was worried about the future of the used-book trade. He said he wasn't, that for every bookshop that closed there would always be another that opened. I hope he's right. We shall always be treasure-hunters and bargain-grabbers; I hope we'll be bibliophiles as well. Nowhere captures the thrill of exploration, the delight of discovery, the sheer capitalistic joy in value, and the love of the book as well as the used bookstore.

O hallowed edifice, may you remain an institution as long as intellect endures!

CONFESSIONS OF A KANSAS NINJA BOOKSELLER

by Anna Perleberg (SF02)

When you're from Wichita, Kansas, and move out of state (as I did when I matriculated in Santa Fe in 1998), the first thing you have to get used to saying is "but I don't live on a farm." Much has been written about the coastal bias against the "flyover states," and I don't want to get into petty regionalisms here; I'd like to emphasize, though, that Wichita is a Real City, the 51st largest in the country, with ethnic grocery stores, warehouse art galleries, violent crime—we even had our own serial killer, until they caught him in February 2005. In short, anything they have a thousand of in New York City, Wichita has at least one of: you may have to look harder for it, but it's there. So yes, Manhattan has that literary mecca, the Strand; Portland has Powell's; San Francisco, City Lights. Wichita has my workplace and second home, Watermark Books.

Johnnies are bibliophiles by nature—the kind of people who decide whether they want to get to know someone by perusing their bookshelves, head cocked to one side to read the titles—and I’m a Johnnie by nature; thus, by Euclid’s first common notion, I’m a natural bookstore employee. Furthermore, having imbibed a healthy disrespect for authority at a school where 19-year-olds argue with Plato, I don’t do well in impersonal, bottom-line-oriented work environments. Unfortunately, that’s what a lot of bookstores are these days: little more than supermarkets pushing words in bulk, processed thought instead of processed foods, the formulaic bestseller equivalent to high-fructose corn syrup.

In contrast to this gargantuan, soulless business model, Watermark can seem startlingly old-fashioned. It’s owned by two people I’ve actually met. Our inventory is computerized, sure, but it’s also internalized: 80 percent of the books in the store have actually passed through my hands, so I have the formidable ninja skill of usually being able to walk right up to the book a patron wants, even when they only remember part of the title. (Sometimes none of. Sometimes the color is enough. Or, “Oh, it’s that book about that girl who did that thing.”) The bookstore’s two main foci are contemporary fiction and children’s books. As the resident classicist, I’ve corrected gaps in our backlist (not a *Gulliver’s Travels* to be found when I started in March 2008. Ouch.)

Last summer, we launched a new program, the Watermark Challenge, featuring mini-lectures and moral support to readers seeking out more strenuous fare. We started with that intimidating granddaddy of should-read-that tomes, *War and Peace*, in the beautifully rendered, magnificently jacketed new Richard Pevar and Larissa Volokhonsky translation. Fifty people showed up at the first meeting, and we sold about 100 copies total (making us, I suspect, the only bookstore in America whose Tolstoy sales

for last year rivaled their Stephenie Meyer traffic). Having written my senior paper on Tolstoy’s theory of history, I got to lead a lively discussion on why he mucked up such a good story with all that dry philosophical stuff and that dratted locomotive metaphor. Subsequent challenges: *The Aeneid*, *Moby-Dick*, and next summer, Proust, which I’ll definitely have to get in on.

It’s not just the bookstore itself that I love: there’s the in-house café, famous for tomato bisque with healing powers, homemade focaccia, addictive cupcakes, and sandwiches with literary names (although some of the connections are tenuous—“Moby Dick” is tuna salad, of course, but why is my favorite pesto-and-portobello “The Odyssey”?) Every month, they rotate recipes from a featured cookbook: Black Forest cookies from *Baked: New Frontiers in Baking* (Matt Lewis & Renato Poliafito), a jasmine-essence-infused poundcake from *The Spice Merchant’s Daughter* (Christina Arokiasamy). Oh, and mint chocolate chip milkshakes in December.

Most of all, what Watermark has to offer that no corporate-led, cookie-cutter megastore can rival is its connection to the community, past and present. It’s in the heart of a neighborhood called College Hill, first laid out in the 1880s, with shady, tree-lined streets (a rarity on the prairie) and the kind of brick houses that real estate agents describe as “quaint.” In the same square mile, a pedestrian (and there still are pedestrians in College Hill) can find the Wichita Historical Museum, Wichita Community Theater, and the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Allan Lambe House. For large events, such as chirpy/laconic National Public Radio commentator Sarah Vowell’s visit last September, we partner with the Orpheum Theatre downtown, a lavish movie palace recently restored to its 1920s glory. Even Watermark’s location in the city’s oldest strip mall (dating from 1949, and currently housing nothing but locally owned businesses—a flower shop, a shoe store, a diner, a barbershop), taps into Wichita’s history.

On a smaller scale, Watermark is very much a local meeting place. It’s a prime lunch spot, near downtown and Wichita’s largest high school. Over the holidays, bookstore and café alike overflow with families and college kids home on break. Besides the store’s several “official” book clubs (chick-lit, classics, works in translation, French, Spanish, a group that reads Elizabethan drama out loud), many more meet in the café or one of the downstairs meeting rooms, which also host school groups, bridal showers, political discussions, and the Kansas Paranormal Researchers Guild. And we’re the only place in town that carries the daily *New York Times*—which does make Wichita sound terribly provincial, I’m afraid—and there are a dozen folks who pick it up every day without fail.

Watermark Books, more than just being a place to buy bound paper, gathers together the things I love best about my hometown. On an ordinary day, I can call more than half of my customers by name, remember what they’ve bought—and they remember what



ANNA PERLEBERG

THE IN-HOUSE CAFÉ AT WATERMARK BOOKS FEATURES BISQUE WITH HEALING POWERS.

I've sold them, what I've read recently, what we've both liked, and where we've differed. It's this human factor that's kept Watermark open since 1977 and keeps it thriving today in an Amazon.com world. Anybody can sell you the one book you want. We can find the one you didn't know you wanted.

THE HAUNTED BOOKSTORES OF PARIS

by Jennifer A. Donnelly (Ag6)

Although a resident of Paris for nearly a decade, I still feel haunted by the achievements of the thinkers who, at some time or another, have called this city home. René Descartes, Blaise Pascal, Molière and Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the guillotined Antoine Lavoisier, are all buried here. What they left behind when they departed, apart from bones, bronze memorial plaques, and unpaid bills, were their books, musical scores, theater pieces, and even the occasional federal constitution. The bookseller helps us communicate with their ghosts. And these mediums are everywhere.

The first place you notice them is the river that bisects the city. Both banks are lined with metal boxes holding used books, magazines, and prints, tended by *bouquinistes* who withstand the incessant drizzle in the service of literature (or at least of print media). At the numerous *broquantes*—a blend of antiques shops and rummage sales—a few Euro coins and some patience might reward the bookhound with a first-edition, leather-bound tome from centuries past, pages splashed with red wine and underscored with the pencil of some unknowable stranger.

For me, the primary pleasure of these eclectic spots lies in their capacity to surprise. The printing press has enjoyed a long, storied history in France, and you never know what you might find. I once bargained adamantly for a *Géographie moderne* from 1884, its yellowed

maps an elegy for nations that are no more than an early prototype of the world of today. There you find a bloated version of the present-day Federal Republic of Germany called *Prussie*, the empires of China and Russia, a sliver of land marked *Mesopotamie*. A previous owner circled the names of towns up and down the Mississippi. I often wonder whether she reached them.

Regarding new books, any given *quartier* has several independent bookstores, with neat copies of Roland Barthes' mythologies and King Babar's adventures arranged in their polished windows like chocolate éclairs at the pastry shop. The French government regulates the price of new books, so big-box chains and two-for-one markdowns are uncommon, but when you just want to browse, a *librairiste* is much less likely to effuse chagrin than a salesgirl at Yves Saint Laurent.

While these French institutions have charm, a foreigner like me also wants books in my *langue maternelle*. Paris has a half-dozen or so English-language bookstores, each with a distinct character. The elegant Galignani purports to be "the first English bookshop established on the continent," ultimately tracing its origins to the 16th century. The Village Voice, founded by a solitary Frenchwoman, admirably wrestles against English chain W.H. Smith for readings from best-selling authors. The San Francisco Book Company gives in-store credit for used books. The mere name of The Red Wheelbarrow evokes poetry.

Then there is Shakespeare & Company. Founded by American George Whitman in 1951, it copied its name from the legendary bookshop and lending library run during the heady interwar years by another expatriate, Sylvia Beach (who, in addition to supplying reading material for the likes of Gertrude Stein and F. Scott Fitzgerald, published James Joyce's *Ulysses* after traditional channels judged it obscene).

The façade of the building, catty-corner to the Notre Dame,

BEST AMONG BOOKSELLERS

Annapolis Bookstore Manager Robin Dunn has spent 19 years as a bookseller (and 15 in publishing). Here's his guide to some of the best in the trade:

Boulder Bookstore, Boulder, Colo. "They have an incredibly broad selection of books and a well-trained staff."

The Tattered Cover, Denver (three stores) "In addition to being a great bookstore, the Tattered Cover is at the forefront of the intellectual freedom movement, and they give back to the community."

Powell's City of Books, Portland, Ore. "So big, the departments are decorated in different, vivid colors so you know where you are.. Used books are shelved right alongside the newer volumes."

Sam Weller's Bookstore, Salt Lake City "Amazing, family-owned bookstore stuffed full of new, used, and rare titles. They know their books here!"

The Strand, New York City "Eighteen miles of books in a labyrinthine building, a good place to buy new books at low prices."

Elliott Bay Book Co., Seattle "In an elegant building in Pioneer Square, very peaceful, but with lots of readings and other events going on all the time."

City Lights, San Francisco "You have to go for the lore, of course, but it's the best place if you're looking for literature and poetry. I always find something I didn't expect."

Seminary Co-op Books, Chicago "It's in a basement of the Chicago Theological Seminary in Hyde Park, and you'll have to make your way around pipes, but it's the closest thing to St. John's you'll find anywhere. Absolutely packed; you may need to weave a web like Ariadne to find your way out. A philosopher's heaven."

The Regulator Bookshop, Durham, N.C. "It has a musty smell without being moldy."

Politics & Prose, Washington, D.C. "The flagship store for books on current affairs and politics."



ELENA LUOTO MEISTER

bows out slightly; the timbers are smoothed with age. Outside, overflowing bookracks announce the place's purpose. Inside, every conceivable nook has been put to use: walls are covered floor-to-ceiling with shelves, ladders, and rickety chairs at hand for scaling them. Doorways between rooms are fashioned into bookcases, although they are nearly unnavigably narrow. A display table is formed by the top of a rickety piano, whose keys still play, although the space between pedals and keyboard is filled with threadbare paperbacks. Planks have been nailed to the bottom side of the staircase, with old books piled on them.

In various corners, readers sit sprawled upon dusty mattresses. At night, transient writers curl up on them to sleep, in exchange for a brief written biography and some help around the shop. While the case of the mattresses is unique to Shakespeare & Company, it says something broader about the essence of the English-language bookshops in Paris. They become a locus for the city's community of Anglophones, expatriates of various countries as well as non-native speakers of the language. Nearly all organize readings, usually followed by well-attended *apéros*; some host informal critique groups of works-in-progress. These are also the places to get your *New York*

JENNIFER DONNELLY SENSES THE LASTING PRESENCE OF LONG-DEAD AUTHORS IN THE BOOKSTORES OF PARIS.

Review of Books or to read calls for submissions from literary journals and offers of language exchanges. Over the years, the bookshops and their activities have enabled me to meet a number of renowned authors as well as make many revered friends.

Which is one of the reasons that, while in France, I rarely order from Amazon. It's not just because *La Poste* is unreliable (although it is) or that fees for international shipping are exorbitant (they are). Booksellers abroad, whether of the local language or your native tongue, offer the traveler discovery, sometimes refuge, and almost always a pleasant diversion. And, like all bookstores everywhere, they form a link between the authors whose earthly remains lie in catacombs and crypts, or one day will, while their words live on in consciousness and conversation. ✱

A TOWNIE GOES TO COLLEGE

In the Midst of a Depression, Life Was Good at St. John's

BY JACK OWENS (CLASS OF 1937)

The Depression was full blown in 1933. I had just graduated from Annapolis High School and needed to go to college, but I did not have the \$300 for tuition at St. John's.

Annapolis was relatively sheltered from the economic realities because the largest employer was the Naval Academy. But the tenor of the times was displayed to me when a friend and I hitchhiked from Annapolis to New York City. We were 15. We stayed at the YMCA and ate at a cafeteria. There I sat next to a nice-looking man of about 50, who was poorly dressed. He had ordered a coffee for about five cents. He drank a little and then he poured the whole sugar shaker's contents into the drink for food.

We had moved from Annapolis to a small house in Eastport on Spa Creek. My mother died in the influenza epidemic when I was about three years old, and my father had prostate cancer. The only way I could go to college was by scholarship. The state of Maryland offered each county a fund for tuition to St. John's. I took the test and succeeded. I later discovered that about five percent of the Johnnies also had this scholarship from their own counties.

Annapolis was called "Crab Town" because so many fishermen unloaded their catch at the City Dock, to ship from there to Baltimore. The bay was a veritable protein factory because of the water's bounty. The clear spring water of Spa Creek was full of healthy seaweed, crabs, and small fish. I often caught our dinner from my little boat, dipping for soft-shell crabs.

My worldly knowledge was limited, and I was happy to go to St. John's to knock heads with young men from all over the East Coast. To reach my earliest class at 8 a.m., I rowed across the creek for five minutes and walked about 10 minutes.

St. John's was a good, typical liberal arts college with about 350 students. I took the regular classes my first year: math, English, history, chemistry, and physics. The classes were small, never more than 20

students, and the professors were well suited for their job. My graduating class contained 75 students.

Early in freshman year, we were required to attend a lecture on mental and physical health, with emphasis on social diseases. Dr. Murphy from the Naval Academy told us about the problems encountered by young people from 16 to 24 as they adjust to becoming adults. During my years, three students died: one in his auto and two by suicide. One of them I knew well. He shot himself in his room.

I think the college was struggling with the Depression, as everyone was. I believe the presidents took the job for prestige as well as a hope to help the college. One of the three presidents in my four years was Amos W. W. Woodcock. He had just left his job in Washington as head of prohibition enforcement, sponsored by the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), because the amendment was abolished.

He was not popular on campus. At one of the student assemblies in the Great Hall, he gave a lecture on the sins of drinking alcohol. He placed two glasses on the lectern, one with water and the other with alcohol. He dropped a worm in the water and the worm wiggled. Then he put it in the alcohol and the worm died. He asked the assembly what this demonstration proved. One of the boys in my aisle said in a hushed voice, "It proves people who drink

alcohol don't have worms." President Woodcock said, "That's right. People who drink die."

President Douglas Gordon had a nice motto that most remember: When you graduate from St. John's, you will be "a gentleman and a scholar."

My four years were an important phase of my life. I became more skilled in my social abilities. I found that I could succeed in the real world, as I had good basic knowledge in many subjects and had learned how to do the research you need to solve a puzzling problem.

My freshman year was the last of the hazing. One day a sophomore asked if I was



THE FRONT WALK OF THE ANNAPOLIS CAMPUS IN 1933, WHEN JACK OWENS WAS A FRESHMAN.

a freshman. I said yes.

"Where is your strawberry box hat?" he demanded.

"I don't have one."

He said, "Get it and wear it."

I never found one. I guess I am a bit of an iconoclast. During a "shoot the cannon run" starting at the old Civil War cannon, the sophomores lined up with belts to swing at the freshmen as they ran toward the Liberty Tree. I was a fast runner, so I did play that game.

The freshmen also had to learn the school songs. The best is "St. John's Forever." Another was for the football team, whose traditional rival was Johns Hopkins:

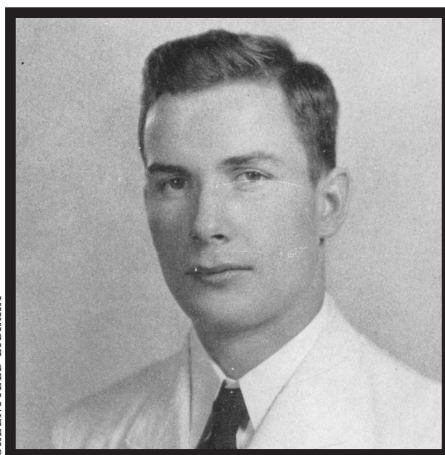
*St. Johnnies in town,
Oh Hopkins, they are all around.
They will run around your ends,
Gaining by tens. There is no use in
playing
Cause old St. John's is in town.*

We had about six fraternities on campus where the brothers lived and a big dorm for freshmen and other students who did not want to join a frat. A student union on the first floor of McDowell had a bookstore and also a pool table where the daily game was nickel nine ball. There was a small library and a nice gym for basketball, and of course McDowell for classes and administration.

I knew I was missing much of the social life by living in town, and the food at home was mainly from a can. So I worked hard to find more aid to pay for room and board. I raked leaves under a federal program. I set up the lab in physics. I did a little tutoring and got paid a little money. That did the trick; I moved to the frat house. All day we dressed much like preppies, but in the dining room a jacket was the mode.

I recall the first day of the philosophy course. The professor entered the room smelling a little flower, not saying a word. Then he looked at the flower and said, "Little flower, as I look at thee and smell thee, I wonder what the world and thee are all about." Sitting down, he said, "That's what this course is about." We students looked at each other and gulped. Although it was not my favorite course, even now I can't get these international words about life from my mind: *Élan vital*, *ding an sich*, and *cogito ergo sum*.

In my senior year, I was the person who initiated the new frat pledges. The dictum



GREENFIELD LIBRARY

MR. OWENS' SENIOR PORTRAIT FROM THE 1937 *Rat-Tat*, THE COLLEGE YEARBOOK.

was from the Bible: "*Vanitas, vanitatum, omnia vanitas*," with two long paragraphs in Latin. I told them my translation: "Don't be vain like Narcissus, who liked his looks so much that he kept looking in a pond at himself, so Zeus turned him into a flower."

College activities included the theatrical Colonial Players, a glee club, a social club, and enthusiastic intramural sports: softball, touch football, basketball, and track. The big sport teams were football, basketball, and of course lacrosse.

Having played some lacrosse in town, I played four years as a Johnnie. During my junior year, the lacrosse team missed a train in New York City on our way to West Point to play Army, so we got to spend the night in the city. Coach said, "I am bed checking; be in bed by 10 o'clock." A New Yorker on our team convinced four of us to



go to the Roseland Ballroom to "brush up on our dance steps." About ten girls were lined up for "Ten Cents a Dance." You picked a girl, paid ten cents, and began the dance. After about three minutes, the girls said, "Okay, ten cents more." We went for about 30 cents and then headed back to our room.

While I was playing intramural basketball, the coach, Dutch Lentz, approached me to say, "Hey, Owens, how about joining the varsity? Some of my better players are flunking." So I joined the team as a sub. For a small college, we had an outstanding year in 1937. The University of Maryland had a good basketball team that year and we were the underdogs as we played them at their home. When we were six points ahead with five minutes to play, one of our men fouled out. Coach Lentz said, "Owens, go in the game. Don't let your man score." Well, my opponent was named King Kong Keller and he looked the part. His job was to intimidate us. He was a good athlete but I was good on defense, so I stayed with him all the way. When we won, he threw the ball at me. I walked away having learned, "Debate, but don't argue."

It was the first year of the national collegiate contest in basketball, and the Johnnies were selected to represent the state of Maryland. We played on a Saturday evening in Philly and got beat. Yet it was a good day anyway, because when we got home to the gym, the social club had transformed Iglehart into a dance hall for Tommy Dorsey's Big Band. We were invited to join the dancers. In those days, the "Big Apple" was a popular college dance: four or five couples link arms in a circle and each dancer has a chance to "shine" in the center of the ring.

I give kudos to the coaches. I never heard one coach raise his voice to blame a player for his game. In 1937, we were prepared to beat Hopkins in lacrosse and trained hard. We did beat them; I had a good scoring day. These four years stand out in my mind as some of the happiest days of my life, and I think I qualified for the college's aim: "a gentleman and a scholar." ❀

*St. John's forever,
Its fame shall never die.
We'll fight for its colors
And raise them to the sky.*

MR. OWENS IN THE 1970S.

RED CAR

by Sallie Bingham (SFGI93)
Sarabande Books, 2008

The dozen stories in Sallie Bingham's short story collection *Red Car*, set in locales from Colorado to Normandy, take a mature perspective. The narrator of "A Gift for Burning" tells an off-stage interviewer about her acclaimed novelist son who received little of his mother's attention. In "Red Car," the eponymous convertible is the only constant, while owners and marriages come and go. And in "The Shot Tower," a young woman seemingly abandoned by her lover chooses to carry on without him. "The girl would always choose life," Bingham writes in conclusion.

Booklist said of her most recent work: "Bingham has been writing fiction for decades, and her newest short stories evince the tangy fruits of her labors in their graceful balance, refined composition, telling details, and the probity of their emotions."

Born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Bingham grew up in a complicated and powerful family, which owned *The Louisville Times* and *The Courier-Journal*. At 22, she published her first novel, *After Such Knowledge*, in 1961. She has never stopped writing, even while rearing three sons and going through a divorce. Her themes include transgressions in affairs of the heart, dreams pursued and dreams unfulfilled, and family grievances.

After her children were grown, Bingham moved to Santa Fe, where she came across a



brochure for St. John's and realized that she had never read Plato. "For reasons that are mysterious to me, I missed reading a lot of the Western classics," she says. As a Graduate Institute student, Bingham found "a lot of the discussions very worthwhile," although the math and science requirements were a bit intimidating, she admits. (One of her stories, "Speaking Greek," is based in part on an exchange in a GI seminar.)

Bingham was exposed to Shakespeare at a young age and has always been fascinated by theater. Her first play was produced in 1980, off-Broadway at the now-defunct American Place Theatre. Determined to help bring more plays written and produced by women to the stage, Bingham teamed up with the

theatre's co-producer, Julia Miles. The Women's Project and Productions, housed in a converted church, was offering in its heyday in the 1980s six or more plays a year, in addition to a variety of workshops. After she moved to Santa Fe, Bingham suggested to Martin Platt, then artistic director of New Mexico Repertoire Company, that they collaborate on a sustainable regional theatre. As founder and board member of Santa Fe Stages, Bingham helped produce original plays and brought in touring productions from across the country and abroad.

Her championing of women writers also led her to establish the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture at Duke University two decades ago. Originally devoted to housing Bingham's papers as well as those of other writers, the archives have broadened their mandate to include a variety of public and personal records.

While feminism has been an ongoing theme in both Bingham's life and work, *Red Car* reflects the clarity one can achieve with time and distance. "There's a certain degree of wisdom as one goes on as a writer that makes it easier to pick the battles," she notes. "Not every battle is worth fighting."

— DEBORAH SPIEGELMAN

LA FONTAINE'S COMPLETE TALES IN VERSE: AN ILLUSTRATED AND ANNOTATED TRANSLATION

by Randolph Runyon (A71)
McFarland, 2009

Though Jean de La Fontaine's *Contes et nouvelles en vers* were written more than 300 years ago, Randolph Runyon's new book is the first complete English translation. The book includes an extensive commentary and 69 illustrations including engravings by Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1732-1806) as well as others from little-known 19th-century French editions.

La Fontaine's work is not meant for children. No tortoises, hares or foxes inhabit the poems. Instead they speak of husbands and wives, nuns and friars, lovers all ruled by the power of lust. The *Tales* are delicately sensual and yet, like Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, delightfully wicked.

In 1675, at the request of Louis XIV, copies of the *Tales* were seized as it was claimed they contained indiscreet language and posed a threat to public morals. La Fontaine denounced them on his deathbed to win admittance to heaven, yet there are in

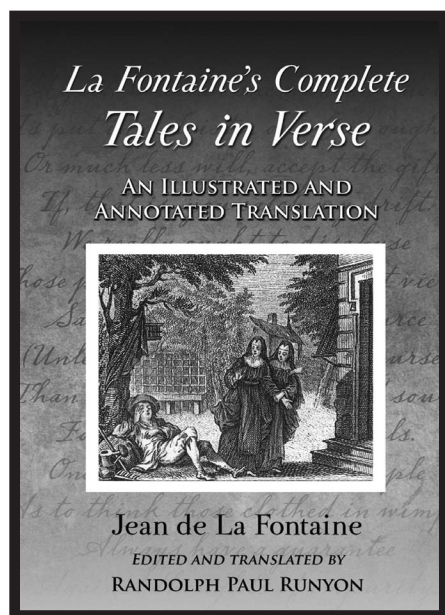
Excerpt: "Red Car"

The wife rode in the car for the last time in March. She had eaten dinner with her husband in a restaurant they visited on the way back from the airport, on the way to the airport, and often in between, a lively little place with a bar overlooking the ocean.

They both dreaded going back to the house. There's a silence particular to the end of a marriage, when there are no words, not even any actions to convey the despair, the listlessness, of the approaching end; and the broad white bed in the big bedroom is no longer even a hope or a possibility but another item on an endless list of disappointments and regrets.

So when he said, "Shall we take a drive?" she thought it was a good idea, to put off that end.

They drove out along the bay where the houseboats are snubbed up against the highway and the lights from the strip development waver in oily darkness. He pulled her in under his arm and drove with his left hand and she wondered why, once again, she was allowing him to drive her when he was drunk, and why, once again, their past seemed to have returned: the one-handed driver, the broad seat, the woman shivering in a light cotton dress under the heavy arm of a man to whom she appears, against all reason, to belong.



fact no unseemly words in the *Tales*. As Runyon writes in his introduction, “La Fontaine went to amusing lengths to suggest certain things without actually saying them, in verse that provides food for the mind as well as the senses.”

A GREAT IDEA AT THE TIME: THE RISE, FALL, AND CURIOUS AFTERLIFE OF THE GREAT BOOKS

by Alex Beam
Public Affairs, 2008

A number of the men central to the story of St. John's College are major figures in Alex Beam's book, *A Great Idea at the Time: The Rise, Fall, and Curious Afterlife of the Great Books*. Robert Hutchins, Mortimer Adler, Stringfellow Barr and Scott Buchanan were all involved in an effort to bring great books to the general public beginning in 1952.

Beam, a columnist for the *Boston Globe*, developed his idea to write about the Great Books movement after a reader of the paper asked him why a company called Liberal Arts, Inc., bought an estate in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, in 1947. The query led Beam to Barr and Buchanan's attempt to establish a great books college in Stockbridge after leaving St. John's. “Liberal Arts was such a strange name for an entity, so I started looking into it,” Beam says.

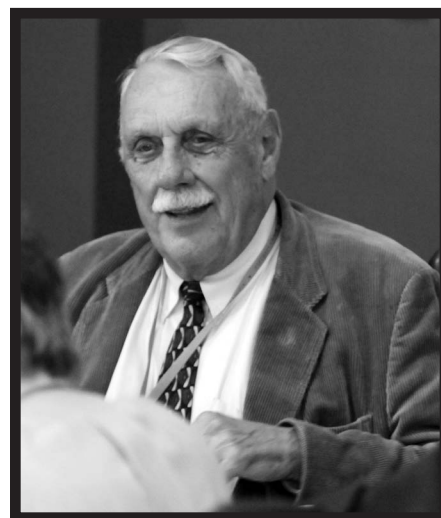
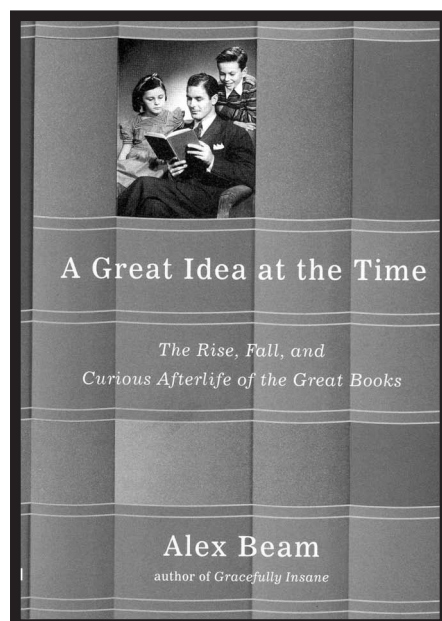
From there, he discovered the Great Books Foundation and grew particularly interested in the development and

marketing of *The Great Books of the Western World*, a 54-volume series featuring 443 works deemed the most important for educated people to read—or, at least have on their bookshelves.

Apart from capturing a movement and describing an ambitious business venture, Beam enjoyed writing about “these larger-than-life characters.” He expresses great admiration for Robert Hutchins, but he's hard on Mortimer Adler, whom he describes as Hutchins' “brilliant, Hobbitt-like sidekick.” “[Adler] was a complicated person, and he deserves much credit for this dramatic educational movement,” says Beam. “I admit that I had fun with him and made sport of him, but to be fair, I acknowledge his strange, egomaniacal brilliance.”

“Tiny St. John's College” earns a chapter in Beam's book, in a section devoted to showing how the great books live on. Beam met Annapolis tutor Eva Brann (HA87) at a great books conference at Yale University and asked if he could visit her at the college. “She is the most articulate advocate of the St. John's ideal,” Beam says.

Beam claims to have written “the only un boring book written about the great books.” Widely reviewed, with stories in publications including *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, the book has gained some attention for the college as a place where the classics are treasured—though it wasn't Beam's intention. “If I can get people thinking about and reading the great books, that's a good thing,” he says.



GEORGE VAN SANT AT HOMECOMING 2008

TAKING ON THE BURDEN OF HISTORY: PRESUMING TO BE A U. S. MARINE

by George Van Sant (class of 1947)
Xlibris, 2008

George Van Sant, professor emeritus of philosophy at the University of Mary Washington, has penned a lively memoir of his years in the United States Marine Corps.

Van Sant interrupted his studies to enlist in the Marine Corps during World War II, but the war ended while he was still in boot camp. He served overseas in Pearl Harbor and North China, and after his discharge returned to St. John's to finish his degree. Later, he went to officer training school in Quantico and was a second lieutenant when he was sent to the Korean War, where he served from 1952 to 1953.

After he finished his Korean service in 1953, he attended graduate school at University of Virginia, where he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in philosophy. For much of his academic career, he remained active in the Marine Corps Reserve service.

From the beginning of his military career, Van Sant wondered if he was cut out to be a Marine. That answer became clear: Van Sant was awarded the Meritorious Bronze Star for valor, for leading his platoon on a raid into the Chinese trench line. His military service, it turned out, “was the crowning achievement of my life,” he says. ✿

AUTUMN REVELS

Games in the East, Balloons in the West

ANNAPOLIS: SEPTEMBER 26-28

Stationed at the Coffee Shop for Homecoming registration, Steve Thomas (SF74), vice president of the Alumni Association, noted that planning a fun weekend is an evolutionary process. Seminars are a must, but events for kids are becoming increasingly important. "This is a family-friendly event where the students take care of the kids," Thomas said. "We even have junior seminars."

At a luncheon for members of the classes of the 1940s, where about 20 alumni dined with Christopher Nelson (SF70), Henry Robert (class of 1941) remembered Homecomings "when we were still having football games." Anthony Hammond (class of 1947) traveled with his wife, Sylvia Hammond, from Dorset County, England. He attended St. John's for just two years, Hammond noted, "but I've always had a certain affinity for the college."

In the afternoon, Chris Denny (A93), assistant professor of theology and religious studies at St. John's University in New York, was still talking about the morning's seminar on the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail." "I will never teach it the same way again," he said. "In a St. John's seminar people are committed to discovering the ways in which a text uncovers truth."

Ever the rebels, alumni from the 1960s talked politics and justice with tutors emeriti Sam Kutler (class of 1954) and Larry Berns (H00). Sharon Wallace (class of 1964) recalled how she and classmates registered voters and took part in sit-ins. After she graduated, Wallace said, she "pursued the question 'what is justice?' at the Justice Department."

Blakely Mechau (class of 1958) mused about the changes women brought to St. John's. "I was in the first class in which women were in every classroom. We went into the Ivory Tower in our plaid skirts and cashmere sweaters, ready. Today in a seminar on Locke with tutor Chester Burke (A74) we raised the question, 'Is knowledge possible?' It was fitting."



ABOVE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT): TEMPLE IGLEHART, TRANSFORMED; AWARD OF MERIT RECIPIENT HENRY HIGMAN (CLASS OF 1948); ANNAPOLIS ALUMNI PLAY "WITS & WAGERS."

OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP RIGHT, MIKIKO DUVOISIN, DAUGHTER OF SANTA FE TUTOR JACQUES DUVOISIN (A80), SHOWS OFF HER ARTWORK; HONORARY ALUMNI HOWARD FISHER (L.) AND KENT TAYLOR; KHIN KHIN GUYOT BROCK (SF88) AND HER HUSBAND, KEVIN (SF90); AWARD OF MERIT RECIPIENT DR. NORMAN LEVAN (SFG174)



SANTA FE: OCTOBER 11-13

For those *really* early risers, Homecoming festivities in Santa Fe began before dawn on Friday, October 10, when a group of alumni boarded vans at 4:30 a.m. to attend the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. Shifting Homecoming later in the fall allowed alumni to enjoy one of New Mexico's most popular events.

Most alumni, however, chose a more leisurely start to the weekend. They registered in the afternoon (a new computer system moved people through smoothly), attended the welcome reception in the Lower Common Room, then met up with their classmates at the various receptions hosted before the 8 p.m. lecture by Elaine Scarry of Harvard University. After the lecture, there were movies on the grassy knoll outside Weigle Hall: the very campy *St. John's Story*, along with the critically acclaimed *The Tao of Steve*, written by Duncan North (SF87).

Saturday's seminars were lively and well attended, especially the class of 1983's *King Lear* seminar (led by tutor Phil LeCuyer) and the class of 2003's Flannery O'Connor seminar (led by tutor Matt Davis). Wild weather—including a hail storm—brought the Fiesta Picnic, scheduled to be held on the Soccer Field, into the dining hall. Saturday night provided yet more opportunities for socializing: a lecture and book signing by Sallie Bingham (SFG193), the All-Alumni Art Show reception, and a banquet and dance. ❖

HONORS, HONORARY ALUMNI

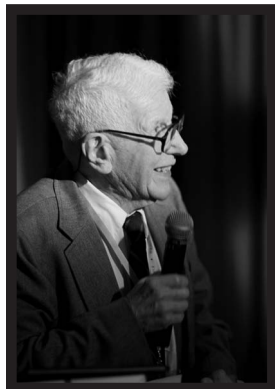
Each year, the Alumni Association welcomes honorary alumni into the fold and recognizes the achievement of St. John's alumni:

In Santa Fe, two long-serving tutors became 2008 Honorary Alumni of the college: Kent H. Taylor served the college as a tutor for more than 30 years. He contributed to the growth of the Santa Fe campus almost since its inception. Howard Fisher was a vibrant part of the St. John's community on both campuses for more than 45 years. He began his career at the college in 1965 in Annapolis and moved to the Western campus in 2006.

Santa Fe alumni also honor the achievement of two of their own: George Forest Bingham (SF68) earned a law degree from the University of New Mexico and has since practiced law in his home state of New Mexico as well as in Washington, D.C. He has served as a member of the Board of Visitors and Governors since 1994 and as a member of the St. John's College Alumni Association Board. Dr. Norman E. Levan (SFG174) is professor emeritus and former chief of dermatology at his alma mater, the University of Southern California School of Medicine. He enjoyed a long and distinguished career in medicine, including establishing the Hansen's Disease Clinic at the Los Angeles County/USC Medical Center. In 2006, he made a \$5 million gift to the capital campaign to build a graduate center on the campus. Construction begins this spring on the Betty and Norman Levan Hall.

In Annapolis, the association granted one Honorary Alumnus award, posthumously, to Christopher G. Colby, who joined the college's Print Shop in 1977 and served as manager until his death on March 27, 2008. Mr. Colby will be remembered as a gentle, kind, and hard-working colleague, as well as a friend to many. His daughter, Yve, accepted the award for her father.

At the Saturday banquet, two alumni were honored with the Award of Merit: Dr. Henry Higman (class of 1948), who enjoyed a long and successful career as a neurologist and medical school professor; and Peter McGhee (class of 1955), who rose to Vice President for National Programming at WGBH in Boston, where he guided the development of notable PBS programs including *NOVA*, *American Experience*, and *Frontline*. ❖



THE BOSS WHISPERER

Laura Crawshaw (SF75) Tames Difficult Supervisors

BY ANNA PERLEBERG (SF02)

The Boss from Hell is a cinematic staple, from goofy Michael Scott in *The Office* to the ruthless chief in *Glengarry Glen Ross*. And there are all too many real-world analogues.

How to deal? Search for “bad bosses” on Amazon and you’ll get a slew of how-to manuals (and a voodoo doll) for surviving what one author calls “dysfunctional, disrespectful, dishonest little dictators.”

But Laura Crawshaw (SF75) takes issue with the labels: “The common myth is that these bosses are evil or crazy or both. Having coached them for 15 years, my experience is that that’s just not true.”

Crawshaw is the world’s first Boss Whisperer; while others have helped employees cope, Crawshaw works with the problem bosses themselves, opening their eyes to the distress their behaviors cause and gently retraining them to be more productive—often saving their jobs in the process.

After graduating with her master’s in social work from Smith College in 1977, Crawshaw moved to Alaska to work with the state’s first Employee Assistance Program (EAP). “There, I was, all sparkly-eyed,” she says, “and one day I had an emergency appointment. He was a typical Alaska rough-neck—tractor cap, etc.—and looked embarrassed to be there. ‘I’m angry at my boss,’ he said. ‘He calls me names, he disrespects me.’ I asked him how angry. ‘I’m thinking about killing him.’”

Crawshaw dutifully tried to determine how

serious the threat was:

“‘Have you thought about how?’ I asked. ‘The gun’s in the car,’ he answered.”

A stunned Crawshaw scurried down the hall to ask her supervisor what to do. “He said to ask him if we could have the gun,” she recalls. “So I did: the guy said yes, and he looked so relieved.”

As the EAP collected guns in their safe, Crawshaw puzzled over how a boss could so stress a workplace that employees contemplated violence. Eventually, she was recruited as an executive in her company to direct their EAPs at the national and international level: “First, I learned the language of emotion” through her work in psychotherapy, “and then I learned and observed business.”

This combined expertise led her to start her own firm in 1995: Executive Insight Development Group, headquartered in Portland, Oregon. The group has since coached leaders in more than 40 Fortune 500 companies around the world. In 2005, Crawshaw earned a PhD in organizational behavior from the Fielding Graduate Institute. Recently, she’s written a guide called *Taming the Abrasive Manager: Ending Unnecessary Roughness in the Workplace* (Jossey-Bass, 2007).

Though Crawshaw left St. John’s for Smith College after two years, her time at the



AS AN EXECUTIVE COACH, LAURA CRAWSHAW COMBINES THE LANGUAGE OF EMOTION WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF BUSINESS.

college greatly influenced her work. The Boss Whispering method is inspired by three great thinkers: Socrates, Darwin, and

Freud. Socratic questioning helps her coax comprehension from oblivious managers without simply telling them to “be nice.” She describes sorting through theories with a client who complained that his requests for ideas were only met with silence: at first, asked why he thought this happened, he declared his employees must be lazy or stupid. Pressed for another option, he admitted, “I’ve been told I can be kind of critical.” Crawshaw suggested he test this notion by rewarding any response at all. At their next session, the overjoyed CEO cried, “I did what you said, and they started talking!”

Darwin and Freud provide Crawshaw with a frame of reference for why abrasive bosses develop and a crucial strategy they need to change their ways. “Businesspeople understand the language of ‘survival of the fittest,’” says Crawshaw, reeling off workplace idioms couched in animal terms: rat race, top dog, “it’s a jungle out there.” Freud later expanded Darwin’s ideas about natural selection to psychological survival: when faced with an emotional threat, individuals resort to defense mechanisms, less literal “fight or flight” reactions. The aforementioned CEO, for example fought; the employees who clammed up fled. Identifying these responses in themselves and others can help a boss avoid eliciting them.

Lately, Crawshaw has moved from coaching clients to training others in her method: she envisions a legacy of Boss Whisperers enlightening, soothing and taming unwittingly difficult supervisors. “I’m in love with my work,” says Crawshaw. “My mission is to end suffering in the workplace.”

MONTAIGNE WOULD HAVE MADE A GREAT EXECUTIVE COACH

“His insight on the power gained through conversational humility stands the test of time,” says Crawshaw. “I’ve shared his thoughts with many of my clients, and to see one abandon dialectical bullying with the simple words ‘I am wrong’ is a powerful moment—that moment where influence is gained by relinquishing the imperative for “rightness.” Consider this passage from “On the Art of Conversation”:

Contradictions of opinion, therefore, neither offend nor estrange me: they only arouse and exercise my mind. We run away from correction; we ought to court it and expose ourselves to it, especially when it comes in that shape of discussion...Each time we meet with opposition, we consider not whether it is just, but how, wrongly or rightly, we can rebut it. Instead of opening our arms to it, we greet it with our claws...I like expression to be bold, and men to say what they think...It is however, difficult to induce men of my time to do this; they have not the courage to correct because they have not the courage to stand correction: and they never speak frankly in one another’s presence. ❀

1937

HAROLD BROOKS and Margie, his wife of 40 years, celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary in November at their home in sunny Sebastian, Fla. "Most of our courting days and nights were spent at St. John's," Harold writes.

1945

DONALD KAPLAN is still involved in financial planning in Walnut Creek, Calif. He welcomes hearing from any classmates of the war and post-war years at dk2301@msn.com.

1949

ALLAN HOFFMAN has a message to all the members of the Class of 1949 and those who attended St. John's in the years 1945 through 1949: "This fall in Annapolis we will be celebrating the 60th reunion of the Class of 1949. We were the last class to have both 'Winkie' Barr and Scott Buchanan as our president and dean. Our numbers were small then and due to the passage of time less now. This in all probability will be the last possible quinquennial reunion for those precious few of us left. Let's all try to make this 60th a memorable occasion. I am sure Scott and Winkie would want it to be so. Mark the dates on your calendar now. I look forward to being with you in Annapolis one more time."

ALLEN JACKSON, the third generation to attend St. John's, passed along some family lore concerning athletics at St. John's, particularly the 1905 football game in which St. John's beat

Navy 104-0. "The game was never completed because of a brawl in the fourth quarter, including players tossing each other into College Creek, so Navy never recorded the event," says Jackson, whose grandfather may have played for the Johnnies. In a more modern development, Jackson was recognized for his work in founding the Fuel Fund in Maryland. The Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. presented its annual Humanitarian Award to Jackson, who played a major role in establishing the Anne Arundel County Fuel Fund in November 1979. He was also acknowledged for creating the Fuel Fund Envelope Campaign in February 1980. As chairman of the Anne Arundel County Economic Committee, Jackson penned a letter asking for BG&E customers to contribute one dollar to help families with their energy bills. His appeal was included with BG&E's utility bills and raised \$13,000. BG&E matched the contributions dollar for dollar. This program swept across the country.

1958

MICHAEL SANFORD has retired from his 10 years as a part-time classical DJ and news man on public radio, but he's still doing construction work: "I'm putting finishing details on the house I built, and I'm remodeling an outbuilding into a guest house.

We have a promising little St. John's reading group here in Ashland, Ore. We have been studying women—reading *Madame Bovary* and *Anna Karenina*. We are taking this inquiry to a more abstract level now with a reading of *Don Quixote*. Best of all, I'm still alive! But I say this with a hasty knock on wood!"

HUGH MERCER CURTLER retired from teaching philosophy and humanities (great books) at Southwest Minnesota State University in 2005 and is enjoying his retirement immensely: "I now have time to read the many books on my 'to-do' list (mostly histories), writing when I can, and working on my golf game. I was talked into putting together a web page in an attempt to attract possible agents or publishers to my latest (of 11) books. But it hasn't happened. Those who are curious (or bored) might check out the website (www.hughecurtler.com) where they will find, among other things, my e-mail address. I would love to hear from old classmates and friends."

1959

LORNA CAHALL recently published *The Actor King*, "a tale born during the angst we all suffered during the late Bush reign. I wondered how we can keep our souls during such a time

and I decided that, whereas some turned to religion, I preferred the mimetic arts—possibly an alternative religion—but very intriguing. And, how much worse to be trying to keep your souls under the Romans. So I spent those years chasing my characters Tullius, Mercurius, Lucia, Kepi and their adventurous troupe as they survived the 2nd century. Other than that, Dick and I are living peacefully in Bend, Ore., and staying out of trouble. Dick is playing the banjo, working with SMART and trying to teach 10-year-olds to program Lego robots."

1962

"If Sarah Palin can think of 2012 already, then so can the class of 1962," declares **DAVID BENFIELD**. "This will be our 50th and the success of our 45th suggests that we should plan for it carefully. An election will be only a few weeks in the future and hotel and travel reservations will be scarce. In the summer of 2010 we can have an online conference session and work out details to help involve everyone in the class."

1964

JULIE WIGGENHORN WINSLETT has discovered that "life isn't over at 65. I never expected to have a second career this late in life, but it has happened, and I love it. I began by teaching English as a Second Language to adults for a technical college near here a few years ago. That was so much fun that I applied for, and got, a position at a local university. It's also The Military College of Georgia, and I teach English there (my degrees are in

cont. on page 34

ABOUT THE ROBOTS

MAREA JENNESS (HIMELGRIN, SF78) is having fun building 15-pound combat robots with her high school pre-engineering students at Tucson High Magnet School. She lives with her husband of 22 years, Doug, and 8-year-old son, Daniel, in Catalina, Ariz. "Everything I learned in the lab classes at St. John's gets put into our robots!" she says. ❀

English). The kids (about 12 percent are cadets) are really great, although very different from what I remember we were like in the sixties. They're not very idealistic and are politically conservative for the most part. Reading is not something they pursue with gusto. They're into their cell phones and iPods—completely plugged into an electronic world. So there are challenges that we instructors face that our tutors and professors didn't have to face. But it's a great job, and I hope to do it forever.

My husband, who is a nature photographer, and I collaborated on a book called *Wildflowers of Stone Mountain* and I edited a second book entitled *Stone Mountain: A Walk in the Park*. I am currently writing a mystery set in the high desert of the Southwest (near Taos) called *Murder-off-the-Grid*. It's slow going because I have to squeeze it in during those brief moments when I'm not grading papers. But writing a novel is a magical experience and another thing that I never thought I'd do."

1966

IAN HARRIS just returned from a three-month trip to Sri Lanka, where he keynoted a conference on adult peace education, from Italy where he spoke at both the University of Florence and Pisa, and Spain where taught a master's course in peace and development.

From France, **CONNIE LIND-GREEN** reports: "Sitting by a roaring and much-needed fire (double-glazed windows not yet installed), I just finished the **LORNA CAHALL** (Class of 1959) novel, *The Actor King*, which is a funny mix of scholarship and adventure in Hadrian's time.

Then the Skype 'phone' rang and it was **MEL KLINE** (A66), so I feel quite 'book-ended' by St. John's. With the wonders of webcam, I showed both Mel and later my sister, **SARAH** (A67), the progress on our construction. There are walls going up! Reading *Masters and Commanders*, about WW II's leadership: Churchill, FDR, Brooke, Marshall, and continuing to follow the Obama (hooray!) presidency in both *Le Figaro* and the *International Herald Tribune*. Scarlatti, Chopin, and Schubert keep my fingers from atrophying totally, although I'm making quite a hash of their wonderful music. Sigh. My French is improving; I was able to tell one of Elliott Zuckerman's funny stories to my piano teacher. Tutoring a young boy in English. Baking scones and making tea. Otherwise, like everyone...waiting for spring!"

SYLVIA SHAPIRO is still living in Mexico, south of Guadalajara, on Mexico's largest lake, enjoying retirement in Paradise. "Unfortunately," she writes, my "husband died on October 1, 2008, which has left a large hole in my life. I am busy running a large book exchange in a local restaurant (commonly described as the best in Lakeside) and maintaining the book section of a local non-profit thrift shop. My dad, age 92, is still working as a lawyer and driving to work every day, so I am

looking forward to a long and happy life, although I do miss Northern California."

1967

CLARK LOBENSTINE writes: "The InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, which I have been privileged to serve as executive director for nearly 30 years, has just moved to The Gate House, 100 Alleson St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20011. My wife, Rev. Carole Crumley, continues to be senior program director of The Shalom Institute for Spiritual Formation. She has also started as the interim director of Washington National Cathedral's Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage on a very part-time basis. She started that center while on the Cathedral staff for 15 years."

1968

TOM KEENS (SF) was elected chair of the California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Advisory Council. This nine-member council advises the California Department of Public Health on issues related to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) services to families, public education, and research in California. He has already embarked on an

ambitious program to try to establish uniformity in the diagnosis of babies dying suddenly, to determine the impact of different diagnoses on parent grief and recovery, to continue the fall in numbers of babies dying from SIDS through public health intervention, and to improve communication on Council actions with the California SIDS Community. He is a Professor of Pediatrics, Physiology and Biophysics at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California, and member of the Division of Pediatric Pulmonology at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles.

CHARLIE WATSON (A) writes with news of his children. His eldest, Ivan, is moving from NPR to CNN International as a reporter based in Istanbul. "Won't be hearing him on the way to and from work or on *All Things Considered* anymore," he says. His middle son, Misha, is living and working in Mystic, Conn. as a master carpenter and is currently participating in half-day cycling trips or five-mile swims. His daughter, Anya, is finishing a master's degree in marine sciences with prolonged work with Dr. Roger Hanlon at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratories, studying the natural camouflage methods of groupers. She is also an enthusiastic cyclist and will be participating in a charity ride, the Pan-Massachusetts Challenge, a bike ride across Massachusetts in efforts to raise funds for cancer research. He adds, "Masha and I regret to say we haven't been to Annapolis recently, despite close ties to the area, Baltimore and Washington. Masha has been actively working on behalf of the rehabilitation center at our city's hospital and keeping track of everyone else in our family, including a 94-year-old mother. I'm still pretty busy in practice and trying to help administer a busy anesthesia department. A

A JOHNNIE ABROAD

JAMES F.X. O'GARA (A88) just returned from a year with the State Department in Iraq's Wasit province, where he advised the governor and provincial legislature, enlarged the U.S. Government's knowledge of and contact with Shia religious party leaders, spoke daily with his 7-year-old daughter, Nancy, via satellite phone, and otherwise carried on in a manner befitting a St. Johnnie abroad. He can be reached at jfxogara@hotmail.com but notes that his Facebook contacts have expanded exponentially since connecting with **ROBERT GEORGE** (A86).

recent favorite activity (in addition to reading mind-rot fiction) is learning ultra-sound guided pain-relieving nerve/plexus blocks. My most unfavorite is watching my retirement monies diminish as the prospect of traveling more in the near future grows more remote."

1969

JIM BARTRAM (A) says "hello" to all his classmates from the 1960s. "I am now disabled—Alzheimer's at 61. I'm still able to make my beloved recorders, but probably not for long. I'm still very high functioning, and should be for some time."

BILL LANG (A) has retired from the Rare Book department of the Free Library of Philadelphia in 2006, after 30 "very happy" years at the library. Lately he has been working part time for the library's development department; starting a small business giving swimming instruction, mostly to triathletes; working with disabled swimmers through the Pennsylvania Center for Adapted Sports; and helping to carry his wife's harpsichord wherever she needs it to go. "I will be happy to hear from anyone from St. John's, about swimming or anything else."

1970

ANDREW GARRISON (A) has suspended his teaching career at Miami University to expand his psychology practice to full time. His son Jesse is making movies in New York.

"I have just received page proofs (some 750 pages worth) of my new English translation of *Henri de Lubac, Medieval Exegesis*,

Volume 3: The Four Senses of Scripture. It is being published in Grand Rapids, Michigan by Wm. B. Eerdmans and in Edinburgh by T. & T. Clark. This is the third volume of four. It should appear this spring," writes **E. M. MACIEROWSKI** (A).

1971

MAGGIE JACOBS (SF) writes: "My husband, Bob, is happily retired and spends a lot of time fishing. Son Daniel is starting his second year at Willamette in Oregon. I am upgrading my skills and getting into web programming. I've also taken up knitting and am studying Hebrew. Life is good!"

SARAH SARAI (GANCHER, SF) has recently published poems in *The Mississippi Review*, *Big City Lit*, *Ghoti* and other journals; fiction in *Storyglossia*. Check www.myspace.com/sarahsarai for links.

1973

ELLEN LEITNER (USNER) (SF) reports, "I'm still living in Chimayó, where my husband, Hans, and I raised our six children. The youngest, Rose, just left for Stanford this fall. Our next youngest, Genevieve, is doing well studying classical guitar at North Carolina School of the Arts. She sometimes performs with her older sister Cecilia, soprano, who will get her Master of Music degree from Yale this May after a performance tour in China and Korea with the Schola Cantorum. In June and July she will perform under Helmut Rilling at the Oregon Bach Festival. Our other three children live close to home. Franz, an architect, designer and

photographer, works in Santa Fe. Maria, her husband Danny, and son Kiran also live in SF, and they sell their organic produce and mushrooms at the farmer's market. Johanna lives here in Chimayó with her husband, Jesse, and three sons, Jonah, 8, Jeremy, 6, and Julian, 4. My husband, Hans, is a general contractor, an Austrian trained in carpentry (www.leitner-construction.com). I'm planning my next concerts for 'Enchantment Chamber Music.' Mozart's clarinet quintet, some violin/guitar duos featuring Duo Guadalupe (our staple), and other small ensembles are on the agenda, if the funds come through. I'm also teaching a violin class at Northern New Mexico College in Española. It's a lot of fun, and I hope the new music program will grow and attract more students for other classes I will teach, such as chamber music and jazz violin. I've lost touch with most of my class, and would really like to hear from any of them! Contact me through my website: www.chavezdeleitner.com."

1974

ROBIN MCCONWAY HISCOCK (A) writes: "I started in engineering consulting, worked for Howard County, then since 1985 have worked in consulting for the federal government. I've been with SRA since 1991, specializing in database and application development. I play mandolin (old time and Irish) and violin (Swedish). Our daughter, Meghan, is a sophomore at Kalamazoo College, Michigan, majoring in art and art history."

JON HUNNER (SF) will publish a biography of Robert Oppenheimer this fall with the University of Oklahoma Press. He continues to teach U.S. history and direct the Public History

Program at New Mexico State University. His son Harley graduated from Seattle University last fall and is on his way to Mauritania for the Peace Corps.

TED WOLFF (A), principal of Wolff Landscape Architecture, has been appointed adjunct professor of Landscape Architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. Wolff has been practicing landscape architecture in Chicago since 1979. In 1990, he launched his own firm.

1975

TINA BELL (A) shares news, mostly about her children: "Daughter Julia, an attorney who graduated from Boston University School of Law, has been married now for two years to Matthew Andrus, also an attorney and grad of BU Law, and the best son-in-law in the world. Timothy Bell graduated from Allegheny College with a major in writing (at which he is very, very good) in May 2008 and is looking forward to graduate school—doesn't know exactly which one yet. Emily Margaret Bell graduated summa cum laude from the Boston University Professors Program (where she aced a graduate course in Plato taught by Mr. Stanely Rosen). Joseph Bell is in graduate school at Rutgers University and is studying social work. Their mother (me) plans to get a master's in theology from Franciscan University at Steubenville, so she can teach."

G. KAY BISHOP (A) reports: "Have been unemployed for two years, four months, and counting. Send networking/job leads ASAP. Also accepting contributions of cash, jewelry, small, pawnable electronic devices, freeze-dried foodstuffs, fair-trade cacao beans, rare out-of-print comic books, copper

A DIRECT LINE TO THE CENTER

Darius Himes (SFGIoo) Publishes Beautiful Books

BY JENNY HANNIFIN

Darius Himes credits his childhood in small-town Iowa and a book-centric family with kindling his lifelong connection to the printed word. “A playful childhood in the country contributed to a deep connection with the sensual, tactile world, and that directly translated into an abiding love of the tactile nature of books and ink on paper,” says Himes.

Added to that love of books was a passion for photography, nurtured at Arizona State University, where Himes earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts. While attending the Graduate Institute, Himes worked part time at *photo-eye Books*, which was then primarily a mail order photography bookstore. He spearheaded the drive to turn the company’s 20-year-old mail order catalog into a nationally distributed magazine, *photo-eye Booklist*, which in turn won national recognition and international attention.

The subscription-based quarterly fed into photo-eye’s website and came about as Himes witnessed the proliferation of photography books and saw the need to intelligently canvas that terrain. “The *photo-eye Booklist* has been the equivalent of having a dear friend with more time than I, and a broader perspective to point out treasures while their bindings are new and the ink still fresh,” says Frish Brandt, director of the Fraenkel Gallery in San Francisco.

Himes’ latest endeavor is Radius Books, a nonprofit publishing company based in Santa Fe. Himes and the company’s three partners—David Skolkin, David Chickey, and Joanna Hurley, all publishing professionals—work together to produce exquisitely designed and printed art books. “We all firmly believe that the visual arts are vital to the life of society and can educate and uplift the soul,” says Himes. When



MIRIAM ROMAIS

A LOVE OF BOOKS AND A PASSION FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CAME TOGETHER FOR DARIUS HIMES WITH RADIUS BOOKS.

making decisions about what to publish, Radius Books looks for projects that are arresting, vital, exquisite, and readable, as well as artists who work passionately and diligently on their art.

What makes the company different from other publishers is a commitment to getting art books into the hands of those who might not normally be exposed to them. Radius Books donates more than 200 copies of every title it produces to libraries and educational institutions around the country. Nonprofit status affords the company the ability to raise funds for programs like the library initiative, as well as flexibility in working with artists and other institutions. Distributing titles through D.A.P. (Distributed Art Publishers), the country’s premier art book distributor, means that each Radius Books title receives a wide audience.

Radius Books’ first season included

books on photographer Mark Klett and Canadian painter Otto Donald Rogers. Since then, they’ve published the work of photographers Lee Friedlander, Julie Blackmon, and Debbie Fleming Caffery; sculptor John McCracken; and Southern California painters Charles Arnoldi and Ed Moses. A particularly engaging book is being published this spring on the little-known food writing of photo-historian Beaumont Newhall (the first director of the Museum of Modern Art’s department of photography).

The inspiration for the name “Radius” came from Himes’ time at St. John’s. “The idea of the radius was always appealing to me,” he says. “Metaphorically, it represents a direct line from the center to the periphery. Likewise, it leads from the outer world to the inner.”

Like so many before him, Himes learned of St. John’s from Mortimer Adler’s *How to Read a Book*. He credits his Graduate Institute studies with teaching

him many things, but ranks two above all. First is the importance of approaching texts—and by extension, individuals—without preconceived judgments. “An unfettered search for truth, from whatever source it may come, and being watchful for it, is very much a part of the St. John’s Program and spirit,” says Himes.

Second is the unpredictability of seminar. “Regardless of which text we read, by the end of the evening our various understandings of the text had morphed, deepened, and expanded in ways that were simply impossible to predict,” he explains. “There are always kernels of truth and common ground in any conversation, and searching those out is a rewarding process. I’m deeply interested in approaches to unity that can arise from the multiplicity around and within us.” ❀

mine stock and other guilt-edged securities. Do not send out-of-date coupons, old CRT monitors, live plants, livestock (not even chickens), circus clowns, scented candles, or spare children. Might could use 500-600 bales of clean newspaper (pre-paid shipping only) to build Thoreau-style hut in woods, once I learn how to sew thatch, build a chimney, and lay a brick hearth. Will let y'all know."

KEVIN JOHNSON (SF) has several "dog legs" in his career path, but now seems to be steadily on track for a career in organizational development, a field which integrates a background in psychology with his experience in the business world: "I live in Boston with my fiancée, Sonora Rose, a therapist and body-worker. I work at Harvard Medical School and to use my tuition assistance benefit have begun a two-year certificate program in executive coaching, where I hope to learn how to become a Tiresias to today's Oedipuses. I occasionally lead seminars for my alumni group, last time on Dubois' *Souls of Black Folk*, which I heartily recommend as a backdrop to our most recent regime change." He welcomes contact from classmates.

After 12 years in Florida, **ALAN McVAY** (SF) and family have moved to the D.C. area. "My brother calls me a corporate gypsy, since company breakups, bankruptcy, and takeovers have caused me to move eight times in the last 25 years. I also travel all the time for work. It is good to be back in a place with a decent used bookstore, Indian food, and the brightness of fall leaves and spring blossoms. About the winter, well, that was dimly remembered, and mornings near zero degrees were a shock. I continue to practice kojoshō and tai chi, but more often

indoors." His daughter is 15 now, so he's thinking about colleges. "She doesn't want to go to St. John's—too much reading. That doesn't narrow it down very much. Let's just say she wants to do something creative."

ERIC SCIGLIANO (SF) has a new book coming out this March: *Flotsametrics and the Floating World* is his first collaboration, with the oceanographer Curtis Ebbesmeyer, and will be published by Smithsonian Books/HarperCollins.

"After five years working in early childhood education (aka teaching preschool), I have returned to high-tech and work as a programmer and manager again," writes **BILL TORCASO** (SF). "The ages may change, but immaturity is ever present. I married Kate Roper in the summer of 2007."

1976

KATE LUFKIN DAY (A) sends greetings from snowy Syracuse: "**BILL** (SF82) and I sent Peter off to college this fall, and the closest he would go to the Program was Columbia. But he's happy doing literature and humanities there, and Japanese; he hopes to study in Japan for his junior year. Meanwhile, his elder sister Helen is in her last semester at Wellesley. She's done psychology and music, but her real triumph was leading her a capella group to a coveted recording session with Ben Folds this spring. Check her out on Ben Folds' website singing "Annie Waits" with the Wellesley College Blue Notes. Bill is still teaching philosophy at Le Moyne College, where he has labored for years to support and strengthen the core program. His book of new essays on aspect seeing in Wittgenstein (which he

is co-editing, a choice he doesn't recommend) is finally complete and should be coming out some time this year. For my part, I am about to start a new job as Managing Chaplain at Crouse Hospital and am still rector of a tiny parish in the hinterland. **DONNEL O'FLYNN** (SF73) and **JANET CHRISTILF O'FLYNN** (SF74) are colleagues in my diocese (which is still standing, unlike some Episcopal dioceses), and **JANE HUDSON** (A76, hero of the Nymphs from way back) is a buddy in Syracuse. She still leaves me in the dust. Oh, and I'm in touch with **ERIC VATIKIOTIS BATESON** (A73) and his wife and kids, with whom Bill and I formed a friendship teaching boarding school in the '80s. (They live in Vancouver, B.C., now.) All the best to everyone trying to stay afloat in our current economic climate. Friends can reach me at kbladay@gmail.com."

1977

DANA GOODE (SF, AGI91) made her conducting debut in January 2008 with the Londontowne Symphony. Daughter Evia is a Ben Carson Scholar and ambassador for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Please donate!

1979

DAVID WALD (SF), who lives just outside NYC, reports that he is going through shock, and soon withdrawal, as his 18-year-old daughter, Esther, prepares to head off to Oakland, Calif., in the fall to attend the California College of the Arts. He is consoling himself playing the drums in an arty sort of band.

He is also still enjoying making documentaries and news stories about education and related issues at nonprofit Learning Matters, Inc. The stories are regularly featured on PBS's *NewsHour* with Jim Lehrer. His wife, Betsy, is very happily ensconced as the branch head of their local library in Maplewood, N.J., a block from their humble abode. He sends his greetings, best wishes, and hopes for positive change to all!

BEN GOLDSTEIN (SF) and **GINA IRONSIDE** (SF80) send this news: Ben, Gina and young Ben spent the month of December in Colombia—visiting relatives and old haunts, luxuriating in the spectacular geography, culture, and climate, and—mostly—adopting their new son, Cristian. Cristian is one year younger than Ben, who is almost 14. Ben is still unschooling, and Cris is trying out sixth grade in middle school. Everyone except Gina is still playing soccer. Ben's open-source web engineering company, End Point Corporation, continues to thrive. They've received a few resumes out of the woodwork from Johnnies applying for jobs. "Greetings to our old friends far and wide from both campuses."

MARIE TOLER RANEY (A) and **JON RANEY** (A74) reported on a recent vacation: "Our sailing trip to Hawaii was all that we wished, except that it ended. Jon and I (and our dog) had a marvelous month sail of 2,500 miles or so to Hilo from Washington state in August, then a couple of weeks sailing up the island chain. I then had to return by airplane due to schedule limitations (somebody has to work, just not clear just when I drew the short stick!) However **CHUCK HURT** (A79) joined Jon for the tumultuous return trip where they were either becalmed or battling 40-knot winds and 25-foot seas.

Despite a finger tip squeezed off 1,000 miles from home in the middle of the ocean and an escort into Bamfield, B.C., by the Canadian Coast Guard, they did get home safely. Now we can dream of doing the rest of the Pacific in a couple of years. For more information on our voyage see www.svphoenix.net. Hope to see all our classmates at our reunion this fall."

1981

STEVE and BETSY (MILLS) ACCIANI (SF) are still in upstate New York. Their four daughters are Emma, 21, who is a junior at Wagner College, Staten Island; Maria, recently accepted at St. John's, Annapolis; Anna, 15, a high school freshman; and Alice, who is 11 and in fifth grade. "We are delighted to be in contact with the following Johnnies: **SANJAY POOVADAN** (SF83), **LIZ WALDNER** (A85) who was recently published in the *New Yorker*, **ROBIN SLONAGER** (A78), **JOEL WEINGARTEN** (A82), **ALLISON CARPER** (SF77), and **BRAD WRONSKI** (SF82)."

JOSEPH (SF) and **ANNE-MARTINE MOORE** (SF84) are living in Concord, Calif., with children and a neurotic dog. Writes Joseph: "Anne-Martine is on the staff of Diablo Valley School (DiabloValleySchool.org), a Sudbury model school attended by four of our five kids. As I'm sure anyone who knows her will be shocked to learn, she's still knitting up a storm. (I got cool fingerless gloves for Christmas—nice for holding a cold steering wheel.) She is also involved in weaving, stamping and other crafty-type stuff. I am in the philosophically difficult position of personally profiting from complex tax laws that are occasioned by equipment financing.

I sell software that does the complicated financial analysis for large companies. So, if we ever get a simple, clear tax code, which I theoretically favor, I'd be financially sad. On a positive note, my efforts to learn the Well Tempered Clavier have progressed to the point where, at my current rate, if I simply live another 450 years or so, I'll have the entire thing down cold."

JOE ROACH and BJ (SISSON)

ROACH (both A) write: "We are becoming more and more a Johnnie family. Our older daughter, **KATE**, graduated with the St. John's (Annapolis) class of 2004. And now, in just a few months, our younger daughter **MOLLY** will be graduating with the class of 2009. Our youngest, Nicholas, feels a little left out, but his time may come in a few years."

DANIEL VAN DOREN (A) has been the president of the New York City chapter for five years, and this is his last year. He has worked in real estate management since 1985 and lives in suburban New York with his family. "One of my sons is an avid birder and we traipse all over the Northeast looking for bird sightings. If you've got any ideas for good birding spots, let me know," he writes.

1982

"I'm still on the rocky road to tenure and would love to hear from others who have gone through it," writes **PATTI D. NOGALES** (A), from the Department of Philosophy at California State University, Sacramento. "Otherwise, my kids are fine (except for becoming teenagers) and I am fine (except for them becoming teenagers)!"

PLUGGING ALONG

MICHAEL RYAN (SF86) is plugging along in Albuquerque, running a business, raising a teenager, trying to balance work and outdoor activities. He started readings on the Civil War and World War II. ("Slowly working my way back to a Great Book!") He also taught a semester of structure for the architecture program at UNM and referenced Euclid in the very first class. "Unfortunately, he did not make a second appearance."

1983

MARK and CHRISTINE (A84)

GOWDY-JAEHNIG have now been living in Decorah, Iowa, for more than four years. Mark is a partner in a four-doctor veterinary clinic and drives through a lot of beautiful countryside between farm calls. Christine is nearing completion of her Montessori preschool teacher's certification: "Beginning graduate studies 22 years after leaving St. John's was a challenge, but a good one.

I would love to hear from any other Johnnies who are also Montessorians. Our eldest child, Alexandra, graduated from Hamline University last spring and is now one of those partially employed theatre majors who inhabit the Twin Cities. We are delighted that our middle child, **PHILLIPA**, found her collegial home at our alma mater (a junior, she is very involved in intramural sports, like her mom!) We still have one child in the nest, and are anticipating three more years of high school sporting events, choir concerts, and speech meets."

1984

ANDREW HYDE HRYNIEWCZ (A) has worn numerous hats since graduating: "After completing my Watson Fellowship (which

pretty much ruined me for conventional employment) I spent a number of years catering and building houses while attending social work school in Baltimore. Migrating from clinical social work to community organizing to (almost) Community Planning, I started a MArch program at UM College Park, finishing up at UC Berkeley and SFIA (an experimental architecture/ecological design program in San Francisco). I practiced architecture and lived in Berkeley from 1994-1999. I had my mid-life crisis early, spending 2000-02 studying, traveling, and remodeling friends' houses in the U.S. and Europe. I returned to Florida in 2002 to help my mother die and settled here. I worked as a financial assets manager until 2008 when the 'new economy' made my job vanish. Currently I'm starting an online magazine about (either) 'really big ideas/questions/answers' or 'brain candy for smart/curious people' and trust that it will be solvent before I'm not."

TRACY MENDHAM (A) writes: "I had a joyful summer in 2008. I started a full-time job as a learning specialist at Franklin Pierce University, after seven years of adjuncting at Franklin Pierce and other colleges. I married my partner of 17 years, Dana Chenier, in a New Hampshire civil union. Finally, we adopted an Australian Shepherd puppy named Pearl later that

NOT JUST FUN AND GAMES

Dominic Crapuchettes (A97) Turns a Hobby into a Business

BY SARA LUELL (A09)

Composer, dot-com programmer, sea captain, teacher—Dominic Crapuchettes (A97) has ventured down several career paths. But none has been as rewarding as his current job: running a company that produces the games he designs. No, they're not video games, but inventive board games that get people to sit down, talk, play, and laugh together.

Growing up in southern California, Crapuchettes was immersed in playing games. Rather than watching TV, once or twice a week his family played games such as Scrabble and Monopoly. When Crapuchettes was four, his father started entering him in chess tournaments. By the age of seven, he was designing his own games. One game (which he dubbed "Kabloogi") was so popular among his eighth-grade friends that it was banned from his middle school. Students had been playing it during class.

Game designing was put on hold when Crapuchettes enrolled in St. John's. His creative energies were directed toward classical music composition, which he seriously considered as a career. He soon realized, however, that the market for such work was limited. "If I was going to devote my whole life to excelling at something, I wanted it to be something people care about," he says.

To pay his way through St. John's, Crapuchettes played in a professional circuit for the card game Magic: The Gathering. He won \$30,000. During the summers and breaks from St. John's, he captained a salmon-fishing boat in Alaska, a job he held after graduation until the salmon market crashed. Crapuchettes taught for a while, and then learned programming and worked for an Internet startup. When the dot-com bubble burst, Crapuchettes knew it was time to pursue his dream of starting a game company.

While working toward his master's degree at the Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, Crapuchettes



DOMINIC CRAPUCHETTES IS BETTING ON A FUTURE IN BOARD GAMES.

met Satish Pillalamarri, a former investment analyst and *Jeopardy!* contestant. Together they founded North Star Games, based in Bethesda, Maryland, and began work on their first game, Cluzzle, in which players make puzzles out of clay.

Originally interested in designing strategy games, Crapuchettes discovered that many people viewed these games more as IQ tests than as entertainment. "I said to myself, 'I am going to design a game that I don't have to bribe people with pizza in order to get them to play with me—that people come to me and want to play.'" This goal was behind the development of Cluzzle and the company's two top sellers: Wits & Wagers and Say Anything.

A St. John's education has proven useful in both the business world and game

design. "A lot of the skills that we learned at St. John's: how to learn, how to assimilate information, and how to communicate with other people" are needed for success in business, says Crapuchettes. These qualities encourage honesty in entrepreneurship—what a company will live or die by. In a market dominated by big-name companies, these qualities have helped Crapuchettes become successful quickly, along with his strong focus and desire to make an impact on others. His excitement about games, especially games that get people talking and laughing, is infectious.

North Star's most popular game, Wits & Wagers, "embodies the fundamentals of what we were learning at St. John's," Crapuchettes says. "It's pretty obvious when you play the game how the college influenced my design." Although Wits & Wagers is a trivia game, knowing the right answers isn't the key to winning. All the answers are numbers. After everyone estimates an answer to the question, players make bets as to which one is the closest to correct. "One of the skills, which is a Johnnie skill, is to know the

boundaries of your knowledge," says Crapuchettes, allowing you to know when to go with your original intuition or when to bet on other players' answers.

Wits & Wagers has won 20 industry awards—more than any other party game in history. It has been released in several languages, and a version for the Xbox gaming console is available. Cluzzle has won nine industry awards. Say Anything, the newest game released within the past year, has already won two awards.

Crapuchettes is now developing family versions of Say Anything and Wits & Wagers, as well as a booster pack of Wits & Wagers questions. And "I am always coming up with new game ideas," he says. ♦

month. The fall has been more somber; my mother passed away in early November. I am very much looking forward to the 25th reunion—this is one I will make sure I get to!”

launch of three sustainable businesses, FarmPower, Olympic BioFuels and GreenWorx. Now investigating PhD programs, Demi plans to improve and increase sustainability education.

25th. Erin can be reached via Facebook (where you can also see pictures of the adorable Duncan).

KIM PAFFENROTH (A) has a new zombie novel out, *Dying to Live: Life Sentence* (Permuted Press, 2007). His next, *Valley of the Dead*, is being shopped to publishers; it is a retelling of *Inferno* (with zombies). Zombie versions of other books on the List cannot be far behind.

izations and to entrepreneurs who create new businesses based in low-wealth areas in Forsyth County. The Community Development Clinic is part of a larger effort to strengthen the connections between legal education and the practice of law.

1985

JAN CONLIN (SF) is awaiting the birth of her first baby (boy).

Astonished to find herself in business school, **DEMI RASMUSSEN (SF)** is taking education into unexplored territory. How can we integrate social justice with appropriate profit? Where does environmentalism fit into a business plan? These questions are part of the curriculum at the Bainbridge Graduate Institute, where Demi received her MBA in Sustainable Business in 2007. Now working as the Initiative Manager at the institute, Demi also assists with teaching courses including finance, accounting and Systems Thinking in Action. Graduates of BGI and other sustainable business schools are becoming leaders in the new economy. (Check her out on YouTube, at the Official Inaugural Ball for Energy & the Environment.) As any good Johnnie would, she has maintained a stance of inquiry and scrutiny while supporting the

1986

After 20 years with a large corporate law firm, **PAUL O'HANLON (A)** resigned last month and started a small firm with three good friends and colleagues. The work continues to be interesting, the office is very relaxed and clients have been incredibly supportive. “I’m looking forward to seeing my classmates at our 25-year reunion in 2011,” he writes. “This time I hope to avoid sleeping through my hotel alarm and missing my flight home (but it was SO worth it).”

“I really enjoyed seeing friends and tutors at our recent 20th anniversary homecoming,” writes **CLAUDIA PROBST STACK (A)**. “Since then, I have renewed my efforts to find support for my documentary film project ‘Under the Kudzu,’ which chronicles the history of two segregation-era black schools in Pender County, N.C. Anyone who is interested in the project can learn more by visiting my website: www.underthekuzu.org. Recently I interviewed a woman whose great-grandfather was a slave who farmed the land where she now lives. She attended one of the schools I am researching, and then returned there as a teacher. Her son attended the same school, and now he is a well-respected judge. My home life is rowdy and fun, thanks to Alden (age 8) and Jack (age 6). I am grateful every day for my sons and my husband, Joe. I would love to hear from any Johnnies, especially classmates!”

LEE CARPENTER (A) recently opened his own legal practice in Baltimore, focusing on wills and estates; business is booming.

STEVE DEAN (SF) is married: “Eddie Rangel and I are happy to announce that—in the 17th year of our relationship—we were legally married Monday, November 24, 2008, in Provincetown, Mass. Rachel Peters, Justice of the Peace, officiated at the marriage ceremony. My family is from Massachusetts, and we’ve been meeting on the Cape to celebrate Thanksgiving since 2000. This was the first year that we were able to marry, as Massachusetts just repealed its residency requirement, and we could think of no place more beautiful or appropriate to have the ceremony.”

BETH HEINBERG (A) is teaching performing arts to middle-schoolers in Asheville, N.C., and performing jazz with her trio, Honey.

1988

ERIN MILNES (A) and Chuck Guest are the delighted, proud, and rather tired parents of Duncan Cullison, born May 22, 2008. Erin is sorry to have missed the 20th reunion but is looking forward to showing Duncan (and Chuck) off at the

STEVE VIRGIL (A) arrived in Winston-Salem this summer to start his work as the first director of the Wake Forest Law School’s new Community Development Clinic. Virgil, formerly the director of a clinic with a similar mission at Creighton University School of Law in Omaha, Neb., was the overwhelming first choice of the Wake Forest faculty after a nationwide search. Wake Forest clinic students will offer legal services to non-profit organ-

SUSAN PETRONE’s (A) first novel, *A Body At Rest*, is scheduled to be published by Drinian Press in early 2009. Johnnies may enjoy the fact that one of the two main characters turns into Don Quixote during the course of the book. (For the record, the other main character turns into Emma Woodhouse.)

THANKS, FROM STANFORD

DAVE WALTER (A91) is a teaching fellow in Stanford’s Introduction to the Humanities (IHUM) program. Last June, he was awarded the Walter J. Gores Award for Teaching Excellence. The award is the highest honor the university presents to its teachers at any level. “The Gores nomination pooled all the students and faculty I have worked with here at Stanford over the past three years,” he explains. “Scores of people wrote on my behalf. At the President’s award celebration, a prize committee member told me my nomination was ‘amazingly strong.’ In light of my success in this program, I think my first thanks should go to St John’s.” ❀

1990

Since leaving St. John's, **MICHAEL LANDIS** (AG1) was married to Leslie L. Kinney in 1991 and had two children, Daphne (born in 1991) and Dorothy (born in 1996). He taught at Southern Vermont and Mount Snow Academy, and also worked at Morningside Emergency Shelter, a homeless shelter in Brattleboro, Vt. "Both daughters are outstanding students and Daphne was valedictorian of her graduating class at Guilford Central School before going on to the high school last year," Landis writes. "I've been leading the local 'Great Books' group in Brattleboro since 1995." After a 34-year hiatus, Landis returned to Cuba for a visit in 2004 and another visit last year (where, he adds, "I saw Fidel Castro (perhaps) for his final May Day appearance.") Landis returned this year, and says that his Spanish is improving and he's made many friends throughout the island.

DAVE MARQUEZ (SF) is working as a film editor on several projects. "While I am currently based in Santa Fe," he writes, "I am reasonably certain that as the media industry in New Mexico continues to grow the future will find me working out of Albuquerque as well as Los Angeles. I encourage any alumni who are in the film or television industry or are interested in it as a career to contact me via my website: www.davemarquez.info."

1991

BLAKE SITNEY (SF) has been working to help the Mae Maeh orphanage in Chiang Mai province of Thailand, where he made another trip earlier this



Thirteen years ago, **EMILY GILLILAND** (AG197) was accepted into AmeriCorps and spent two years in service through a program called Volunteer Maryland, which trained her to be a volunteer coordinator. "This experience changed my life," she writes. "It gave me a job sure, but it was much more. The greatest take-aways from the experience were the knowledge that a band of community members can really get things done and that folks who are involved with AmeriCorps are some of the most special, talented people in the world: friends for life and partners in service. [On January 20], we took the world stage by participating in the Inaugural parade honoring Barack Obama. Spending the day with 150 of these passionate service leaders connected to AmeriCorps was enough inspiration to last all of 2009! Walking past the presidential viewing booth mere feet from the Obamas? I wish time could have stood still! I think I strained a muscle waving so hard. It's not because I am confident that they can fix what ails the country, but I am excited because they see the potential in all of us to band together, like AmeriCorps, and get things done." Emily took 412 pictures: view them at www.flickr.com/photos/egilliland/sets/72157612838555784/ ❖

winter: "It gets very cold at night in the winter time in the Himalayan foothills of Northern Thailand, so we brought much-needed mattresses for the kids. This time Jong and I delivered 120 mattresses, sacks of rice, and other food staples; I also continued the Art for Orphans project. I plan on staying in Thailand for two months working on software projects for my company (Marigold Technologies) and finding humanitarian projects in my free time."

MEGAN SMITH (A) and **DAVID DOUGHERTY** (AG192) have career and family news. Megan finally got out of the optical business in

2004 and became the assistant editor of *Inside Annapolis* magazine. In December 2006, their second daughter, Devon Caroline, was born. In between, David changed careers from Java programming to enterprise architecture and is now a consultant for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In January, Megan left *Inside Annapolis* to become assistant editor of *Taste of the Bay* magazine. They now live in Severna Park, just north of Annapolis.

1992

AARON GARZA (SF) writes: "My wife, Azenett, and I had identical twin boys, Ulises and Dante, on December 22, 2008. My daughters Sofia (8) and Nadya (4) are both being super big sisters. I'm in my last semester of law school at the University of Utah and hoping to find a good job in this uncertain economy. We've been in Utah since 2002 and I still haven't managed to go skiing, not even once. I have shoveled a heckload of snow here, though (our house is on a corner lot)."

ELYETTE BLOCK KIRBY (SF) has been living in Europe for a decade now, the last two years in Bucharest, Romania, with her husband and children, ages 7, 6, and 4. "The children are unschooling, and I am enjoying learning anything about my passions: biodynamic farming, yoga, and natural healing."

J. ELIZABETH HUEBERT SCHOE-MAKER (SF) and husband, Jeremy Schoemaker, welcomed their second daughter, Joslyn, in July 2008. Elizabeth continues to practice as an anesthesiologist in Lincoln, Neb.

1993

JAMES CRAIG (AG1) writes that he and his wife, Nan, having spent a year on Easter Island in the Pacific in 2006-7 and three months in 2008, will again be "doing our thing" on the island this year, from April to July: "I will be supplementing my B&W portfolio, Nan will be painting. Our Easter Island WebLog, followed by more people than we ever imagined, will begin getting new entries near the end of March: <http://web.mac.com/craigart>."

CLAIRE DARLING (SF) writes: "I'm generally in love with life as a self-employed, treatment-oriented massage therapist and single mom in Portland, Ore. Still active with the Weston A. Price Foundation local chapter, (Real Food movement). Still expecting the dream of land and a cow to materialize. Aikido rocks my world in the mean time. I wish someone had told me in adolescence that life could be so incredibly wonderful. Anyone wanting to help 'process' my old chickens and ducks or prune fruit trees, please contact me ASAP."

ALEX (AGI) and **VANESSA ELLER-MANN (A)** are expecting their third son in March. Alex is flying for Delta and with the Navy Reserve, and Vanessa is practicing law in D.C. They live in Kensington, Md., and don't get to Annapolis nearly enough.

THOMAS HAMMERMAN (A) just completed a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy at Northwestern University. He is now working as a post-graduate clinical fellow at the Family Institute in Evanston, Ill.

On August 2, 2008, **AMANDA KLEIN (A)** married Bryan Carr at Trinity Episcopal Church in Seattle. "Bryan is an autodidact scholar, philosopher, and after-school teacher who moonlights at a bookstore to augment his library of 4,000 books. My 10-year-old son, Gabriel, served as a groomsman and tore up the dance floor at the reception; his father, **JONATHAN CRIMMINS (A95)** was one of our three volunteer photographers and a huge help all around. Through the generosity of wedding guests, we were able to honeymoon for two weeks in the UK and France in October. (Gabriel stayed home with his dad.) Highlights included being driven around in the Mourne Mountains by an Ulster native, wandering amid

the ancient Druid stones of Avebury, getting a peek at the research rooms in the British Museum with the curator of the Sumerian collection, and savoring innumerable crêpes and baked goods in Paris. We had many wonderful conversations with friends, but still had ample time to gaze at each other. I am truly a lucky woman."

NANCY MARCUS (A) recently earned her second and third law degrees at the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison, Wis., where she also worked as a judicial law clerk for the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. In March, she will be returning to Cleveland, where she earned her JD in 1997, as an associate with the law firm Berkman, Gordon, Murray and DeVan. Her practice will include constitutional law, civil rights, appellate, torts, and criminal cases, with an additional specialty in LGBT rights and partnership protections.

1994

ANTHONY CHIFFOLO (AGI) says his book, *Cooking with the Bible: Recipes for Biblical Meals* is now out in paperback; he and his co-author are busy on their next book: *Cooking with the Movies: Meals on Reels*: "We definitely need a larger kitchen!"

His 14 years since graduation have been "stellar," writes **LEE HOWARD MADDEN KRALL (SFGI)**: "My wife and I live here on the Solano Coast of California. We've lived in New Mexico, Europe, Japan, and now the Bay Area. I run an online Medialiance/record label from my home office; my wife is a trainer. Our daughter just went off to college at the University of New Mexico, studying art history. I put the liberal arts training to work, learning to become over the past 14 years: a teacher, a chef, a record executive, and also now, a digital recording artist, just releasing my eighth album. I finished a film last year, a musical documentary: *Steve Roach, Live at Grace Cathedral*, releasing the video to the world on my four YouTube channels, where I am a director. My music

career is flourishing; the digital realm has released us from the confines of the old ways of doing things; we can now produce music here at home and distribute it globally throughout the Internet; we played and sold more music last year than ever before. My latest solo release is out and available for download at iTunes, eMusic and rhapsody.com. We're soon to be staging a 'live from CyberiaRecords Studios Cybercast Sessions' with some of our artists—CyberiaRecords, World Ambient Music."

ROBYN ANJA WASE (A) was married on May 3, 2008, to John Helmon, father of two teenagers, Alyssa (16) and Chris (14). "I'm already introducing St. John's College to Alyssa in hopes that she will consider that option as she picks her next school. John and I both work at Microsoft and live in Kirkland, Wash., which is just outside of Seattle. We stay very busy, but would love to hear from any and all classmates via phone, e-mail, Facebook, or in person!"

TIFFANY WINNE (SFGI), corporate managing director of the real estate advisory firm Studley, has been named to the prestigious *Crain's Chicago Business* "40 Under 40" list. This list appeared in the Nov. 3, 2008, issue of the business journal. Winne joined Studley in 2002 after working in management consulting. She was also recently named associate branch manager for the Chicago office. Winne is involved in the Jane Addams Hull House organization, where she serves on the property committee of the board of trustees.

THE BOYS ARE THE TEACHERS

ERIN MCGINTY JAMES (SF05) and her husband, Mike James, welcomed their second son, Theodore John James, on June 24, 2008. He joins his brother, August (age 2), in helping his mother forget the specifics of her education. Fortunately, the boys are teaching her volumes in their own right. ❀



1995

GEORGE S. ERVING (SFGI) has been granted promotion to Associate Professor of Humanities, Honors, and English, with tenure at the University of Puget Sound, effective with the 2009-10 academic year. "I have a recently published essay on Coleridge and the Newtonian tradition (European Romantic Review 19.3 July 2008) whose genesis was in a preceptorial I had with Jack Steadman."

KATE FELD (A) and her husband, Richard Roe, have exciting news: "Our daughter, Molly Patricia, was born in May and is keeping us all entertained. It's been an eventful year. I've also started a nonprofit organization focused on writing and technology. Our first project, a writers' map of Manchester, England, is now live at rainycitystories.com. And we've moved to the delightfully-named town of Ramsbottom. Any Johnnies venturing to the northwest of England are welcome to stop in for a pint."

ZACH (A) and Michelle **RASMUSON** are living in the rural Anderson Valley of Northern California. They have two girls, Fay (6) and Marlowe (2).

KIRA ZIELINSKI (SF) is living with her fiancé, Nathan, in Mobile, Ala. She continues to work hard on her transition from helicopter pilot to small business owner, having taken over ownership of a coffee house a year ago, and divides the remainder of her time between home improvement and plotting how to get back to the mountains. Kira can be contacted at k_zielinski@juno.com.

1996

SARA BITTLE (A) was a Montessori teacher for 12 years after graduation and ran and taught in an Infant-Toddler Montessori program for at-risk children as part of a larger organization called Crossway Community in Kensington, Md., outside of D.C.

Last spring, I left my first career to return to school to Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in Baltimore. I am in their accelerated Bachelor's of Science of Nursing program, which is designed for students who already have a bachelor's degree in something other than nursing." She graduates in late July and will begin to practice, hopefully as a labor and delivery nurse, in either the D.C. or Baltimore area. I hope to eventually get my master's and become a nurse midwife, but for now just want to spend some time in the delivery room as an RN."

MICHAEL ELIOT BARTH (AGI) married Jennifer Paige Parks in Vail, Colo., this past August. The couple resides in New York City, where Michael heads an international education development firm based at Columbia University (upublic), and Jennifer works as the director of Strategic Initiatives at the law firm White & Case. Recently Mr. Barth was appointed Special Advisor to the Royal Education Council of Bhutan, where he is developing the country's first graduate schools of law and education.

A BEACON OF LIGHT

In early 2008, **MATTHEW RAREY** (AGI06) volunteered in a journalistic capacity at the Ukrainian Catholic University in order to write about "this beacon of light on the Catholic Church's Eastern Front." Ukraine, he writes, "is at the crossroads of Catholicism and Orthodoxy, an important center of the seemingly interminable ecumenical dialogue." He later accepted a job as communications director for the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation in his native Chicago. The foundation educates Americans about the needs of the Church in Ukraine, specifically UCU, the only Catholic university in the former Soviet Union. "Her classical curriculum is a rarity in that neck of the woods—or anywhere in the West, for that matter. (Mandatory Greek and Latin, anyone?) I'll likely be back in the former USSR this summer, visiting UCU after participating in an academic conference in Vilnius centered on Catholic social teachings: terribly necessary to revitalizing the burnt-out shell of post-Soviet civic and spiritual life." ❖

1997

JESSE BERNEY (A) and **JENNIE DAIR BERNEY** (A98) are overjoyed to announce the birth of their daughter, Isabel Lamb Berney, in January.

BENJAMIN BLOOM (A) reports: "Terry and I are expecting our first baby in July. The bad news is Terry won't let me call the baby Euclid if it's a boy."

JEHANNE DUBROW (A) has left Lincoln, Neb., is back in Maryland, and has a new poetry collection out: "I'm currently living in Chestertown, Md., where I teach creative writing and literature at Washington College. Jeremy is serving on a destroyer in Norfolk, Va. So, we do a great deal of commuting and see one another on the weekends! Our dog, Argos the Wheaten Terrier, enjoys spending time in both port cities. In other news, my first poetry collection, *The Hardship Post*, was published by Three Candles Press in early 2009. My second book, *From the Fever-World*, just won the Washington Writers' Publishing House Award and will be published in the autumn of 2009. A third poetry collection,

Stateside (which addresses my experiences as a 'Navy wife'), is forthcoming from Northwestern UP in 2010."

"All's well," writes **REBECCA GAFFNEY** (A). "Although San Diego is my home, Red Letter Days Events is growing at a rapid pace, and we're in the process of opening an East Coast office in Washington, D.C. I look forward to visiting Annapolis as much as possible!"

MELANIE KIRBY (SF) and her partner Mark Spitzig are blessedly "buzzed" to announce the birth of their newest queenbee, their daughter Isis Rose Blossom Spitzig. Isis was born November 11, 2008, in Taos, and according to Melanie, "she is smiling and beekeeping already!"

BRENDA M. JOHNSON (AGI) resides in Baltimore, in the wonderful Mount Vernon cultural center of the city. "I am enjoying being a docent at the Walters Art Museum and especially enjoy teaching school children about art and art history," she writes. "In addition, because I can walk just about everywhere I want to go, getting to the theater,

symphony, and restaurants is easy and gives me lots of choices for entertainment and enrichment.”

INYA LASKOWSKI (SF) spent November 2008 at an artist's retreat in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. In October she curated an exhibition for Japanese artist Chiyomi Taneike Longo, titled *Kokoro no Tabigi* at Gallery Route One, Point Reyes, Calif., which culminated with a tea ceremony. Inya had a sculpture showing at the Quicksilver Gallery, Forestville, Calif., in January.

KIT (A) and **SONYA SCHIFF LINTON** (Aoo) happily announce the birth of their son, Henry Calvin Linton: “We are all doing well in Durham, N.C. Our daughter, Viola, is four years old now, Kit works as a consultant for IBM, and Sonya is an attorney. If anyone wants to get in touch with us, e-mail at kitandsonya@hotmail.com.”

JILL NIENHISER (SFGI) received a diploma in acting from the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts in December and is now auditioning for roles in Washington D.C.-area theaters. By day, she is a Mastermind at Mind & Media, in Alexandria, Va., a communication consulting and media production company. She also continues to serve as webmaster for the nonprofit Weston A. Price Foundation (westonaprice.org), which will launch a redesigned website this spring with online membership, social networking for members, and a blog.

1998

LEAH FISCH (SF) is entering her eighth year as a reorganizer. Her new company, Recycle the City (www.recyclethecity.com), is in NYC and in the process of becoming a 501(c) 3. “It is my

revolution, and I'm so excited that it comes at the perfect time. It has also been fantastic reconnecting and meeting Johnnies in the city, even ones whom I did not personally know when in school. I look forward to many fun experiences with them.”

BRENDA (BURGER) MACON (SF) writes: “My husband (**TODD MACON**, SFGI98) and I are living in Durango, Colo., with our beautiful baby daughter, Mia Jolie Calliope Danger Macon. We have just started selling first edition and rare books. Our company has a more conservative name: Points West Fine Books. In our spare time, Todd teaches English and History of Religion at a private boarding school, and I teach drawing and painting classes on the weekends. We continue to be grateful to St. John's for bringing us together, and for teaching us the art of delightful conversation ...still a valuable pursuit after 10 years of marital bliss! Our love of books continues to grow and we enjoy sharing this with others in a truly beautiful part of the country. We are having fun, and welcome all old friends to give us a jingle.”

ELIZABETH TRICE (SF) is living in her hometown of Portland, Maine, working on regionalization projects for county government, and consulting on urban housing developments for people living alone. She also plays bass and sings with her tango band, Tango Mucha Labia.

1999

After graduation, **TESS COBURN** (A) spent two years in China teaching English. “During that time I discovered that I had a passion for clothing design. I have since started my own

design company, Teresa Crowninshield. I now split my time between Massachusetts and China, designing and producing my collection and performing music with my band, Beastwith2Backs. I wish all the best to the class of 1999.”

2000

GREG BAMFORD (SFGI) is chair of the English Department at The Overlake School in Redmond, Wash. His second daughter, Annabel Greer Bamford, was born in November.

ROBIN HEARN (SFGI) is happy to announce that she will be sitting for her architectural licensing exams for the State of Oregon in February 2009.

2001

CHRISTOPHER BALDWIN BARNETT (AGI) recently finished his doctorate at the University of Oxford: “I worked out of the Faculty of Theology and wrote a dissertation on Søren Kierkegaard. Also, my wife, Stacy, and I recently welcomed our third (!) son, Paul, who was born on August 22, 2008.”

DAN FRAM (SF) is grinding his teeth through the second (and thankfully final) year of the Mississippi Teacher Corps teaching English to eighth-graders near Jackson, Miss., “where public education proves to be the polar opposite of astral harmony, public politics proves to be polarized racially, and public entertainment proves an elliptical arc between twin poles of salvation and sin.” He is available on Facebook for suggestions on how to return to the life worth leading.

2002

PETER BOYCE (SF) is studying textiles and sculpture at Maryland Institute College of Art and lives in Baltimore.

KATHERINE BROOKS (SF) is living in Scotland doing a master's in philosophy and thinking about going on to a PhD. She has also been studying ancient Greek language and thinking about concentrating in ancient philosophy.

AMANDA (KENNEDY) FINNEY (SF) will graduate from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in May 2009. She hopes to next announce that she's passed the bar exam.

On January 12, **MIRABAI KNIGHT-LASCOUTX** (née **KNIGHT**, SF) married Katherine Knight-Lascoutx (née Lascoutx, currently getting her degree in Greek and Latin at Hunter College) at City Hall in Boston, Mass. As soon as they arrived back in Penn Station the following evening, their marriage was officially recognized in the State of New York. Hurray for incremental improvements! Mirabai is still working as a CART provider (academic stenographer) for deaf and hard-of-hearing students studying everything from art to pharmacy, and Katherine is a tutor at the Hunter Reading/Writing Center. Also, they found a cat in the park near the Cloisters last spring and named him Alcibiades. Life is pretty great.

2003

BRENDAN NORWOOD (A) graduates as president of his class from Columbia University's College of Physicians & Surgeons

this May. Norwood plans to begin a residency in emergency medicine in July.

ERIKA GINSBERG-KLEMMT (SFGI) lives in Sarasota, Fla., with her three kids and hubbie. Last year she taught writing at Ringling College of Art and Design and French at Riverview High School. She just co-authored her first book *The Complete Anchoring Handbook*. She is now working on her first solo book, based on her years of sailing.

2004

In November 2008, **EMMA ELLIOTT** (A) started a job as an editor with the Rabobank in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

MELISSA THOMAS and **MARTIN ANDERSON** (both A) were married on July 18, 2008, in front of about 80 guests, including **BILL MOROCCO** (Ag4), **ANDERSON TALLENT** (Ao4), **SUMMER STARR** (Ao4), **DEBORAH MANGUM** (Ao5), **G. AUGUST DEIMEL** (SFo4), and **SARAH WAGNER** (Ao8). Reports Melissa: “**COURTNEY MAY** (Ao4) was the perfect bridesmaid. Groomsmen **MICHAEL MALONE** (Ao4) and **STUART BANNAN** (Ao4) were truly awesome friends and wore tuxedos for us on a 90-degree day. It was a beautiful ceremony and we were both thrilled to make it official!”

KETURA KESTIN (A) is living in New York City and working at CBS News. In addition, she is currently filming in Toronto as director of development for Serendipity Productions. She has three films in pre-production. Please feel free to send along scripts or any inquiries on investing to: kkestin@earthlink.net.

2005

MATTHEW GATES (A) is in his third year of service as a Peace Corps agroforestry volunteer in rural Senegal.

NICO JENKINS (EC) is living in France while attending a PhD program at the European Graduate School in Saas Fee Switzerland: “It is a program sort of set up like the original St John’s Graduate Institute program in that it meets for only one month of the year for a very intensive series of classes (meeting 10 hours a day) with leading philosophers and artists. This summer I will be studying with Alain Badiou, Slavoj Zizek, and others.”

JESSE POSNER (SF) graduated from George Washington University Law School in 2008 and is now working as an associate in New York for the law firm Dorsey & Whitney, LLP.

2006

A play by **NORMAN ALLEN** (AGI), *The Christmas Foundling*, based on stories by Bret Harte, was produced in Seattle, Wash., and Sonora, Calif., in December 2008. A new musical version of *Carmen*, for which he wrote the libretto, opened at the Karlin Music Theatre in Prague in October 2008. His play for young audiences, *The Eve of Friday Morning*, opened at The Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C., in January 2008. Norman is also chair of the English Department at Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School in D.C.

DARYA PETERSON (SF) is completing instructor training at IMPACT Personal Safety this

February. She became the outreach coordinator for the organization in the fall of 2008. She has been involved with the organization for one and a half years. IMPACT is a nonprofit organization that empowers people to live fuller lives by teaching defense against verbal, physical, and sexual assault.

AMY YOUNGKIN (A) relocated to Chicago and accepted a clinical research associate position at the University of Chicago in the section of Hematology/Oncology. “I like my work. I love my friends. I could do without the weather.”

2007

“I am currently living in Phoenix and working for the Great Books charter school, Great Hearts Academies, teaching fine arts,” writes **AMANDA MOON** (AGI). “It is wonderful!”

2008

BILLY GRAY (AGI) writes: “My husband, Daniel, and I are living in Dallas. It is currently his turn to be the full-time student. I am writing, barista-ing and taking a literature class. Things are good!”

JONATHAN LYNN LEBLANC (SFGI) is pursuing a PhD in political science at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge: “My field is political philosophy, and I am currently studying political theology, and republicanism. I am also a graduate assistant in the LSU Public Policy Research Laboratory.”

KIM (NICHOLS) LEMENTINO (SF) recently married Eli Lementino and gave birth to a son, Wesley.

She is living in Albuquerque and will be pursuing a PhD in electrical engineering at University of New Mexico this spring.

ROY ROGOSIN (SFGI), an “absolutely not-retired” professional conductor, is excited to be joining St. John’s to create a choral program to include all students, staff, and faculty. “We’ve already had our first orientation and our goals are eminently achievable,” he writes.

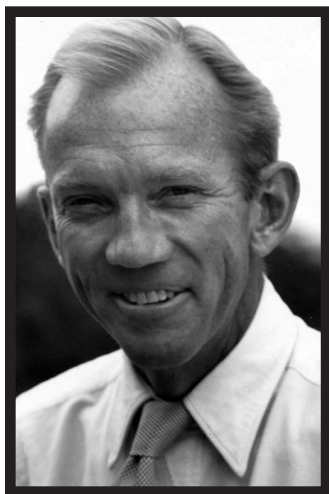
JESSIE SEILER (A) has joined the Peace Corps. “I’ll be departing February 27 for Senegal, where I’ll be doing preventative health education in a rural area for the next two years. Internet access will be super limited, but I’m going to try to keep a blog at <http://jseiler.blogspot.com/>. See you guys in April of 2011. If there are any Johnnies who are thinking of applying and have questions, please let me know! I love to talk to Johnnies about the Peace Corps, it just makes so much sense in a weird way for us to go from the philosophical to the practical like this. At least, I hope it does.” ❖

WHAT’S UP?

The College wants to hear from you. Call us, write us, e-mail us. Let your classmates know what you’re doing. The next issue will be published in July; deadline for the alumni notes section is May 31.

IN ANNAPOLIS:
The College Magazine
St. John’s College, P.O. Box 2800
Annapolis, MD 21404;
rosemary.harty@sjca.edu

IN SANTA FE:
The College Magazine
St. John’s College
1160 Camino Cruz Blanca
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4599;
alumni@sjcsf.edu



J. BURCHENAL AULT

**J. BURCHENAL AULT (H83)
FORMER COLLEGE OFFICER,
BVG MEMBER**

J. Burchenal Ault, who served as a part-time tutor, vice president, provost of both campuses, and a member of the Board of Visitors and Governors, died on October 29, 2008. He was 82. Mr. Ault's lasting contributions to the college include working to bring teachers from inner-city schools and Middle Eastern countries to the college's Graduate Institute.

Mr. Ault was born in Glendale, Ohio, in 1926. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Yale University and held an honorary degree (Legis Doctor) from Long Island University. After graduating from Yale, he was commissioned an officer in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1947 and served in the Korean War.

He began his career in the fabrics industry, as a salesman with Bates Fabrics, Inc., in New York City. He later joined the Radiation Research Corp. of Westbury, New York, eventually becoming president and chairman of the executive committee.

In 1970, pursuing his deep interest in education, Mr. Ault moved to Santa Fe, working first as a part-time tutor, then as vice president of the Santa Fe

campus from 1970 to 1980. He was provost of both campuses between 1980 and 1985. In 1983, the Alumni Association made him an Honorary Alumnus. After leaving St. John's, he served as consultant to Armand Hammer United World College of the American West and Vice President of Financial Affairs at the Santa Fe Institute. He also worked as an independent fundraising consultant.

Mr. Ault divided his time between the undergraduate and graduate programs. In addition to attracting teachers from urban schools to the GI, he also brought teachers from Middle Eastern universities to the graduate program, with the support of grants from the U.S. Information Agency and the DeWitt Wallace Foundation. Over 10 years, 60 teachers from 11 countries took part in the graduate program. "Those who experienced St. John's inevitably were drawn to think deeply, perhaps for the first time, about aspects of their own culture and tradition," Mr. Ault once said.

Mr. Ault and his wife, Florence, had five children, twelve grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**ARLAND CHRIST-JANER
FORMER ST. JOHN'S VICE
PRESIDENT**

Arland Christ-Janer, who began his career at St. John's and went on to a distinguished career



leading institutions including Boston University, died on November 9, 2008, in Sarasota, Florida. He was 86.

A Nebraska native, Mr. Christ-Janer attended Carleton College and then the Yale Divinity School and the University of Chicago Law School. In World War II, he was a member of the 39th Bomb Group, as bombardier on the Yankee Dollar. He joined St. John's as assistant to the president, a post he held from 1954 to 1960. He also served as treasurer and vice president. He became president of Cornell College in Iowa and later was appointed president of Boston University in 1967. In 1970, Mr. Christ-Janer was named president of the nonprofit College Entrance Examination Board. He left that job in 1973 to return to college administration with the New College, a private, liberal arts college in Florida; he was credited with saving the college by persuading lawmakers to incorporate it into the state university system in 1975.

**BILLY LIEB (CLASS OF 1945)
CINEMATOGRAPHER, ARTIST**
Cinematographer, nature lover, peace activist, and artist Billy Lieb died on November 26, 2008, in San Diego, California. Born in Mt. Vernon, New York, he lived in West Los Angeles for many years. Mr. Lieb studied at St. John's for two years before World War II interrupted his studies. He fought in Europe as a tank gunner stationed in France, Belgium, and Germany, participating in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944.

Following the war, he settled in Los Angeles and resumed his education at the University of California at Los Angeles. He worked for many years in the motion picture industry as a cameraman and film editor for

Walt Disney, among others. Upon retiring he became deeply involved in the peace movement. At the age of 63, he walked in the Great Peace March of 1986 across America, followed by trips to Europe and Russia with Veterans For Peace groups. Later he returned to his love of art, taking classes at Santa Monica College. His special passion was making wood sculptures and assemblages, many with found objects such as driftwood. He also volunteered at the Getty Art Museum and was a longtime member of the Sierra Club.

**LOUIS KURS (HOO)
ANNAPOLIS TUTOR EMERITUS**
Annapolis tutor emeritus Louis N. Kurs died on August 22, 2008, at the age of 83. He began teaching at St. John's College in 1964, moving from Chicago, where he taught in the geology department at the University of Illinois. Mr. Kurs attended the Colorado School of Mines from 1942-43 and again in 1946, and Columbia University from 1943-45. He received his Master of Science from the University of Chicago in 1948, and taught geology and physical science at various institutions in the Chicago area until moving to St. John's.

He particularly enjoyed teaching freshman laboratory and mathematics and worked enthusiastically to ensure that every student achieved his or her best. He was always ready to engage in conversations about the books and the Program, and his enthusiasm for St. John's caused most of his family to follow him to the college. The St. John's College Annapolis Alumni Association gave him an honorary membership in 2000. He retired from full-time teaching in 1992, although he continued his involvement in the community until his death.

ARLAND CHRIST-JANER

Mr. Kurs is survived by Alice (SFGI71), his wife of 58 years, as well as by his four daughters and their husbands: Claire Kurs (A74) and Pascal Gambardella; Jean (SF75) and Jim Blair; Eleanor (A80) and John Verdi, Annapolis tutor; and Elizabeth and Hans-Peter Soeder (A81). He is also survived by seven grandchildren: Daniel and Peter Gambardella; Antonia and Luca Verdi; and Carl-Gustav, Johann Friedrich, and Armin Heinrich Soeder.

ANNE BERVEN (SF00) SANTA FE TUTOR

Anne Berven, alumna and former tutor at the Santa Fe campus, died on January 30, 2008, at age 39. She served on the faculty for many years, and was particularly active in the music program, devoting herself to helping students and faculty develop their musical talents.

At a memorial held on February 7 in Bothell, Washington, Sam Markham (SF01) recalled bonding with Miss Berven over difficulties with basic geometry and later being guided by her as a member of a choir under her direction.

"I always found it ironic that while Anne was no genius in the math department, she excelled at music, which is supposedly undergirded by mathematics," he said. "Proportion and balance, dynamics and flow, these were things Anne understood with ease and conveyed with enthusiasm to her fellow classmates and students. That same year Anne created a choir out of nothing. We were a ragtag group of students who enjoyed singing and had been encouraged by her. After several months of practice under Anne's guidance we performed Rachmaninoff's *Vespers*. I remember being very nervous on the day of the performance, as I was singing one of the solos. Anne helped me through my anxiety. She made the point that singing for an audience is an offering of oneself and one's voice. It is a vulnerable act that mixes fear, trust, and fearlessness. Anne lived her life in this spirit of courage and vulnerability. I've touched on just one part of what made Anne a superior human being. Her wicked sense of humor and heightened awareness of life were an example to

us all. While many sleepwalk through life, Anne was awake and alive to life's sadness, goodness, and beauty."

Friends, classmates, and former students shared memories of Miss Berven on a memorial website (<http://anneberven.wordpress.com>), remembering her warmth, generosity, sense of humor, and devotion to music.

PAULETTE DOLLINGER (SFGI89) EDUCATOR

Paulette Dollinger, who was an educator in New York City public schools for 20 years, died on February 2, 2009, at the age of 53.

A resident of Queens, New York, Ms. Dollinger began her career as an English teacher at Sarah J. Hale, Clara Barton, and Lafayette high schools in Brooklyn. In 1991, she became a guidance counselor, eventually serving at several high schools in Manhattan. She worked at the Office of High School Admissions in Manhattan, later served as Assistant Principal for Pupil Personnel Services at Bushwick High School in Brooklyn, and

was a guidance counselor at Canarsie High School. She had begun training for drug counseling as a post-retirement career. Ms. Dollinger took a sabbatical to attend the Graduate Institute in Santa Fe. According to her husband, Gregory Zsidisin, Ms. Dollinger "considered her time at St. John's one of the most intellectually stimulating and challenging experiences of her life, and was very proud to have graduated from the program."

AS A TUTOR IN SANTA FE, ANNE BERVEN SHARED HER LOVE OF MUSIC WITH STUDENTS.

ALSO NOTED

PATRICIA DAWSON BENSON (A90), OCT. 17, 2007

LORIN BLACKSTAD (SF08), NOV. 7, 2008

LEAH BOYD (CLASS OF 1959), DEC. 9, 2008

JAMES BOYLE (CLASS OF 1939), OCT. 23, 2008

MELVIN BRAUNSTEIN (CLASS OF 1949), DEC. 1, 2008

D. MICHAEL BROWN (CLASS OF 1951), SEPT. 4, 2008

WALTER DUDLEY (SFGI70), SEPT. 18, 2008

MARTHA (MARI) BILLINGTON GALEREAVE (SF79), JULY 4, 2008

NAOMI GARWOOD (SFGI79), SEPT. 3, 2008

WILLIAM HAKIM (SF79), DEC. 12, 2008

ANDREW HILL (A98), DEC. 1, 2008

DINWIDDIE LAMPTON, JR. (CLASS OF 1938), SEPT. 22, 2008

MICHAEL J. LANDRY (SF70), NOV. 28, 2008

CLAUDIA "KIT" LARCOMBE (SF69), SEPT. 17, 2008

IAN CAMPBELL LEA (CLASS OF 1949), APRIL 18, 2007

ASBURY LEE III (CLASS OF 1937), FEB. 20, 2009

ROBERT LOHR (CLASS OF 1954), OCT. 8, 2008

HENRY MACK (CLASS OF 1945), SEPT. 28, 2008

JOHN ROBERTS (CLASS OF 1939), OCT. 14, 2008

ALLEN SCHOOLFIELD (CLASS OF 1945), DEC. 28, 2008

ARTHUR TORELLI (AGI07), OCT. 21, 2008



EVERYDAY WONDERS IN A COMMUTER LANDSCAPE

BY J.W. OCKER (AGI02)

The world has gotten so that it proclaims its wonders pretty loudly these days. Every bit of ancient, awe-inspiring natural beauty, every dizzying example of human architectural prowess and enlightening artistic accomplishment, and every improbable creature discovered in the most improbable places has its own marketing team to ensure that as many people in the world as possible know about it. Add this to the way modern transit has shrunk the size of the globe and the media that engulfs and connects it all, and it's evident that you don't have to be an explorer of legendary and daring mien to see the world anymore.

But there are other ways to see the world and other wonders not so loudly proclaimed. Much more humble wonders that are shoved for lack of a present use into the dusty attic corners of the world, stowed in small towns like the forgotten steamer trunks of long-dead relatives, lost in the overwhelming cacophony of the city like a tiny dislodged jewel in an avalanche of rock, or hidden in plain view like a coin in the palm of a conjurer. These aren't usually called wonders. They're called oddities. But that doesn't make them any less wonderful.

I've had the opportunity to travel abroad a few times in my life, but most of my existence has orbited that interminable stretch of life that is the northern half of the Interstate 95 corridor. Even in that small bit of commuter-heavy landscape, I've encoun-

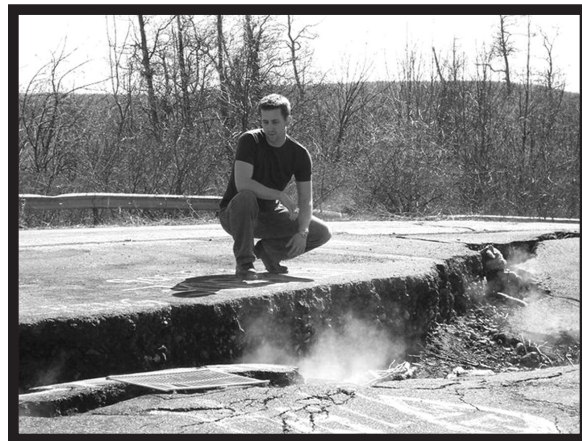
tered countless oddities of history, culture, and art.

In Philadelphia, you can stand beneath Auguste Rodin's towering and grim masterpiece of sculpture, *The Gates of Hell*, and then travel two hours west in the same state to the ghost town of Centralia to stand gingerly atop a perennially burning 400-acre underground coal fire that might as well be the gates of hell.

In New Hampshire, you can see both ends of the spectrum of human potential in a single afternoon—the birthplace of America's first serial killer, H.H. Holmes, standing forlorn and apologetic in the town of Gilmanton, and the family homestead-turned-park of America's first man in space, Alan B. Shepard, Jr., in Derry.

You can visit homemade mummies of modern vintage tucked into the bathroom of a small museum in Philippi, West Virginia, and an official Egyptian mummy whose time is marked in millennia staring blindly at the ceiling of a museum in Bridgeport, Connecticut, while children work at arts and crafts at a table nearby. To me, both of these experiences were in some ways more compelling than an actual trip I took to the Great Pyramid of Egypt itself.

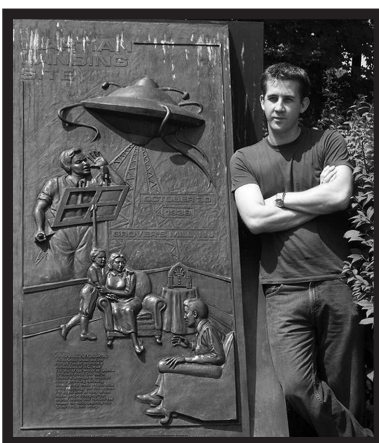
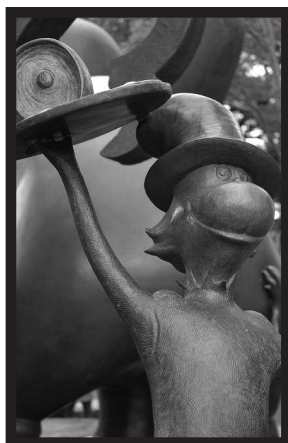
You can see the grand but conventional National World War II Memorial in D.C. anytime you like, but I was much more



impressed by the surprising international *War of the Worlds* Memorial that holds modest court in an unassuming little park in the unrecognized-by-most-GPS-units town of Grover's Mill, New Jersey.

Most statues are erected in honor of people who have inspired awe by the heroic actions of their lives. And I've never been more awed by a statue than when I visited the sprawling and astounding Dr. Seuss National Memorial in Springfield, Massachusetts, or the modest, but note-perfect Jim Henson statue in College Park, Maryland.

Here there be monsters, as well. In addition to the already mentioned mummies, you can witch-hunt in Salem, Massachusetts, visit the still-existing grave of an 1800s-era vampire unearthed in Exeter, Rhode Island, walk in the shuffling footsteps of zombies in a mall in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, looked





over your shoulder for the devil who haunts a pine forest in New Jersey, and pay your respects to the Invisible Man buried in Moultonborough, New Hampshire.

In Danvers, Massachusetts, you can move into a 130-year-old insane asylum recently converted into a swank condominium complex. A few states down in Moundsville, West Virginia, you can spend the night in a 130-year-old prison, watching practitioners

of the peculiar hobby of ghost hunting. Back up in Fall River, Massachusetts, you can spend the night at a 120-year-old murder scene, in the very bedroom of suspected axe murderess Lizzie Borden.

You can safari through Burlington, Vermont, to see its flying monkeys, its lake monster, and its giant ground whales, but a much more terrifying adventure is a simple drive-through safari park experience located in Natural Bridge, Virginia.

The literary inspirations of some of the greatest writers of the English language proliferate in this corridor, including Irving's haunted Sleepy Hollow, New York; Thoreau's idyllic Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts; and Hawthorne's somber House of Seven Gables in Salem, Massachusetts.

I don't know what exactly the common denominator is with all these oddities for me. Some appeal to a personal morbid streak that runs the length and width of my

entire being. Others are connected to specific joys in my life such as reading great literature or watching strange movies. Still others are just intrinsically attention-grabbing. I do know, though, that each of these oddities has a story worth listening to, a peak in the normally flat line that is unfortunately often the best metaphor for everyday existence. Somehow finding and visiting these artifacts gives me a share in those stories. And then that gives me a chance to tell the stories myself. Most amazing, oddities such as these are located not in far-flung exotic locations, but within driving distance. And that's true no matter where you are. In fact, if this few states' worth of ground is any evidence, the world will never wear out its wonders...even the odd ones. ❖

J. W. Ocker (AG102) chronicles his visits to oddities at his website O.T.I.S.: Odd Things I've Seen (www.OddThingsIveSeen.com).



OPPOSITE PAGE, ABOVE: AN UNDERGROUND FIRE CONTINUES TO BURN IN THE ABANDONED TOWN OF CENTRALIA, PENN. BELOW (L. TO R.): DR. SEUSS NATIONAL MEMORIAL, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.; WAR OF THE WORLDS MEMORIAL, GROVERS MILL, N.J.; AND LAKE MONSTER MONUMENT, BURLINGTON, VT.

ABOVE: J. SEWARD JOHNSON JR.'S SCULPTURE, "THE AWAKENING," NOW AT NATIONAL HARBOR IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD. AT RIGHT: DETAIL FROM RODIN'S "THE GATES OF HELL," PHILADELPHIA.

THIRTY YEARS OF D.C. SEMINARS

The 17 people exchanged handshakes, hugs, and a little gossip as they wandered into the Cleveland Park Library meeting room on a wintry Tuesday evening. But when John Rees (A74) was ready to ask the opening question, they were all business. "Is Socrates being fair to Ion?" asked Rees. A lively discussion ensued as the group tossed around various interpretations of who the rhapsode was and what truth Socrates wanted him to learn. Was rhapsody an art? Was it merely a *techné*? Or could it be a divine madness?

Greek works are always a draw for the Washington, D.C., alumni chapter, but the reading for the February 10 seminar was chosen for a special reason: to mark the 30th anniversary of the reading group. Plato's *Ion* was the subject of the first seminar on January 24, 1979. Since then, there have been bi-monthly seminars on some 600 readings, making this the oldest continuously active chapter of the Alumni Association.

Among the participants in the discussion were three people who had been present at that first conversation 30 years ago: Edward Grandi (A77), Mark Aickelin (75), and Deborah Papier (A72). Grandi and Aickelin were among the original organizers of the group, and all three have leadership roles in the chapter today.

"A year or so after I graduated, I was nostalgic for seminar," says Grandi, a non-profit executive who currently serves as the chapter president. "I wanted to have those conversations again. The chapter filled the void I was experiencing."

The D.C. area was also experiencing a void. There had been an alumni-led seminar group in the fifties and sixties, but during the seventies there were only occasional discussions organized by the college. So Grandi got together with two friends from school—Aickelin and Ed Kaitz (A76)—and got the conversation going.

Bill and Carol Tilles (both class of 1959) estimate that

they've been coming for about 17 years.

"It keeps us reading interesting things that I for one am not certain I would be reading without the seminar," Carol says.

"I wouldn't say interesting, I'd say important," adds Bill. "I'm really grateful to Ed and Deborah for having the wherewithal and knowledge to keep a steady flow of readings. There's always intelligent conversation, and that's hard to come by."

According to Papier, who has done two stints as president and plays a key role in assembling the reading list, "Our readings have spanned 4,000 years, from the Babylonian creation myth called the *Enuma Elish* to Barack Obama. We don't confine ourselves to the Great Books. But we still look for works that have proved their value over time. It's very hard for a living writer to get onto the schedule."

A professional writer and editor, Papier is also in charge of publicizing the seminars. Eight years ago, she brought the group into the electronic age, with the creation of a Yahoo group that generates weekly reminders of chapter activities. Close to 300 people subscribe to the stjohndc list.

Except for the summer break, during which seminar participants tackle a long work, readings are generally short, making it easier for members with busy careers to participate.

"For me what's important is less what we

read, and more the fact that we're reading it together," says Grandi. "It's a community. Everyone has the experience of St. John's, and Johnnies have a way of approaching the work."

Papier was the first president when the reading group officially became a chapter. Possessing a certain "anarchic spirit," she says, the group initially resisted being a full-fledged chapter; it finally signed up in the early 1980s. In addition to Grandi and Papier, Sharon Garvey (SFG178), and Jean Dickason (AGI85) served as presidents. Two alumni who have since passed away, William Ross (class of 1938) and Sam Stiles (class of 1954), also served as presidents.

Papier tapped Aickelin, a librarian for a D.C. law firm, to serve as the group's librarian, helping with paper and electronic distribution of readings. Economist Carl Seastrum, a Summer Classics and Executive Seminar devotee who became a regular at the chapter seminars, was drafted as treasurer.

At the chapter's last election, a larger board of directors was put in place in an effort to expand the offerings to include more social events. There's now a social committee, headed by Vice President Robert Morris (SFO4), that organizes regular happy hours and other non-seminar activities, such as a recent bowling outing. But the seminar remains the core of the chapter, cherished by its long-timers and delighting newcomers.

In January, Annapolis tutor David Townsend led a regular Tuesday seminar on Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address.

Two weeks later, the group followed up with an "imbibe while you opine" discussion of Barack Obama's Inaugural Address, held at a Greek restaurant.

The weather was nasty that night, and a couple of people couldn't attend. Still, 22 people showed up. It was a seminar night, after all, and in D.C. they take their seminars seriously.

To see what the Washington chapter has been reading for 30 years, visit its website: www.stjohnscollege.edu; click on "Alumni" to access the online community, then the Washington, D.C., chapter. ❀



SIX HUNDRED READINGS LATER, THE D.C. ALUMNI CHAPTER IS STILL GOING STRONG.

THE SILK ROAD PROJECT

An Introduction to Eastern Classics

St. John's College will experiment this summer with a new seminar concept bridging East and West. The seminar is designed for Johnnies—undergraduate or GI graduates—desiring to study powerful Eastern authors and texts, but unable to fully commit to the yearlong master's degree in Eastern Classics program.

The new Silk Road Project will start this summer with Confucius' *Analects*, translated by Edward Singerland, and selections from *A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy*, translated by Wing-Tsit Chan. Tutor Krishnan Venkatesh will lead the three-week seminar, which is scheduled for 1:30-3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, August 3 through August 20, 2009, on the Santa Fe campus. Venkatesh will introduce components of the Chinese language; a final paper is optional.

Pam Carter (SFG108) and Jean "Puddin" Clarke (SFG195, Board of Visitors and Governors member) brainstormed the idea as a prelude to the Eastern Classics primarily for Johnnies who do not have the time to start the EC. However, they envision the seminar to have additional benefits. It will serve as a "test-drive" for those who may be overly concerned about the language requirements, for those who cannot as yet afford the yearlong program, and for those desiring a greater understanding of the Eastern mind, now an



ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

All alumni have automatic membership in the St. John's College Alumni Association. The Alumni Association is an independent organization, with a Board of Directors elected by and from the alumni body. The board meets four times a year, twice on each campus, to plan programs and coordinate the affairs of the association.

President – Jason Walsh (A85)
Vice President – Steve Thomas (SF74)
Secretary – Joanne Murray (A70)
Treasurer – Richard Cowles (A70)

Mailing address – Alumni Association,
St. John's College, P.O. Box 2800, Annapolis,
MD 21404, or 1160 Camino Cruz Blanca,
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4599.

international imperative for citizens of the world. If successful, the future seminars will feature comparisons of East and West, such as Aristotle and Zhu Xi or Aquinas and Shankara.

Already half-filled, the seminar is now open to all interested Johnnies. The cost is \$3,600 and a certificate of completion will be provided for use in obtaining credit toward the EC master's degree. The deadline for enrollment is the end of April. Contact Maggie Magalnick at maggie.magalnick@sjcsf.edu or 505-984-6199 to enroll. ❖

A SUMMER SEMINAR OFFERS A GLIMPSE OF
SANTA FE'S EASTERN CLASSICS PROGRAM.

CHAPTER CONTACTS

Call the alumni listed below for information about chapter, reading group, or other alumni activities in each area.

ALBUQUERQUE
Robert Morgan, SF76
505-275-9012
rim2u@comcast.net

ANNAPOLIS
Beth Martin Gammon, A94
410-332-1816
emartin@crs.org

AUSTIN/SAN ANTONIO
Toni Wilkinson, SGI87
512-278-1697
wilkinson_toni@hotmail.com

BOSTON
Dianne Cowan, A91
617-666-4381
diannecowan@rcn.com

CHICAGO
Rick Lightburn, SF76
847-922-3862
ricklightburn@alumni.stjohnscollege.edu

DALLAS/FORT WORTH
Paula Fulks, SF76
817-654-2986
puffjd@swbell.net

DENVER/BOULDER
Elizabeth Jenny, SF80
303-530-3373
epj727@comcast.net

HOUSTON
Norman Ewart, A85
713-303-3025
norman.ewart@rosettaresources.com

MADISON
Consuelo Sañudo, SGI00
608-251-6565
sanudoc@tds.net

MINN./ST. PAUL
Carol Freeman, AGI94
612-822-3216
Freem013@umn.edu

NEW YORK CITY
Daniel Van Doren, A81
914-949-6811
dvandoren@optonline.net

NORTH CAROLINA
Rick Ross, A82
919-319-1881
Rick@activated.com
Elizabeth Ross, A92
Elizabeth@activated.com

NORTHERN CALIF.
Reynaldo Miranda, A99
415-333-4452
reynaldo.miranda@gmail.com

PHILADELPHIA
Helen Zartarian, AGI86
215-482-5697
helenstevezartarian@mac.com

PHOENIX
Donna Kurgan, AGI96
623-444-6642
dakurgie@yahoo.com

PITTSBURGH
Joanne Murray, A70
724-325-4151
Joanne.Murray@basicsp.net

PORTLAND
Jennifer Rychlik, SF93
503-547-0241
jlr43@coho.net

SAN DIEGO
Stephanie Rico, A86
619-429-1565
srico@sandi.net

SALT LAKE CITY
Erin Hanlon, SF03
916-967-2194
e.i.mhanlon@gmail.com

SANTA FE
Richard Cowles, SFG195
505-986-1814
rcowles2@comcast.net

SEATTLE
James Doherty, SFGI76
206-542-3441
jdoherty@mrsc.org

SOUTH FLORIDA
Peter Lamar, AGI95
305-666-9277
cplamar@yahoo.com

SOUTHERN CALIF.
Jan Conlin, SF85
310-490-2749
conlinjanr@yahoo.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Ed Grandi, A77
301-351-8411
egrandi@aol.com

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND
Peter Weis, SF84
413-367-2174
peter_weis@nmhschool.org



PROVIDING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR MORE ALUMNI
TO CONNECT
MORE OFTEN AND
MORE RICHL



ELLIOTT CARTER AT 100

Renowned composer Elliott Carter recently turned 100, inspiring concerts, boxed sets of retrospective CDs, and a tribute website: www.carter100.com. His time at St. John's was brief, but memorable. According to J. Winfree Smith's *A Search for the Liberal College*, Carter was one of several faculty members Stringfellow Barr and Scott Buchanan brought in as they grappled with finding

the right place for music in the New Program:

"Herbert Swartz in 1938, Elliott Carter in 1940, and Nicholas Nabokov in 1941 were all added to the faculty in large part because of their music knowledge, which, it was expected, would enable them to suggest how music as a fine art might fit into the curriculum and also to sponsor and supervise music as an extracurricular activity." None remained very long, Smith noted, and "little came of their efforts."

Carter and Nabokov offered seminars on musical composition, but they didn't gain much ground here, Smith posited, largely because of Buchanan, "who thought that one should study the scores without listening to and without ever having listened to the sounds represented by the staves with their whole notes, half notes, and quarter-notes, etc., and without even knowing that those marks might refer to sounds." ❀

ALUMNI CALENDAR

Piraeus

Milton's *Paradise Lost*

Section 1: Led by Eva Brann and David Carl (FULL)

Section 2: Led by Tom May

June 4-7, 2009

Annapolis

The weekend will begin with a welcome dinner on Thursday evening followed by the first of five seminars spread out over the next three days. Over the weekend, there will be time to enjoy the treasures of the Chesapeake Bay, the museums in D.C., or reading, boating, and eating crabs.

Cost: \$400 per person

Includes all seminars, receptions and Sunday brunch

On campus room and board is \$200 per person for three nights.

Stendhal's *The Red and the Black*

Led by Michael Rawn and Ned Walpin

June 14 - 19, 2009

Santa Fe

The week begins with a welcome dinner Sunday evening. The program will consist of seven seminars spread over the week. There will be a morning and an evening seminar on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. The final seminar will take place Friday morning, followed by a closing lunch. Wednesday, with no scheduled seminars, will be an opportunity to enjoy Santa Fe and prepare for the final three seminars.

Cost: \$475 per person

Includes all seminars, lunches, and dinner on Sunday

On campus room and board is \$250 per person for five nights

Registration and payment deadline: May 22, 2009

Shakespeare In Performance *King Lear*

Led by Louis Petrich and Jon Tuck

Acting Instruction by Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting

June 18-21, 2009

Harman Center for the Arts

Washington, D.C.

In collaboration with the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C., this combination seminar/performance-based workshop will feature stimulating scholarly discussion integrated with an exploration of the actor's craft and approach to classic text. Participants will engage in seminars, text analysis, stage combat, and voice and movement workshops. Whether you are a novice actor, scholar, or student, "Shakespeare in Performance" is a not-to-be missed workshop.

Cost: \$990 per person

Includes seminars, ticket to performance of *King Lear*, instruction, breakfasts, receptions and tours.

Registration and payment deadline: June 5, 2009

Homecoming

Annapolis

Friday, September 25 - Sunday, September 27

(please note that Sunday's events will be over by 2 p.m. due to the start of Yom Kippur at sundown that evening)



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT JASON WALSH (A97) PRESENTS THE AWARD OF MERIT TO PETER MCGHEE (CLASS OF 1955).

Santa Fe

Friday, October 9 - Sunday, October 11



JASON BIELAGUS (SF98) ENJOYS THE HOMECOMING BANQUET IN SANTA FE.

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS · SANTA FE

PUBLISHED BY THE
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
P.O. BOX 2800
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21404

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANNAPOLIS, MD
PERMIT NO. 120

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

