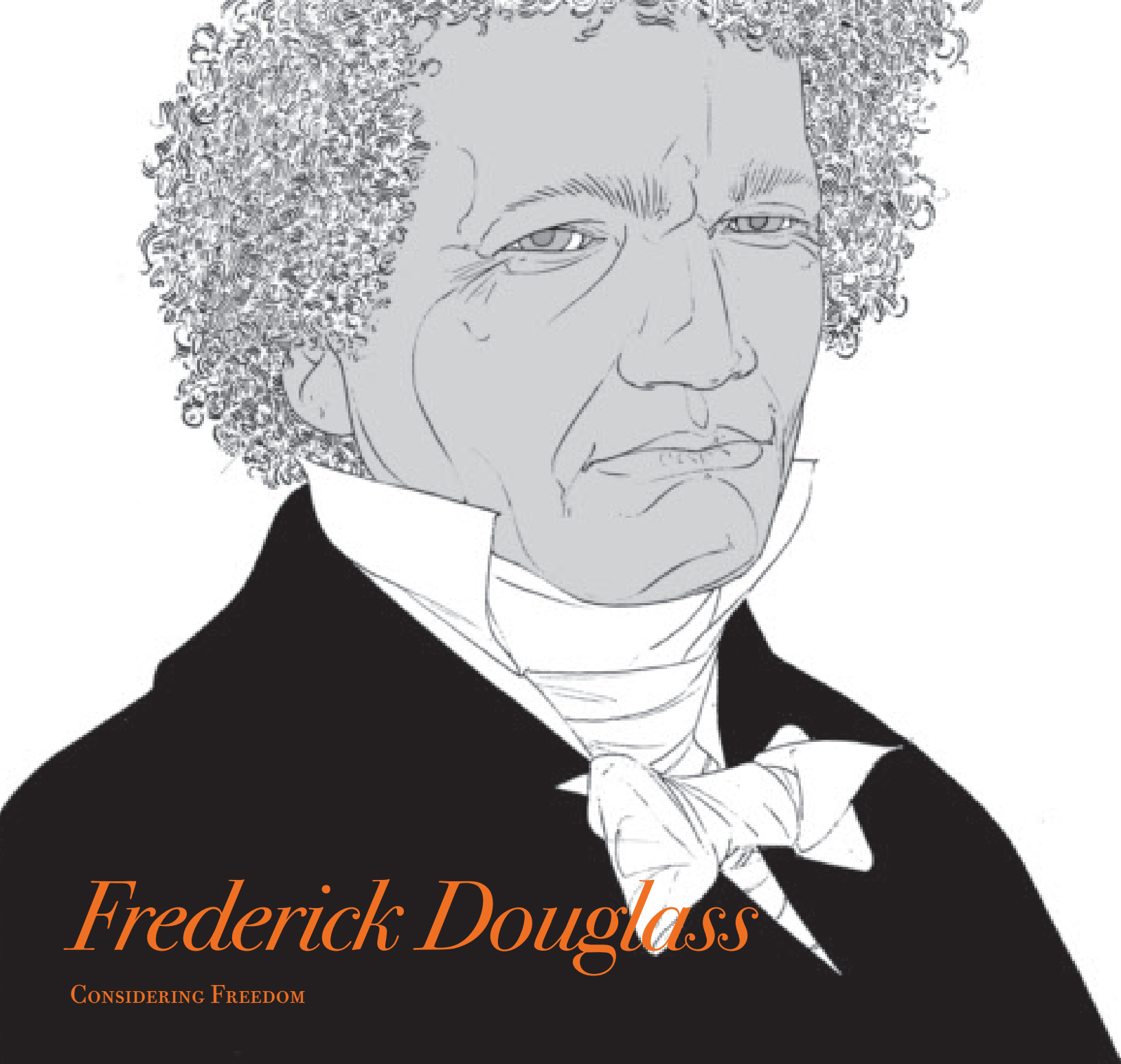


THE College

S U M M E R 2 0 0 9

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE • ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE



Frederick Douglass

CONSIDERING FREEDOM

"It is only by the practice of the liberal arts that the human animal becomes a free man. It is only by discipline in these arts that spiritual, moral, and civil liberties can be achieved and preserved. It is in such obvious propositions as these that the founding fathers of 1784 and 1789 gave reasons for the institutions they set up."

SCOTT BUCHANAN, *BULLETIN OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE*, 1937-38.

ON FREEDOM

The roughly chronological structure of the St. John's Program puts readings such as *Marbury v. Madison* and Abraham Lincoln's speeches in senior year. These readings allow students to think deeply about governing and being governed just as they are about to emerge from a college created, in part, to render them educated citizens, guardians of democracy.

Assembled together in one spiral-bound book are the *Marbury* and *Dred Scott* readings, along with works by Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Booker T. Washington. While the selections vary, Johnnies have been reading Douglass' "The Constitution of the United States: Is it Pro-slavery or Anti-slavery" and "Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln."

Douglass' speech on the Constitution was delivered in Glasgow in 1860. Along with his eloquent argument that the Constitution is anti-slavery, the speech includes his acknowledgement that he has examined and revised many of his opinions. He no longer seeks revolution—as he had as a follower of William Lloyd Garrison—but reform: "When I escaped from slavery, and was introduced to the Garrisonians, I adopted very many of their opinions, and defended them just as long as I deemed them true. I was young, had read but little, and naturally took some things on trust. Subsequent experience and reading have led me to examine for myself."

Douglass' "Oration" is a moving speech, but one that acknowledges the political realities that faced Lincoln. He calls Lincoln "the white man's President, entirely devoted to the welfare of white men." He recounts the many decisions that "taxed and strained" the faith of those who sought emancipation. As Douglass was shaped by his youth in bondage, he points out that Lincoln was shaped by a hardscrabble youth: "He calmly and bravely heard the voice of doubt and fear all around him; but he had an oath in heaven, and there was not power enough on earth to make this honest boatman, backwoodsman, and broad-handed splitter of rails evade or violate that sacred oath. He had not been schooled in the ethics of slavery; his plain life had favored his love of truth."

When the two men came together, their respect for each other grew, writes James Oakes in *The Radical and the Republican*: "Both were uncommonly intelligent. Each was a brilliant orator whose greatest speeches fused razor-sharp logic to soaring idealism. . . . They respected self-made men and so they respected each other."

A few blocks away from the Annapolis campus the life and legacy of Frederick Douglass is commemorated in the Banneker-Douglass museum. On the grounds of the Maryland State House sits an imposing statue of Roger Brooke Taney, most remembered for presiding in the *Dred Scott* case. And Lincoln himself walked through campus in February 1865 during a brief stop on his way to the Hampton Roads Conference in February 1865.

For her essay in this issue, Laurel Pappas (A09), senior seminar readings fresh in her mind, read Frederick Douglass' autobiography and explored his life through visits to his homes in Anacostia and Anne Arundel County. She found in Douglass' quest for freedom striking parallels to her own education.

Some changes to *The College* in this issue: You'll find the alumni calendar in an expanded Alumni section, featuring Alumni Association news and what's happening in the chapters. In its place, on the inside back cover (in the magazine trade, supposedly the way most readers enter the magazine), you'll find *Eidos*, a new section created to highlight the work of Johnnies in the fine arts.

—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

Sophia Koltavary
Sara Luell (A09)
Laurel Pappas (A09)
Nathaniel Roe (SF08)
Deborah Spiegelman
Curtis Wilson (HA93)

Magazine design by
Claude Skelton Design



Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed
forests and other controlled sources
www.fsc.org Cert no. SW-COC-002404
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

THE College

SUMMER 2009

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE

{ CONTENTS }

PAGE 10

COMMENCEMENT

At Commencement in Annapolis and Santa Fe, the theme was courage.

PAGE 14

A FREEDOM THROUGH EDUCATION

A brand-new St. John's graduate discovers why education and freedom were synonymous to Frederick Douglass.

PAGE 16

ON FREEDOM

We gave three tutors free reign to talk about freedom, and they roamed far and wide with their topic.

PAGE 22

RESILIENCE IN A RECESSION

Few American lives remain unaltered by the economic crisis. Four Johnnies detail how their lives have changed.

PAGE 46

CROQUET

This year, it was East vs. West as Santa Fe fielded its first croquet team, and Vikings vanquished their foes.



PAGE 14



PAGE 16



PAGE 22

DEPARTMENTS

2 FROM THE BELL TOWERS

- Norman Levan: a portrait of philanthropy
- Launching the *Jeff Bishop*
- The man in the basement
- St. John's new BVG chair
- Celebrating 20 years of Summer Classics
- What Caritas means to St. John's
- News and announcements
- New board members
- Still obsessed with the white whale
- Letters

30 BIBLIOFILE

- J.B. Shank's *The Newton Wars* details how French thinkers viewed Newton's theories; plus, celebrating Johnnie poets.

32 ALUMNI

PROFILES

- 32 Michelle Vest (SF90) explores the lives of immigrants in her one-woman play.
- 36 Jazz producer A.T. Michael MacDonald (SF76) seeks a balance.
- 41 St. John's provides an educational model for school founder Melanie Hiner (A81).

48 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

52 ST. JOHN'S FOREVER

ON THE COVER

Frederick Douglass
Illustration by David Johnson

A LIFE CHANGED BY GIVING

BY DIANE HARDISTY
BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN

Carmen Schaad sat quietly in a room at Bakersfield's Heart Hospital. In the bed slept her 88-year-old boss. To pass the time on that long night in 2004, she watched the Bakersfield Beautiful Awards ceremony on television.

Dr. Norman Levan, a Bakersfield dermatologist, her employer and friend for four decades, faced surgery the next morning to clear a blockage from his heart. As Carmen watched people being honored, she chewed on an idea.

Hours later, when Levan awoke from surgery, his office manager lectured him. "If he thought he had nine lives, he had already gone through seven of them," she recalls telling him.

Her message was clear: His time was running out. Instead of just doling out his money to worthy causes in his will, as he planned to do, he should give the millions of dollars he amassed through his lifelong investing while he was still alive.

"I wanted to see the smile on his face. I wanted him to see the buildings that would be built with his money and the programs that would be started. And I wanted to nominate him for an award," she explained.

She was convincing. Levan soon began giving away his money. He also began smiling a lot. Both Carmen and his longtime friend, former Bakersfield College President John Collins, agree: The giving campaign came at the right time.

Levan's wife, Betty, had just died. The childless couple, who met on a tennis court more than a half century ago, were the centers of each other's lives. Levan profoundly missed his wife. Her death narrowed his world to his one-day-a-week medical practice and reading books.

His decision to start giving away his money "changed his life," said Collins, who also is Levan's patient. "He is now having a lot of fun."

So far, Levan has made four massive donations—each nearly \$6 million—to three colleges and a Jerusalem hospital. With each donation he gets accolades, invitations to events and encouragement to watch buildings and programs started in his name. Although coy about the size of his wealth, it appears the now 93-year-old plans to give even more.

Each donation is structured to reinforce his lifelong belief that no matter what your career is, you must study the humanities to be truly educated. He is an outspoken critic of his medical profession, which he considers dominated by people too focused on science and the commercial rewards of healing.

His first donation went to Bakersfield College, where it is being used to develop the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities. His \$5.6 million donation is the largest the college has ever received and is funding the renovation of an existing building to house the center and its programs. A portion of the money also supports the Levan Institute that offers lifelong learning classes to area residents 55 years of age and older.

At the University of Southern California, where he earned his medical degree and later headed the school's Dermatology Department, a similar donation funds the Norman Levan Institute for

Humanities and Ethics, encouraging students to explore new ways of thinking.

At Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Medical Center, another nearly \$6 million donation opened the Dr. Norman Levan Center for Humanistic Medicine to foster compassionate care at the 105-year-old hospital.

St. John's College in Santa Fe, N.M., is using a fourth \$5 million gift to build the Norman and Betty Levan Hall [for] its Graduate Institute of Liberal Education. . . . Levan says the advanced degree he earned from St. John's College "changed my life."

Levan's medical career and his passion for studying the humanities are as remarkable as the millions of dollars he has given away.

Levan was born in a Cleveland suburb, where his father,

Joseph, worked as a toolmaker and his mother, Rose, stayed home to raise Levan, the youngest, and his three sisters. His parents divorced and his mother moved with her teenage son to Detroit, where his sister, Goldie, landed a teaching job. It was during the Depression, when jobs were scarce. Levan and his mother later followed Goldie to the West Coast.

A good student whose education was jump-started at home by his teacher sister, Levan skipped grades and graduated from high school at 16. He then entered USC as an English major. Teased by a brother-in-law that he would end up teaching like his sisters, or selling newspaper ads, Levan took the USC medical school entrance exam, passing it with a top score. This was remarkable, since Levan had shunned "boring" science classes and thought pre-med students were "quite dull."

He acquiesced to the school's demand that he complete at least a course in organic chemistry and went on to earn a medical degree from USC. He served as a medical officer during World War II, with assignments in the Pacific.



PROMPTED BY A FRIEND, DR. NORMAN LEVAN (SFGI74) BEGAN GIVING BACK TO ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE AND OTHER CAUSES INSTEAD OF PREPARING BEQUESTS. HIS \$5 MILLION GIFT TO THE COLLEGE MAKES POSSIBLE A NEW GRADUATE CENTER ON THE SANTA FE CAMPUS.

LAUNCHING THE *JEFF BISHOP*

College board member Ray Cave (class of 1948) was on hand April 22 to christen the racing shell he donated to the college in memory of Jeff Bishop (HA96), who for 20

years served as vice president of the college. Bishop died in July 2007 after a long battle with cancer.

Athletic Director Leo Pickens (A78) gave a brief



RAY CAVE (A48) CHRISTENS THE *JEFF BISHOP* AS JOHNNIES WELCOME A NEW EIGHT TO THE FLEET, (L. TO R.): RACHEL ULRICH (A11), BROOK PENDERGAST (A11), MARGARET ANSELL (A10), AND VIRGINIA HARNESS (A11).

speech, praising Bishop's dedication to supporting the college and its students. Pickens noted Bishop's willingness to tow the college's first eight-person shell to the campus. Bishop also helped cultivate a relationship with The Hodson Trust, which funded an extensive renovation of the college boathouse and helped support the crew program. Bishop also embodied "many of the virtues that rowers admire," Pickens said—particularly by showing courage in the face of overwhelming challenges.

"Jeff loved to compete," Pickens said. "And perhaps even more than the competition itself, Jeff relished the training and preparation that goes into any successful performance. He was also the most mentally tough competitor I have ever known. Rowers here often refer to that dreaded no-man's land in a 2,000-meter race, somewhere

between the 1,000-meter mark and the 1,500-meter mark, as 'the house of pain.' Jeff showed no qualms about willingly pushing himself across that threshold into the 'house of pain.' And even though it seemed that in his last years he, without choosing, lived in that house of pain, he never was discouraged or lost heart. He kept his chin up and eyes always looking forward. This is the type of courage rowers admire."

As he poured champagne over the bow of the college's newest eight, Cave remarked that the tribute was a fitting one, given Bishop's extraordinary success in raising money for the college. Bishop was the driving force behind St. John's most recent capital campaign, which raised \$134 million. "He kept the place afloat," Cave said. ✱

A teenage bout with acne exposed him to dermatology. That, combined with his wartime experience treating soldiers' skin diseases, led to his medical specialty. He joined a private practice after the war and volunteered to teach in USC's fledgling Dermatology Department. When the department expanded, he became its first chairman and full-time faculty member.

In 1961, a group of Bakersfield doctors asked Levan to travel to Bakersfield once a week to treat difficult cases. When he retired from USC a few years later, he and Betty, a champion bridge player, moved to Bakersfield.

Levan credits his fortune to luck. He said he was required to invest 8 percent of his faculty salary into a university account, which USC matched. He invested another 8 percent privately.

"That was when the Dow was 400," he recalled. By the time he began giving his fortune away, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had climbed to more than 14,000.

Levan is similarly humble in explaining his decision to give away his money.

With a twinkle in his eyes and a smile on his lips, he quotes 19th-century American industrialist Andrew Carnegie: "The man who dies rich dies disgraced."

Levan won't be disgraced. ✱

Copyright 2009, the Bakersfield Californian. Reprinted with permission.

BREAKING GROUND



CONSTRUCTION BEGAN THIS SUMMER ON THE NORMAN AND BETTY LEVAN HALL, THE NEW HOME OF THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF LIBERAL EDUCATION IN SANTA FE. A LEED SILVER-CERTIFIED BUILDING, LEVAN HALL WILL BE LOCATED BETWEEN THE FINE ARTS BUILDING AND WEIGLE HALL AND WILL HOUSE SEMINAR ROOMS, OFFICES, AND COMMON ROOMS. DR. LEVAN'S GIFT PROVIDED THE MEANS FOR A LONG-NEEDED HOME FOR SANTA FE'S TWO GRADUATE PROGRAMS, MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL ARTS AND MASTER OF EASTERN CLASSICS.

THE MAN IN THE BASEMENT

You can't go to the Internet to find the kind of laboratory equipment required for the classic, sometimes obscure, experiments conducted at St. John's. Try finding Hauksbee's globe or Faraday's rotating rectangles in a catalog.

That's why the college needs Gary Dunkelberger to make a wide variety of wood and metal apparatus for the college's laboratory program. Before he joined the college as laboratory craftsman, Dunkelberger worked in Annapolis' boating industry as a yacht carpenter. He built classic wooden boats from scratch and crafted the interiors of mega-yachts (100 feet or bigger) for clients including the late Walter Cronkite.

Laboring in a stressful industry gradually took its toll, and after suffering a heart attack, Dunkelberger pursued a career change. He answered an ad for the lab position at St. John's, and right from the start, impressed Laboratory Director Mark Daly and tutor Chester Burke (A74) with his craftsmanship and ingenuity.

"Gary began making laboratory equipment beyond our wildest dreams," says Burke.

"He listens intently to our requests and then goes quietly into his gigantic basement to work his magic."

Dunkelberger moved into a position held for years by Al Toft (Ho2), John Cook, and Otto Friedrich. His special talent for woodwork has "raised the bar" for the laboratory program.

"He really loves beautiful wood, so we're going from equipment made of plywood and 2 x 4s to pieces made of cherry, oak, and walnut. If he makes something in brass or steel, he polishes it until it gleams. They're works of art," says Daly.

Precision is essential to the instruments, Daly says, and Dunkelberger is a perfectionist. "We're talking about scales of a thousandth of an inch range. Everything has to be precise or the experiment may not work."

A graduate of York College, Dunkelberger worked in the steel industry before moving to Annapolis, and as a self-taught carpenter and machinist, found steady work in the city's boating industry.

One of Dunkelberger's first tasks was to create a set of Faraday rotating rectangles. These rectangles, of varying perimeters, are wrapped with

copper wire. It was Faraday who noticed that when the rectangles rotate in a magnetic field, electric current is induced in them, the amount of which depends upon the speed of rotation and the area of the rectangles. "This is one of the most important principles which we study in the second semester of the junior laboratory and Gary has given life to the phenomena," says Burke.

Making the Faraday rectangle involved looping a length of copper wire around a wooden frame 500 times—three to four hours of work for each one.



ROSEMARY HARTY

ABOVE, GARY DUNKELBERGER HAS TAKEN OVER THE JOB OF CRAFTING THE UNUSUAL APPARATUS REQUIRED FOR ST. JOHN'S LABORATORY PROGRAM. LEFT, HAUKSBEE'S GLOBE, JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF DUNKELBERGER'S HANDIWORK, DEMONSTRATES PRINCIPLES OF ELECTRICITY.



(Dunkelberger made four.) "It was a bit tedious," he admits.

At one point in his life, Dunkelberger harbored "vague dreams" of a life in academe; now that he's part of a college environment, he takes pleasure in talking with tutors and students about the laboratory program and making their investigations possible through wood, metal, and a lot of patience.

As an Annapolitan, Dunkelberger was familiar with St. John's, he says. "But I was rather amazed at the high quality of the students."

When students in junior laboratory take up Maxwell this

coming year, they'll explore electromotive force and electromagnetic momentum using a model Maxwell devised in his Cavendish laboratory. Dunkelberger used cherry, white oak, and a brass rod to make a beautiful and functional instrument for students to see for themselves what Maxwell hoped to show.

Even if—mired in Lagrangian analysis—students don't notice the fine beveled edges and polished wood, Dunkelberger can't resist. "Why not add a bit of beauty?" he asks. ✿

—ROSEMARY HARTY

AN EXCITING TIME TO LEAD A COLLEGE

Michael Uremovich (SFG105) lives in Virginia, heads a business based in Ohio and California, and is on the road at least three days a week. But the newly named chair of the college's Board of Visitors and Governors—who tried earnestly to retire a decade ago—isn't too concerned about taking on the role on top of his business responsibilities. After all, his predecessor, Sharon Bishop (class of 1965), led a successful and growing company during her seven years as board chair.

"There's an old saw that says if you want something done, give it to a busy person," says Uremovich.

Uremovich is chairman of the board and CEO of Pacer International, an intermodal and logistics freight transportation services provider. According to the journal *Smart Business*, he's widely recognized as a "logistics industry guru, who helped revolutionize the business." For example, Uremovich served as part of a team that invented the double-stack train, an innovation that doubled a train's capacity for transporting goods while reducing costs.

Reared in Tucson, Uremovich earned a bachelor's degree in logistics transportation management from the University of Arizona and an MBA from City University of New York, Baruch College. Over the years, he's been a principal at the consulting giant Booz Allen Hamilton and held key strategic planning and marketing positions at companies including Pepsi and American President Lines. In the 1990s, he served as vice president of marketing for Southern Pacific Transportation and president of TSSI (its logistics operating company), where he helped negotiate the company's sale to Union Pacific. With the

transaction complete, Uremovich moved to Santa Fe with plans to retire.

Early in his business career, Uremovich acquired the 55-volume set of Britannica's *Great Books of the Western World*, which gave him his first introduction to St. John's. He enrolled in the Summer Classics, where his first seminar was on Galileo. It didn't take long for him to become deeply connected with the college. He got to know then-president John Agresto (a fellow fly fisherman) and Robert Glick, then serving as vice president for advancement. Uremovich went from fan to supporter, making a pledge to support construction of the Student Activities Center. He enrolled in the Graduate Institute and joined the college's Board of Visitors and Governors in 2003.

Enrolling in the GI provided a much fuller experience than he could have found reading great books at home.

"It was very enlightening for me," he said. "I had the typical rough spots, as a business person coming out of the real world to the very isolated and insulated world of the seminar. I was more used to telling people things, rather than listening."

Uremovich took a special interest in the

history segment. "I took a preceptorial that examined the Greek plays of the time and juxtaposed them against Thucydides," he recalls. "We went through the war and being a Vietnam vet myself, I found that really insightful."

Uremovich chaired the committee that led the search to name John Balkcom's successor after Balkcom (SFG100) stepped down in 2003. At the time, Uremovich was back in the business world, running his own consulting firm, Manalytics. A president was named, but the search was relaunched after the appointee resigned before taking the position. The second search was immensely successful, Uremovich says, putting Michael Peters in place in Santa Fe in 2005.

It's a "pretty exciting time" to lead a college governing board, Uremovich says. "We're facing significant challenges at

the college in terms of balancing the things we value about our community with the brutal realities of the outside world," he says.

Even if the economy rebounds in the coming year, some difficult decisions may be in order, Uremovich says.

"There's a great saying in the business world these days that you don't want to waste a good crisis," he says. "This is a good time to examine the institutional infrastructure that supports the Program. We can go down this path carefully, and begin with a recognition that some compromise may be required to get the best solution."

St. John's is in a better position to meet today's challenges than it would have been when Uremovich first joined the board. The college has strong, stable leadership; the Management Committee effectively guides collegewide decisions; and there's momentum from a successful capital campaign in which alumni demonstrated a strong commitment to the college.

The board itself is one of the college's best resources. "I've been affiliated with many not-for-profit boards, and I don't think I've ever worked with a group of people so singularly dedicated to the idea of the institution and its underpinnings," he says.

Uremovich has another reason for his fondness for the college; he met his wife, Susan, in a seminar on Emerson at the campus. "She ran the crime labs for the State of New Mexico and was periodically intrigued by the college up on the hill," he says. "Ours was a Coffee Shop romance." ❀

—ROSEMARY HARTY



DIMITRI FOTOS

ROOTED IN THE PROGRAM, ST. JOHN'S CAN WEATHER TURBULENT TIMES, SAYS BVG CHAIR MICHAEL UREMOVICH.

SUMMER CLASSICS PROGRAM DRAWS DEVOTEES

The Dueling Gluckmans

Santa Fe's popular Summer Classics program marked its 20th year this summer with three weeks of seminars on topics ranging from the poetry of T.S. Eliot and Ezra Pound to *The Godfather*.

The program was launched in 1990 with a single seminar on Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*. The following summer, the college offered three consecutive weeks of seminars. Now including both morning and afternoon sessions, the Summer Classics has enjoyed nearly sell-out popularity. Lively, in-depth conversations—in a captivating city—inspire many Summer Classics participants to return year after year.

Such is the case with Jon and Stephen Gluckman, father and son, who returned this summer for their second Summer Classics. Stephen discovered the program while exploring colleges in his junior year, and Jon has a colleague and friend who attended the Graduate Institute.

For their first summer experience (in 2008), Jon, a high school English teacher in New

Jersey, and his son, about to embark on his senior year in high school, decided on two consecutive weeklong seminars: Dostoevsky's *The Idiot* and the *Mahabharata*. They originally planned to fly to New Mexico, but then Tom Waits tickets went on sale. "We're big fans," explains Stephen.

The plane trip became a music-themed road trip that ultimately took five weeks, with the Waits concert in Birmingham, Ala., and the Santa Fe Opera's production of *Billy Budd* among the highlights. Their blog (www.gluckmanvroom.blogspot.com), chronicles their cross-country adventure.

At St. John's, Jon and Stephen shared a suite with two other men, both long-time participants, who shared their seminar discussions on the *Aeneid* and the *Iliad*. "[Our] tutors were great ... [asking] probing questions that brought the most out of the texts," Jon writes on their blog, adding: "We made a bit of an impression being dueling Gluckmans in our two seminars."

"Somewhere between a monastery and mountain resort" is how Gluckman Senior describes the Santa Fe campus.

"These were truly two of the most inspiring and renewing weeks of the summer."

When they returned home, both felt the lingering benefits of their experience. "I'd always taught somewhat like St. John's does, but this solidified what I do and honed the way I questioned my students," Jon notes.

"It definitely made me more confident in my classes," Stephen says.

The two hoped to renew their friendships with some of their fellow Classics participants when they returned this July, to read Thomas Mann's *Joseph and His Brothers*. After their summer in Santa Fe, Stephen is off to Sarah Lawrence. And while Stephen's unsure of his plans for next summer, his father plans to be back in Santa Fe, he says. "This will become my summer camp." ❀

—DEBORAH SPIEGELMAN

A Summer's Journey with Suffering Souls

I arrived at St. John's on a blustery April afternoon to visit the college with my daughter during her junior year in high school. I was immediately taken with the natural beauty surrounding the college, but it was the brief stop at the bookstore that took my breath away. Plato, Aristotle, Dante and Montaigne—these were the books I had longed to read in college. I returned home with my daughter wondering how I could redo my college education. A few years later I happened upon an advertisement for Summer Classics in *The Atlantic* and immediately signed up for the mailing list.

The following spring the brochure arrived in

the mail. After discovering my first choices were filled, I settled instead on *The Letters of Vincent van Gogh* and the *Brothers Karamazov*. Soon my books arrived, and I happily plunged into the mysterious world of Aloysha and his brothers.

On the shuttle from Albuquerque to Santa Fe, the driver noticed my *Brothers K* on my lap. He inquired about the book and St. John's. As we turned onto Camino Cruz Blanca he asked, "Why are you studying about suffering souls?" Why indeed, I asked myself, as I wrestled with my book-laden suitcase up the stairs at St. John's. I mused, "Aren't we all suffering souls?"

The lunches at St. John's became an extension of the classroom discussions. Munching on tuna salads, we wondered about Dostoevsky's own faith as we explored his exquisite discourse on free will and religion in the Grand Inquisitor's speech. A doctor wondered why many of Dostoevsky's characters suffered from "brain fever." Classmates became friends as we delighted in the process of joint intellectual exploration. The refrain was similar: "We do not have anyone to discuss books with back home."

Last summer I had the good fortune to study Plato's *Symposium* and the *Phaedrus*. On the last day of the class a classmate asked our tutor, Eva Brann, whether it is possible to reach transcendence other than through love. Miss Brann smiled. "Ah, you will just have to read Plato's other dialogues to find out." With those words in our hearts, most of us will return for another summer of intellectual delights. ❀

—SOPHIA KOLTAVARY



A SANTA FE'S SUMMER CLASSICS SEMINAR WAS A BONDING EXPERIENCE FOR JON (L.) AND STEPHEN GLUCKMAN OF NEW JERSEY.

A LIFE-CHANGING YEAR

It was the summer of 1973, and Jim Jarvis (A75) was getting ready to take a job waiting tables at a Colorado resort instead of embarking on his junior year at St. John's. After adding up his grants, loans, and personal savings, he came up \$500 short for tuition and room and board. "I know it doesn't sound like a lot now, but it was more than anyone in my family could scrape up," he recalls. He wrote a letter to Barbara Leonard (H55), then assistant dean, to tell her he was taking a year off.

Jarvis had been visiting friends in New York City at the end of the summer, and he stopped at a phone booth in Grand Central Station to call his mother, who had an urgent message for him: "Barbara Leonard wants you to call her immediately."

He reached in his pocket for more change, but didn't have another quarter. "So, there were my friends and I scrambling around Grand Central, panhandling for spare change." When he reached Leonard, she was characteristically direct. "What's this about you not coming back?" When Jarvis said he couldn't find the money, Leonard replied: "Just get on the train, come down here, and don't worry about the money."

About two weeks after the semester started, Jarvis learned that the grant to keep him in school came from the Caritas Society. By way of thanks, he picked up his guitar and with Janet Hellner (SF77) on flute, gave a recital for a Caritas luncheon.

For more than 40 years, Caritas has been helping Johnnies with emergency financial needs, and over the past year, their support has made a great difference in the lives of students whose families are

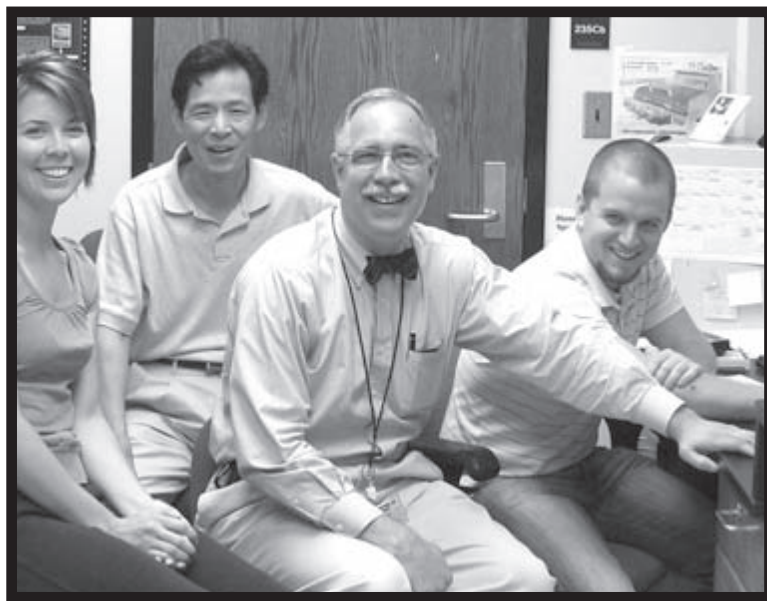
suffering in the economic downturn. In thank-you letters to the society, students wrote of health crises in their families, foreclosures, and job losses. One student was grateful for the money that allowed her to go to the dentist—her family had no insurance and could not afford the \$2,000 bill.

"Caritas has always helped students who still come up short when all the financial aid has been doled out," says Lynn Yarbrow, the organization's president.

"When we read these letters, we know their burden has been softened somewhat."

Working with the college's financial aid office during the 2008-09 academic year, Caritas made \$34,650 in emergency grants to 13 students. Another \$2,000 from the society's Weigle Great Books Fund helped five students buy Program books. During the capital campaign, the society established an endowed Caritas scholarship to support need-based financial aid for a student.

All this is supported by the membership of about 200 and by the group's fundraising events: a November Book and Author event (this year's star attraction is novelist Alice McDermott), and a benefit performance by the Capitol



DR. JIM JARVIS (A75, THIRD FROM LEFT AND SHOWN WITH STUDENTS IN HIS LAB) ALMOST MISSED A YEAR AT ST. JOHN'S, UNTIL CARITAS STEPPED IN.

Steps in March. What motivates the group, says Yarbrow, is a deep admiration for the college, its academic program, and especially, the students.

"If we can make a difference for even a handful of students who might not be able to stay at St. John's in this economy, then all our efforts are worth it," Yarbrow says.

More than 30 years later, Jarvis looks back on the support he received from Caritas with enduring gratitude. Instead of waiting tables at a luxury resort, he settled into a wonderful corner room in Pinkney. He had French with Brother Robert, who led his advanced class through *Remembrance of Things Past*. He studied Darwin with Leon Kass and discovered scientific ideas that intrigued him. And

he decided on the course for the rest of his life: a career in medicine and research.

"The research I'm doing now is the research I predicted I would be doing in my junior essay: studying biological complexity," he says. "It was literally a life-changing year."

Today, Jarvis is a professor of pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, where he specializes in pediatric rheumatology. Among his research projects is a study to determine why juvenile arthritis afflicts Native Americans at a higher rate than other populations, as well as an ongoing investigation into the role the innate immune system plays in chronic arthritis in children.

Who knows what might have happened if he'd gone to Colorado, Jarvis muses. But because one life touches many others, "there is a room full of medical students right next to me" conducting important research because Caritas stepped in. "It reverberates from 1973 right to the present," he says. ✱

In thank-you letters to the Caritas Society, Annapolis students wrote of health crises in their families, foreclosures, and job losses.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNAPOLIS VP HONORED

BARBARA GOYETTE (A73), vice president for Advancement in Annapolis, was among 26 women selected to receive the YWCA's Tribute to Women in Industry (TWIN) Award for 2009. The award recognizes extraordinary women who are leaders in their corporations, organizations, and communities. Goyette has been vice president since 2002, overseeing fundraising, alumni relations, and communications at the college. She joined the college in 1994 as director of public relations.



ANNAPOLIS VP BARBARA GOYETTE WAS HONORED BY THE YWCA.

ALUMNA APPOINTED TO DOT POST

ANNE FERRO (A80) has been nominated to lead the Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, charged with reducing crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses. A former Peace Corps volunteer in Cote d'Ivoire, Ferro was most recently President of the Maryland Motor Truck Association. Between 1997 and 2003, she directed Maryland's Motor Vehicle Administration, where she established a strong record in highway safety, regulatory compliance, and agency leadership.

SF ALUMNI WIN FULBRIGHT AWARDS

Two recent St. John's graduates will be heading overseas thanks to the Fulbright Program. **THADDEUS THALER (SFG109)** received a Fulbright grant to study in Russia. Thaler will examine how Russia's image of Latin America was shaped by film and *telenovelas* (soap operas) between 1959 and 2009. **AUSTIN XAVIER VOLZ (SFO9)** received a Fulbright English



JENNIFER BEHRENS

READY FOR A RIDE: THE SENIOR GIFT OF THE CLASS OF 2009 IN ANNAPOLIS LAUNCHED A BICYCLE-LENDING PROGRAM ON CAMPUS. THANKS TO DONATIONS FROM THE GRADUATING STUDENTS, SIX HIGH-QUALITY GLOBE BIKES (TESTED ABOVE BY CAROL PARTONEN, A12; ZACH HARRINGTON, A11; AND KATIE CORDER, A11) WERE PURCHASED TO LAUNCH THE PROGRAM.

Teaching Assistantship. He plans to pursue questions about how a second language is learned and how advanced students accomplish fluency in speaking and writing another language.

ALLANBROOK HONORED

WYE JAMISON ALLANBROOK, professor emeritus at the

University of California, Berkeley, was named an Honorary Member of the American Musicological Society. She served on the Annapolis faculty for 25 years. She currently holds an Andrew W. Mellon Emeritus Fellowship supporting research for 2008-10. ❖

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Visitors and Governors welcomes these new and returning members:

KEITH HARRISON (SF77) is professor of law and the chair of the International Criminal Law and Justice Graduate Programs at Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, N. H. He has served on the Board of Trustees for Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord, the Planning Committee for the Emerging Leaders of Color Conference, and the American Bar Association. He previously served on the board from 2001-2007. He

received his JD from the University of Chicago.

MIKE MILLER is principal of The Arundel Group, as well as a financial consultant at a Washington, D.C., area public utility. Previously, he worked for Florida Memorial College, Africare, IBM, and PepsiCo. Miller earned a bachelor's degree in history from Yale University and an MBA in finance from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He currently serves as a Board Member of the District 30 Democratic Club in Annapolis,

Maryland, and is a former board member of International Services Agencies, Africare, and the Sandy Spring Friends School.

CATHY RANDALL (A82) ran the Philadelphia and Baltimore offices at Deutsche Bank Alex Brown for 20 years. She served on the firm's Executive Committee, which handled such items as how to standardize procedures across the branches by comparing and contrasting effectiveness and compliance with firm and industry rules and regulations, and gathering best practices for conducting business.

DANIEL VAN DOREN (A81) received his law degree from Boston University School of Law in 1985, where he co-founded the Public Interest Project, a fellowship program that distributes grants to students for summer work in public interest jobs. Since 1986, he has worked in several of his family's real estate companies and currently serves as managing director of Van Doren Management Co, LLC, in New York City. He served as president of the New York chapter of the St. John's College Alumni Association from 2004 to 2009. ❖

STILL OBSESSED WITH THE WHITE WHALE

At the University of Pennsylvania, Mike Kelly (AG106) was torn between a career in economics and a career teaching literature. Economics won out, and right after graduation in 1972, Kelly landed a job at NASA. One of the college books he kept was a paperback copy of *Moby-Dick*, a novel he fell in love with as a teenager.

"It's one of those stories you can't get out of your mind," he says.

In the fall of 2004, Kelly brought that same copy—now patched up with duct tape to keep the pages from escaping—to the Graduate Institute, where he joined other students in a preceptorial on the novel. In a lively class in which each participant had a passionate interest in Ahab, Starbuck, and the rest of the doomed crew of the *Pequod*, he added to his margin notes, wrote a paper about courage, and left with even more questions about Melville's masterwork.

In part, this obsessive pursuit of the white whale can be pinned on the preceptorial

tutor, David Townsend. In response to one of Kelly's observations, Townsend wrote in the margin: "What would Aristotle say about this?" Even with his diploma in hand in the spring of 2006, Kelly was still grappling with that question, and as soon as he retired, he devoted himself to pursuing it. He applied to the GI to write a master's essay, and on a Saturday afternoon in April, sat for his oral examination.

Any GI graduate who desires to write a paper may do so within two years of graduating. Kelly is one of a handful of students who have taken this step, although there's no tangible benefit to one who has already completed the degree. GI students can substitute the master's essay and oral for one preceptorial.

"I think the fact that people want to do an essay even after graduating shows two things," says Marilyn Higuera, director of the Graduate Institute in Annapolis. "One: the essay is really serving the purpose it was meant to serve, namely

that it provide an opportunity for graduate students to engage in an extended, focused study of some question which arose for them during their time here; the fact that people want to follow up on such questions even though it doesn't 'count' toward a degree drives that point home."

Also, Higuera says, many students are reluctant to give up the rich discussions of GI preceptorials in order to write the master's essay.

Kelly worked for 35 years as a business deputy at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, supporting key projects such as weather and communications satellites. But he never lost his love for literature, and he enrolled in the GI just at the time he was preparing for retirement. "I loved every

minute of it," he says of the graduate program.

Soon after he retired from NASA in 2007, Kelly asked Townsend to be his adviser, and he sat in on Townsend's undergraduate preceptorial on the novel. It was a pleasure for Townsend to take the journey through *Moby-Dick* with Kelly again, helping him synthesize other ideas from his graduate studies. "Mike Kelly took on *Moby-Dick* as a genuine lover of wisdom, confronting squarely the need for courage in facing the deepest questions of life and death," says Townsend.

Kelly doesn't plan to be retired for long. He began looking for a teaching job last spring. ❖

—ROSEMARY HARTY



ROSEMARY HARTY

A PRECEPTORIAL PAPER ON *MOBY-DICK* LEFT MIKE KELLY WITH MORE QUESTIONS THAN EVER, PROMPTING HIM TO WRITE A MASTER'S ESSAY.

LETTERS

The Spring 2009 edition of *The College* contained a list of the "best" booksellers. You failed to mention a wonderful bookstore, The Symposium, on Hayes Street in San Francisco. It's a unique store, with great selections, and is owned and operated by two recent graduates of St. John's. I think they merit a note of recognition. Bookselling is a very difficult business, and I think they would appreciate a much-deserved comment for carrying on the tradition of the Great Books.

DOUG HEAD

Editor's note: Robin Dunn only recommended bookstores he has visited personally for "The Love of Books" in the Spring issue. He'll be sure to visit The Symposium next time he's in the Bay area, thanks to this tip from Mr. Head, a Johnnie parent. Also, *The College* heard from John R. Traffas (SFG175), who chided us for not including Eighth Day Books in Wichita. He has high praise for the store, with a setting that "inspires cordial and wide-ranging conversation," has free coffee, and offers a good selection of serious books, including "a shelf of Loeb's."

CORRECTIONS

A story on Karen Cook (SF74) in the Spring 2009 issue incorrectly identified the institution for which Cook works. It's the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

In the same issue, a story on Touchstones had the wrong title for Stefanie Takas (A89). She is Touchstones' executive director.

CELEBRATING COURAGE

*Commencement Speakers Laud Graduates
for Choosing a Different Path*

BY ROSEMARY HARTY (AG109)

It was an unlikely coincidence that rain forced Commencement ceremonies indoors in both Annapolis and Santa Fe, but both ceremonies went off without a hitch in the Francis Scott Key Auditorium and Student Activities Center, respectively. For both ceremonies, alumni were speakers, and both touched on the theme of courage in their addresses to the graduates.

In Annapolis on May 17, 110 undergraduate students received their Bachelor of Arts degrees, and 39 Graduate Institute students received their Master of Arts in Liberal Arts degrees. Tutor Anita Kronsberg (class of 1980), completing her third term as assistant dean this spring, told graduates not to worry if they fail to remember in perfect detail the paradigms and proofs they studied.

Kronsberg's speech focused on courage—the courage needed to enroll in a college such as St. John's and the courage required to pursue a lifelong habit of subjecting one's opinions and beliefs to constant scrutiny. "What is good is difficult, and questioning the opinions we cherish is among the most difficult things to do," she said. "It requires courage, and when you leave this college it will require more courage, for you will often be without communal encouragement to it. But you will carry with you a disposition to seek out this and other forms of what is good, and this is a resource."

In her address, Kronsberg likened the journey students take through the Program to that of the hero of Homer's *Odyssey*—in part because Johnnies spend their four years reading the works of long-dead authors, and Odysseus travels to the Land of the Dead. But while Odysseus made his trip alone, Johnnies journey in the company of their "shipmates" as they encounter strange new things. They draw courage from each other.

"The illumination and enrichment of your life through your efforts to coax the dead into a living conversation will be different for each of you," Kronsberg told the graduates. "Some of you may have heard here what sort of life lies ahead for you, many of you are, just now, overwhelmed by the welter of possibilities. All of you have



GARY PIERPOINT

LEFT, ANNAPOLIS GRADUATES TABITHA SILVER (L.) AND JESSICA ZIMMERBERG-HELMS TOAST THEIR SUCCESS.

OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP, KEVIN ANDRUS AND ERIN DESTITO. BOTTOM, ANITA KRONSBURG (A80) SPOKE TO THE VALUE OF A JOHNNIE'S JOURNEY "IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD."

"You have practiced courage through the constant practice of making mistakes of various kinds, both publicly and in the presence of an ever-sharper inner witness."

ANITA KRONBERG (A80)



the disposition to enter into the experience of another as far as possible while remaining the author of your own opinions."

On May 23 in Santa Fe, 86 seniors and 21 graduate candidates heard from Dr. Stephen J. Forman (A70), chair of the Hematology and Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation Department at the City of Hope Cancer Center in California. Forman is also the principal investigator for a \$15.2 million, five-year National Cancer Institute bone marrow transplantation program project grant and principal investigator of a five-year, \$11.5 million Specialized Program of Research Excellence grant by the NCI for translational research studies for Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Forman focused his remarks on the way in which the college has been a continuing presence in his life and work. He explained why he chose his specialty in medicine and why he has devoted himself to working toward a cure for cancer: "When asked about my choice, and the unusual college background that could lead me to such work, I often answered that I chose the most philosophical of the medical specialties as it forces one to confront, daily, the important questions in our life and its meaning, about how we live our life, and our relationship to each other, our family, and community, our country, our world," Forman said. "In essence, the work has allowed me to continue to think about the same questions that you



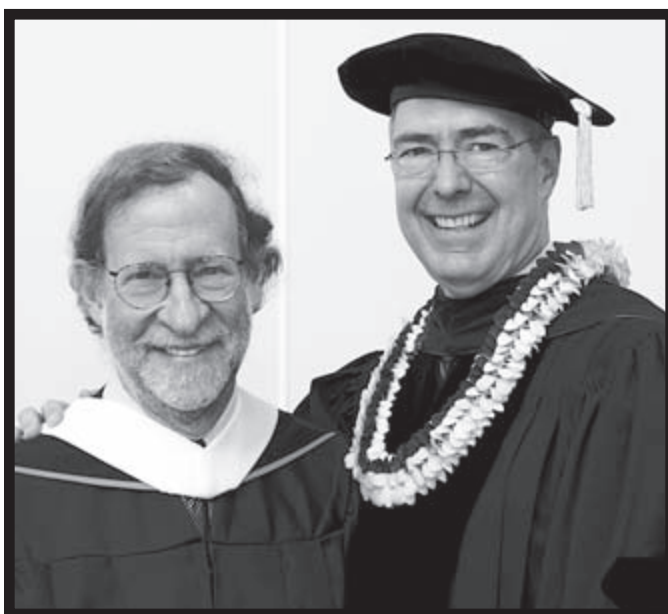
"You have learned to pursue truth, an often painful process, which has an inherent integrity, which is never ending and as Socrates taught us, is not always welcome. But it is the pursuit of truth that will enrich your life's work, deepen your friendships and your love of another human being."

STEPHEN FORMAN (A70)

have been considering for the last four years.

Graduates are not the only ones to benefit from St. John's, Forman said. Because the college cultivates lifelong habits such as "learning, listening, and the pursuit of truth," the benefits of St. John's extend to graduates' families, co-workers, and communities. When graduates are asked about the significance of their liberal arts education, Forman advised: "... I would say that we have helped our young to become lifelong students, capable of anything, who understand listening to be a virtue, who will pursue truth in their work and in their life. Not a bad education."

He congratulated students and their parents for choosing St. John' and the commitment this education demands. "I do hope that you will remember this day, as we celebrate your graduation, the courage that each of you has demonstrated in coming here, as this is a very daunting place, as it exposes your fears, and, rather than running away, you have remained, and, with the help of the college, you have overcome them. We celebrate the courage of your parents to trust you, and the college to guide and protect you and bring you to this day. Yes, you are 'Johnnies,' and so are your parents. And, of course, there is the courage of our faculty, resistant to the educational fads of the day and, like you, not here by accident or casually, who, like you, face their own challenges in learning and teaching in all parts of our community of learning. And, like all of you, I remain grateful and respectful of their role in preserving this oasis of learning." ❀



TERI THOMSON RANDALL



TERI THOMSON RANDALL



GARY PIERPOINT

ABOVE RIGHT, COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER DR. STEPHEN FORMAN (L.) AND SANTA FE PRESIDENT MICHAEL PETERS. BOTTOM RIGHT, TUTOR DAVID LEVINE AND OTHER FACULTY MEMBERS LINED UP IN SANTA FE'S SAC WEIGHT ROOM FOR THE PROCESSIONAL. BOTTOM LEFT, PARENTS BEN AND ANNA BERNANKE WITH DAUGHTER, ALYSSA, AT THE POST-GRADUATION RECEPTION IN IGLEHART HALL.

THE LAST OF THE BROCKETTS

Among the graduates who marched across the stage in Annapolis May 17 was Noel Brockett, the third and last member of a Connecticut family to receive a St. John's College diploma. In the audience were his parents, Philip and Nancy; sister, Gillian (Ao7); and brother, Hayden (Ao4), who launched the family's devotion to St. John's when he received a college brochure in the mail and made his college decision almost instantly.

It's not unusual for a family to send several children to St. John's. Children follow parents, brothers follow sisters, and legacies are born. Philip Brockett remembers when his eldest son came home for Thanksgiving during his first year, brimming with excitement about the books, his tutors, and his friends at the college. "He told us St. John's was home for him," he says. "On the one hand I was really glad for him, on the other hand, I was a little taken aback that he felt so comfortable at the college. He was so enthusiastic about St. John's that he became a salesman for the college to his younger siblings."

Reluctant to follow her older brother, Gillian spent a year at the University of Connecticut. By the second semester, however, "she wasn't satisfied with the educational experience she was having" at the large university, Nancy Brockett says. After visiting her older brother in Annapolis, "she called us up and said she wasn't going back to U Conn. It just wasn't the right fit for her. But she did really well at St. John's."

Noel decided in his sophomore year of high school that he was headed to Annapolis. "There was never really a doubt in my mind that I was going to St. John's," he says.

St. John's brought out their children's talents, the Brocketts say, and each participated in the life of the college in his or her individual way. Hayden was the waltz archon and editor of *The Gadfly*. Gillian was devoted to intramural sports and discovered a love for science in the lab program and by working in the college observatory. Noel proved to be passionate about the liberal arts and Georgian culture and helped found a nonprofit organization called OLEG (the Organization for Liberal Arts in Georgia) to support a discussion-based liberal arts program at New Gelati Academy in Tbilisi. He helped create a student club that organized Georgian feasts and a Georgian dance class. Along with other OLEG members, he applied for and won a \$10,000 Davis Peace Grant to bring a two-week program, based on readings from classic works, to Georgian youth this summer.

Hayden, who met his wife, Mary Townsend (Ao4), when he was a prospe in her freshman seminar, just graduated from George Washington University's School of Law and now works at the Department of Justice. Gillian worked at the United States Naval Observatory for a year before accepting a position as a medical researcher at the University of Waterloo in Ontario. She'll be studying optical instrumentation in a master's program at the

university's department of System Design Engineering. "I would not have discovered my love for astronomy or astrophysics if not for the relationships I built while at St. John's," she says. She also married a Johnnie, Ian McCracken (Ao4).

And after spending most of the summer in Georgia, Noel plans to remain in Annapolis and work on OLEG, with an eye to graduate studies in philosophy in the near future.

The Brocketts say that it was a sacrifice to send three children to a private liberal arts college. But as Philip Brockett explains, they believe in two principles when it comes to raising children. "One, we've never regretted any money we've spent on our children's education," he says. "And our other mandate was to do everything we could to ensure our children are independent. College is about launching your kids into the world. And St. John's was just the right place to launch them." ❀

—ROSEMARY HARTY



GARY PIERPOINT

EACH OF THE BROCKETTS (L. TO R. HAYDEN, GILLIAN AND NOEL) FOUND A SPECIAL NICHE AT ST. JOHN'S, BUT THEY AND THEIR PARENTS (NANCY AND PHILIP) SHARE A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE COLLEGE.

FREEDOM THROUGH EDUCATION

BY LAUREL PAPPAS (A09)

After four years of St. John's it was time to read a bestseller. I needed something accessible, mesmerizing, full of colorful events and characters to snap me out of the aftershock of graduating. I hit on something modern, from 1845: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*.

As a student, looking ahead usually consisted of checking the seminar list to see what we would read next. As a graduate looking ahead means wondering what I should do. Impressed by the necessity for action in my own life, I was delighted to encounter in Frederick Douglass a man whose genius was so immediately applied to improving the world. Douglass makes his childhood and the challenges of his growth central in his books, and I soon realized that anyone who has sought freedom through education can identify with his pursuit of it. I was reminded that freedom is not merely a liberated body, but a liberated intellect.

No Program author is as physically present in Maryland as Douglass. He was born a slave on the Eastern Shore, worked in a shipyard in Baltimore, had a summer house in Highland Beach and made his final home in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington, D.C. His Anacostia home in particular revealed the breadth of Douglass' curiosity, innovation, and learning. He taught himself the violin, made his own checkerboard, spoke and wrote in German and French, read in Greek and Latin, appreciated the arts and had one of the most modern homes of his time. However, it turns out that he shared more than his renaissance ethic with St. John's. When

our tour guide, Noelle, learned where I went to college her face lit up in a smile. Knowing that her news would delight, she exclaimed, "Douglass loved to play croquet!"

As early as age 7, still ignorant of the existence of the free states, Douglass knew the concept of freedom. "I distinctly remember being, even then, most strongly impressed with the idea of being a freeman some day," he wrote in his autobiography. He wrestled to understand the commonplace brutality of the plantation. He was told that God, who was good, made white men to be masters and black men to be slaves. He recalls, "I could not reconcile the relation of slavery with my crude notions of goodness."

In 1826 Douglass was sent to Baltimore to live with the Auld family. His new mistress, Sofia, began to teach the 9-year-old Douglass how to read. The lessons were halted after she guilelessly told her husband that "Fred" was a fine pupil. The resistance of his master awoke in Douglass a "slumbering train of vital thought." He suddenly understood what had mystified him about the power men had to perpetrate slavery. He saw ignorance at the root. He realized that, "knowledge unfits a child to be a slave."

If his mistress' help cracked the door to literacy, his master's resistance only reinforced the importance of pressing all the way through. He reflected later that, "He is whipped oftenest, who is whipped easiest." Douglass was not easily whipped, either by the obstacles keeping him from an education or by the brutality he faced later.

The speeches he found in his first book, *The Columbian Orator*, gave him the means to articulate his own thoughts. "The more I read them, the better I understood them. The reading of these speeches added much to my limited stock of

language, and enabled me to give tongue to many interesting thoughts, which had frequently flashed through my soul, and died away for want of utterance.” He had discovered the power of naming. Notably, Douglass also pored over a short dialogue in *The Columbian Orator* between a master and his freshly captured runaway slave. The master points to the kindnesses he has shown to his slave and insists that the slave explain why he attempted escape. The arguments of the black man sway the master at every turn; in the end, the master emancipates him. Douglass’ and his lifelong devotion to speaking for social justice can be seen as a living out of the texts that first gave voice to his own thoughts and desires.

After seven years in Baltimore he was sent to St. Michael’s. When Mr. Covey, the man hired to break him, gave him a serious head wound for being too ill to work, Douglass walked the 12 miles to St. Michaels and sought help from his master. He knew he would receive no aid on the grounds of his humanity, but argued that as property, he would be irreversibly damaged. His master sent him back. Douglass returned to the farm of Mr. Covey and refused to be beaten. He recounts that he and Mr. Covey gripped each other in a cow pen for several hours and that there were no blows exchanged between the men because Douglass neither



CHAD SALECKER

IN FREDERICK DOUGLASS, LAUREL PAPPAS (OUTSIDE THE BANNEKER-DOUGLASS HOUSE IN ANNAPOLIS) FOUND A MAN DEVOTED TO EDUCATION AS A MEANS OF IMPROVING THE WORLD.

administered nor permitted them. “This battle was...the turning point in my ‘life as a slave.’ It rekindled in my breast the smouldering embers of liberty; it brought up my Baltimore dreams, and revived a sense of my own manhood. I was a changed being after that fight. I was nothing before; I WAS A MAN NOW.”

Four years later he escaped disguised as a sailor, and his free papers were purchased in 1845 by friends. However, before he was legally emancipated Douglass made himself free through his access to the written word, by gaining the power to name his own thoughts, and by confirming and embracing his stature as a man.

His learning was not static. He taught black men to understand and love words, and later, when he was invited by abolitionists to join their circuit, he taught white men to understand and hate slavery. When initially invited to speak he was instructed to tell his story and leave the philosophy to the white abolitionists. Douglass chafed in this role. He later wrote that repeating the same story night after night “was a task altogether too mechanical for my nature. I could not always obey, for I was now reading and thinking.” He wanted to do more than relay the horrors of slavery; he wanted to condemn them. In a nation deeply saturated in its prejudices Douglass persisted and became one of the most gifted orators America has ever known.

In reading, I was enthralled by Douglass’ spiritedness. His palpable legacy in Maryland helped me to meet, not simply the force of Douglass’ sentiments, but a man. The bestselling author I encountered did not help me sort out the particulars of what I should do with myself, but his example encouraged me. Douglass is a reminder that a true education, while for its own sake, is toward practical life. * ❁

*“Statement of Educational Policy and Program,” Spring 2006, Michael Dink (A75)

The Frederick Douglass summer home: Twin Oaks in Highland Beach, Maryland. 410-267-6960 (open by appointment)

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site: Cedar Hill in Anacostia:
www.nps.gov/archive/frdo/freddoug.html

The Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis, Maryland: www.bdmuseum.com

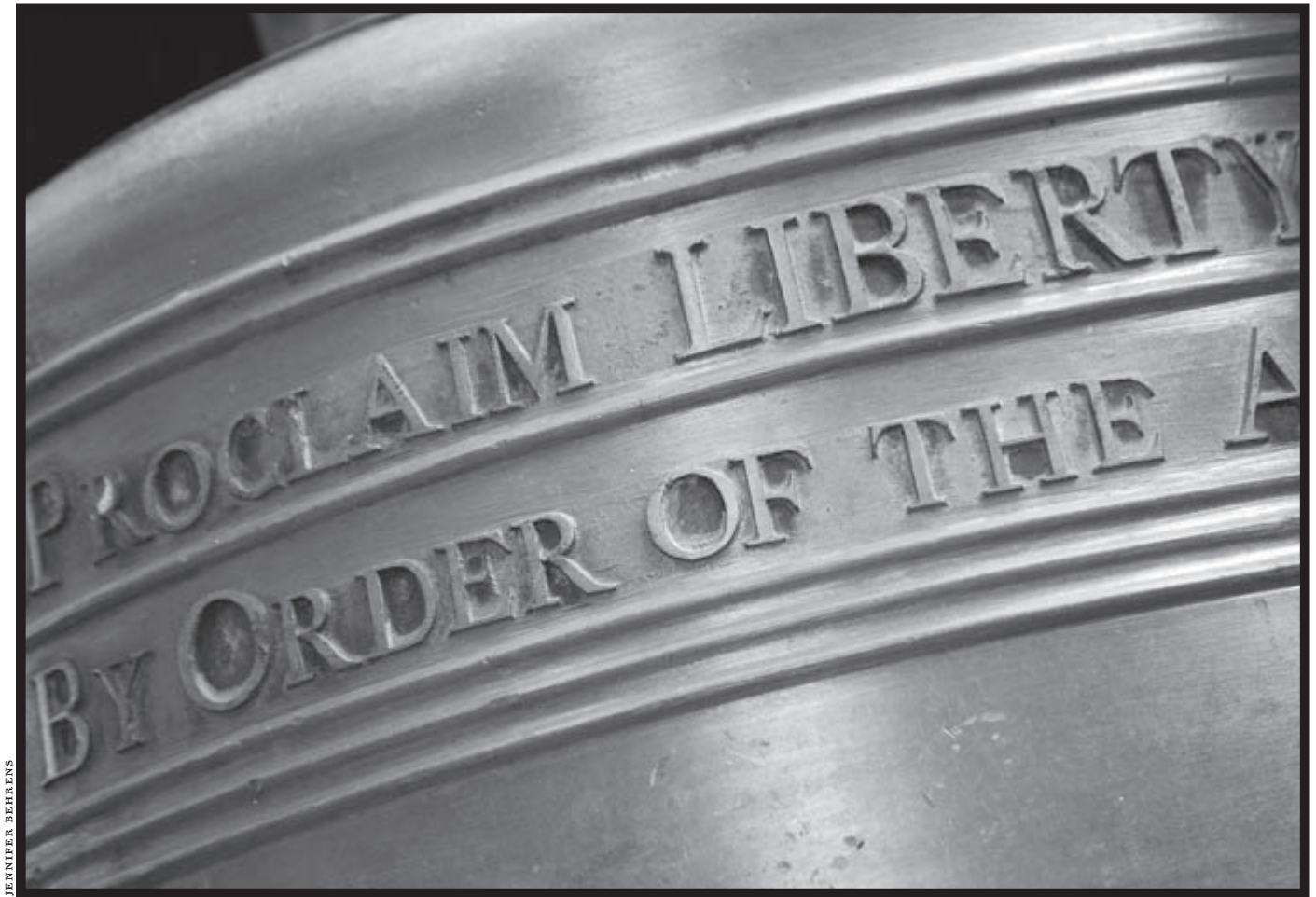
Douglass on the Eastern Shore of Maryland: Douglass was born on the Anthony farm, near the banks of the Tuckahoe River. A historical marker on the Eastern Shore on Route 328 is six miles away from Douglass’ birthplace.

ON FREEDOM

“In any account of Freedom the great symbols are chains and fetters. There is no universal and immediately transparent symbol of Freedom as such. The torch and the Statue of Liberty, the Phrygian cap, the gesture of open and uplifted arms—these all symbolize freedom at best indirectly, by way of some historic or sentimental connotations. But chains—that’s different. They mean, directly, always and under all circumstances, compulsion. Why is this so? I think, because, in the most concrete way, we are never free. We are inescapably bound to the necessities of life, we cannot escape death; we depend intrinsically on everything around us, in the present as well as in the past.”

— JACOB KLEIN, “THE PROBLEM OF FREEDOM.”

In an essay he delivered 40 years ago at what was then the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, Jacob Klein spoke of both political freedom and the freedom of human beings as “thinking beings and as beings having a will.” The concept of freedom comes up frequently in program readings, from Aristotle to Faulkner. In readings such as the Dred Scott decision, the concept of freedom is made most clear when we’re confronted with its opposite: bondage. *The College* asked three tutors to think about freedom and write an essay. Not surprisingly, the Program itself came to mind for tutor Jon Lenkowski. Bill Pastille questions whether each individual unknowingly sets up barriers to freedom. And Claudia Honeywell turned to a fictional character, Mrs. Dalloway, to examine freedom through the difficult choices of one woman’s life.



JENNIFER BEHRENS

THE BEING-AT-WORK OF HUMAN FREEDOM

by Jon Lenkowski, tutor, Annapolis

As much as is possible, given all of the external exigencies to which we are subject in our daily lives, St. John's College tries to provide us with freedom from certain sorts of wants and needs, as well as freedom from care and from distraction. The ancient word for this condition is *scholē*, from which we get our modern words "school" and "scholar." The word *scholē* originally means leisure, as well as the place where leisure activity takes place, therefore suggesting a deep connection between leisure and study, or that study is the proper work of leisure. The liberal arts have been traditionally conceived as the arts of freedom, not only because they depend on leisure, but also because they provide us with certain kinds of resources to help lead us out of ignorance and blindness. In this way the liberal arts can be viewed as liberating.

Any liberal arts college worth its salt must subscribe to this view of the liberal arts. But here at St. John's we go even further than this: Learning can itself be slavish. What I

mean by this is that one can become enthralled by any number of great thinkers, so that one takes a fancy to a new way of thinking, or a new view of things, or a new technical vocabulary, and learns it almost by rote, letting it take possession of one's soul without scrutinizing it carefully enough to see whether it is really worthy of such an exalted status. And then there are all the various methods and procedures and models that one comes across in this or that departmental specialty; these tend to be forced upon the learner as though they were simply the truth of things; and even without this compulsion and enforcement these also often have a tendency to insinuate themselves into our souls surreptitiously and almost automatically. These are all forms of enslavement and un-freedom. And thus it is the task of the liberal arts to be liberating in yet a further way, that is, to help us develop powers of criticism such that we don't simply and immediately internalize unthinkingly what we read, hear or learn.

Thus then the liberal arts as liberating. But all this is in a way only preparatory to another freedom, which is the most essential sort of freedom that we can achieve here. It is perhaps the quintessence of our interior freedom.

This is the freedom of thought, the freedom to be able to think in whatever direction the logos seems to lead us, to follow its pointings wherever they may lead, without fear of reprisal or consequence—to question and interrogate each of these pointings as vigorously as we can at each and every step of the way, and then to be able to say openly what we have learned and what we think. But this freedom also brings



JENNIFER BEHRENS

with it a new responsibility—viz. to seek out those great thinkers who can best help us to formulate questions in just the right way, and help us pursue them and think about them most profitably—for without this guidance we run the risk of missing many things, as well as the risk of trusting in our own abilities alone, and just spinning our own wheels, as self-indulgently delightful as that may be.

FREEDOM: COMEDY?

William Pastille, tutor, Annapolis

Some years ago I gave a lecture questioning the value of questioning. The Socratic project of radical questioning in the service of the Delphic injunction “Know thyself” had become unsatisfying for me. It seemed that all the questioning I was doing was merely uncovering a host of unexamined prejudices, long-standing beliefs, and inherited errors that had been planted—often without my knowledge—in a hidden part in my soul. For all I could tell, this subconscious network of thought was irreducibly complex; and if that were the case, the Socratic project would never be realized. I could spend my entire life exposing the errors and the ignorance of my subconscious “self” to the light of day, sanitizing its piles of trash, cleaning up its mistakes, patching its holes—and I would be no closer to knowing myself at death than I was at birth. Or, as Schiller once put it, I would “miss” myself for the sake of an unrealizable Socratic project.

In fact, it seemed to me then that the subconscious self controls our lives far more than the conscious one. The whole attempt to probe, to question assumptions, and to correct errors is conditioned by the subconscious self, since it is the source of the difficulties that radical questioning seems to uncover, and it retains them until the conscious self happens to light on one of them. Hence, the Socratic project is a sort of self-deluding servitude to the hidden self: by convincing our conscious self that something is being accomplished by our continual exposure of unexamined assumptions, we conceal or play down the impossibility of the project and the futility of our activity. The subconscious self will never let go, no matter how many errors the conscious self corrects. Seen from this perspec-

tive, questioning leads to slavery rather than to freedom.

In the question period, my colleague Chaninah Maschler asked, “What is the obsession with freedom? Why is freedom so important that it overrides everything else?”

“It bothers me,” I replied, “to think that something else is living my life for me.”

“You should be grateful!” she shot back.

Everyone else in the room, including me, burst into laughter.

* * *

Of course, I thought that Ms. Maschler had somehow misapprehended my point, but in the days that followed, her “You should be grateful!” kept running through my mind. Soon I realized that it was a signal directing my attention to the fact that I had gotten something very wrong. And it was not long before the problem made itself known.

By assuming that the unconscious self was dominant, I had granted it autonomy in its relations with the conscious self. But surely this is a mistake. The unconscious self is evidently not wholly self-determining, since ideas surreptitiously enter it from the outside, and since the conscious self can modify it through Socratic inquiry. So neither the conscious self nor the subconscious self are independent, stable, fundamental beings. Was it possible that there could be a more fundamental self? If so, where was it, and how could I come to know it?

It turns out that there is a candidate for this more fundamental self. It is an aspect of consciousness that is sometimes called “the watcher.” Despite the mystical overtones, there is really nothing strange or extraordinary about it, even though for the most part we do not notice its activity. In order to notice it, you need to “step aside” from your thoughts and perceptions. The process for uncovering the watcher is well known in meditative traditions, and is pretty simple: Choose a quiet place

As paradoxical as this formulation may seem, it is—finally—this interior freedom of thought that is the great freedom that we have tried to force you to exercise.

Now, having said all of this, let me add a restriction: We tutors are always under the gun. We spend the better part of our waking lives in the service of this college, preparing, and preparing and then preparing again. The things we study are so difficult and so many-sided. A single page of a book may point in a dozen different directions, and we feel obligated—and it is both an intellectual and a moral obligation—to follow up each and every one of these leads. There never seems to be enough time. We always feel rushed and hardly ever feel adequate to the task. Usually we prepare right up to class-time, and almost always go to class thinking: if only we had another hour or two! But once

*Our classes work because we
have trusted you and you have
lived up to that trust.*

JON LENKOWSKI

inside the classroom something magical happens: the conversation starts and a spirit of fluency takes over where we anticipated only a sort of stuttering and hemming and hawing. And so the class goes on quite wonderfully as though it had a life and spirit of its own. And so it turns out that we were all up to the task after all. And this happens because our students have also been busy, preparing and

where you can be alone, and close your eyes. In your mind's ear, recite a line of poetry that you know well. Slow it down progressively until there are long gaps between the words. Then concentrate intently on the gaps between the words. If you do this repeatedly and with persistence, you will sooner or later notice the presence of a constantly active awareness that is always ready to take up content in the form of thoughts or perceptions, but is just as lively when no such stimuli are present. As far as I can tell, it is always the same every time I clear space for it—an empty attentiveness without distinguishing marks. Is this the independent, stable, and fundamental self that grounds the unconscious and the conscious selves?

It seems unlikely. Although it appears to have stability, it is hardly self-determining: it cannot resist being filled with content. The conscious self must strive to keep thoughts and perceptions off to the side in order for the watcher to remain in the open. This shows that the watcher is yet another self that dances with the conscious self in a continual interplay of submission and dominance, servitude and freedom.

Maybe there just isn't a fundamental self.

* * *

And yet perhaps we can learn something from the process of bringing the watcher into the open. What if the stepping aside that makes room for the watcher is the right kind of activity, but just isn't complete enough to clear the way for the fundamental self? What if we need to step aside not only from thoughts and perceptions, but also from the body, the conscious self, the subconscious self, the watcher, our memories, our various identities, and whatever else may be in our makeup—from everything that makes us ourselves? What if only something that total could open up the clearing necessary for the funda-

mental self to appear? What if only something like that could reveal to us the "something else" to which we should be grateful for living our lives for us?

Strictly speaking, such a total stepping aside is inconceivable. It would be a complete catastrophe, a turning of our backs to our very existence, a kind of self-naughting. And if an inconceivable experience of this kind were to open a clearing for the fundamental self, then it would also be a supreme paradox: how could we be gone and yet something be left over?

It seems likely that the approach to such an experience would be terrifying, amounting, as it were, to a kind of death. And indeed, in religious and mystical traditions where something like this collapse of the self is discussed, it is often treated as a death. Hence the famous dictum attributed to Mohammed: "Die before ye die."

But I wonder what the experience would look like on the other side of the collapse. Would it be like suddenly getting the punch line to a gag that had seemed utterly nonsensical beforehand?

* * *

There is an old Zen joke: A student approaches his master with the question "Master, how can I be liberated?"

"Who binds you?" the master responds.

"Why no one binds me, master."

"Then why do you want to be liberated?" the master says with just a hint of a smile.

Wouldn't it be ironic if we have been missing ourselves just because we are in our own way; if the divine comedy really is a joke—and the joke is on us; if the best way to step out of our own way is to fall out of it by slipping on the banana peel of being? Wouldn't it be funny if learning to laugh at ourselves is the real key to ultimate freedom? ❀

preparing again. Our classes work because we have trusted you and you have lived up to that trust by investing yourselves in our common enterprise.

You are not our pupils, but rather our co-workers, since we learn from you, as you learn from us. This makes you full partners in this great adventure of the Spirit that is at once the quintessential being-at-work of human freedom.

Adapted from a toast given in December 2008 to degree candidates of the Graduate Institute, Annapolis.

THE FREEDOM TO BE HERSELF

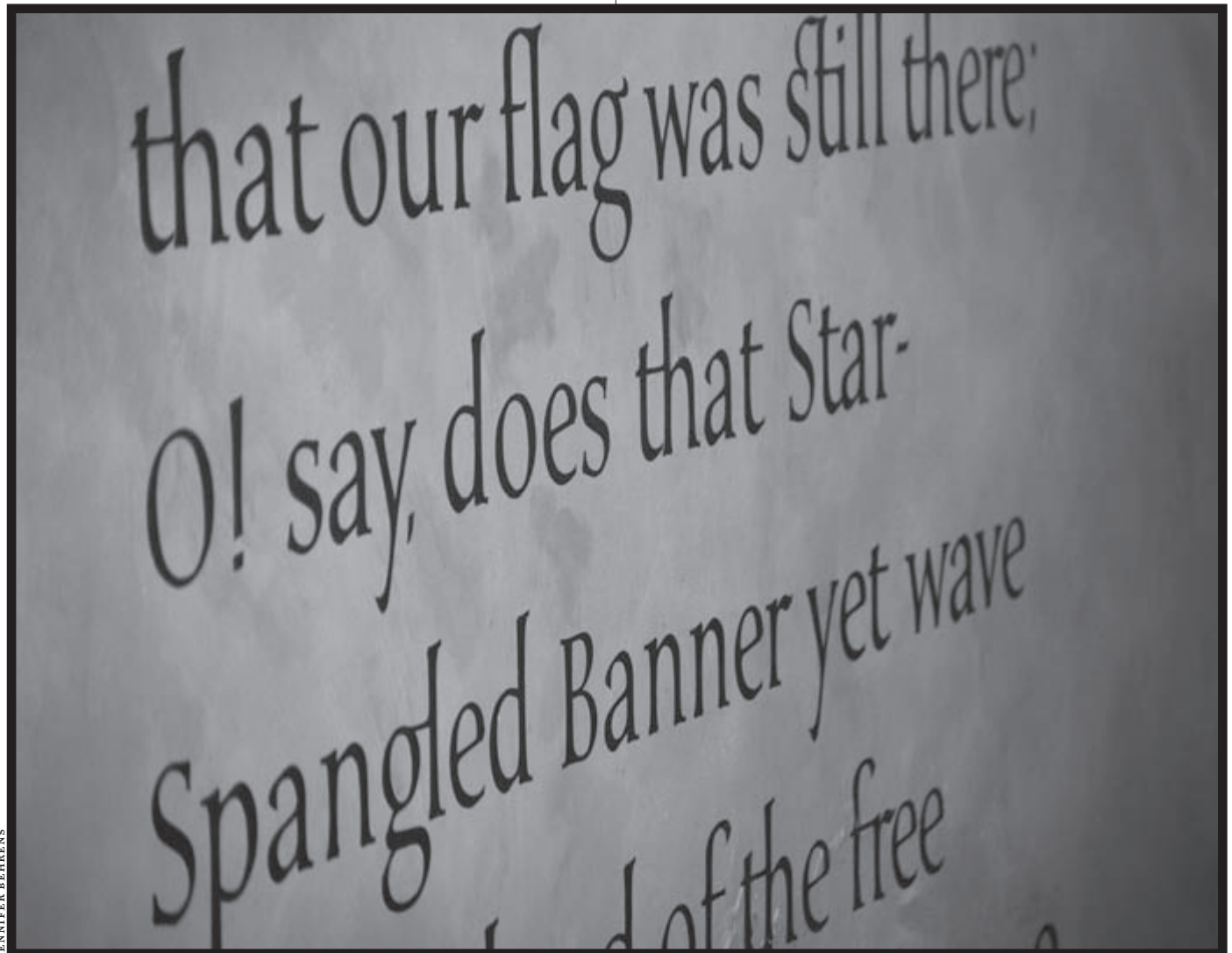
By Claudia Honeywell, tutor, Santa Fe

Thanks to the education and opportunity we have had, our most pressing concern with freedom is often with the

highly individual choices that give us the freedom to be ourselves. Yet our personal choices may be difficult for those who love us to understand or even accept.

Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* gives an interesting example of this. Peter Walsh, who has loved Clarissa for 30 years, does not understand why she rejected him and chose instead Richard Dalloway and a marriage devoid of passion.

The loss of personal freedom that Clarissa's choice entailed is emphasized throughout the novel, beginning with the famous opening line which introduces her only by her husband's name and limits her autonomy to a frivolous trip to the flower shop. Yet in spite of being defined by her husband, Clarissa has not succumbed, like Lady Bradshaw, to the "slow sinking, waterlogged, of her will into his" (100). In fact, she is more open-minded than she was 30 years ago: "She would not say of any one in the world



JENNIFER BEHRENS

now that they were this or were that... and she would not say of Peter, she would not say of herself, I am this, I am that" (8).*

Clarissa chose to marry Richard although she knew herself to have stronger feelings for Peter. As the novel progresses, her choice appears due to something unfeeling in Clarissa herself. Peter would like to condemn her for "this coldness, this woodenness", but instead he senses that it is "something very profound" and finds himself on the day of the novel "unable to get away from the thought of her... trying to explain her" (76).

Clarissa's lack of feeling is what connects her to Septimus, her parallel character in the novel. Clarissa, thinks Peter, is "cold as an icicle" (80), while Septimus, the narrator tells us repeatedly, "could not feel" (86). This quality of detachment, explored through these two otherwise unrelated characters, is the main theme of the novel. Septimus is driven to suicide because those around him are so threatened by his detachment. Clarissa avoided Septimus' fate by rejecting Peter, with whom "everything had to be shared; everything gone into" (8). By choosing to live "like a nun" with the emotionally undemanding Richard, Clarissa Dalloway has ensured that she will not be harassed for her own detachment.

Although not an artist, Clarissa thus has a certain temperamental connection to the woman of "A Room of One's Own" who needs "money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction" (4). In "A Room of One's Own," Virginia Woolf suggests that detachment is a truer artistic response than passion. Romance, she says, may have been always an illusion:

"Shall we lay the blame on the war? When the guns fired in August 1914, did the faces of men and women show so plain in each other's eyes that romance was killed?... Why, if it was an illusion, not praise the catastrophe, whatever it was, that destroyed illusion and put truth in its place?" (15).

Although Clarissa's enigmatic detachment was out of place during the pre-war summer of romance and courtship that ended with her choice to marry Richard, it is suited to the realism of the post-war aesthetic. Peter, who once believed that passion was the most important thing in life, has since learned that it is not passion but detachment that gives "the supreme flavour to existence—the power of taking hold of experience, of turning it round, slowly, in the light." (79).

Peter realizes that there is a connection between the way Clarissa's "emotions [are] all on the surface" (75) and her creativity, her "extraordinary gift of making a world of her own wherever she happened to be" (75). Peter credits Clarissa's detachment with giving her this ability to express life fully by her presence, to make a world of her own, "to sum it all up in the moment as she passed" (174). Unlike Peter and Sally Seton, who are diminished in the post-war world, the detached Clarissa retains her compelling presence.

Peter and Sally looked for fulfillment in private life, but this option was never open to Clarissa, for private life demands the feeling that she lacks. Clarissa can only express herself socially, where human relations are more abstract than intimate. She sees her party as an occasion to get at something "unreal in one way; much more real in another" (171) and her party is for her an end in itself: "it was an offering to combine, to create, but to whom? An offering for the sake of offering, perhaps" (222). Clarissa's connection is not to individuals, but to human life as a whole: "in the ebb and flow of things, here, she survived. . .she was part" (9).

Until the final lines of the novel, Peter thinks of this as Clarissa's "transcendental theory" (152), which, he acknowledges, "worked to this extent: brief, broken as their actual meetings had been... the effect of them on his life was immeasurable" (153). But in the novel's closing line, Peter finds that Clarissa's transcendence is not just theoretical, it manifests in her being, in her presence in the world. Through Peter's experience of Clarissa's presence, we learn that Clarissa has retained the rare and personal freedom of being herself.

Clarissa's power to draw Peter fully into the present is a creative power, akin to the power of the author herself. In "A Room of One's Own," Virginia Woolf discusses the difficulties that women have faced in developing their creative powers. Clarissa's strange choice to marry Richard now appears guided by her woman's intuition of how to protect and develop her own unique self. *Mrs. Dalloway* gives us a woman's insight into the source of creativity and encourages us to give up our romantic illusions and learn, with Clarissa, to "wish everybody merely to be themselves" (126).

* Line numbers are from the Harcourt edition. ❀

*Clarissa can only
express herself
socially, where
human relations
are more abstract
than intimate.*

CLAUDIA HONEYWELL

RESILIENCE

in the face of

RECESSION

BY PATRICIA DEMPSEY

Unemployment, foreclosures, bankruptcies—these are unsettling times for Americans. The experiences of these four Johnnies reflect the gravity of a prolonged recession, but they also inspire optimism. Policy analyst Jim Sorrentino (A80) helps people keep their homes. Small business owner Trudy Koch (AGI82) rides out the recession in a tiny Virginia town, helping others along the way. Mandy Dalton (A89) fearlessly ventures into a new career. And in California, where the economy is staggering, therapist Tom Horvath (A75) teaches clients to hang on even when they're losing everything.

"THIS IS ABOUT COMMUNITY"

Jim Sorrentino (A80) Offers Hope for Homeowners

Jim Sorrentino (A80) fondly remembers the movie *It's a Wonderful Life* from the days when he ran the film program at St. John's. When the Depression hits, there's a run on the bank, and George Bailey offers the cash he saved for his honeymoon trip to keep the Building & Loan and his Bedford Falls neighbors afloat. "Let's face it," says Sorrentino, a policy analyst at the Office of Housing and Urban Development. "There are no George Baileys anymore. Lenders, whether they are large or small companies, aren't interested in the homeowner. Once they originate a loan for a home mortgage, they immediately sell it and get it off their books. Once it's sold, the homeowner's ability to stay above water is no longer the lender's problem. There is no sense of community anymore."

At HUD headquarters in Washington, D.C., an Orwellian concrete building that Sorrentino and his colleagues affectionately call "10 floors of basement," the water-cooler talk includes terms like "ninja loans," "subprime," "trenches," and "foreclosure contagion." Working in a windowless office, Sorrentino is one of many anonymous, unsung heroes of the bailout, something of a modern-day George Bailey. He doesn't hand over his own cash, but Sorrentino was tapped by the Treasury Department in 2008 to help

“There are no George Baileys anymore.”

JIM SORRENTINO (A80)



MIKE GILLISPIE

JIM SORRENTINO, OUTSIDE HUD HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., IS AN UNSUNG HERO OF THE BAILOUT.

craft a plan to funnel Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) funds into the right hands. The funds provide lender incentives for foreclosure prevention and relief. “My job is public service,” says Sorrentino. “I want to help people stay in their homes. What one person pays out, another benefits from. In this way we are in this bailout together. This is about community.”

In 2008 Sorrentino was tapped to work for six months in the Treasury’s newly created Homeownership Preservation Office, assisting in the development of the Making Home Affordable program, the federal government’s attempt to address the housing part of the economic crisis. Today Sorrentino is back at HUD, continuing to work on foreclosure relief through the recently revised Hope for Homeowners program, administered by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). As a result of this program, the percentage of FHA loans is on the rise. “The FHA market share dropped dramatically over the years. Now we’re on our way to close to 20 percent. By the end of the year 30 percent of the nation’s homebuyers will be in FHA mortgages.” That’s compared to just 2 percent of homeowners in 2005-6, he points out.

In 1985, Sorrentino, just out of University of Maryland’s School of Law, was hired by HUD’s Baltimore field office as an attorney-advisor to assist homeowners facing foreclosure when Baltimore’s slumping steel industry left thousands out of work. Then he went to HUD headquarters as a policy analyst in foreclosure prevention and relief and dealt with the collapse of the shale oil industry in Colorado in the late 1980s. “Those were regional crises,” Sorrentino explains. “What we haven’t had for a long time is a collapse of national scale. I remember in the late 1980s going out to our office in Denver and driving down street after street and seeing foreclosure signs. Those folks left—they went to another city. They had a place to go. Now there is no place that is a safe haven financially. So we are all in this together.”

Sorrentino first heard the term “subprime” in Chicago over a decade ago. “In 1998 I taught a class on a program that required all FHA lenders to evaluate potential homeowners. I taught this program at the Federal Reserve Bank

“Now there is no place that’s a safe haven financially. So we’re all in this together.”

JIM SORRENTINO

of Chicago and after class, this gentlemen came up to me. He was from a medium-large mortgage lender. He didn’t exactly say we [HUD] were wasting our time, but he implied it. He said, ‘Nice presentation, but I gotta tell you the next big thing is subprime mortgages. Lenders will look at your programs and say, ‘This is too complicated. There are so many rules, consumer protections, to get an FHA-insured mortgage, so we’re going to get out of the FHA

and all its verifications.”

At that time lenders were beginning to eagerly extend subprime or “ninja” (no income, no job, no assets) loans to homeowners. “The mortgage business came up with all sorts of creative terms to aggressively market these subprime loans to homeowners. They refer to subprime loans as ‘nonprime’ or ‘fault A rating’—that is one of my favorites. One lender, Countrywide, called their program Whole Spectrum. No credit? No problem. We’re Whole Spectrum, for everyone, like a big happy family. Thus, the magic of mortgage-backed securities took flight. The lender could sell the loan in a package very quickly and be done with it. When the loans were off their books, it was not their problem.”

Investment banks and hedge funds bought mortgage-backed securities to sell to investors. “Depending on the amount of risk involved they would package these things into ‘trenches’—pronounced “tra-ah-h-nches.” They loved to use the fancy French terminology,” explains Sorrentino. “This was all part of the marketing hype, the sales seduction.”

The lure of easy money attracted not just unsophisticated borrowers, but highly educated, savvy borrowers who thought “their property would appreciate until the end of time,” says Sorrentino. “People were getting fairly complex loans, an adjustable rate tied to the London Libor rate, terms many of us have never heard of. How is that person, even a highly educated person, supposed to really understand what kind of obligation he or she has signed?” By contrast, Sorrentino has kept a tight rein on his own finances and only refinanced his home once in the last seven years. “We only took out enough to cover the expenses of adopting our children,” he says, “and just last

month we refinanced a second time, for home renovations.”

For those like Sorrentino, who have managed their finances conservatively, shelling out tax dollars for TARP bailout funds is a tough pill to swallow. He understands why people who live within their means angrily wonder why their tax dollars should help those who didn't. “My answer is this is a national crisis,” he says. “Besides, how many foreclosed homes do you want on your street lowering your property values? In places like Detroit there is something we call ‘foreclosure contagion.’ Guys pull up, kick down the door, and remove all the copper pipes from foreclosed home after home. The values deflate even further. We need to all care. We need to pull together to get through.”

Though he primarily deals with foreclosure policy, in some cases borrowers track Sorrentino down. Sometimes, they're referred to him after they've complained to their congressman, senator, or even the White House about the lenders' terms for their restructured loans. If a case looks reasonable, it may land on his desk, and Sorrentino reviews the case with the loan servicer, sees if the lender violated policy, and gets the HUD field office involved to offer housing counsel to the borrower. “I try as much as possible not to be a go-between between borrower and lender—that's not my job, but I've done it on many occasions. I have held onto thank-you letters from borrowers that I have helped out. I hope that as the years went on they managed to get their lives straightened out. I hope I helped them in some way with that.”

Now that the percentage of FHA loans is increasing, Sorrentino is home on weekends, no longer putting in extra hours. This leaves him more time to spend with his wife, his 6-year-old daughter and 6-month-old son. It's a



WHILE THE RECESSION MEANS SLOW SALES AT HER QUILT SHOP, TRUDY KOCH IS DEVOTING TIME TO MAKING QUILTS FOR GOOD CAUSES.

sad irony that the Sorrentinos were able to adopt their son because the child's mother, who lives in Maryland, could not afford to raise him. In that way, Sorrentino says, “Our baby was a gift of the recession.”

QUILTS MADE WITH LOVE

Trudy Koch (AGI85) Fosters Goodwill

Times are threadbare in Tappahannock, Virginia, a sleepy colonial town along the Rappahannock River. “There are now three ‘cash-to-you’ places in town. This is a bad sign,” says quilt shop owner Trudy Koch (AGI85). “Some weeks I sell not even a yard of fabric.” While sales of fabric and notions at her downtown shop, Water & Queen, have slowed, Koch is rich in time, friends, and energy. The long tables in her brightly lit shop in a rambling colonial house are often filled with customers, neighbors, and friends, who quilt and talk while listening to the radio. Water &

Queen is more than a gathering spot; it's a stage for a recession trend Koch calls a return to service. "Some things in this depression, and people sense it, are important. These are the things that do not cost money—kindness and free energy. It's not about turning a buck. It's about goodwill and service."

Koch, who settled here after retiring from teaching, organizes fellow quilters to create "Quilts of Valor," hand-stitched works of art, often in red-white-and-blue and stars-and-stripes motifs, for injured vets of the Iraqi war. "These are soldiers who are severely mutilated, legs blown off, limbs severed. How good it must feel to drape beautiful colors over these injuries, whether in a wheelchair, or over a bed, they can savor the bright, cheery colors." Koch's group, called the Sting Ray Quilters, is part of a larger national movement and ships the quilts to vets in regional hospitals as well as those across the country and overseas. "Every now and then we get a thank-you letter, but that isn't why I make them," says Koch. "Down in the corner of mine I embroider 'God, bless this American soldier' because I feel so deeply for the tragedies of war and how it affects these strong young people. These quilts are made with love."

Koch also creates brightly colored quilts—block square, diamond, and Baltimore album patterns, and fancy appliqués—for those in need who live closer to home. She and fellow quilters, a cross-section from various church denominations in Rappahannock County, reach out to the homeless and others in county shelters and rehab centers. The program is called "Project in So Much," a reference to a Bible verse: "... for what I do unto brothers that you do unto me in so much. . . ." "I donate fabric and we make quilts in my shop for the homeless in shelters for battered women, lap robes for elderly in wheelchairs at rehab centers, and even tote bags lined with cheery fabric for the handicapped." Her group is called "The Menders," says Koch, because "we hope we mend hearts and lives as well as fabric."

Koch is no stranger to resiliency and survival. About 30 years ago, then a public school teacher in Montgomery County, Maryland, she wrote a letter to the Graduate Institute asking for a scholarship.

"The director was so helpful. St. John's changed my life," she says. She attended during summers and cooked family-style dinners for fellow GIs to pay for gas for the drive to and from her home in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she raised six children as a single mother. "Money was so tight that during the week when I was in Annapolis, I cooked big dinners and charged \$3 a person," she says. "I would write the menu on a brown paper bag—things like fried chicken, corn on the cob, cornbread—and post it. We'd eat at the house where I was staying. The sense of community was wonderful."

Koch creates a sense of community wherever she lives. Even though she's a "come-here" in Tappahannock, she's gained acceptance in a town sometimes wary of outsiders. "When strangers walk in the shop I say, 'Come visit. Let's put on a pot of tea and talk.' You meet the most wonderful people. They tell me their life stories. Some come to quilt. I don't charge people anything to use the space. Eventually they will buy some fabric."

THE FEARS OF A CLOWN

Mandy Dalton (A89) Shifts from Mime to New Media

When people cut back on expenses, apparently clowns are among the first to go. That's what Mandy Dalton (A89), known as "Mandy the Clown," was facing when the economy sank. Like Americans in all walks of life she has had to reinvent herself to survive.

"Around 9-11, back in 2001, the bottom dropped out of the event market in this area. That's how I was making most of my money," says Dalton. "During the next six months special events went into a tailspin. Municipal functions, grand openings, corporate events weren't happening. People didn't feel like celebrating. Then there was the sniper scare in Washington, D.C., and the anthrax threats, schools were shutting down. People had the jitters." Even the buildup to Iraq slashed her bookings says Dalton, who had numerous clients at Fort Meade, an army base in Maryland. "Not many people want to have a party when their loved ones are going to war."

Just as things were starting to pick up

*"Not many people
want to have a party
when their loved ones
are going to war."*

MANDY DALTON

again, the recession “knocked my business out of the water,” says Dalton. This past February, she didn’t have a single booking. And one of her corporate clients who owed her money declared bankruptcy. “By the time I would have gone to New York and attended the bankruptcy proceedings to try and collect it, I would have gotten pennies on the dollar. Besides, can you imagine the judge in bankruptcy court, what he or she would have to say about a fee for a clown?”

Dalton, who attended professional clown school for two years before attending St John’s, has spent decades cultivating what she calls her clown personae. “There is no pretense. You pull something out of yourself and reveal it. My persona is an overgrown 5-year-old. I’m a rag doll on Red Bull—with red hair.” She’s feisty and resilient, much like Pippi Longstocking, but last winter when she was laid up with a back injury, Dalton hit bottom. “I was flat on my back for three days. Clowning is very physical work. I juggle, I walk on stilts, I goof around a lot and fall a lot. My knees can’t take the stilts anymore, and my back is in bad shape after falling for more than 20 years. My doctor wants me to stop.”

Finally, Dalton faced the fact that she had to find another way to make a living. Since then she has transitioned her flair for performance, stunts and stilts into another precarious profession: journalism and its cutting edge of new media.

Dalton’s bright red hair stands out on the United Press International (UPI)

website, where her footage as a news videographer conducting man-on-the-street interviews appears in the “Issue of the Day” feature. “I’ve always been a news junkie and have had a long interest in video—the production, writing, editing—since high school. I also still love the ability for analysis that I cultivated at St. John’s.” Dalton sought mentoring from a friend who is a production editor at ABC News and informally worked as his personal editing assistant. Then last fall she landed her part-time internship with UPI. “I tell people I’m transitioning right now. At 43 looking for a new line of work means I’ve been facing a lot of unspoken age discrimination. But given the recession and the fact that so many people are looking to career shift, this has been a good time to transition.”

Being a news and event videographer adds another dimension to her repertoire as professional clown, drama instructor, and mentor to youth. “The best part is how



WHEN BOOKINGS FOR “MANDY THE CLOWN” BEGAN DROPPING OFF, MANDY DALTON LOOKED TO HER TALENTS FOR A NEW CAREER PLAN.

clowning and news videography inform each other. They feed one another in a natural way.” For instance when Dalton conducts interviews for UPI, she poses questions that her producer has written on a subject that is breaking headline news. Dalton stops some 50-75 people a day to ask them for 30 seconds of their time to comment on these issues. Her producers may write the questions, but it’s up to Dalton to get people to open up. “Most people walk fast, avoid eye contact, talk on their cell phones, but I have this gesture from my clown training—I keep my mike pointed down and put my hand over my heart. I don’t know scientifically why it works, but it does. People stop and talk to me. From my years of clowning I’m more sensitive and I find this gesture helps. People see my sincerity. I fear

becoming robotic, too aggressive, chasing the bouncing silver ball of news.”

Some days as a UPI videographer are especially compelling. “It involves writing, creating, observing, listening, storytelling—all the things I love. The Johnnie in me likes to go out and start a conversation with people about random subjects. When [Justice David] Souter was retiring from the Supreme Court, we jumped on it to find out what qualities people would want to see in a Supreme Court Justice. A woman rushed out of Starbucks and said to me, ‘I have to talk to you about this.’”

In the future Dalton wants to improvise and create her own questions for her video interviews. “Money is fascinating, especially in a recession. What is the meaning of money ultimately? Have you done any bartering to save money? I’d like to ease into a conversation about money. People want to know how I fare as a clown in the recession. What about the other side? I want to know how they are dealing with money.” She even has already found some people who want to laugh about money. “They are laughing through their tears about money, but who knows, the desire to laugh means that my clowning business might pick up again.”

A LIFELINE IN TIMES OF STRESS

Tom Horvath (A75) Knows How to Listen

Therapist Tom Horvath sees the emotional toll the recession is taking on his clients who come to him for treatment at Practical Recovery in La Jolla, California. One of his clients just lost her home and is coping with



TOM HORVATH'S CLIENTS ARE STRUGGLING THROUGH CALIFORNIA'S HARD TIMES.

anger and doubt as she's forced to make financial decisions. She and her husband have moved into a rental property, and her mother is paying for the treatment to help them get through their crisis. "She wants to come through this with some sense of honor," Horvath says. "The bank keeps squeezing her and her husband. . . pressuring them to sign a \$50,000 note to avoid foreclosure and ruining their credit rating. Even though her husband is a construction worker and they are breaking even right now, they won't be able to keep up with those payments. She feels it is dishonest to sign the note, since she knows they cannot afford it."

Horvath can empathize with the stress of financial loss. Horvath, who has a doctorate from the California School of Professional Psychology, founded his addiction treatment center, Practical Recovery, in San Diego in 1985. Three years ago, when San Diego's economy took a nosedive, his business was hard hit. "It was a disaster," says Horvath, "Spending is more discretionary here so we felt the recession sooner than the rest of the country. Discretionary spending, which includes counseling, fell dramatically." In 2006, Horvath laid off four people. "By 2007, I had to put my own money into the practice to keep it afloat, and I took no salary for a year," he says.

Horvath hired three new employees this spring, and his business is strong, thanks to a new Internet marketing strategy. As a small provider in a big industry, Horvath had difficulty competing with larger, well-known treatment centers such as the Betty Ford Center. In May 2008, he hired a consultant to help build an online presence, and the investment paid off. "Since September 2009, we typically rank near the top in searches for addiction counseling," Horvath says. "While revenue was down 20 percent three years ago, now it's up 20 percent."

With his business on solid ground, Horvath can focus on what he does best: counseling clients who struggle with addiction. He has clients from the San Diego area and from around the world who come to his center, which offers both inpatient and outpatient treatment. Horvath says Practical Recovery offers "an empowering alternative" to the traditional view of addiction as disease and the 12-step program

"By 2007, I had to put my own money into the practice to keep it afloat, and I took no salary for a year."

TOM HORVATH

as treatment. His clients include the affluent, as well as those who struggle economically and attend free therapy sessions offered through Practical Recovery's community program. Both groups experience anger and grief related to their economic woes, though on different scales. "We've had clients come in who are under stress because they've lost a lot of money," says Horvath. "Their portfolios are not what they used to be."

As a psychologist, Horvath has his pulse on crisis-related stress. As the author of the book, *Sex, Drugs, Gambling and Chocolate: A Workbook for Overcoming Addictions*, he understands how human beings crave comfort during hard times. "During Hurricane Katrina, a time of catastrophe and crisis, there was an increase in substance problems. It is a natural response," says Horvath. "I have noticed statistics that show that in the last year since the recession, alcohol sales [nationwide] are up by 10 percent, romance novels have seen a 33 percent increase in sales. This is a kind of female pornography; women escape into a wonderful relationship in these novels. Men tend to steer towards Internet porn in times of stress. The economy dipping is a factor that is out of one's control, so that creates a stress. And escape is a time-honored way to deal with stress."

In his work Horvath draws on the Johnnie approach to conversation and listening. As part of SMART Recovery, an organization he helped to establish and led as president from 1995-2008, Horvath occasionally leads a SMART Recovery meeting, one of more than 400 recovery discussion groups held weekly around the world. "There is a handbook and like a math tutorial, we work through problems," Horvath says. "The discussion focuses on rational analysis of thoughts, feelings, and situations. This is a way to give back, especially to those who cannot afford treatment. When I'm leading one of these these groups, or training the volunteer facilitators, I feel very much like a Johnnie." ❖

THE NEWTON WARS AND THE BEGINNING OF THE FRENCH ENLIGHTENMENT

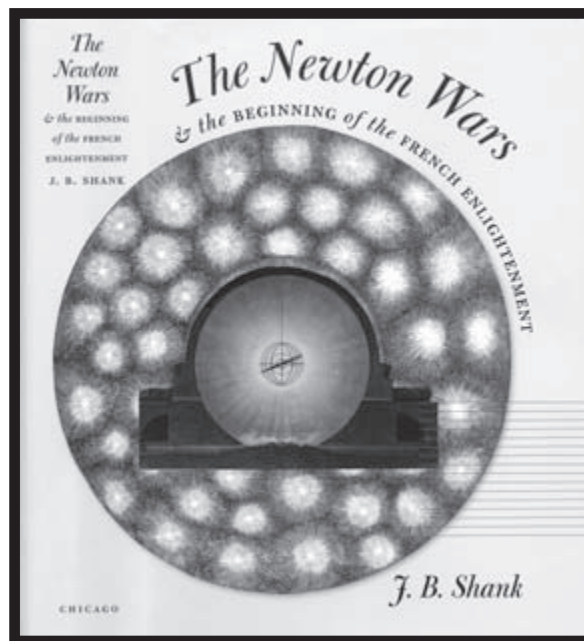
J.B. Shank (AGI92)
University of Chicago Press (2008)

By CURTIS WILSON (HA83)

J.B. Shank's *The Newton Wars and the Beginning of the French Enlightenment* is an account of changing attitudes and controversies among French thinkers, from the 1690s through the 1750s, regarding the scientific and presumptive moral and metaphysical import of Newton's *Principia*. From the start, French reviewers praised Newton's mathematical achievement in this book but complained of his failure to explain how bodies could attract one another gravitationally over distances through empty space. The Cartesian vortex theory, which assumed transmission of force by contact of solid bodies, seemed more rational. (Truth to tell, "solidity" and "contact" are as problematic as action at a distance.) Other objections, moralistic and metaphysical, were raised later. Was not the metaphysics implicit in Newton's book, Leibniz asked Samuel Clarke in 1716, conducive to materialism, atheism, and immorality? (See *The Leibniz-Clarke Correspondence*.) At times the controversy turned ugly.

Shank follows the twists and turns of this discussion in detail. He focuses on the politics and sociology of it: the "self-fashioning" whereby individual players in the field sought to create a persona that could survive and prosper amidst controversy and the politics of a stratified society. For 42 years, from 1697 to 1739, the 'perpetual secretary' of the Académie des Sciences was Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle, a gentleman of the Cartesian persuasion. He was succeeded, for still a few more years, by another gentleman of the same persuasion, Dortous de Mairan. For these gentlemen, the correct posture was that of the *honnête homme*, fair-minded, decent, ready to compromise, 'rational.' The ultimate power over the Académie, to be sure, rested with the King's minister, for the Académie was state-funded, the creature of the monarchy.

Yet by 1758, according to d'Alembert, a younger member of the Académie, the



EXCERPT:

On May 28, 1728, a little-known member of the Paris Academy of Sciences rose before the assembly to deliver a paper on celestial mechanics. The academician was Joseph Privat de Molières, and in the spring of 1728, although fifty-two years old, Privat de Molières was still struggling to establish his reputation as a savant. He began his career as an Oratorian priest and teacher, studying mathematics with Father Reyneau at Angers in the 1690s and then serving as a priest and professor of mathematics at the Oratorian colleges of Saumur, Juilly, and Soisson from 1699 to 1704. He had come to both the Oratory and mathematics through a devotion to the writings of Nicolas de Malebranche, and in this way his intellectual trajectory mirrored that of many others in France in the same period.

J.B. SHANK, *THE NEWTON WARS*.

Cartesian theory of vortices was a dead duck. How had it happened? Shank portrays the change as the result of the self-fashionings and shrewd interventions of two men, Pierre-Louis Moreau de Maupertuis, working from within the Académie des Sciences, and the *enfant terrible* Voltaire, hurling his witty barbs from the safe distance of Cirey, the home of his learned Newtonian mistress, the

marquise du Châtelet. The important result, in Shank's view, was the emergence of a new public persona, the philosophe, free-thinking, libertine, Newtonian, instigator and agent of Enlightenment.

Unquestionably, it is a leitmotif in a highly publicized drama. Is it the whole story? Certain scientific developments, I would urge, can have had an important role in the triumph of the Newtonian program. In 1749 Clairaut showed that the motion of the Moon's apse could be derived from Newton's theory, contrary to earlier failed attempts, his own and those of other mathematicians. In 1749 d'Alembert published his *Recherches sur la Précession des Equinoxes*, showing Newton's attempted derivation of the precession (in Prop. 39 of Book III of the *Principia*) to be fatally flawed. But d'Alembert then went

on to show that both the precession and the nutation (an effect established empirically by James Bradley in 1748) were exact consequences of Newton's theory. Newton's failure had been due to his lack of a correct dynamics for rotational motion, which had been responsible as well for his failed disproof of the Cartesian vortex theory of planetary motion. Also in 1749 was published Euler's *Recherches sur la question des inégalités du mouvement de Saturne et de Jupiter*. Here Euler introduced trigonometric series, which made it possible for the first time to compute the mutual perturbations of planets systematically and exactly. Newton had had no way of computing these effects. A reasonably accurate table of the perturbations in the Earth's motion due to planetary perturbation became available in 1758 in Lacaille's *Tabulae Solares*. The Earth was the platform from which astronomical observations had to be made, and errors in its position were unavoidably projected into all celestial observations.

In sum, by the 1750s a Newtonian program to account for planetary and lunar motions precisely was an up-and-going enterprise, and success could be reasonably hoped for, independent of disputed metaphysical questions. In this race the Cartesian vortex theory was not yet out of the starting-gate. Where to put one's bets was a no-brainer. ❖



CELEBRATING JOHNNIE POETS

TRUST

Liz Waldner (A83)
Cleveland State Poetry Center, 2008

Our senses entrust to us the world that the heart minds, and so gives us a point of view, the “sight we hope to see through (to) / Always.” Deeply attentive to form and music, each of Liz Waldner’s poems, written between the early eighties and mid-nineties, serves as a trust for the mending of that sense of separateness. Ever the stranger in yet another strange place—in subway and orchard, ER and library, cemetery and classroom—they ask: “What is the shape?” of the story. “Who is mindful of me?” and sometimes answer: “Thank you, I have enjoyed / imagining all this.”

Trust won the Cleveland State Poetry Center’s Open Book Competition in 2008. Born in Cleveland, Waldner grew up in rural Mississippi and worked in various factory, janitorial, botanical, and museum jobs before graduating from St. John’s. She later earned an MFA at the University of Iowa’s Writers Workshop. She wrote for 18 years before publishing the first of her six previous books, which have won such awards as the Iowa Poetry Prize, the

Beatrice Hawley Award, and the Academy of American Poets’ James Laughlin Prize.

Editor’s note: see the inside back cover of *The College* for one of Waldner’s recent poems.

EACH MONTH I SING

L. Luis Lopez (SFGI69)
Farolito Press, 2008

Longino Lopez’ *Each Month I Sing* is a collection of poems inspired by the months of the year, capturing the poet’s impressions, observations, and experiences of each month. The book won The American Book Award, presented by the Before Columbus Foundation at Berkeley, which honors works that represent multicultural diversity in American literature. The Colorado Independent Publishers Association also honored the work with an EVVY first-place award for poetry.

Lopez, in his 44th year of teaching, is currently at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colorado, where he has, until recently, served as director of the Academic Honors Program. He received two National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships, one to study lyric poetry with Helen Vendler at Harvard, and a second to study the literature of innocent suffering with Duke University’s Terrence Tilley.

Lopez has published two other volumes of poetry, *Musings of a Barrio Sack Boy* and *A Painting of Sand*.



POET L.S. KLATT, AUTHOR OF *INTERLOPER*.

INTERLOPER

L.S. Klatt (AGI98)
University of Massachusetts Press, 2008

Lewis Skillman Klatt teaches literature and creative writing at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His poems have appeared in *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Turnrow*, the *Southeast Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Phoebe*, and *Five Fingers Review*. He also published a new essay on the poetry of Walt Whitman in the *Southern Review*.

In 2008, Klatt was named the winner of the University of Massachusetts Press’ Juniper Prize, for which he was a finalist twice before. The prize included publication of his manuscript, *Interloper*. The poems in this volume unsettle frontiers between disparate worlds so that the imagination is given room to roam: pears become guitars, racks of ribs are presented as steamboats, and helicopters transmute into diesel seraphs. The poetry aspires acrobatically in the manner of prayers and pilots, but adventure throughout the book is viewed as precarious and the will to conquest leads to apocalypse and ruin. The interloper wanders through crime scenes and crash sites as he glosses the landscape—at home and not at home with the America of yesterday and tomorrow. In symbols that scat and ricochet, the interloper scores a new song, one that composes—and decomposes—on the page. ❀

LISTENING TO THE UNKNOWN

Michelle Vest (SF90)

BY DEBORAH SPIEGELMAN

"They line up. First the men, then the women, then the children. My first job? Fell in my lap. I was out driving around looking to dig a grave on the outskirts of my family's ranch. It's that way, you know. It's a country unto itself out there. We own miles not just acres. Have for more than six generations. Funny, it was Mexico then . . . it's Arizona now."

So begins the dramatic monologue written and performed by Michelle Vest (SF90), part of her one-woman play, *Sole Survivors: Journey Across Borders*. The speaker is Maria, the adult daughter of an Arizona rancher who starts out with altruistic intentions toward the migrants she encounters on her land but eventually becomes a greedy, hardened "coyote."

Based on extensive interviews with documented and undocumented Southwestern migrant workers, the play is a stirring presentation of the experiences of immigrants who risk everything for a chance at a better life in the United States. "I wanted to look beneath the usual stereotypes and assumptions and explore the more enlivening truths that exist there," Vest explains.

Inspired also by Woody Guthrie's "Deportee (Plane Wreck at Los Gatos)," Vest presents four characters: the coyote Maria, and three immigrants: Rosa, Jesus, and Juan. Though their stories are contemporary, the characters are named for the four deportees killed in the 1949 New Mexico plane crash Guthrie memorialized. Rosa, who grew up in a small Mexican village, left her son behind to cross the border illegally in search of work. Juan, also undocumented, tells of how he came to accidentally kill a man who was trying to take his job. Once a professor in San Salvador, Jesus was forced to flee his country during the civil war of the 1980s. He left his family behind to seek political asylum in the U.S., reuniting with them 11 years later.

A mariachi band opens the play with a traditional song about immigration and remains on stage throughout as a Southwestern-inspired version of a Greek chorus. Vest moves to stage right to transition from



IN HER PLAY *SOLE SURVIVORS*, MICHELLE VEST WENT BEYOND STEREOTYPES TO PORTRAY THE EXPERIENCES OF MIGRANT WORKS IN AMERICA.

one character to another, changing her shoes or shirt, or putting on a hat—all part of the drama. "A lot of people are mesmerized by this," Vest says.

The shoes symbolize the many connotations of the word sole, as an allusion to the characters' footsteps across the border and to the notion that the ordeal of migration is a test of individual determinism. The play on words (sole, soul) also underscores Vest's desire to draw from these stories the common threads of humanity—love for one's family, hopes and dreams, resiliency, loss—that unite people of different backgrounds and experiences.

Since debuting her show in Santa Fe in October 2007, Vest has performed in D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City. After a sold-out show last year in New York, *Sole Survivors* returned to New York in June for a limited run at Stage Left Studio, followed by performances in Albuquerque.

Born in Annapolis and raised just two blocks from the St. John's campus, Vest met Johnnies at her family's downtown restaurant and in the college library, her preferred homework spot. An early enthusiast of the classics, she developed an aptitude for languages and fascination for other cultures. After a year at Florida State,

she enrolled at St. John's in Santa Fe.

"St. John's just happened to be what I needed," Vest says. "To be with a group of students who shared a similar love [for learning] changed my whole life scholastically. I never knew that education could be so well-rounded and that I could love every aspect of it."

After graduation, Vest attended the Cleveland Institute of Arts' international program in Florence to study painting. She moved to San Francisco to pursue photography and later worked as a documentary photographer at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. Since returning to Santa Fe in 1997, Vest has shown her photographs in a number of galleries around town, and her paintings were included in the 2005 New Mexico Women in the Arts Juried Show at the Museum of Fine Arts.

Vest found her way to performance via dance. Physical movement, she speculates, triggered talking, which led to acting. Keen on developing a one-person show, Vest plunged into a yearlong workshop taught by Tanya Taylor Rubinstein, artistic director of Project Life Stories (and now the director of her show). One assignment—to deliver a short monologue based on an interview—changed Vest's life. Talking with her housekeeper, a native of Mexico, Vest was struck by both the differences and commonalities of their lives.

Motivated by the workshop's enthusiastic response to her monologue, Vest began collecting more stories, including that of a man she had known while working in a San Francisco café. He served as inspiration for her character Jesus. The former professor was now the cleaning person, while she, a college graduate, was "taking money and selling muffins."

Her experience in the Program, with its emphasis on dialogue and careful listening, greatly influenced the spirit of *Sole Survivors*, says Vest. St. John's "was a safe place to admit that you didn't know something, and also to affirm the importance of wanting to know." If her play is part quest for knowledge, she has found a grateful audience. "They tell me that I did a great service [by telling these stories]," Vest says. "They are listening." ❖

1932

HENRY SHRYOCK, JR., is a member of the Cosmos Club of Washington, the Wilderness Society, the Census Alumni Association, Nature Conservancy, Population Connection, So Others May Eat (SOME), and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

1937

A retired dental surgeon, **HAROLD BROOKS** writes that he and his wife, Norma, will be married for 72 years on Nov. 26, 2009. They live in sunny Sebastian, Fla., and are in good health.

1942

ERNEST HEINMULLER has published a new book, *A Different Focus*. It's available at the college bookstore, on Amazon.com, or in the library. The poems are from 1938-2008, including some haikus he wrote his freshman year.

1943

"How nice to see the names of so many members of the classes of 1940 through 1944 in the capital campaign report," writes **MARTIN ANDREWS**. "They evoke vivid and happy memories. In recent years, the enchantment of St. John's has even expanded for me by the good fortune of meeting and getting to know the incomparable Eva Brann."

BURTON ARMSTRONG has been living in Charlottesville, Va., since 1982. He recently became a great-grandparent to Henry Burton Alt, age 1.

1945

EDWARD MULLINIX reports: "In recent months, I have been heavily involved as a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers Task Force on Discovery, which has been working with the University of Denver's Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal system on a project seeking reforms to reduce the out-of-control cost of civil litigation in the United States. Our final report, released to the public on March 11, 2009, puts out a series of proposed principles for nationwide discussion—built around the most significant principle, which calls for radical reduction of the pretrial discovery procedures currently permissible. The report has been the subject of widespread publicity in the general media and in law-related media."

"For the old bod I do tai chi (after a fashion) and walk (slowly). For the rapidly disappearing gray cells, I write stuff for judges (incredibly technical and boring), play mediocre bridge, and read, most recently *Crime and Punishment* with great pleasure and *American Pastoral* with lesser pleasure. We travel lazily, mainly on cruise ships, today's best travel deal. Am in the hands of doctors literally from head to toe, but hey, if I weren't, I probably wouldn't be writing this. Just the same, old age should happen to younger people," writes **GEORGE BRUNN**.

1946

PETER WEISS, in his capacity as president of the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, addressed the Nonproliferation Treaty Conference at the United Nations on May 5 and gave a

lecture on "The Legal Obligation for Nuclear and General Disarmament" at a Peace Through Law Conference in Berlin on June 26. "I have also decided to try my mind at topical poetry in my retirement," says Weiss:

If you're feeling kind of blue/But not unhappy through and through/Is what you're having a depression/Or, you hope, just a recession?

1950

THOMAS MEYERS writes: "I have become one of those old men I used to see at Homecoming when I was a St. John's freshman. I recall meeting a very nice gentleman who had been graduated from St. John's when I was but 6 years old. Wow! I may not be as gentlemanly as he, but I have made it to 87 years. And counting!"

1955

HAROLD BAUER has taken his life's activities beyond the world of music, the world in which he has spent most of the past 50 years. Painting (mostly oils) has become a major area of concentration. He regularly takes classes at the Evanston Art Center in Illinois, where in addition to being a student, he also serves as president of the Board of Trustees. He also has become an involved Rotarian. He was first attracted to the Evanston morning club by their extensive involvement in international humanitarian outreach and now will become the chair of that committee. He felt a strong need to "do something" for the severely needy of the world, and this seemed to offer a window into that possibility. He's

wondering if the 55th anniversary year is going to bring classmates back to Annapolis in 2010.

JOHN GORDON retired from film and video production in 1997 and is happily engaged in designing landscapes and gardens in Maryland. Most recently back to school in the landscape architecture program at the University of Maryland, John has taught landscape design at the USDA graduate school for two years. Having previously traveled widely as a documentary film cameraman, John and his wife, Jenny, will be in Italy this summer on a tour led by a landscape architect. "Anyone need a Renaissance parterre garden designed?" he asks.

1957

MARCIA DEL PLAIN REFF reports that she and her husband, Martin, are continuing to enjoy life in Naples, Fla. Marcia is in her third year as president of the Naples Orchestra and Chorus. She was playing the violin in the orchestra but taught herself to play the viola and made the switch last season. Marcia also enjoys teaching bridge classes at the local duplicate club. Her son, **MICHAEL O'MAHONY** (A77) also lives in Naples. The Reffs enjoyed a visit in May to Annapolis to visit sister **PAULA DEL PLAIN BINDER** (class of 1959).

1959

ROBERTO SALINAS PRICE writes with an update and some Homeric musings: "A new life begins for me with the loss of my friend, mistress, wife, of more than 50 years, but, in the meantime, before we meet yet again forever, I continue with my Homeric researches. I am

currently writing 'Homer, from Scholion to Myth,' in which I hope to show how 'myth'—nonsense data about this or that—developed from a lack of tutorial guidance in Homeric thinking."

1960

JOHN LANE is doing some community work in retirement. He is the vice president of the Cascades Homeowner's Association, with 6,500 households, the largest HOA in Northern Virginia. He is vice chairman of the Loudon County Board of Equalization, which hears taxpayer appeals on assessment. He has acquired a real estate license and is a practicing realtor in Great Falls, Va. "Retirement has turned out to be a short time," he says. "Life is good."

PETER RUEL writes with hopes to attend the 50th reunion of his class. He also noted that the University of Chicago held a "spring weekend" devoted to Darwin: "How could we pass that up? Darwin, Freud, and Einstein: three fascinating authors for the senior year at St. John's."

1961

As part of a featured exchange titled "Life Without Lawyers" in its May 14, 2009 issue, *The New York Review of Books* published a letter by **HARRISON SHEPPARD**. Sheppard's letter, criticizing the book of that name by Philip K. Howard and its review by Anthony Lewis in the publication's April 9, 2009, argued that both the book and the review failed to identify the root cause of abuses in American legal education and practice attributable to the dominance of an adversarial "war-making" model as opposed to a "problem-solving, peace-

AHEAD OF THE PACK

CARL HAMMEN (class of 1944) has been running in races all over the country. "There was a big runners' weekend in Tampa, Feb. 28 to March 1, the Gasparilla distance classic, with thousands of runners from all over the U.S.," he writes. In the 5k race, Carl won the M85-89 division, and his wife, Deborah Kazor, finished twelfth in the F55-59, which had 276 women. This summer, they were busy training for the National Senior Games this August in Palo Alto, Calif. ✻



making model" of the kind Yale Law school Dean Anthony Kronman identifies as the "lawyer-statesman ideal." Shepard maintains his solo civil law practice in San Francisco while continuing his nonfiction writing and editing. His last published book was *Too Much for Our Own Good: The Consumeritis Epidemic*. He is now editing the manuscript of a distinguished physician concerning the need to separate the teachings of dogmatic religion from reasonable moral judgments, and a second manuscript relating to the early career of Elvis Presley, written by a woman who, as a teenager, had dated Presley.

1962

JERRY BRENNIG reports: "I continue to work at the Department of State, now 12 years since I retired from the Foreign Service. The long commuting time is definitely a downside, and I would like to give more time to my garden, but I work in the bureau that covers Pakistan and Afghanistan (and India, too). There is no lack of

daily stimulation and the satisfaction of being involved with central concerns of our country."

1963

"After more than 30 years in advertising, I am now retired and enjoying as many weeks on Cape Cod as the weather will allow," writes **JED STAMPLEMAN**. "I am also participating in the monthly seminars held by the New York alumni chapter. I went through a bout of cancer but I am doing fine, and the doctors are happy with my recovery. Best to all at St. John's."

WILL DAVIS, retired from his longtime work as chairman of the Board of the Berklee College of Music, continues working for Credit Suisse from his office in Holderness, N.H., where he and **JESSICA HOFFMANN DAVIS** (class of 1965) now live most of the time. Jessica retired from Harvard in 2004 to do more writing and has completed three books so far. They enjoy visits from their three sons and their wives and their three sons' three sons.

1965

TOM EATON is retired at age 67. He has served as class captain and an alumni interviewer for a number of years. Additionally, he set up a small library fund in his mother's name in Santa Fe and was able to persuade three of his students to attend St. John's.

In the "better late than never" category, **MICHAEL WOOLSEY** writes: "Forty-four years removed from St. John's and five years into retirement, I received this May a Master of Liberal Studies degree from the University of Minnesota. My thesis title is "The Limits of Liberalism: A Study of Liberal Disillusionment in the Twentieth Century." The thesis relies heavily on the political thought of former tutor Leo Strauss and former deans Scott Buchanan and Jacob Klein."

1968

"At the prompting of my children and grandchildren, I've entered the brave new world of Facebook," confesses **SARAH FISHER** (A). "It's fun, but I wonder if I can keep up? Time for reflection and consideration doesn't seem to be part of the picture."

DEAN HANNOTTE (A) has created a new website devoted to the 20th-century philosopher Paul Rosenfels. It makes available for free all of Rosenfels' writings as well as numerous contributions from his many students around the world. Visit the Paul Rosenfels Community at www.rosenfels.org.

ANTIGONE PHALARES (SF) reports that the Sacramento-area seminar group has received a most welcome influx of a number of local and not-so-local St. Johnnies: "Most meetings have been

held at **TOM** (HA94) and Marion **SLAKEY**'s home and also at other members' homes. I became a grandmother December 17, 2008. Iris Aurore Marie Wastyn Moore at three and one half months has three passports: Peruvian (she was born in Lima); has an American mom (my daughter) and a U.S. passport; and a French passport from her father (who is French). When a child is born, so is a grandparent! It's lovely being a parent once removed. I'm still teaching middle-schoolers at a public school in south Sacramento. I have 13 more years to go to get to 30 [years]!"

1969

The Before Columbus Foundation awarded **LONGINO LUIS LOPEZ** (SFGI) the American Book Award 2008 for his latest book of poetry titled *Each Month I Sing*. The book also won first place in poetry from the Colorado Independent Publishers Association.

1970

DAVID DEBUS (SF) finished a bachelor's degree in English at UCLA, and after three years as a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War working at a United Methodist Church with street kids, attended the Claremont School of Theology: "I never had a 'call' to be a pastor.

Then I entered doctoral studies at the United States International University in San Diego (now called Alliant International University) and received a doctorate in clinical psychology. I stood for the test in 1980 and passed the first time. After many years in private practice and as the clinical director of a therapeutic community for schizophrenia founded by Moira Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., I enrolled in music at University of San Diego for studies in music."

RONALD FIELDING (A) retired from OppenheimerFunds on May 20. "Three days later my wife and I took off for a three-week trip to Europe, starting in Barcelona, cruising the Mediterranean Sea with 74 other guests and three professors on a small (and 30 percent empty) cruise ship and ending in Greece. Surely the highlight for me to report to Johnnies was entering the huge so-called Treasury of Atreus, but really the Tomb of Agamemnon, just outside the walls of Mycenae. It's quite amazing how the Greek legends and Homeric poems seamlessly merge into Greek history, from Perseus to the present. We have sold our residence in Rochester and established residency in a beach house on Kiawah Island, just outside of Charleston, S.C., though we will get a much smaller summer house in Rochester to evade the hot, humid summers here. I will be back on the Board of Visitors and Governors in July, as well as a small insurance company board,

a tiny mutual fund board, and the International Museum of Photography board. Plenty of stuff to keep me busy between trips hither and yon. And I need to attend Summer Classics again, too."

MARTIN ROSENTHAL (SF) recently published a novel, *The Cult Teacher*, using the penname Phillip Ahtmann. There is a chapter which takes place at St. John's Annapolis is 1966. It is available at www.amazon.com or at www.theCultTeacher.com.

1972

HAROLD ANDERSON (A) writes: "I live outside of Washington in Greenbelt. I am currently a member of the core faculty for the Master of Arts in Cultural Sustainability graduate program at Goucher College (where I teach cultural documentation). I also teach cultural anthropology at Bowie State University. But my main (pre-) occupation is as a contract ethnographer. And I have completed ethnographic studies of communities in the United States and abroad. Currently I am working a project for exhibition at the new Prince George's County African American Museum and Cultural Center of North Brentwood. The project is titled "The Arts of Praise" and it aims to document aspects of how people celebrate and perform their faith in Prince George's County, Maryland. Products of this project include transcriptions of oral histories, audio, still photographs, and video for exhibition at the Prince George's County African American Museum."

EVAN (A) and Jane's son, Matthew Dudik, will arrive as a freshman in Annapolis this fall with lexicon in one hand and French horn in the other. His

twin is studying bassoon and German in Vienna in a gap year before deciding about this or that college/university. Elder brother Graham appears to be in his senior year at Portland State University. Empty nests rule! Jane is thinking about post kids. Evan is running his strategy/operations management consulting firm including recent projects with Daimler and Novartis. In between saxophone, painting, art history, he is working on a book with the working title "Thinking Independently." He's also finishing up his second term on the college's Board of Visitors and Governors, having raised enough hackles for six or seven years.

1973

MICHAEL AARON (SF) was named the Director of Banking and Financial Markets, Growth Markets Unit, IBM Corporation in 2009. In this role, he is responsible for the Banking and Financial Markets Industry vertical business in the growth markets, which cover Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, as well as Africa and the Middle East. Michael considers his St. John's education to have been an important step in his developing the capabilities to deal with this type of executive role, as it requires constant reading, analysis, informed judgment and the ability to communicate—listening and speaking. It is also useful to know how to read very long books on very long flights of up to 24 hours. Michael remains married to Danuta (30 years this August) and has two sons, Daniel and David. The Aarons live in Sydney, Australia, close to Bondi Beach.

MARY L. BATTEEN (A) was chair of the Oceanography Department at the Naval Postgraduate

PLATO PROVES USEFUL

JEFF HUME-PRATUCH (A79) writes that she and her husband, Tom Pratuch, recently completed the adoption of their daughter, Meredith, after a long foster relationship: "We are ecstatic! Currently, I am working as an editor for a publisher of scholarly journals. I'm convinced they hired me because in my first week as a temp, I caught the author misquoting Plato, Hegel, and Descartes. Who says the Program won't help you get a job?" ❀

SEEKING A BALANCE

Jazz Producer A.T. Michael MacDonald (SF76)

BY NATHANIEL ROE (SF08)

Michael MacDonald (SF76) brews another cup of coffee in AlgoRhythms, his mastering studio tucked away in Brooklyn's DUMBO neighborhood. He recounts how his journey—from a new graduate with no career plans to a music producer who has recorded jazz legends including McCoy Tyner and Tito Puente—began on a bicycle.

"My gift to myself after graduation was a cross-country bicycle trip," MacDonald recalls. "I ended up getting injured and had to come home early. I remember sitting in an Amtrak dome car going through Montana, just looking at the stars and soul searching. I asked myself, 'what would I really love to do?'"

With time to think about his future, MacDonald decided to become a recording engineer because it combined his love of music and knack for science. "After this epiphany, I moved to New York to break into the recording business."

MacDonald is best known as a virtuosic jazz producer; numerous AlgoRhythms sessions have garnered Grammy nominations. His live recordings at the Village Vanguard are considered among the best in the celebrated jazz club, a space that demands masterful microphone placement and sense of musical balance. In addition to Tyner and Puente, MacDonald has worked with legends such as Hank Jones, Roy Haynes, and John Scofield. He has recorded two Grammy-winning albums with McCoy Tyner, who is most famous for his early work in John Coltrane's band.

One of MacDonald's most lasting relationships is with renowned pianist Fred Hersch. "When we work together, we don't have to talk about sound anymore," says MacDonald. "We know exactly how we want it to be."

During one recording session with Hersch, a record company executive came to sit in. "Fred and I argue to entertain each other," says MacDonald. "When Fred came into the control room and said 'this sounds awful, can't you do anything right?' I replied, 'If you knew how to play piano,



MICHAEL MACDONALD RECORDS JAZZ LEGENDS IN HIS BROOKLYN, N.Y., STUDIO.

maybe I could help you."

The record executive didn't understand that the old friends meant they were happy with each other's work. At the end of the day MacDonald got a pink slip. Hersch sorted out the situation, and the duo finished recording together. "We still laugh about that today."

When he arrived in New York City in 1977, MacDonald began at the bottom of the ladder, as an intern at Skyline studios. Since then, changes in technology have meant radical changes in his industry. "Because of the Internet, most people today consider music to be a free commodity. This democratic approach can be really great, but let's say McCoy Tyner wants to record another big-band project. That recording requires a certain minimum dollar amount. If the people investing the money don't break even in record sales, they are less likely to fund the next record. And so Tyner will have to scale back the big band to a trio, so the listener won't get the full effect."

The availability of inexpensive quality recording technology has similar drawbacks. "I'm really hard pressed to find jazz record-

ings recorded today that are as good sonically as the golden age, when Sinatra was recording. [Producers and engineers] had limited technology, but they had great ears and great training. There's no technology shortcut for that."

As an adjunct engineering professor at Johns Hopkins University, MacDonald trains budding recording engineers and producers by emphasizing the basics and systematically limiting the tools they can use to complete assignments. His goal is to produce engineers who rely on knowledge and instinct.

In his courses, MacDonald incorporates the St. John's approach to questions. "A student wanted to know how and why VU [volume] meters were invented," he says. "I scoured up the original 1933 Western Electric white paper and held a class discussion." When no one had questions, MacDonald picked out a detail and stumped the class by saying, "I don't understand what this means." In the ensuing discussion, "we gained insight into a real engineering problem and how the pioneers of audio solved it."

The Program, and language tutorial in particular, has helped shape MacDonald's outlook on recording. "What I learned in language class is what has carried me most through my recording career," explains MacDonald. "I'm really a translator. Sound is a three-dimensional physical phenomenon that changes from moment to moment. I've got to carefully capture and then translate it into a series of ones and zeroes and somehow reconstruct something that resembles the original."

When translating Baudelaire, literally rendering a word will likely obscure the poetic qualities of the French. By the same token, focusing only on the lyrical qualities of words can make a translation vague. MacDonald looks at recording the same way. "When translating, something is always lost. To focus on one part, you necessarily lose something else. If I make the vocal sound a little more present, will that affect the right hand of the piano? It's always a balance. Asking the questions of translation has always served me well in recording." ❀

School in Monterey, Calif., from 2001-2008: "I am now on a year-long sabbatical at the Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University. I am writing a textbook called *Exploring Ocean Physics*, which I hope will excite future scientists to explore the important roles of ocean physics, from helping us understand climate change to taking better care of our earth, which is really the Ocean Planet."

SUSAN MARTIN DRESSEL (SFGI) retired in June 1994 from Los Alamos National Laboratory, where she had served as Division Leader for Information Services. Six months later, Susan's husband, Ralph W. Dressel, died. After a couple of years, Susan relocated to Albuquerque to be near her son and daughter. In July 1999, Susan bought a lot in a development on the Rio Grande and retained an architect and construction boss to build a Tuscan-style villa "on spec." About three months before construction was to begin, Susan met Donald Myers, a retired lawyer and judge, accomplished pianist and certified flight instructor. She soon realized she did not want to manage a construction project, sold the lot, and left for a winter on South Padre Island with her new friend. They are now married and living in their mountain home on wooded acreage bordering the Cibola National Forest, where they both enjoy hiking and birding. Although back surgery required her to give up skiing and white water kayaking/rafting, Susan is happy to be traveling, golfing, and dancing with Don, and spending snowy months in warmer climes. And she is grateful to Don for his willingness to relocate in New Mexico near her family "At our ages, a loving family support system becomes increasingly important. Retirement brings many advantages that help compensate for the aches and pains that come

with advancing years." She would be happy to hear from any GI alumni.

1974

DAPHNE KAPOLKA (nee **GREENE**, A76) and **GERRY KAPOLKA** (A) are celebrating their 35th anniversary. Gerry writes: "I am now Dean of Academics and chair of the English department at Santa Catalina School in Monterey. Daphne is senior lecturer in physics at the Naval Postgraduate School, also in Monterey. Our daughter, **BASIA** (Aor) is in Chicago about to produce a play she has written based on *The Jinx*, by Teofile Gautier. Our older son, Andrzej, is a computer game designer for Three Rings in San Francisco. Our younger son, Marek, will be a junior at San Jose State University."

MARGARET SANSOM (SFGI) reports: "I am enrolled in The Ultimate Game of Life, a highly effective teleconferencing coaching program led by Jim Bunch. As a result of participating in the program, I have lost 40 pounds, amped up my fitness level, and completely remodeled my house, a project that I had been just contemplating for the past five years. Because traveling is my passion, I have been to Paris for five months in 2005, to Great Britain in 2006, Alaska in 2007, and Zion, Bryce, and Yellowstone in 2008. Next on my list is a Greek isle cruise in 2011. In the meantime, I am going to stay home and enjoy my home for a couple of years and concentrate on getting the funding at a functional level for the scholarship foundation that I head. Scholarships are awarded to people who have been out of high school for a few years and have finally realized that they need further training/education in order to fulfill their dreams."

1975

BOB SHIMIZU (SF) has recently released a new CD of jazz for his quartet, Bob Shimizu and Signal Strength. "Cuchillero" is available online at www.signalstrengthband.com.

1977

CLIFF ADAMS (A) has been living in Germany for nearly eight years and has been married to a German woman since July 3, 2008. He worked for Amadeus, a travel services computer company as a software test engineer from 2001-2006 and is now a self-employed web programmer in Erding, just outside of Munich. Cliff has been working on various Mideast peace projects in connection with participating in Landmark Education (www.landmarkeducation.com) programs. The most recent one is www.israelpalestineproject.com. He has three grown children living in New York.

1979

LESLIE W. WESTMORELAND (SF) writes: "I'm a deputy attorney general in the Appeals, Writs, and Trials section of the Criminal Law Division of the Attorney General's Office of the California Department of Justice. (That's a mouthful—I'm a trial and appellate prosecutor.) Married to Carmen Milagros Delgado (de Puerto Rico), a criminal defense attorney. Living in Fresno with too many little dogs, and near our two grandchildren. Classmate **LAIRD DURLEY** (SF79) surprised me recently by dropping by. It seems he lives about one mile away. I'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to say hey."

OWEN GOLDIN (SF) lives in Milwaukee, Wis., with his wife, Miriam Sushman, and their daughter Esther, 5. He teaches philosophy at Marquette University. His translation with notes of Philoponus's Commentary on Aristotle's *Posterior Analytics 2* is scheduled to be published soon by Duckworth Press.

BEN HAGGARD (SF) divides his time between Santa Fe and Berlin, and divides his energies between Regenes (an ecological consultancy he helped found 12 years ago) and painting. After 27 years, he and **JOEL GLANZBERG** (SF84) are still working together, these days as principal designers with Regenes and contributors to the blog: www.edgeregenerate.com. Ben shares an apartment in Berlin with his partner, Joe, who plays French horn with the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester. Photos of Ben's paintings can be seen at www.benhaggardstudio.com. He's planning to attend Homecoming in Santa Fe.

MARILYN L. SCHAEFER (SFGI) is glad to see "growing links between St. John's and Shimer College," as reported in the Fall 2009 issue of *The College*. Her sister, Susan Schaefer, graduated from Shimer in the mid-1960s, and Susan and her friends are very enthusiastic about the college, she says. "There seems to be a natural compatibility among grads of St. John's, Shimer, and the University of Chicago."

TONY WATERS (A) is a professor of sociology at California State University, Chico. He is married to Dagmar Waters, and they travel back and forth to her native Germany frequently. They have two children, both of whom are college students at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. His recent books include *When Killing is a Crime* (2007) and *The Persistence of Subsistence*

Agriculture: Life Beneath the Level of the Marketplace (2007/2008).

1980

"As of January 1, 2009, I am now vice president for international programs at the Atlas Economic Research Foundation," reports **TOM G. PALMER (A)**. "I remain a senior fellow at the Cato Institute. At Atlas I direct field operations to promote libertarian values worldwide, along with active programs of book publishing, websites, video production, summer schools, and more in 15 languages. Since the start of the year I have given lectures, held conferences, appeared in the media, and organized new ventures in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Malaysia, Indonesia, the UK, and Brazil and on Thursday I depart for India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. I'll be quite busy with summer schools and site visits throughout the summer and fall, as well as with additional programs, including delivering papers at academic conferences in Germany, France, and Italy. My book *Realizing Freedom: Libertarian Theory, History, and Practice*, will be published later this month. I am keeping busy, and there is not one single day during which I do not draw on my education from St. John's, which not only provided me with a good springboard to my further education, but continuously informs how I understand the world and the choices I make."

ANGEL ANN PRICE (SF) writes: "For six months, I've left my plum position at the US EEOC (federal sector appeals and training team) for a detail as a Special Assistant US Attorney for the District of Columbia. I'm prosecuting misdemeanor

domestic violence cases and have seen more of the inside of the courthouse, tried more cases, and signed off on more witness vouchers in the past few weeks than in almost 15 years of practice. The opportunity to speak on behalf of the community comes often, but with only a moment to be heard. The theme of the season is the split-second rhetorician."

December 2008 brought some dramatic changes for **JIM SORRENTINO (A)**: "I began an inter-agency assignment to the Department of the Treasury's Office of Financial Stability, in the Homeownership Preservation Office, created as part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). It's exciting, dynamic and challenging—not words one usually associates with large government bureaucracies. Two weeks or so after I began the job at Treasury, our adoption agency contacted us. And on December 31, we brought home our new son! Vincent Sorrentino was born in mid-December, in

Baltimore. He is a healthy, happy, hungry little boy, and he is a delight to us all. Although it seems a little crazy to become a father (again!) at 49, I recall something Brother Robert said to me after meeting my daughter, Sophia (who was not yet three), at Homecoming in 2005: 'Children complete life, don't they?' The answer, once again, is yes."

1982

ADRIEN HELLER (A) has been in Shijiazhuang, People's Republic of China for the last three years, teaching English and doing art.

1983

JACK ARMSTRONG (SF) writes, "I'll be driving from Philadelphia to Los Angeles this summer with my son, Michael. Really looking forward to it."

ARUGULA AND WILD TURKEYS

JOHN L. BUSH (SF84) and his wife, Elizabeth, are savoring summer in Blacksburg, Va. "She has her garden going with the usual garden herbs, tomatoes, peppers, pole and bush beans, basil, fresh arugula, and other greens. I am trying to do more fly fishing and get out to the Blue Ridge for morel and wild turkey hunting as often as possible. I am also trying to utilize the wondrous natural qualities of the area such as the New River for canoeing, rafting and small mouth bass fishing, and the Appalachian Trail for hiking, camping, and trail running whenever possible. We both are beginning to think about a house design for some property we have in Ellett Valley in Montgomery County. I am reading Russell Banks and Cormac McCarthy as well as Grant's autobiography. Our grown boys are well and prospering, and we would love to hear from or visit with old friends. We have made contact with Robert and **CHARLA ALLEN (SF79)** since they moved back to the Smokies near Asheville and hope to see their new house and both of them soon. I am running for local office this summer for Town Council and so that will keep me occupied and engaged in local politics." ❖

1984

PETER GREEN (A) is living in New York's Washington Heights and loving New York. As a world news reporter at Bloomberg News, he was off to Prague in June to interview Vaclav Havel, the former Czech president, and then wander around the East for a few weeks. He's looking forward to Homecoming.

TRISHA (FIKE) HOWELL (SF) has been focusing recently on a healing and life coaching system she developed called Lifonics (www.Lifonics.com) She also continues to write books and screenplays and hopes to resume her acting career soon. Before a year hiatus, she was appearing in many plays and low-budget films. Trisha welcomes hearing from classmates at Trisha@Trisha-Howell.com.

DENNIS ROBERTS (SFGI) retired from the Associated General Contractors of New Mexico Building Branch after 40 years of service. He is currently an adjunct professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of New Mexico.

MARK POTHIER (A) writes: "**ANNIE KEZAR (A)** has been tireless in keeping our class engaged and happy."

1985

L. JAGI LAMPLIGHTER WRIGHT (A) reports: "My first novel comes out from Tor (a major publisher of science fiction and fantasy) this August. It is the first of a trilogy. A fantasy story set in the present day with humor and mystery, it is a sequel of sorts to Shakespeare's *Tempest*. The series is called Prospero's Daughter. The first novel, coming out in early August, is *Prospero Lost*."

1987

PEGGY O'SHEA (A, SF05) was married to Susan Unger in Massachusetts on January 2.

RAY ANDRE WAKEFIELD (A) has published *The Disordered Police State: German Cameralism as Science and Practice*.

Wakefield is associate professor of history at Pitzer College in Claremont, Calif.

1988

JANA GILES (A) will be starting as an assistant professor of 20th-century British literature at the University of Louisiana at Monroe in fall 2009. Her specializations are modernism, post-colonialism, and aesthetics. She would love to have any visitors, so please let her know "in the unlikely event" that you are passing through Monroe.

1989

Having never run before in her life, **SARA CATANIA** (A) ran the LA Marathon on May 25 to raise money for AIDS Project Los Angeles. Details are available at www.laobserved.com/runon.

GEORGE TURNER (A) is working half time to make room for "more fun and family time." He's training for the California International Marathon on December 6 in Sacramento, with hopes of qualifying for Boston, "the runner's Mecca." "Other than that," he writes, "same house, same spouse, kids another year older. Life is good."

DANTE MEETS THE ZOMBIES

KIM PAFFENROTH's (A88) zombified version of Dante's *Inferno*, is now available as a limited edition hardback from Cargo Cult Press (www.horror-mall.com). In it, the Florentine stumbles onto an infestation of the undead, and the horrors he witnesses there—people being burned alive, devoured, decapitated, etc.—are what later inspires his epic poem. ✱

1990

GRAHAM HARMAN (A) has been named Associate Vice Provost for Research at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. His fourth book, *Prince of Networks*, has recently been published by re.press (Melbourne). His next book, *L'objet quadruple*, will first appear in French translation with Presses Universitaires de France (Paris) in 2010.

1991

JULIE RENNINGER PASS OBER (AGI) writes: "I am a humanities professor and painter, and I retrain thoroughbred racehorses. My paintings and horse tales/tails are all at my blog: www.honeysucklefaire.blogspot.com. My painting, *Smoke*, was juried into Pennsylvania's Art of the State 2009. This is my third year accepted into this show. Horses, art and family consume me!"

1992

ANNE ASPEN (née **BOYNTON**, SF) left her senior city planner position at the City of Fort Collins in January for a project manager position at the city's Downtown Development Authority. "It allows me to focus on what I love most: architecture and our

downtown. We're doing a lot of exciting projects here, and I'm learning some new tricks. Family life is fulfilling now that the kids in our life finally moved here from Santa Fe. Unfortunately, Jane and I don't have ready excuses to visit Santa Fe anymore, though."

1993

ALEX and **VANESSA ELLERMANN** (AGI, 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.

John Abraham Kelley, the first child of Genevieve and **OWEN KELLEY** (A), was born with a shout on September 11, 2008. They still live in Greenbelt, Md., and Owen still works at NASA.

NANCY MARCUS (A) has moved to Cleveland and joined the law firm Berhmen, Gordon, Murray and DeVan, the firm that put Mapp v. Ohio on the map, and has had a number of other historic successes. Her practice includes trial and appellate litigation in the areas of constitutional law, civil rights, torts, criminal defense, and LGBT rights.

Ernest Marlowe Strautmann was born in May 2008 to Jacob Strautmann and **VALERIE DUFF-STRAUTMANN** (SF). Valerie's first

book of poems will be published by Salmon Poetry (Ireland) in April 2010.

1994

"My wife, **ELIZABETH (RHODES) FARLEY** and I (both A), are happy to report the birth of our third child, a boy. Samuel Duncan Farley was born on April 5, 2009," writes **DAN FARLEY**. "Our other two children, Hannah (11) and Dylan (9), participated wonderfully in the birth of their brother and are now doting siblings. We are now measuring our lives not solely with coffee spoons, but also with diapers again! We have also recently relocated to Eugene, Ore., and invite any Johnnies in the Northwest in particular to contact us and come and visit if possible!"

BEN FELDMAN (A) was married in January to Chaya Bracha Silver from Israel/ N.Y. "I have continued to work in New York as a master's-level psychologist, providing services for developmentally disabled individuals. Now, I am getting ready to move, in August with my wife to Cleveland, Ohio, so I can pursue a PhD in Experimental Psychology, specializing in developmental disabilities research, at Case Western Reserve University. I will begin by helping to run a research study on Prader-Willi Syndrome."

1995

HEIDI OVERBEEK (A) lives in the East Mountains outside of Albuquerque and loves it. "My partner, Cindy, and I have a 14-year-old son named Ashante who we adopted five years ago. I work as a labor and delivery nurse and am (leisurely) looking at grad schools to become a nurse

BUSINESS LEADER

PHILLIP KATZ (SF95) was the subject of a cover story in Milwaukee's *Business*

Journal. Katz is founder and principal of Phillip Katz Project Development, a Milwaukee-based design and management practice.

An architect, Katz was among the journal's picks for Milwaukee's top 100 "movers and shakers." ❖



practitioner. I'm a 'master gardener' for the county and try to live in my garden!"

CRAIG SIRKIN (A) reports that he and his wife, Wendy, are happy to welcome a new addition to their family: "Sarah Isabelle was born on March 10, and due to a very short labor was born at home with me acting as midwife and her older brother, Isaac, sleeping peacefully in his room. Everybody is happy and healthy."

"Our impending exodus from Mobile, Ala., has been nudged along by the economy, thanks to which my first small business venture—a coffee house across from the university—has come to a close," writes **KIRA ZIELINSKI** (SF). "Not allowing business failure to equate with personal failure has been a tremendous emotional education for me as well. But I'm learning that although it's quite possible that we are responsible for the entire world economic collapse, I'm learning to be OK with that. I'm looking forward to some time to catch up on life—reading, continuing our home improvement saga, getting back into music, and putting a match to the contents of no less than 15 filing cabinets. Despite all the tumult, my wonderful Nathan is still my fiancé, and our pre-marital

counselor allows us to return each week and invent new psychoses."

1996

"I am in Vermont," writes **CHERYL HENEVELD** (AGI), "sometimes leading discussion groups for the Vermont Humanities Council. Taking a mythology course from the nearby state college. Re-reading the *Odyssey*—keep learning the St. John's way! Come for a visit."

JEFFREY A. PALMER (A) married **MARGURITE T. PFOUTZ** (SF03) in Pittsburgh, Pa., in a well-executed elopement.

1997

DOMINIC CRAPUCHETTES (A) was recently married to Karen Litsinger. They live in Bethesda, Md., and Dominic's board game company, North Star Games, is going strong. "We now have six people working for North Star Games with product in Target, Barnes and Noble, Borders, and many other locations," he says. "I'm having a lot of fun growing

the company and spending my weekends with Karen. Life is good."

VAN CUNNINGHAM (SF) writes, "Mom graduated from the GI a few years ago, Stella's 9 1/2, Rockstar is a scaredy-dog, we are 7 miles from the ocean until we figure out which mountains to head to."

JACOB CURTIS (SF) and **DAYNA SIMS CURTIS** (SF98) announce the birth of their second baby, Atticus Hamilton: "Big sister Clio is adjusting well, we are feeling very blessed with a boy and a girl."

BRENDA JOHNSON (AGI) has completed the docent training course at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Md. She is enjoying taking some of the 28,000 school children who visit every year through the museum.

JESSICA CAMPBELL MCALLEN (SF) writes: "Lowry, Isaac, and I welcomed Patrick Oliver with so much love on February 1, 2009. He was 6 lbs. 13 oz. and 19 1/2 in."

JILL NIENHISER (SFGI) completed a two-year acting program at the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts in Washington, D.C., in December. She appeared in *The Houseguests* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in April, and will perform this summer with Kaleidoscope Theatre in a two-person production of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* for schools and libraries.

NATHAN SCHLEIFER (SF) reports that his second son, Elijah, was born June 16, 2008.

1998

STEPHEN CONN (SF) reports: "On the literary front, I recently had my 10th published letter in

Mojo Magazine, and to top it off, I am studying for my MFA in Screenwriting at the Academy of Art in San Francisco. Any Johnnies who feel like a nice Italian dinner in North Beach, feel free to come on over!"

RICK FIELD (SFGI) and his wife Jessica welcomed twin girls into their lives on August 2, 2008. The elder child, by two minutes, was named Grace Apollonia, and the younger, Alexandra Electra. Both girls love to hear books read aloud, and they enjoy various types of music.

DORA JACOBS (A) and **WALKER STUMP-COALE** (A00) will both begin law school at the University of Baltimore in August. Their son, Mac, is now 11 months old and their daughter, Isabel, is almost 2 1/2, so things will be crazy at their house for a while—but not too crazy to catch up with old friends, particularly if there's advice to be had about managing full-time school and a young family. Use dorajacobs@hotmail.com or walkerstumpcoale@hotmail.com to drop a line.

1999

Having completed seven years of formation at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Denton, Neb., **BRIAN T. AUSTIN**, FSSP (A), was ordained to the sacred priesthood on May 30 in Lincoln, Neb., and sang a Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving on June 6 in Philadelphia. The Rev. Austin is a member of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, a clerical Society of Apostolic Life of Pontifical Rite, founded in 1988 by His Holiness John Paul II for the sake of fostering the ancient Latin Liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church.

NURTURING A LOVE FOR LEARNING

Melanie Jago Hiner (A81)

BY ROSEMARY HARTY

At nine years old, Melanie Jago Hiner (A81) was a curious bookworm attending a progressive school in Chicago. “Our social studies teacher told us we could study anything we wanted, as long as we could explain why,” she recalls. “I decided to study the Mongolian invasion of China. I made a scale model of the Great Wall and loved every minute of it.”

While her social studies teacher encouraged independent thinking and creativity, her math teacher frequently gave timed tests that made Hiner so anxious she suffered from stomach aches. “I came to loathe math,” she says. “And I almost didn’t come to St. John’s because the Program included four years of math.”

Hiner made the leap and discovered she loved mathematics. Her experiences at St. John’s—learning through dialogue, being a part of a community, delving into difficult and unfamiliar subject matter—helped to shape her ideas of what education could be. She enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Delaware, focusing on cognition and instruction, and finished the coursework required for her doctorate.

In 1995, at the prodding of her 7-year-old son, Hiner founded the New School in Newark, Delaware, using St. John’s College as her model for helping children and young adults become lifelong learners. The school’s motto: “Education for the courageous, inquisitive, and independent-minded.”

“The ‘radical inquiry’ of St. John’s is very much at the heart of what we do,” says Hiner. “We’re always challenging the kids to think deeply about things.”

Hiner started the school in the basement of a women’s club with \$1,000 and seven students. Now housed in a historic home with an acre of land, the New School has about 40 students in kindergarten through grade 12. Students vote on the governing principles of their school and decide individually what to study and how to study it. “Children learn to listen to one another and learn from another. We’re not hierarchical. There are no experts—just like at St. John’s, the teacher is a fellow learner.”

So far, three New School graduates have matriculated at St. John’s. One of Hiner’s



BRUCE WELLER

HER OWN EXPERIENCES IN THE CLASSROOM LED MELANIE JAGO HINER TO CREATE A SCHOOL THAT FOSTERS CREATIVITY AND WONDER, IN THE SPIRIT OF ST. JOHN’S COLLEGE.

first students was Molly Roach (A09). “It was more like a family than a school,” Roach recalls. “I was used to being told what to do, so at first, I had a little trouble adjusting to the self-directed aspect of the school.”

At the New School, Roach enjoyed learning through conversation. Hands-on projects such as sewing gained time alongside reading and studying mathematics, and in time Roach began to thrive with her new freedom. Her senior thesis explored the concept of paradise, focusing on the Persian root of the word as enclosed garden. As part of her project, she transformed the school’s meeting room into a “paradise garden,” with plants, a bench, and a fountain.

“If I had gone to a traditional high school and had all the pressures about test scores and college applications, I would have been miserable because I would have wanted to please everyone,” says Roach. “I wouldn’t have known anything about what I was actually interested in.”

The New School restricts students’ choices in a way, because students are strongly encouraged to seek out things that are difficult and they’re required to explain their choices. The ultimate goal, says Hiner, is creating self-reliance and perseverance in students.

“We talk to them about Plato’s discussion of the soul—if you’re just drawn along by the evil

horse to things you merely enjoy doing, you’re not going to get anything worth doing done,” Hiner says.

On Wednesday nights, Hiner leads seminars for New School parents and community members. Readings from *The Wealth of Nations*, *Democracy in America*, and Pascal’s *Pensées* have been recent choices. Hiner has also developed an informal continuing educational program for adults. She mentors adults who want to structure their own program of self-education.

Along with devoting herself to offering a St. John’s-inspired education, Hiner is moving into community organizing. Last year, she created a nonprofit called Omnia Humanitas, aimed at encouraging individuals and communities to pursue “integrated, sustainable lives” that include lifelong learning, community involvement, and environmentally responsible lifestyles. The school and nonprofit organization together allow Hiner to introduce the concept of “the examined life” to those who haven’t read Plato. “To be fully engaged in what you’re doing, to take time to develop neglected aspects of your life, to keep asking important questions—that’s what it means to live a productive life,” she says. ❖

MICHAEL HOKENSON (SF) has been spending the last several years creating a fund to provide loans to microfinance institutions ("MFIs"). The Minlam Microfinance Fund lent money to 10 MFIs, which created more than 18,000 new loans during 2008 in emerging markets from Peru to Azerbaijan. These loans are intended to help small businesses grow and boost household income for poor families, which is linked to higher investment in education, nutrition and health. The institutions have loans with more than 400,000 women. He continues to live and work in New York City.

2000

Here's some news from **JASON** (AGI) and **SUSIE SALINAS** (AGI99): "Susie and I will celebrate our ninth anniversary on June 10. I just finished three years in Annapolis, where I taught English at the Naval Academy. This week we moved back to San Diego so I could return to flying helicopters for the Navy. Susie has been busy raising our two boys, Henry, 4, and Sam, 2."

2001

After five years of living in Santa Fe and working in the art gallery scene, **BRENDAN BULLOCK** (SF) moved back to New England and has been in Portland, Maine, for the last two years. "I'll be moving to Rockport, Maine, shortly to begin a summer-long position as a teaching assistant at the Maine Media Workshops, an incredible institution for photographic learning," he says. "I'll be working alongside some of the best photographers working today, teaching both seasoned professionals and young children

getting involved with photography for the first time. That aside, I've been getting in plenty of good fishing with fellow Johnnie **GEORGE DEANS** (AO2), who, incidentally, is now working as a stonemason, has just bought a house and will be getting married to his fiancée, Ludmila Svoboda, in September."

2002

AMELIA ADAMS (A) begins her residency in Orthopedic Surgery at Washington University in St. Louis this June.

BENJAMIN ANDERSON (AGI) has received a three-year David E. Finley Fellowship from the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art. "This will support completion of my dissertation (Bryn Mawr, History of Art) on images of the Ptolemaic cosmos in the early Middle Ages," he says. "At present I am traveling about the near East, researching late Roman and early Islamic monuments, but will spend most of the next two years in Munich before returning to D.C. for the final year of the fellowship, *insha'Allah!*"

ISABEL CLARK (A) writes: "I've moved to Austin, Texas, and am working for Whole Foods Market on the new healthy eating team

at their global HQ. Before the move, my partner, Brian Ambrose, and I went on an epic cross-country adventure for several months (detailed in the archives of brianandisabel.com). I also have a new website with recipes, articles, and materials from my previous work doing wellness counseling at forkbytes.com."

AMANDA SIMONE KENNEDY FINNEY (SF) graduated from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in Dallas, Texas, with a Juris Doctor on May 16, 2009.

2003

CHELSEA (WHEELER) HETRICK (SF) was married May 24, 2009, to Erik Hetrick, whom she met while doing her first tour as a foreign service officer in Rangoon, Burma. They are scheduled to finish their tour in Burma this September, then move to Johannesburg, South Africa, in October.

SEAN McLAIN (A) writes: "I have been living in Abu Dhabi for the past year and a half, and writing editorials for a new English-language daily here. I never expected I would end up in the media. However, in retrospect, getting paid good money to tell people what I think is pretty much the ideal career.

The UAE is a fascinating young country. In 37 years it has gone from a collection of desert emirates under British mandate to a thriving hub of commerce. There are innumerable growing pains from such rapid growth, and one of the most rewarding aspects of my job is to try to make sense of the country to the world and vice versa. I don't know if I could do this forever, but it is certainly a rewarding pit stop on the way to whatever future lies ahead."

MARGURITE T. PFOUTZ (SF) married **JEFFREY A. PALMER** (A96) in Pittsburgh, Pa. They then ran away together to Portland, Ore., with their cat and some books.

MICHAEL WALDOCK (SFGI) and **JOHANNA OMELIA** (SFGIO2) have launched Ailemo Books in Oregon and just released their first title, *Voyage 185: A British Gentleman's Extraordinary Adventures Abroad* by Thomas Hughes Jackson.

2004

ENJOLI COOKE (A) will begin optometry school at Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University in the fall. "It is a four-year program without a required residency, so I will (hopefully) be a practicing optometrist in four years and two months!"

ANNIE ROLLINS (née **BAILY**) and **DUSTIN ROLLINS** (both SF) are currently living and working in the Boston area. Dustin recently finished his MA in Philosophy at Boston College and works as adjunct faculty at several New England colleges. Annie finished a master's in teaching at BU and just wrapped up her first year teaching senior English in a regional high school. They have purchased an old colonial house

CALLED TO VIRGINIA

JUSTI SCHUNIOR (A99) recently graduated from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta and in June was ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church at the Cathedral of St. Philip. "I've accepted a call to Christ Church in Old Town Alexandria and will be moving up to Virginia to begin work in July. I hope to make the reunion this fall and catch up with class of '99. ✨



north of Boston in the Bradford area and are looking forward to beginning a family. "Best wishes to our classmates, and give us a holler if you are in the area," they write.

2005

SAMANTHA BUKER (A) plans on hosting musical après-midi in her Baltimore garden all summer long. First on the performer's list, **JAMES PEARSON**, cellist (A05) was well received for his Bach Suite #3 in C. All nearby musical alums are invited to showcase their talents. When not inviting musicians to drink her wine and gorge on rich, buttery desserts and decadent fruits, she praises or pans them in writing for the *Baltimore City Paper's* rated Best Local Music Blog: Auralstates. Read her posts right here: <http://auralstates.com/author/sbuker>. While this music critic stint takes her round to the nation's top orchestras, it doesn't pay the rent. So she rounds out her day by delving deep into Federal Reserve mayhem and all sundry things sociopolitical and economic for *Agora Financial*—particularly enjoying her status as roving reporter for their Libertarian-leaning rag *Whiskey and Gunpowder*.

After two years of post-bac coursework, **JAMES HARRISON** (A) will be starting medical school at the University of Philadelphia this fall. "To old friends and classmates, all are welcome if you're passing through Philly."

CARLY ROSE JACKSON (SF) began a master's program in journalism in September 2008. She lives in Boston, goes to school, interns at a local weekly, and like everyone else in the universe has a blog. Cross your

fingers that newspapers will still exist in 2010 when she graduates.

ALEXIS SEGEL (SF) is happy to be through the first year of her Master of Fine Arts program at Mills College in Oakland, Calif. She will continue her studies in Italian at Middlebury this summer, and hopes to see some Johnnies at her master's recital in spring 2010.

2006

DANIEL GRIMM (SF) writes: "I own and operate Fishbar on the Lake, a seasonal seafood restaurant in Montauk, N.Y., the last town in the Hamptons. My partner, Jennifer Meadows, is the executive chef. The restaurant overlooks Montauk Harbor and serves seafood right off local boats, many of which dock right in front of the restaurant. Pictures of the view are available on our website: www.freshlocalfish.com. Everyone is invited to come!"

MADELINE MAHOWALD (SF) will begin a post-baccalaureate premedical program at Bryn Mawr College in May.

CARRY ROSE (A) and her fiancé, Jacob Brown, will be having a baby in November, their first child.

KELLY KEENAN TRUMPBOR (AGI) was recently named senior director of Running Start, a nonprofit dedicated to inspiring high school and college women to pursue political office.

2007

BRENDAN GREELEY (SFGI) has completed primary flight training at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas. He will fly the T-45 (Navy

PLANNING AND SERVING IN THE VOLUNTEER STATE

WILLIAM GREGORICUS (SFG100) is a senior policy advisor in Tennessee Governor Bredesen's Office of Planning and Policy. His main charge is the coordination of the efforts of the Governor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, a 15-member group, appointed by the Governor to examine ways to reduce juvenile and adult recidivism and improve public safety and serving as the deputy to the director of the Governor's Tennessee Recovery Act Management Office. Prior to joining the Bredesen administration, he served under Governor Bill Richardson as the deputy cabinet secretary for Children, Youth and Families, with responsibilities for the Juvenile Justice Division. You can find him on Facebook. ♣

Strike Jet Trainer) at NAS Kingsville, Texas, where he will earn his "Wings of Gold."

CHELSEA STIEGMAN (A, now Chelsea Ihnacik) has been married for more than a year to Ryan Ihnacik, her boyfriend since high school. She's managing a Starbucks at the Annapolis Mall and planning to go to law school in the fall of 2010. In good weather, she may be spotted traveling through town on her new scooter.

and helping a student-initiated fundraiser to help save the Javan rhino."

2009

DALTON LOBO DIAS (A) is working this summer as an emergency medical technician and will be starting his premedical post-baccalaureate program at Bryn Mawr College in the fall. ♣

2008

Last May, **DON BRIGGS** (AGI) was a panelist for the National Association of Homebuilders Green Building Conference on "Valuing Green Buildings" in Dallas, Texas.

ALEXANDRA SCHWAB (A) has been teaching sixth-grade math for the past year at The Pingry School in New Jersey, where she will be next year, too: "My non-math-related adventures this year included vocal coaching for our high school production of *Les Misérables*, backup singing for the middle school's *Godspell*,

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 November; deadline for the alumni notes section is October 10.

Alumni will also be sent a call for classnotes via e-mail in September. To see the last mystery picture identified, visit the online community at www.stjohnscollege.edu, click on Alumni.

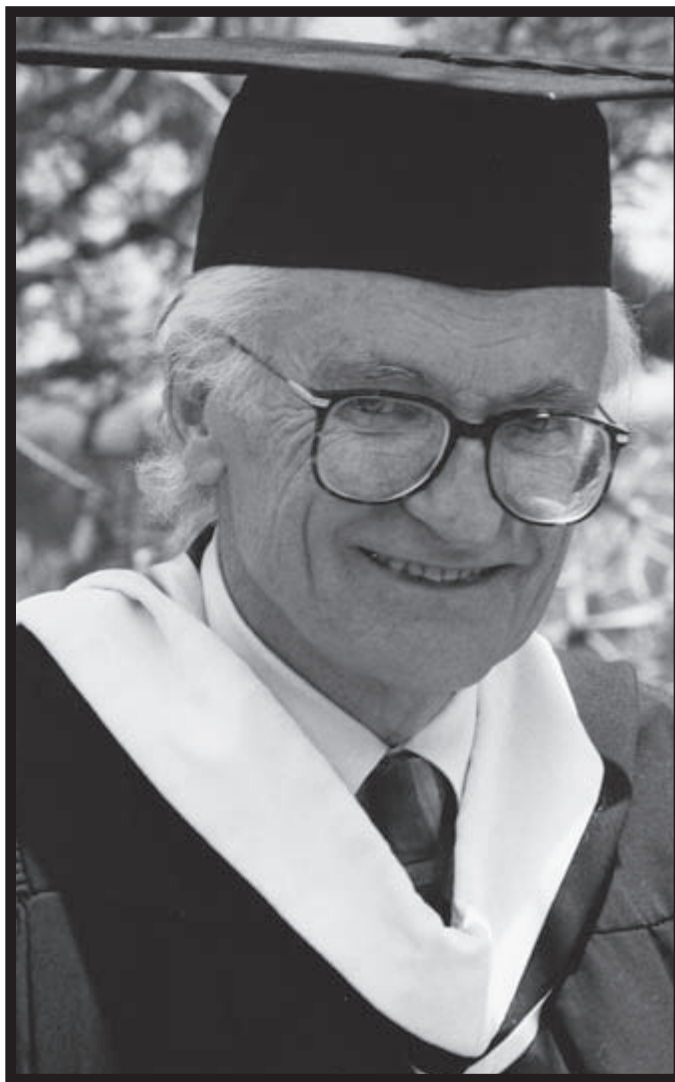
The College Magazine
St. John's College, P.O. Box 2800
Annapolis, MD 21404;
rosemary.harty@sjca.edu

WILLIAM DARKEY, CLASS OF 1942

William Darkey, tutor emeritus, died in Santa Fe on June 22, 2009, at the age of 88. He will be remembered by friends and colleagues for contributions that made a tremendous difference in the life of the college. He was among the first students of Barr and Buchanan's New Program, and he spent a year as a tutor right after graduating. As a founding faculty member and dean in Santa Fe, he helped create and foster a new St. John's College community in the high desert. As a lifelong learner and encouraging teacher, he inspired others with his passion for ideas.

Mr. Darkey was active on campus when Victoria Mora, Santa Fe dean, arrived as a tutor in Santa Fe. "He had such a lovely, understated way of drawing our attention to the important things in faculty meetings," she recalls. "He had a quiet, Mark Twain-like wit. He loved the college and he loved the Santa Fe campus. He had a fascinating view of how the landscape and light on this campus added to the student experience of the program, their starkness confronting the students with themselves as profoundly as the books do."

Mr. Darkey's lecture on translation remains fresh and relevant to the work of the college today, Dean Mora said. "It is used widely in language classes to help students see what a powerful and rewarding experience a simple translation can be. Bill saw meaning in the everyday and familiar; what better wisdom does a lifelong dedication to this program have to offer?"



WILLIAM DARKEY WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS QUIET, MARK TWAIN-LIKE WIT, SAYS SANTA FE DEAN VICTORIA MORA.

Raised in Western Maryland, Mr. Darkey attended St. John's on a scholarship and, before graduating in 1942, was offered a faculty position. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1946 and then, upon his honorable discharge, pursued a graduate degree in English literature at Columbia University. Noted poet and professor Mark Van Doren was both a mentor and good friend. Returning to St. John's in 1949, Mr. Darkey joined a cadre of tutors who helped build the college's reputation, including intellectuals

and refugees from Europe such as Eva Brann and gifted composers such as Elliot Carter.

At the new campus in Santa Fe, Mr. Darkey served as dean from 1968 to 1972 with "imagination, diligence, and perceptiveness," former president Richard Weigle wrote in one of his memoirs. A dedicated teacher and proponent of the St. John's Program, Mr. Darkey was known for his intellect, his gentle manner in the seminar room, and his ability to bring out different points of view.

He was also appreciated for his quiet humor.

"He loved music, poetry, and literature," says tutor emeritus Sam Kutler (class of 1954), who was a student of Mr. Darkey's. "He was one of the founders of the Key School here in Annapolis because he cared about education at all levels."

Mr. Darkey was preceded in death by his wife, Constance (SFG185). He is survived by his stepson, Peter Nabokov; his daughter, Catherine Darcy; and a grandson, Aaron Darcy.

BRIAN WALKER (SF90)

BY DAVID MARQUEZ (SF90)

As his classmates, much of our appreciation of Brian is framed in our shared experience of St. John's College. To us, Brian's life is not a series of accomplishments and milestones, especially given that he, like us, chose to attend a college without the usual yardsticks of letter grades, midterms, multiple choice tests or final exams. His decision to follow an ancient method of learning based on the simple and complex tasks of reading and conversing and also to lead a life full of complexity, beauty and creativity is proof of his deep inspiration and feeling for the world. Our Brian Walker was, without a doubt, the exemplary "Johnnie."

To list Brian's accomplishments is a little like trying to trace the course of a stream from its mountain origins as it grows to a river and onward to its ultimate union with the greater sea, and in that course, name all of the ways that gift of water affects the places and creatures it touches as it passes. It is better then to say at least some of the things Brian was to those of us who knew

him. Above all else he was our friend: a whirl of life, joy, sarcasm, wit, hilarity, sorrow, vanity, appreciation, generosity, empathy, deep understanding, profound imagination, grammatical knowledge and a boundless well of love for life and all that was a part of it.

He was a poet and a creator: the very highest honors one could take from the college Brian chose. It was his ability to use wit and sarcasm that kept his feet firmly planted on the ground. His cock-eyed view of pretentiousness when he encountered it and the way he could cut to the quick of any situation to reveal its true form told all of us that here was someone who could see through the most carefully crafted constructs. This was a power to be reckoned with and respected. For many of us, it was Brian who would give voice to what we were all thinking, but could not diplomatically express.

He was a master of creating the world as he saw it and in such completeness that those of us around him could not imagine it not being so. In this way a big green Ford pick-up became both chariot and limousine, and a student flat with bad plumbing could become a banquet hall fit for

tasting the world's finest champagnes. Those of us around him happily engaged in his world view not out of dissatisfaction with the world as it was, but because what Brian brought out in each of us was the hope and the belief that the world would be just as we all imagined it could be: full of poetry and low humor, music and guffawing, crassness and beauty, and throughout all, love.

It is no coincidence that all who met Brian in those years at St. John's, and I am certain in those years before and after, are unable to forget him. This is because he is one of those rare individuals who those of us fortunate enough to have as a friend know that because of him our view of the world and of our own lives will never be the same. As he departs it is undeniable that any honors and accolades that Brian may have collected during his time here are only dim reflections of the light he shared with us.

IRA MILLER (AG107)

Ira Miller, a retired general surgeon whose passion for the classics brought him to St. John's, died in March at his home in Bethesda, Md. He was 78 and had prostate cancer.

Dr. Miller was on the staff of several hospitals, including Suburban Hospital, where he chaired the surgery department from 1991 to 1993 and served as chairman of the medical staff from 1993 to 1995. A native of New York, he received a bachelor's degree in English from Columbia University in 1951 and a medical degree from the University of Buffalo in 1956.

During retirement he came to St. John's to continue his education. "Ira's years at St. John's were a very rewarding time after his retirement from surgery," says his wife, Barbara. "He was very grateful for the opportunity to study the works of many of the thinkers whose writings he had glossed over as an undergraduate. His studies at St. John's enhanced his abilities as a discussion leader in the Great Books program, and led to his developing courses on the *Iliad* and the histories of Herodotus and Thucydides."

PATRICK PATRONE (SF78)

Patrick M. Patrone, M.D., died suddenly at his home in Hopkins, Minn., on April 16, 2009. He was 51.

Born in Izmir, Turkey, Dr. Patrone spent most of his early years in Fairfax, Va. After graduating from St. John's, he earned an MS in physiology from Georgetown University, and his medical degree from the University of Virginia. He completed his residency in pathology at the Cleveland Clinic and did a fellowship in pediatric pathology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He practiced pathology at Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia before moving to Lancaster County, where he worked as a pathologist at Lancaster General Hospital for nine years. He also worked at Reading Hospital and most recently at Lower Bucks Hospital in Bristol, Pa. He was a fellow of the College of American Pathologists.

JOHN M. ROSS (A69)

John Maxwell Ross died April 6, 2009, of natural causes at his home in Seattle. After graduating from

St. John's he served for four years in the U.S. Coast Guard, where he was stationed in St. Louis, Mo. He eventually settled in Seattle, where he spent the next few decades pursuing personal and professional interests.

An accomplished author of technical books, Mr. Ross also pursued other writing projects, including a planned study of the writings of E.B. White. He combined his Coast Guard radio engineering experience and his love for music and folklore to serve many local organizations, including KRAB Radio, Northwest Folklife, and the Seattle Folklore Society. A dedicated archivist, Mr. Ross was deeply committed to preserving the musical heritage of the past in new and different media. He also enjoyed collecting local Pacific Northwest wines and making homemade apple cider with members of the Northwest Cider Society. He served on the Wallingford Community Council.

ALSO NOTED:

RICHARD FRANK (CLASS OF 1949), MAY 5, 2009

CHARLES WYMAN GROVER (CLASS OF 1948), MARCH 19, 2009

STEVEN KEY (A74), MAY 26, 2009

ALVIN LEVY (CLASS OF 1938), JAN. 22, 2009

WILLIAM SPRANKLE (CLASS OF 1951), FEB. 7, 2009

KEVIN STACEY (A75), MARCH 23, 2009

BOWEN WEISHEIT (CLASS OF 1940), APRIL 29, 2009

JOHN WINSLOW (CLASS OF 1933), DEC. 28, 2008



BRIAN WALKER

JOHNNIE VS. JOHNNIE: SHOWDOWN WITH SANTA FE

Faced with another Sunday croquet match this spring (Navy had a scheduling conflict), Alumni Director Jo Ann Mattson (A87) hit on an idea: why not fill the empty Saturday with a Johnnie vs. Johnnie, East vs. West match? When enough Santa Fe students took the challenge, Mattson made it an official part of the weekend. Since Sunday drew the largest crowd ever—about 3,000 people—the informal and intimate Santa Fe vs. Annapolis match was the highlight of the weekend for many. “This is what croquet was like in its early days,” said Mattson, her picnic set up on the edge of the playing court. “Look at all the students here.”

Students who made the trip from Santa Fe, along with transfers to Annapolis, gathered under a tent where they proudly displayed the New Mexico flag. Other students lounged on blankets in the sun and did homework or read as the games went on around them. “I’m not really following

the game,” confessed Gina Russom (A09), who spent her first two years in Santa Fe. “But it’s nice to have a little bit of Santa Fe here in Annapolis.”

Even though Santa Fe’s team included six former Annapolis students who transferred to Santa Fe, Annapolis prevailed 3-0. And though the Santa Fe players practiced a couple of times a week, it can’t be said that either team took things too seriously on Saturday. Santa Fe’s team was led not by an Imperial Wicket but by a “Grand Marnier.” Another player donned a clown’s outfit for part of his match. Along with their nicknames (“Drunken Alex” and “Fried Smokra” among them), the Santa Fe competitors printed a quote from the Roman poet Claudian on their red shirts: “It is no victory unless the vanquished admits your mastery.”

But on Sunday, it was all business. Perhaps it was the spring warmth after a dreary, bad-news winter that brought such a large, enthusiastic crowd to campus for Sunday’s

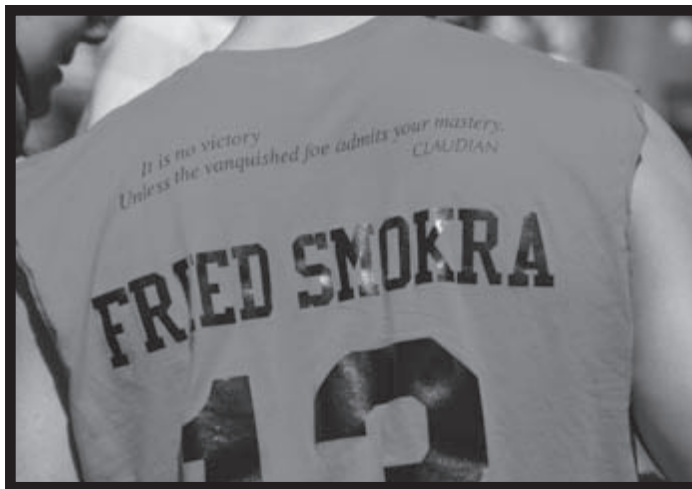


match. Dressed as Vikings (costumes chosen to hint at domination of the seas), the Johnnies triumphed 4-1 over Navy.

Imperial Wicket Micah Beck was well pleased with the victory, although he and his partner lost their match. Perhaps the large crowd had something to do with it, he ventured. “There were alumni lining the sidelines watching,” he says. “We had some nervous jitters to work out.”

The following weekend the Johnnies closed out their croquet season by bringing

home another trophy, as winners of the National Inter-collegiate Championships held April 25-26 at the Merion Cricket Club in Haverford, Pennsylvania. The Johnnies were among the top seeds going into Sunday’s play, and they won all of their six-wicket matches. Teams were fielded by institutions including the Naval Academy, Bard, Haverford, Davidson, and SUNY-New Paltz. ❖





OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP RIGHT, SANTA FE PLAYERS CONSIDER THEIR CHOICES; BOTTOM RIGHT, A QUOTE FROM CLAUDIAN ON A SANTA FE T-SHIRT; LEFT, GINA RUSSOM (A09) WATCHES THE ACTION. ABOVE: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP, FIERCE VIKINGS FACE OFF AGAINST THE NATTILY DRESSED MIDSHIPMEN; THE ANNAPOLIS CUP AWAITS THE VICTOR IN THE ALUMNI TENT; THE SANTA FE-ANNAPOLIS MATCH WAS LIKE THE “OLD DAYS” OF CROQUET; ELSABE DIXON (A11) AND JOAO FERNANDES (A09) JOIN THE SWING DANCERS.

CALENDAR

Alumni, it's time to come home to Annapolis and Santa Fe this fall!

ANNAPOLIS

Friday, September 25

- 4-8 p.m. Registration
- 4:30-6 p.m. Alumni/student networking and welcome reception, FSK Lobby
- 5:30 p.m. Class reunion dinners/receptions
- 8:15 p.m. Homecoming Lecture: "*Don Quixote and the Law*," by Pedro Martinez-Fraga (A84)

Saturday, September 26

- 8:30-noon Registration continues
- 10:30 a.m. Seminars, children's story hour and seminars
- noon Family barbeque/ class reunion luncheons
- 2 p.m. Freshman chorus, revisited
- 3 p.m. The Mitchell Gallery's "Tools in Motion" exhibit; Soccer Classic
- 4 p.m. All-Alumni Meeting/awards assembly; book signing
- 5-7 p.m. Cocktail party/birthday celebration
- 7:30 p.m. Alumni banquet
- 9:30 p.m. Alumni ball; rock party

Sunday, September 27

- 11 a.m. Presidents' Brunch

CROQUET

St. John's vs. the U.S. Naval Academy
Saturday, April 17, 2010
Raindate: Sunday, April 18, 2010

PIRAEUS, ALUMNI CONTINUING EDUCATION

Thursday, June 3, to Sunday, June 6, 2010.



SENIORS AND ALUMNI CAME TOGETHER FOR A RECEPTION AT THE PACA GARDENS BEFORE COMMENCEMENT. L. TO R.: JESSICA ZIMMERBERG-HELMS, CAROL FREEMAN (AG194), AND ALEXANDRA MUNTERS.



SANTA FE

Friday, October 9

- 4-8 p.m. Registration
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. Alumni/student reception
- 5:30 p.m. Class reunion receptions
- 6 p.m. GI welcome reception
- 8 p.m. Homecoming lecture
- 10 p.m. Movie

Saturday, October 10

- 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. State of the college
- 10:30 a.m.-noon Seminars and children's story hours
- 12:30 p.m. Picnic
- 2 p.m. Hike to Atalaya
- 2-4 p.m. Bocce tournament and Italian lawn party
- 5 p.m. Speaking Volumes lecture
- 6 p.m. Collegewide Art Show
- 7 p.m. Homecoming dinner
- 9 p.m. Homecoming dance

Sunday, October 11

- 11 a.m. President's Brunch

A DAY IN THE COUNTRY

Each May Sharon Bishop (class of 1965) welcomes Washington-area alumni to her home in Winchester, Va., for an annual “Day in the Country,” featuring a picnic, tutor-led seminar, and an opportunity for Johnnies to frolic in the sunshine. This year, the popular event had one of its best turnouts since Bishop began hosting about six years ago. About 50 participants attended the event, held on Memorial Day weekend. Tutors Eva Brann (H89) and Peter Kalkavage led the seminar, on Book 10 of Augustine’s *Confessions*.

Each group talked for an hour, then Brann and Kalkavage switched groups. Kalkavage’s opening question was: how does Augustine lay out the difference between the inner man and the outer man? The discussion focused on memory as the medium for inner man. Brann concentrated on the chapter as “first phenomenology.”

Bishop provided a catered lunch (salad, grilled chicken, salmon, lemon squares, chocolate mousse) paired with wines from alumni winemakers: Hawk’s Crest, from Warren Winiarski (class of 1952); Frog’s Leap, from Larry Turley (SF69); and Sanglier Volant, from the vineyard of the late Jeff Bishop (H96), the college’s long-time vice president for advancement.

After the seminars, some alumni played croquet, bocce, and badminton; others lounged under shady trees and talked.

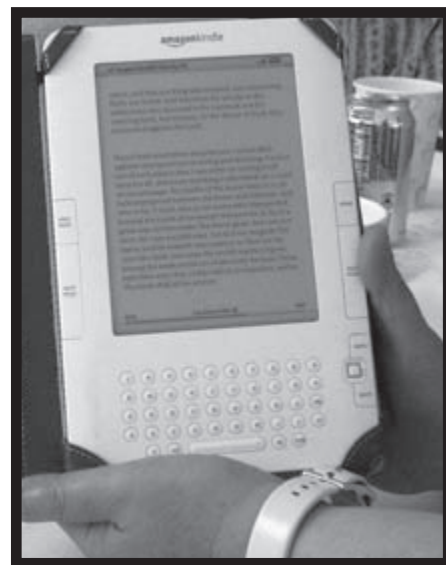


Bishop’s bearded collies, Brie and Sunshine, participated in every activity.

Ymelda Martinez-Allison (A74) and her husband, David (A73), were among those who made the trek. “The Day in the Country was fabulous,” Martinez-Allison said. “We had lovely weather and a great time of socializing. The luncheon was absolutely delicious, and the seminar discussions were lively and fruitful.”

“Thanks to Sharon, it was an absolutely perfect day,” says Jo Ann Mattson (A87), director of Alumni Relations. “It was such a generous gift to her fellow alumni.”

“I enjoy hosting the event,” says Bishop. “I love having the house in the country, and I enjoy sharing it. And, we had great weather.” ❖



SCENES FROM A DAY IN THE COUNTRY: SEMINARS, AUGUSTINE ON KINDLE, FRIENDS, AND BADMINTON. PHOTOS BY DAVID ALLISON.



A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Alumni Association Honors WWII Hero

His health wouldn't allow World War II veteran Martin Andrews (class of 1943) to come to Annapolis to receive the Alumni Award of Merit, the highest honor given by the Alumni Association. So Alumni Director Jo Ann Mattson (A87) and Steve Thomas (SF75), vice president of the association, traveled to the Northport Veteran's Administration Medical Center on Long Island, New York, to present the award to him on March 17.

They brought with them a special guest: tutor Eva Brann (H89), who through a dedicated correspondence with Mr. Andrews developed a friendship that has lasted more than two decades. When they arrived at the center Mr. Andrews introduced his wife, Jean, to the group and quipped to Miss Brann, "she knows I love you."

The Award of Merit was presented by Mr. Thomas, in recognition of Mr. Andrews' outstanding service to the country, his affection and dedication for St. John's and the ideals it represents. Mr. Andrews has been deemed a most worthy recipient of the Award of Merit," he said. The ceremony was held in a common room of the VA Center, where Mr. Andrews

"...He modestly disowns any praise for his personal courage."

TUTOR EVA BRANN, ON MARTIN ANDREWS

lives, and his family and friends joined in congratulating him. In her remarks at the brief ceremony, Miss Brann noted that Mr. Andrews is "the alumnus of alumni." He left St. John's in 1941 to enlist as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Force. After he completed his flight training in 1942, Mr. Andrews was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and flew the B-17—the Flying Fortress—out of England. On his 13th mission, his plane was fired on by Luftwaffe fighters, and Mr. Andrews was forced to set his damaged bomber down in neutral Switzerland. He spent seven months in internment camps there before being released through a prisoner exchange with Germany. (Along the way, he carried out a spy mission for Allen Dulles, who headed up the OSS in Europe.) After the war Mr. Andrews settled in New York, where he became a documentary filmmaker.

Although he didn't finish the Program, Mr. Andrews carried the ideals of the

college to war with him, Miss Brann said: "Under the pilot's window of the Flying Fortress he piloted, he preempted the display of the customary buxom blonde by a stenciled quotation from our old seal: *Nulla via invia virtutis*—No way is impassable to courage," she said. "From his aircraft he released catalogues of the New Program attached to little parachutes. It still makes my heart leap to think of these plans for a liberal education floating down from the heavens into totalitarian Germany."

Miss Brann recalled meeting Mr. Andrews at Homecoming in 1998, and shortly afterward, she received the first of his letters, an account of his war experiences. "How young they all were, Lieutenant Andrews himself only 23? And what the world owes them. He won't, I hope, mind this way of putting it, although he modestly disowns any praise for his personal courage."

She expressed her gratitude for the friendship that has developed through letters: "When I see his beautiful handwriting on an envelope, I'm happy." She noted that they have occupied the same places but at different times or under different circumstances during their lives. For example, in 1943 Mr. Andrews passed under escort through San Sebastian in Spain after his release from internment in Switzerland. "As it happens, I too passed under escort through San Sebastian, but in 1941, when a last refugee transport was mounted leaving Berlin for Lisbon." Miss Brann and her family settled in Brooklyn, and after earning a doctorate at Yale, she became a tutor at St. John's in 1957.

"So now, once more, space and time have happily made connection for us," Miss Brann concluded. "It is indeed purely wonderful to me, for I've grown to love Martin."

Still dapper at age 89, Mr. Andrews was visibly moved by the presentation. He expressed gratitude for both the honor from St. John's and the visit from Miss Brann.

"This is a thrilling moment for me, because Eva Brann is an extraordinary woman," he told the guests. "She is the dearest correspondent I have, and I love her dearly." ❖

PENPALS EVA BRANN AND MARTIN ANDREWS HAVE DEVELOPED A DEEP FRIENDSHIP, ROOTED IN MUTUAL ADMIRATION.



JOE SLEDGE, VA MEDICAL CENTER

SPOTLIGHT: THE HARRISBURG READING GROUP

When Hannah Eagleson (AG104) moved back home to Hershey, Pennsylvania, to work on her doctoral dissertation on lyric poets, she found herself missing seminar. She missed the conversations she had at the St. John's Graduate Institute and as a graduate student at the University of Delaware.

It might have been easy to find a book group or a reading club in the area, but that wasn't what she was looking for. "I wanted to meet more people who enjoyed reading and wrestling with texts in the way that Johnnies tend to," she says. "Many of my friends in this area are thoughtful readers, but they might not have time for a St. John's style reading group."

In February, Eagleson started a St. John's alumni reading group in nearby Harrisburg. Meeting once a month at a local coffee house, participants get together to discuss works. Leadership of the discussion rotates between members, who can ask an opening question if they choose. Participants in the group include alumni from both campuses, and from both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Regular participants include

"I love reading with Johnnies because they tend to be interested in approaching the text on its own terms. . ."

HANNAH EAGLESON

Randy St. John (AG187), Aaron and Sarah Frederickson (SF95), Kristen Litsinger (A93), Marvin Israel (SFG173), Rebecca Stevenson (AG195), Mike Jerominski (SF97), and Kristin Lockhart (SF97).

Readings have included selected poetry of John Donne and *King Lear*, which Randy St. John has been leading the group through act-by-act. Group members are eager to move beyond the seminar to arrange social and cultural outings; they're planning to attend a local Shakespeare in the Park production of *Cymbeline*, as well as organize a group hike.

"We're still figuring out a lot of things, but it's been very exciting so far," Eagleson says. "[I]t has been a great pleasure to give careful attention to texts together, and to

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.

hear what everyone else has to say. I love reading with Johnnies because they tend to be interested in approaching the text on its own terms, but also interested in how texts interact with life experience."

The group typically meets on the fourth Friday of each month at Cornerstone Coffeehouse, 2133 Market St., Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. Contact Hannah Eagleson (hannaheag@comcast.net) for more information.

— SARA LUELL (A09)



INTRODUCING NANCIE WINGO

In June, Nancie Wingo joined the Santa Fe staff as director of Alumni Activities. Prior to joining the college, Wingo worked in Richmond, Va., for the YMCA of Greater Richmond Association. She held numerous roles in her seven years with the association, most recently directing member services.

A native of Merced, Calif., Wingo is a 1981 graduate of

Baylor University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in communications. She has also held jobs in public relations and marketing. She has two sons: Harrison, 23, and Andrew, 19. An avid traveler, Wingo enjoys tennis, hiking, reading, films and trying new recipes.

Wingo is pleased to join "this gem of a college" and eager for the opportunity to reach out to Santa Fe alumni. "I have a deep and growing respect for the College, the Program, a stimulating community, and the opportunities that the future holds," she says. ❖



GREENFIELD LIBRARY

A century ago this past February—just as the college was preparing to celebrate the 125th anniversary of its charter—McDowell Hall was gutted by a blaze most likely caused by defective wiring. President Thomas Fell had been working in his McDowell office that Saturday morning, February 20. He later told the *Baltimore Sun* that he and his secretary had smelled smoke, but they both thought someone was burning trash nearby. Fell went home to lunch at 1 p.m., but within minutes, his secretary was at the door, reporting that McDowell was on fire.

Students formed a bucket brigade, but they soon realized they could not reach the source of the flames. Instead, led by faculty members, they concentrated on saving the building's contents, including college records (including some from King

William's School), class shields and portraits of the college's presidents. Led by Lt. E. Berkely Iglehart (class of 1894), a squad of students was dispatched to carry out the 30,000 rounds of ammunition for the college's military program stored in the basement. Firemen and midshipmen from the Naval Academy also helped fight the blaze, which could be seen for miles around and attracted hundreds of spectators to the campus.

When it was all over, the upper two floors of McDowell were gone. Falling debris and water left the building's first floor in ruins.

Though badly damaged, the masonry walls were intact, and this helped Fell and the board decide that McDowell would rise again. Contributions from alumni started pouring in immediately. With their financial support, the college rebuilt McDowell according to its original design,

with the largely intact rear rooms serving as models. By June 1910, the reconstruction was complete.

In 1989, the college undertook an extensive restoration of McDowell, moving administrative offices to a new wing in Mellon Hall and refiguring them as classrooms, installing heating and air conditioning, and shoring up the floors and galleries.

It's hard to imagine the Annapolis campus without McDowell. Its iconic bell tower was carried over to the design of another building 2000 miles away, what would become Weigle Hall in Santa Fe. ✱

For more on McDowell's history and a full account of the 1909 fire, consult McDowell Hall at St. John's College in Annapolis: 1742-1989, by John Christensen with Charles Bohl.

On Moving Again

This evening, walking along the long field
My eye was drawn to a living shimmer in the sky:
Three aspens alone alive in a world of almost motionless
Cottonwood and willow and Chinese elm trees.

The breeze that barely stirred the others
Sprang it free, spangling leaves like light on water,
An electric flutter, the secret energy
In the heart of the world revealed. Free.

An aspen leaf might believe itself inordinately busy
(especially comparatively) and certain therefore
It will expire prematurely, useless, stupid, failed.
From where I stood, it was the most beautiful thing to see.

My life could be similarly pleasing to God.
I guess this could be service enough for me.

Liz Waldner



About the artist and poet

Karina Hean's *Nebulous* (36" x 24" charcoal, conté, and graphite on cotton rag paper, 2007) was created for an exhibit at the University of Colorado. After teaching at Fort Lewis College and completing several national and international fellowships and residencies, Hean (Aoo) will be a visiting professor at the University of Montana this fall. Upcoming solo exhibitions include the Contemporary Center for the Arts in December 2009, Fort Lewis College in January 2010, and ArtHaus 66 in summer 2010.

Liz Waldner (A83) is the author of *Saving the Appearances*; *Dark Would* (the missing person), winner of the 2002 Contemporary Poetry Series; *Etym(bi)ology*; *Self and Simulacra* (2001), winner of the Alice James Books Beatrice Hawley Prize; *A Point Is That Which Has No Part*, winner of the 2000 James Laughlin Award and the 1999 Iowa Poetry Prize; and *Homing Devices* (1998). Her poetry has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Colorado Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Ploughshares*, *VOLT*, and many other publications.

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

