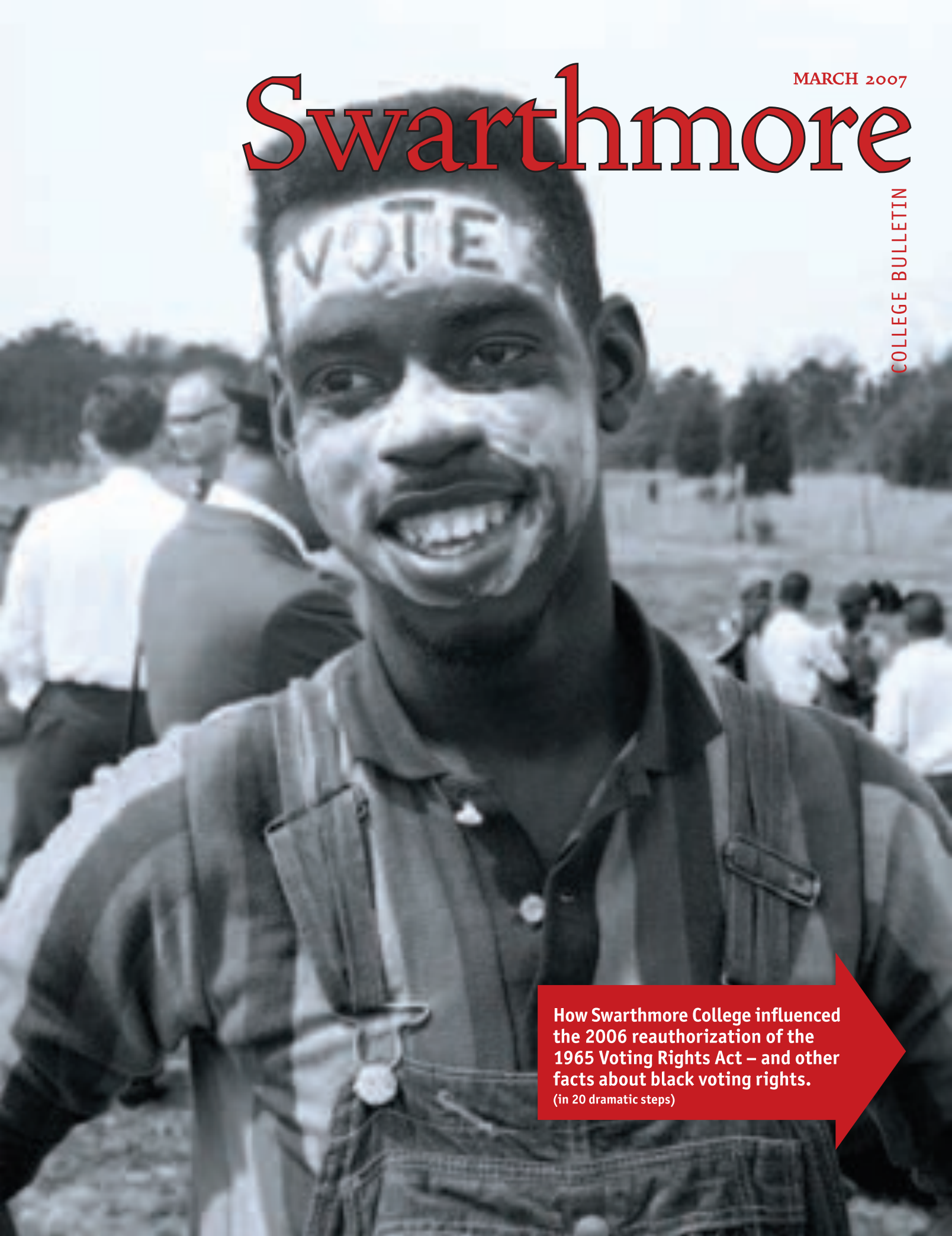


# Swarthmore

MARCH 2007

COLLEGE BULLETIN



How Swarthmore College influenced  
the 2006 reauthorization of the  
1965 Voting Rights Act – and other  
facts about black voting rights.  
(in 20 dramatic steps)





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In March 1965, a young demonstrator in Montgomery, Ala., with the word "vote" written in his sunscreen, marches for black voting rights—part of a long struggle for black suffrage in the United States.

Photograph ©Bettmann-Corbis. Story on page 20

## opposite

An unidentified snowboarder, using an improvised jumping platform, shows off some "righteous" skills after one of this winter's meager snowfalls. Photograph by Eleftherios Kostans



## Swarthmore

COLLEGE BULLETIN

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I cast my first presidential ballot in 1968, voting rather reluctantly for Vice President Hubert Humphrey. The Vietnam War was raging, the Democratic Convention in Chicago had spawned a police riot, and I couldn't understand why I had to choose between the lesser of two evils—Humphrey or Richard Nixon—in my first presidential election. I desperately wanted to be able to support someone I could believe in, but that wasn't an option in 1968—and, as I have learned in subsequent elections, it isn't often a choice in our two-party process.

It's actually remarkable that, during that tumultuous year, I wanted to vote at all. I was a college dropout and hippie vagabond, not exactly part of the mainstream political system. But voting mattered to me then—and still matters now. As a teenager, I'd witnessed the black voting-rights struggles, the courageous marches, the brutal murders, and the inspiring speeches. I had listened to Bob Dylan and knew the times were indeed changing.

I had seen that African Americans cared so deeply about the franchise that they were willing to risk their lives to attain it. The blood of Selma—and, a century

before, of the Civil War—elevated the vote for everyone, including white male Americans like me whose voting rights had never been in question. Our history, however, contradicts the idea that democracy has prevailed since the Revolution.

As the magazine's history of black voting rights (p. 20) makes clear, the expansion of suffrage in the United States has been a constant battle since the founding of the Republic. Many barriers to voting have fallen—property, gender, and race among them—but, as evidenced in the recent history of the Voting Rights Act, significant obstacles must be monitored and overcome.

**Swarthmore scholarship, backed by the College's consistent commitment to social justice, had a small but significant effect on the federal government's effort to protect black voting rights.**

Swarthmore scholarship, backed by the College's consistent commitment to social justice, had a small but significant effect on the federal government's effort to protect black voting rights.

For a time after 1968, I lived in rural Vermont, where our paper-ballot voting booths were nailed together with pine lumber and simple muslin curtains. It was there that I voted for George McGovern, who managed to win Massachusetts but no other state. He would have ended the war quickly, but the electorate decided on 4 more years for Nixon. (After Watergate and some articles of impeachment, his term turned out to be fewer years than that.)

I've voted for a huge crop of losers since then. I've learned to live in the minority, hewing to principles and trying to feel just a little bit smug as my candidates went to their noble defeats. It's not a good way to feel. George McGovern was a really good man—a man of peace. Why is it so difficult for us to vote for candidates who truly promise peace?

—Jeffrey Lott

## COURAGE TO ACT

It is a sad commentary on the American people and our current culture that, as Sean Barney '98 points out in "A Soldier's Tale" (December *Bulletin*), "the well educated and the well-to-do are increasingly absent from the military's ranks."

With a tear in my eye and a lump in my throat, I thank Sean Barney for the sacrifice he has made. He had the courage to act on his convictions when most of us turn a blind eye and look in the other direction.

WILLIAM NORWOOD '50  
Spokane, Wash.

## FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

Thank God for Sean Barney. He saw through the trees and understood the fundamental truths of today: We are at war, freedom is not free, and democracy implies responsibility. The selective study of history—does the name Neville Chamberlain mean anything to anyone?—is dangerous. Paradoxical and tragic as it is, there are times when war is the only route to peace. I am still hopeful that my son-in-law's death on 9/11 was not in vain.

ROBERT ROWLEY '61  
Danbury, Conn.

## IF THERE MUST BE HEROIC ACTS

Sean Barney's devotion to his ideals is exemplary. The risk that he exposed himself to in their name—not to mention the price that he paid—makes his position that much more believable and persuasive. Thus, he has a great responsibility to what he represents. Yet, although I can follow the thinking that led him to enlist and then to volunteer for duty in Iraq, I am left with a nagging doubt.

He writes about the loss of American lives and mentions that these often come about as a result of Iraqi suicide missions. How convinced or desperate must one be to resort to such a drastic measure?

Although murder was part of Saddam Hussein's politics, Iraqi men and women were not committing suicide on this scale under his regime. The great loss of civilian lives and the suffering of the rest of Iraq's population is therefore a direct result of that war. This—and not the loss of American lives—is what is really wrong.

I am not talking about differences of opinion but about the wanton waste of

human life for a cause that was lost from the start because it was based on flawed thinking, false pretenses, and outright lies. How can it be right to serve ideals that are being trampled by President Bush himself?

I live in Germany, and when Bush is irresponsibly compared to Hitler, it has a different ring here. With blind trust, the German people followed their democratically elected leader into a catastrophe, persuaded that they were doing the right thing. If ever there was an example of a leader unscrupulously abusing the best traits of his people, this was it. Viewed from this vantage point, making war on Iraq seems nothing less than insane.

With all due respect for Sean Barney's suffering, is there not a higher duty than risking your life and condoning the loss of other lives—American and Iraqi? Would it not have been better to mobilize with the same devotion to duty every last moral fiber in America to prevent this sad waste?

If there must be heroic acts, then why aren't the Marines—with soldiers like Sean Barney at their head—marching on the White House?

JEAN-MARIE CLARKE '74  
Staufen, Germany

## THE BEST TEACHERS

How wonderful to see a full-page picture and a profile of Centennial Professor Emerita of Classics Helen North ("Q+A," December *Bulletin*). My one regret, years after graduating from Swarthmore, was that I never took a course with her. I was a chemistry major—why would I need Greek Literature in Translation? Yet everyone who took that course worshipped Professor North. Going to her class was the highlight of their week.

During the years that she was leading Alumni College Abroad trips to the Mediterranean, I had neither the time nor the money to take them. Finally, when I had both, I managed to plug a giant hole in my education by traveling with Professor North around Ireland, looking at Neolithic sites, learning about the Stone Age, the Celts, medieval times, and William Butler Yeats. At age 83, she ran circles around us. It was an honors seminar without having to write the papers. I treasure every minute I spent with that remarkable woman.

It really is true that the best advice you



can give a young person starting college is: "Find out who the best teachers are, and take their courses. It doesn't matter what they are teaching."

ELIZABETH PROBASCO KUTCHAI '66  
Charlottesville, Va.

## REMEMBERING DOUG WEISS

It was with dismay and sadness that I read of Doug Weiss' death in September 2006 (December *Bulletin*). Although some 30 years have passed since I last saw Doug, I have recently been thinking of him while trying to make a rather unremarkable comeback in the local weight room.

Some time after I made Doug's acquaintance in the Swarthmore Field House weight room, he challenged me to a contest: the most dips on the parallel bars and the most behind-the-neck pull-ups on the Universal Gym bars. He easily won the first category, and I won the second, but the contest itself didn't matter. What really mattered was that, whenever I saw him, he took a personal interest in me and my training, reaching out a hand of friendship in the process.

God has a special place in his heart for those who reach out to others as Doug did.

ROGER KARNY '76  
Denver

## FOR THE RECORD

Novelist Benjamin Kunkel was inadvertently misquoted in "The Writer's Writer" (Dec. *Bulletin*). Referring to Norman Rush's ['56] award-winning novel, he actually said: "For my money, *Mating* is the best American novel of the last 30 years."

# THE MEANING OF SWARTHMORE

## BEATS GOAL BY \$15M

On Dec. 31, the College completed The Meaning of Swarthmore, the most successful and ambitious capital campaign in its 143-year history. The final total in gifts and pledges—\$245,462,000—surpassed the campaign's original goal by more than \$15 million. A remarkable 87 percent of alumni made a gift to the College during the period from July 1, 1999 to Dec. 31, 2007.

"We are all delighted at the outcome and thrilled that we've surpassed our goal," said Meaning of Swarthmore Co-Chair Fred Kyle '54. "The campaign was successful thanks to the hard work, dedicated effort, and generosity of many, many people. Everyone pitched in. We received gifts from alumni ranging from as far back as the 1920s to last year's graduating Class of 2006. The outpouring of support from alumni and the entire College community has been deeply gratifying."

President Alfred H. Bloom noted that "the College, a remarkable institution, is now even stronger. The success of the campaign is a magnificent collective accomplishment, which will allow Swarthmore to continue to live its distinctive vision and deliver its singular educational impact for many years to come."

Made public in September 2001, The Meaning of Swarthmore focused on academic and student-life priorities essential to preserving and extending the quality of a Swarthmore education into the 21st century and beyond. Among its most significant accomplishments, the campaign has:

- Funded 10 new tenure-track and several non-tenure-track faculty positions and created five new second-semester faculty leaves
- Helped put in place new curricular initiatives in cognitive science, film and media studies, and Islamic studies
- Created 170 new scholarships and reinforced the College's commitment to need-blind admissions and financial aid
- Supported each varsity sport with a full-time coach and funded improved athletic facilities
- Underwritten the cost of a revised Honors Program
- Built a state-of-the-art science center and the Alice Paul '05 Residence Hall

- Renovated the College's original building, Parrish Hall, the figurative and literal "heart" of the campus
- Established the Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility, Swarthmore's central link between rigorous academic training and the development of leadership skills required to shape a more just, democratic, peaceful, and inclusive world
- Created the position of associate dean for multicultural affairs
- Built an endowment for religious advisors
- Expanded the scope and impact of the Career Services Office; and
- Opened up additional personal development opportunities for College staff.

"This campaign is significant, in part, because it expanded the College's capacity to fund its programs and meet its needs for the future," said Dan West, vice president for alumni and development. "Our entire development effort has been stepped up to a new level of effectiveness."

This spring, celebratory events to thank Swarthmore alumni, parents, and friends are scheduled to take place in San Francisco and Los Angeles in March; Philadelphia on April 17; New York City on May 8; Washington, D.C., on May 14; and Boston on June 19. Invitations will be sent out in advance of each event, and a reply is requested.

—Alisa Giardinelli

### ENVISIONING SWARTHMORE 2025

In January, a planning committee consisting of faculty members, administrators, alumni, the Student Council president, and members of the Board of Managers was formed to begin the process of envisioning the College in 2025.

In a February letter to alumni, Board Chair Barbara Weber Mather '65 and President Alfred H. Bloom invited participation in the first stages of the planning process by asking for thoughts on these questions: "What is your vision of the Swarthmore of 2025? In what ways would you want the College to be similar to and in what ways different from the Swarthmore of today?"

Alumni responses to these questions will become part of a semester-long discussion this spring that will lead to the formation of "focused planning groups charged with identifying how the College can best advance toward the goals set," the letter said.

The planning process began just after the successful completion of The Meaning of Swarthmore, which raised more than \$245 million in gifts and pledges to fulfill many of the goals set by a previous plan that was completed in 1999.

—Jeffrey Lott



The College's state-of-the-art science center was a campaign centerpiece.





## The Beauty of Beauvais

*Jesus Calling Peter and Andrew* is one of dozens of stained-glass windows that Michael Cothren, professor of art history and consultative curator at the Glencairn Museum in Bryn Athyn, Pa., writes about in *Picturing the Celestial City: The Medieval Stained Glass of Beauvais Cathedral* (Princeton University Press, 2006). The book offers the first serious look at the collection of Gothic stained-glass windows originating from the 13th, 14th, and 16th centuries that has dominated the experience of those who enter the Cathedral of Saint-Pierre in Beauvais, France.

Lavishly illustrated and elegantly written, Cothren's latest book has been declared "a staple for scholars and students of medieval stained glass" by Stephen Murray of Columbia University. The author takes the reader back in history to examine the four main phases of the cathedral's medieval glazing campaigns. He also dismantles a long-held misconception that medieval pictorial art was a substitute text or "Bible for the poor" and shows how the rich stained-glass scenes functioned more as sermon than scripture.

—Susan Cousins Breen

## The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education

### SWARTHMORE LEADS IN BLACK FRESHMEN ENROLLMENT

As the College welcomed 43 black first-year students to campus this year, the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* announced that Swarthmore was first among America's highest-ranked liberal arts colleges for the greatest percentage of black students in its freshman class.

According to Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jim Bock '90, "this achievement represents Swarthmore's commitment to a diverse educational experience, and we hope that more prospective students will see and appreciate this."

The number of black students at Swarthmore also creates a "critical mass" that Director of the Black Cultural Center Timothy Sams says is essential to a healthy and viable community of black students on campus.

Sams sees breadth and depth among these students. "There is a deepening heritage that the black students at Swarthmore have achieved beyond numerical representation," he says, "in which they are actively engaged and leading organizations that allow them to weave themselves into the Swarthmore community in ways that maintain their own cultural identity."

Along with higher levels of applications and enrollment, the number of admitted early-decision black students has also grown, demonstrating a growing interest in the College.

—Susan Cousins Breen

## TRIPLE HOORAY

In November, Joseph Wharton Professor of Economics Robinson Hollister received the Peter H. Rossi Award from the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. Given in memory of the achievements of late eminent sociologist Peter Rossi, the award recognizes contributions to the theory and/or practice of program evaluation. Hollister was honored for his contributions to the field, with emphasis on the use of random assignment designs to test the impact of new social policies. He was praised as "a devoted teacher who has introduced generations of students to the intellectual challenges related to program evaluation." Many former students are now professionals in the field."

Frederic Pryor, emeritus professor of economics and senior research scholar, was a recipient of the J. Michael Montias Prize from the Association of Comparative Economic Studies in

January. The prize is awarded biennially to the author of the best overall paper published in the *Journal of Comparative Economics*. Focusing on industrial economies, Pryor's paper illustrates a new statistical method for classifying economic systems and linking them to economic performances.

Associate Professor of Russian Sibelan Forrester was honored in the fall with the award for Best Translation in Slavic/East European/Eurasian Women's Studies published in 2004–2006. In a press release, Forrester's translation, *American Scream: Palindrome Apocalypse*, of female Croatian poet Dubravka Orsić's *Urlik Amerike: Palindromska Apokalipsa* was lauded as "a wonderful example of what this translation prize seeks to recognize. It is an extraordinary book of poetry and prose by the celebrated female Croatian poet, essayist, and literary critic ... masterfully, creatively, and sensitively translated by the well-known female Slavic literary scholar..."

—Carol Brévar-Demm



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## Dinner with the Nobel Laureates

Dressed in a long, black satin gown and elbow-length white satin gloves—and escorted by a man in tails—petite Ranga Atapattu '08 was going to a party. Not just any party, but the event of the year in Stockholm, Sweden—the Nobel Prize dinner.

Atapattu, who studied at Stockholm University last fall, was one of only 100 students in Sweden who won a pair of tickets in a lottery to attend the banquet in the famous Blue Hall of Stockholm's *Statshüs*. Both Atapattu and Saben Murray, the Brown University student who accompanied her, also wore traditional white caps that identified them as students.

Although Atapattu did not get the chance to meet him, another Swarthmorean was among the more than 1,000 guests at the party. John Mather '68, who shared the 2006 prize in physics, was seated with Swedish royalty on the upper level of the hall.

The elegant evening began with opening remarks by King

Carl Gustaf XVI and featured entertainment between each course of the meal.

"My Swedish contact family told me that the food is such a big secret before the banquet that in Sweden, if I found out just an hour beforehand, I could probably have made a lot of money. It's never been leaked to the press. Once the menu is revealed after the ceremony, it's served at a well-known restaurant in Sweden," Atapattu said.

This year's banquet menu included a mosaic of salmon and scallops with Kalix bleak roe; herb-baked saddle of lamb, mashed potatoes and Jerusalem artichokes, olive oil—glazed vegetables and port wine sauce; and for dessert, pineapple parfait with caramelized pineapple salad and mint.

Atapattu heard Mather's speech after dessert and later saw Sweden's Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt and George Smoot, the co-winner in physics, at the after-dinner dance where a band played jazz.

"In Sweden, the banquet is something akin to the celebrity award shows in the United States. They show the entire thing live on television, and comment on the dresses, the food, the performances," she said.

Atapattu described several highlights she experienced during the evening: "When I saw the place setting with my name and all of the gold-rimmed glasses and plates, when I stood up and saw the royalty descending with the winners, and when they served dessert. This was the finale. The chefs descended the grand staircase with their trays while the music and lights were still on from the previous performance. The trays held pineapple pieces with sparklers flying out of them. My mouth dropped open at that moment."

Atapattu almost didn't enter the lottery because, although the lottery tickets cost only \$3, actually winning would mean purchasing a \$150 ticket to the event. Then, she would need to buy a dress, jewelry, shoes, and all the accoutrements required for such a celebrated occasion.

"But I called my parents, and my mom convinced me by saying, 'even at that price, when would you ever get such a chance again' They also offered to pay for some or all of it, if necessary," Atapattu said. She estimated the entire evening cost \$500.

"I will always remember being part of this amazing moment in history," Atapattu said. "In the room with me were some of the most intelligent people in the world. People who worked hard to achieve world-changing discoveries. I was proud to be a part of honoring them. I know it will remain one of the best nights of my life."

—Audree Penner



MELISSA KING



# FUSION INFUSION

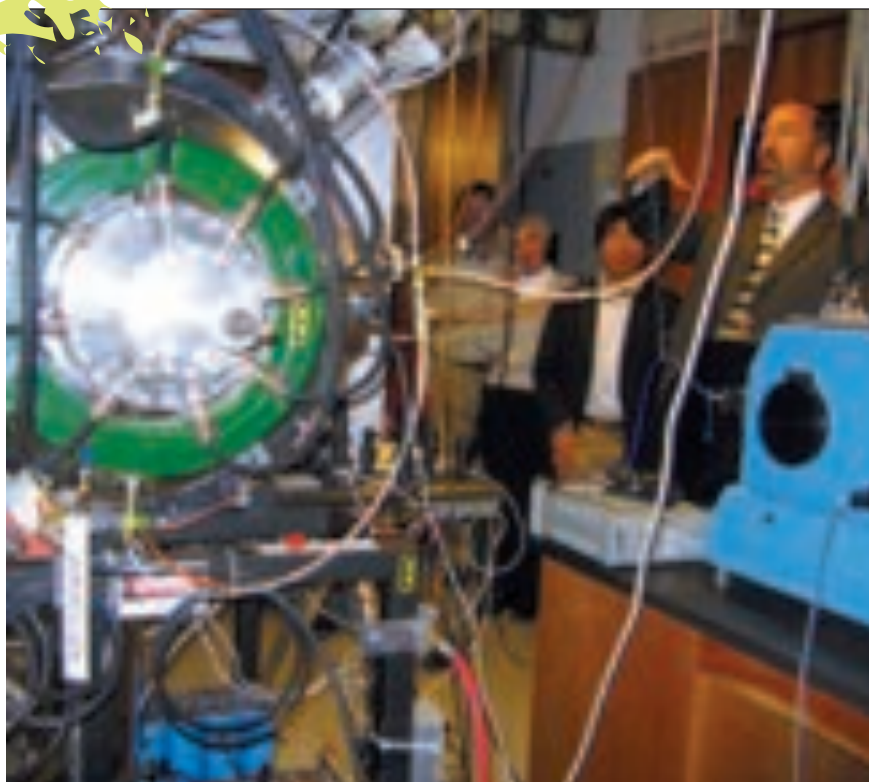
In a world where oil supplies are dwindling and global warming is increasing, there's a need for clean, renewable energy sources. One such source may someday be nuclear fusion using deuterium, a naturally occurring isotope of hydrogen, which, when superheated and fused to larger nuclei such as helium, releases energy without producing either radioactive waste or carbon dioxide.

Associate Professor of Physics Michael Brown talked about the process in November at the opening of a symposium that brought top U.S. and Japanese fusion researchers to Swarthmore. When deuterium is heated, he explained, its nuclei and electrons break away from each other. This results in the formation of a plasma in which the freed nuclei fuse to form helium. The new helium nucleus has a lower mass than the sum of their two original masses, and the difference is emitted as energy.

Brown's Swarthmore Spheromak Experiment (SSX), conducted with his students in the College's state-of-the-art science center, focuses on one of the keys to controlling fusion reactions—the behavior of plasma. At the heart of the SSX is a vacuum chamber in which twin high-energy bursts of plasma called "spheromaks" are produced—and then observed as they reconnect magnetically. The goal is to better understand how these plasmas (also called "magnetofluids") behave—and ultimately to apply that knowledge to the design of fusion reactors.

Currently, Brown told the symposium audience, the energy required to create and contain the plasma in which fusion takes place is roughly equal to the amount of energy produced. Thus, the cost of the fusion process remains higher than the value of the electricity it could produce.

But laboratories around the world are working on the problem. Brown's experiment is part of the Center for Magnetic Self-Organiza-



EVE STENSON

Associate Professor of Physics Michael Brown (*right*), leads a tour of the College's plasma physics lab during an international symposium held last fall.

tion in Laboratory and Astrophysical Plasmas funded in 2003 by the National Science Foundation. The center's other members are research universities: Princeton, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Chicago.

Japan has become a hub for alternative concepts of nuclear fusion. Professor Yasushi Ono of the University of Tokyo described the efficiency and cost of different forms of fusion with which Japanese scientists have experimented. His team built a reactor that creates toroidal rings of plasma (shaped like smoke rings) that are brought together to form a spherical cloud capable of sustaining fusion for longer periods of time. Ono's approach is now generating renewed interest in the United States.

—Jeffrey Lott, with reporting by Myles Dakan '10, Daily Gazette

## CARBON-NEUTRAL ALUMNI WEEKEND

Steps will be taken this June to offset the environmental impact of Alumni Weekend by making it possible for the College to reduce its long-term carbon emissions.

Following a suggestion from Matthew St. Clair '97, Professor of Engineering Carr Everbach and students in his environmental studies class Swarthmore and the Biosphere tackled the problem. Based on a complex set of assumptions, they calculated

the total carbon emissions for the weekend—including travel, meal preparation, air conditioning, and campus activities—at 640,565 pounds. Details are at [www.swarthmore.edu/es/energy/AW2007](http://www.swarthmore.edu/es/energy/AW2007). Comparing this to the world market for carbon credits, they fixed a value of \$8 per attendee for the "cost" of the carbon. But rather than ask alumni to pay their carbon bill on the world market, it was decided to support the College's efforts to reduce its own carbon footprint.

Upon registration for the weekend, alumni will be asked to donate a "carbon-

neutral weekend" fee of \$8 per person. The College will pool these funds to make improvements in its sustainability—and future environmental studies classes will monitor the result. One example mentioned in the calculations was to convert incandescent-bulb exit signs to LED (light-emitting diode) signs, which draw just 4 watts of power versus an average 40 watts for incandescent fixtures. Each new sign costs about \$75 to install.

The fee will be entirely voluntary—and tax deductible.

—Jeffrey Lott



# Joie de Glass

For the past 8 months or so, Fletcher Coleman '09 has been spending his free time learning the art of glass blowing in the shop his father constructed 30 years ago in a barn on the family's Ohio farm.

As a child, Coleman often traveled to exhibits and craft shows with his father, a professional glass blower who sells his works to retailers and galleries.

"I finally got to the point where I really wanted to blow glass myself. My dad's growing older, and I wanted to learn while I was still home a bit and had the opportunity," Coleman says. "It's an incredibly interesting and rewarding process that allows you to have a final product. You have all these ideas in your head, and then, at the end, you have this beautiful piece of glass that you've made—a tangible product of the creative process."

Coleman's fellow students are also benefiting from his artistry. At the end of last semester, he organized a campus sale of his creations. "I was just testing the waters," he says, "to see what the response would be. My stuff isn't expensive. I do this because I enjoy it, and it's hard to put a price on stuff like that, especially for someone in my position because I'm not that good at it yet."

Coleman's fellow students would disagree. His entire inventory sold out in 40 minutes.

—Carol Brévart-Demm

MEGAN NADOLSKI

Under the tutelage of his father, Fletcher Coleman (*foreground*) is learning the tricky art of glass blowing, for which, he says, perfecting the basics is crucial.



# WASH UP!

In the back of your mind is your mother's voice, saying, "Wash your hands." You think you're getting away from that when you go to college, but instead, the same hygiene reminder is coming from your fellow students—from a group named Swarthmore Clean Hands.

Seniors Michael Stone and Stephanie Koskovich set out last fall to improve student hygiene by promoting better hand-washing habits. Koskovich's motives were admittedly selfish: "I just got sick at Swarthmore a lot, and I was tired of it." So they put out the word and got organized.

Mara Phelan '10 has an interest in public health and began collecting stories about illness. "It's a domino effect with people who share bathrooms," she says. "One sick person touching faucets and door handles can get everybody sick." She's noted spikes of sickness around midterms and finals. "We hope when students see this data they'll take proper precautions. Stress levels are high, and they're not getting enough sleep. They're not taking care of themselves."

The group's first priority was to make it easier for students to take care of themselves by washing before meals. Sharples Dining Hall has one set of bathrooms near the main entrance—each with just three sinks. Although students know that they should wash their hands before eating, Stone says that "the infrastructure makes it difficult for us to do that." Koskovich agreed, saying of Sharples that "although it's great that there's a common space where we all come together, it's also a breeding ground for germs." Swarthmore Clean Hands asked for and got foaming sanitizer hand soap in the Sharples bathrooms.

The group is currently working to conduct a student survey to see what kind of hand sanitizer is preferred—according to Stone, students want one that "doesn't dry out or leave a sticky residue." The administration has been supportive and will almost certainly fund the project once a sanitizer is chosen. Koskovich cited a study done at a large school where they installed hand sanitizers "and not only did sickness rates go down, but it actually saved them money."

Once the sanitizer is installed, Clean Hands will try to track the rate of upper respiratory infections at Swarthmore, collecting statistics on symptoms to see how they spread on a small campus. Visiting Sociology Professor Ginny O'Connell and her Research Design class are helping with the study. With Haverford as a control group,



ELEFTHERIOS KOSTANS



MICHAEL GILMORE

## Stressbustin'

"One waffle or two? Three?" "Why not?" "Strawberry and maple syrup? Whipped cream?" "Oh, yeah!" These were some of the utterances heard at the Dec. 14 Midnight Breakfast in Sharples Dining Hall. Dean of Students Jim Larimore said it was organized to provide students with an emotional boost before finals—"not to mention a few calories to help them get through a long night of studying."

Staff and faculty members—including president Alfred H. Bloom and his wife, Peggi—attended, some manning the kitchen as cooks, waiters, and servers. Larimore

worked the waffle line with Paula Dale, executive assistant in facilities and services, who said: "I'm usually bleary-eyed by that time of night, but the students were so happy and appreciative that we all got caught up in their energy." Students received star-shaped stress balls as party favors. At midnight, all joined together for a Swarthmore tradition—the "primal scream." "Imagine 800 students and a handful of faculty members, including the president and his wife, screaming in unison at Sharples," Larimore said. "Next year, I'm going to throw down my hot pad and run into the dining room to howl with them. I can't wait," Dale added.

—Carol Brévart-Demm

they will compare the spread of sickness in a community that uses sanitizer with one that does not.

Stone hopes the group will survive beyond its stated goal of Clean Hands: "We wanted to build up a body of people paying attention to public health issues on campus." Amber Viescas '09 would like to inspire a shift in the way students see their own health. She wrote in an e-mail: "Swarthmore's emphasis on academic performance 'first and foremost' can actually erode physical health. Every Swarthmore student sees that conflict every time they get sick: They ask themselves, 'Do I go into class and possibly infect more people, or do I stay in and risk getting too far behind?' I'm not sure all professors see it the same way."

Although the core group is small, more than 60 different students have been involved in Clean Hands in some way or another—a small hand-washing army, hoping to give the "Garnet Death" the nasty end it deserves.

—Lauren Stokes '09





KYLE LEACH

## Records Fall As Swimmers Make a Splash

**Men's swimming (7-2, 6-0 CC)** The Swarthmore men concluded a banner 2006–2007 season, with the program's first-ever Centennial Conference dual meet title and a second-place finish at the Centennial Conference Swimming Championship meet. The Garnet broke six school records at the meet, led by Andrew Koczo '07 and Douglas Gilchrist-Scott '09, who together collected 12 medals. In the 100 breaststroke event, Koczo posted an NCAA provisional time, broke the school record, and won the gold medal; Gilchrist-Scott, a school-record holder in four events, gathered seven medals. The pair joined with Brian Roth '09 and Jon Augat '07 to win a gold medal in the 200 medley relay—the quartet set a new Centennial record and school record in the process. Augat also enjoyed a strong Centennial meet, collecting three gold medals including a school-record performance in the 50 freestyle.

**Women's swimming (7-3, 6-1 CC)** The Swarthmore women won a share of the Centennial Conference (CC) dual meet title with Gettysburg and Franklin & Marshall. Freshman Anne Miller qualified for the NCAA Championships after setting three school records (100 and 200 butterfly, 500 freestyle) and winning three gold medals, as the Garnet swam to third place at the Centennial Conference Swimming Championship meet. Allie Jordan '09 also set three school records—in the 50 and 100 backstroke and as a member of the Swarthmore 400 medley relay team, which won gold and set a new school record. Senior Sarah Cotcamp picked up three gold medals, includ-

ing an individual gold in the 50 freestyle, and classmate Janice Yeo also collected two golds for Swarthmore.

**Men's indoor track (8th at CCC)** Senior Matt Schiller won gold in the 400 meters at the 2007 Centennial Conference Championships, and the distance medley relay team of Ross Weller '08, Schiller, Connor Darby '09, and Vernon Chaplin '07 took home the bronze medal. Weller also posted a top-10 time at 3,000 meters.

**Women's indoor track (8th at CCC)** Sophomore Cait Mullarkey won the gold medal at 800 meters at the Centennial Conference Championships, and freshman Nikya Corbett just missed a medal with a fourth-place finish but still managed to post a top-10 time in the 3,000. At the St. Valentine Invite, hosted by Boston University on Feb. 11, Corbett broke the indoor mile record with a time of 5:16.02, besting the previous mark set by Sarah Hobbs '05.

**Men's basketball (11-14, 8-10 CC)** Juniors Ian McCormick and Matt Kurman received All-Centennial honors at the culmination of the season as Swarthmore finished sixth in the Conference, just missing a berth in the Centennial playoffs. McCormick, a forward, made second-team All-CC after leading Swarthmore in points (14.9 per game), rebounds (8.6 per game), and blocks (2.08 per game). On Feb. 16, McCormick became the sixth Garnet man to score 1,000 points and collect 500 rebounds in a career. McCormick completed the season tied with Rob Ruffin '00 (1998–1999) for the school



AURORA IMAGING

Junior Ian McCormick led Swarthmore in points, rebounds, and blocks—and was selected second-team All-Conference.

# DOES SWARTHMORE HAVE "SCHOOL SPIRIT?"

Following the selection of the phoenix as the new Swarthmore mascot last spring, steps have been taken to create a costumed character representing the mythical bird in time for an anticipated fall 2007 debut.

Ideas solicited from the student body during the winter were recently reviewed by a student-staff committee, which chose two as the basis for a final design. According to Karen Borbee, professor of physical education and senior woman administrator in the Department of Physical Education and Athletics, a professional costume vendor will now be selected to refine the student ideas and produce a phoenix costume.

Current members of the committee include Karen Berk '08, Zach Moody '07, Kristen Trabant '08, and Brendan Work '10 as well as several staff members from the Alumni Relations Office, Athletics Department, and Dean's Office.

Borbee said the committee saw elements in each of the two student designs that they wanted to incorporate in the final product. (The student submissions



ELEFTHERIOS KOSTANS

were not available at *Bulletin* press time.) "This has been a student-driven process," Borbee said. "It's their idea, and we [staff members] are advising them"

Berk, who plays varsity basketball and volleyball, said that the mascot will not supplant "The Garnet" as the name for the College's intercollegiate teams. "The phoenix will provide a way for the whole community to be united behind a symbol of our pride in Swarthmore," she said. "We want to see the mascot beyond athletic events—at Alumni Weekend, Family

Weekend, and other campus gatherings."

Asked whether there was "school spirit" at Swarthmore, Berk said: "I definitely think there's school spirit here, but it's shown in different ways. School spirit at a lot of other institutions is funneled through athletics, but at Swarthmore, we see different expressions of our pride. Sometimes, our spirit shows through academics, or rallies for social change, or other clubs and activities."

Still, it appears that support for teams and participation in athletics is playing a part in building community at the College. A recently released progress report on intercollegiate athletics stated that "the College as a whole is benefiting from the enhanced sense of community generated by the intercollegiate athletics program." It also found that student athletes "gain a very worthwhile experience despite mixed win/loss records." [A copy of the report is available in pdf format at [www.swarthmore.edu/news/athleticsreport2007.pdf](http://www.swarthmore.edu/news/athleticsreport2007.pdf). For a print version, call the Office of News and Information at (610) 328-8533.]

—Jeffrey Lott

record for blocks (50) in a season, also collecting the fifth-most rebounds (206) in a season. Kurman, an All-CC honorable mention, led the team with 41 three-point field goals, averaging 11.1 points per game (third on the team). He ranked eighth in the Conference in assists per game (2.72), setting a career-high with 68 helpers.

**Women's basketball (4-20, 1-17 CC)** The Garnet women made appearances in the championship game at the Swat Tip-Off Tournament and the Seven Sisters Championship (the fourth consecutive). Junior center Karen Berk made All-Centennial for the second consecutive season, leading the Conference in scoring (18.5 ppg.), rebounding (12.5 rpg.), and free throws (125). On Jan. 27, Berk became the sixth Swarthmore woman to score 1,000 points in a career and also broke two blocking records during the season.

**Badminton (5-2)** The Garnet, led by freshman Kim Kramer and senior Candice Cherk, won the Collegiate Trophy at the 2006 Mid-Atlantic Juniors Tournament. Kramer picked up the individual singles' title and teamed with Cherk to win the doubles' title as well. Kramer is undefeated in singles' competition this season, claiming the women's singles title at the 2007 Northeast Collegiate Tournament held at Swarthmore.

—Kyle Leach



ELEFTHERIOS KOSTANS

Junior center Karen Berk led the Centennial Conference in scoring, with 18.5 points per game.



## COLLEGE COMMITS TO PURCHASE 35 PERCENT WIND POWER

At its February meeting, the Board of Managers made a commitment to purchase 35 percent of the College's total electrical energy needs from wind-power sources. With this move, Swarthmore will become the Pennsylvania institution of higher education purchasing the highest percentage of its power from renewable sources.

"We are very pleased that we have been able to increase the College's energy mix derived from wind power from 19 to 35 percent," said President Alfred H. Bloom. "This goal was conscientiously sought by student groups, and we are very proud to realize it."

Earthlust, the student environmental group, launched a campaign to bring renewable energy to campus in 1997. Although the college originally purchased 2 percent of its total energy from wind power, this percentage rose to 8.5 percent in 2005 due to continued student involvement.

In November, Earthlust hosted a rally on the steps of Parrish Hall to celebrate the administration's commitment to renewing its contract with wind power companies and to encourage the College's leadership in a clean-energy future by increasing wind power purchases.

"We are thrilled by this victory; it is everything we asked for at this point. However, we know—and the administration knows—that it's only one step forward on a path toward total carbon neutrality," said Earthlust member Rachel Ackoff '07.

The student-run campaign for renewable energy at Swarthmore is part of the Campus Climate Challenge, an international project of more than 30 leading youth organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada. The Challenge is building a generation-wide movement to stop global warming.

## "COMING OUT" CHALKINGS SPARK DEBATE

The annual "Coming Out Week" sponsored by the Swarthmore Queer Union (SQU)—the College's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered students organization—regularly features a favorite form of campus communication: chalked messages and drawings on campus pathways. In November, some Coming Out Week chalkings caused significant controversy—and a provocative campus discussion of the limits of public expression.

Chalkings are typically used to advertise upcoming campus events, but during Coming Out Week, "we're advertising that we're queer," says Diana Pozo '09, an organizer of a week-long series of events intended to raise consciousness about queer issues and affirm the identity and sexuality of queer students.

An estimated 15 members of queer groups chalked anonymous messages across campus on the night of Sunday, Nov. 5. They ranged from questions such as "When did you come out as straight?" to slogans such as "Don't assume I'm straight, and I won't assume you're an ass\*\*\*\*" and "Dip me in honey and throw me to the lesbians!" One rainbow flag proclaimed, "Be free to be yourself."

But the chalkings everybody was talking about were graphic cartoon depictions of explicit sexual acts, including heterosexual anal sex, a masturbating woman, and a large vulva outside Sharples Dining Hall. Pozo explained that although "some people identified them as pornography," she considered them to be "an expression about the silent nature of my sexuality."

By the time rain washed away the first round of chalkings on Tuesday, there had already been significant discontent voiced about the sexual images and messages—both by queer students who didn't think the chalkings represented them and by members of the wider community who expressed concern about how children and campus visitors would react to the drawings. Some students said that the explicit images triggered memories of sexual abuse. Others thought that the chalkings might even be a form of illegal sexual harassment

LAUREN STOKES '09

"What happened to liberal campuses when suddenly we're arguing for censorship? Under what circumstances is it acceptable to behave in ways that hurt people and continue doing it, particularly when the hurt is through sexual speech?"







for which the College could be liable.

Reactions similar to these have been expressed each year since the chalkings first appeared in the early 1990s. Thinking that the proper response to speech that offends one person is not censorship but rather more speech, Michael Stone '07 stood in front of Sharples on Wednesday morning with a bucket of chalk and invited students to express themselves on the wide stone patio. Stone said that "the only thing that's going to make this situation different from the year before is if somebody jumps in and gets the two sides talking." Almost immediately, Stone says, conversations began to develop.

The chalked responses, which ranged from "Is it wrong to be straight?" to "Shut the F\*\*\* Up Already," were erased by more rain on Wednesday night—but a second round of queer chalkings appeared on Thursday. Statements like "The chalkings were not for you, they were for me" raised more questions than they answered, according to Stone.

"We don't like feeling like we're being provoked by people who refuse to explain themselves.... The public [sidewalks were] being used in a sexual manner that clearly made people uncomfortable," Stone said.

Pozo explained that the second round of queer chalkings did, in fact, respond to the original chalkers' frustration with Wednesday's messages: "I was personally confronted multiple times," Pozo said. "They came from a place of anger and a place of distress."

On Friday, copies of a new "Chalkings Manifesto" appeared at Sharples. Written by Coming Out

Week organizers, the document attempted to answer questions about why the first chalkings had appeared but succeeded only in further stoking the debate, particularly because of a statement that asserted: "Attacks on the sexual nature of the chalkings are inherently homophobic and heterosexist."

Kayley Whalen '08 explained that the manifesto "was not meant as a means to silence discussion about the chalkings but as a political expression of our reasons behind the chalkings.... In future years, we're going to refine the language of the manifesto and put it out there from the start."

She explained that her agenda as a transgendered person is about bringing sexuality into the public realm, because "the societal privileging of sex as the private realm—and the constant assertion that it's obscene—is tied into the continued oppression of queer and trans identities. A lot of the chalkings are a refusal to buy into the 'equality' model of queer liberation—a refusal to say queer

people are just like anybody else."

Pozo agreed: "As members of a sexuality-based community, if we can't discuss sexuality in a public forum, how can we unite as a community?" She also cautioned members of the campus community not to assume "that because you haven't seen homophobia at Swarthmore, it doesn't exist," citing a recent incident where a queer student's "Queer Safe Space" door sign was burned.

More discussion ensued in the Friends Meetinghouse a week later, when more than 120 students showed up for a discussion moderated by Associate Professor of History Bruce Dorsey and Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion Elliot Ratzman. Emotional statements, apologies, and tears wound into the late hours, but there appeared to be no resolution of the question of what the chalkings might be like in the future. Although surprised by the diversity of responses to the chalkings, Ratzman noted in a later interview that "if anybody was against the idea of Coming Out Week in general, they weren't speaking. The power in the room was the radical pro-chalkers, and they were the ones who had to be appeased."

Stone also stressed that "there are people who have strong religious convictions on the matter, and those people are being notably silent. It's just as unreasonable for them to feel that they have to be silent as any of the other kinds of silences going on here."

Stone also thinks that a lot of issues opened up by the chalkings discussion are "not being followed through on. What happened to liberal campuses when suddenly we're arguing for censorship? Under what circumstances is it acceptable to behave in ways that hurt people and continue doing it, particularly when the hurt is through sexual speech?"

Although many questions remain, the chalkings controversy could be read as a testament to Swarthmore's strong sense of community. As Pozo said: "I'm allowed to be at this place where I can draw sexual imagery on the sidewalk having to do with my identity as a queer woman. That I feel I can do that is a real testament to ... our confidence in Swarthmore as a community that is able to adjust itself to the needs of groups that still feel marginalized."

—Lauren Stokes '09

# HOMIE



Although many will always think of the town where they were born as home, few spend their entire lives there. Some willingly move to another place to put down roots near family and friends. Others move—or must relocate—to follow career paths. Still others, those with a thirst for adventure, deliberately pick up stakes and travel across the country—or the world—to create entirely new lives.

For those with wanderlust, travel offers the opportunity to explore new cultures and locales, where they sometimes discover a sense of belonging—and the peace of finding their true home. Sometimes, Swarthmore's Foreign Study Program, which offers opportunities to explore international destinations from Ghana to Grenoble, sparks an interest in living abroad. Occasionally, those visits unfold into long-term stays.

More than 100 alumni from the classes of 1980 to 1995 are recorded in the College's database as living abroad for at least 10 years in places such as Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, and Spain. Their varied professions include translators, researchers, historians, and policy officers on peacekeeping missions.

The following stories explore the paths of five alumni expatriates—their choices and compromises—as they integrate a broad spectrum of experiences beyond the United States into their lives.

Jim Michener once worked for Lao Airlines and is seen here with a Chinese-made Y-12 aircraft.

# ABROAD

ALUMNI EXPATRIATES CREATE NEW LIVES  
OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

By Andrea Hammer

## SEEKER

Jim Michener '73: Vientiane, Laos

Jim Michener not only shares the same name as the late James A. Michener '29 but also a Quaker heritage, Swarthmore affiliation, and writing profession. Living in Laos, he is currently writing *Poison in the Wind*, a novel about his boyhood life in Solebury, Pa., and his life as a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War.

"I'm nobody's namesake," he says, recalling a letter in which the older Michener encouraged him to absorb the richness of other cultures for his writing career, which he did during his own military experiences during World War II.

The younger Michener was 20 and wearing a uniform when he first arrived in Asia. He experienced 2 years of wartime there—from 1964 to 1965 in the Philippines and Okinawa and 1966 to 1967 in Vietnam. At age 23, he returned to the United States and did not go back to Asia until 20 years later, when, in 1987, he purchased a one-way ticket to Bangkok. He put his total savings of \$3,000 in his pocket and boarded a plane.

Michener had no job waiting for him and planned to stay only 6 months. But he has remained in Southeast Asia, which he is still "decoding." Now, Michener has experienced 20 peacetime years there in "a kind of self-imposed exile," he says.

Michener compares the "old-fashionedness and timelessness" of Laos with the old Quaker world of his grandparents, the source of its charm for him despite the cruelty of communists—particularly in the past. He also decided to leave America in search of knowledge that wasn't available in classrooms or books, both of which taught Michener to be skeptical of anything but original sources.

"I've never considered anything that I've done in my life to be a job," says Michener, who worked enough before leaving the United States to start receiving Social Security benefits last year. "What one does should always be fun."

A film producer at Television Film Studios in Ho Chi Minh City is collaborating with Michener to adapt his more than 200,000-

word *Poison in the Wind* manuscript into 50 television episodes for Vietnamese television.

Laos has no bookstores; everyone gathers information on the Internet and through cable television. They live without "frills"—no shopping malls, movie theaters, or fast-food chains. Michener also says that a Party policeman, who watches the nine homes in front of his, occupies every 10th house.

Although Michener was born in Doylestown, Pa., and misses American food, he now thinks of old Indochina and Thailand as his home—viewing the United States as a "foreign country." He sees no need to return.

"What gets Washington into so much trouble overseas, I think, is always thinking in linear terms, which is the opposite way that most Asians think, even highly educated ones," Michener says.

He adds that it is becoming increasingly difficult for non-Asians to find work because of the localization trend. When an expat manager leaves a major company, Michener says, a local with a U.S. college education is now the replacement.

Michener can walk from his home to the Mekong River in 30 minutes. In the opposite direction, he is in a Stone Age rice paddy in 30 minutes.

But he has been robbed at home eight times in 14 years. Thieves, he says, are a never-ending headache in Third World countries.

"So it isn't paradise, and poverty isn't picturesque. The attraction for me, a bachelor, is that domestic help costs next to nothing," he says. By leaving the mundane tasks to his household staff, he is able to focus on his writing. "Of course, they expect you to send their children to private school and pay for hospitalization, which you do. And you're knitted into their family, and they become yours. And it's just a lot of fun on good days and a gargantuan headache on bad."

A Thai executive, who had never been to Laos, visited Michener several years ago. "He remarked: 'It's a time warp. It mirrors the era of my grandparents. The place is just like Thailand before World War II,'" Michener recalls.

"Hey, I like it like that."

**Michener now thinks  
of old Indochina and  
Thailand as his home,  
viewing the United  
States as a "foreign  
country," although he  
misses American food.**



# SOUL HOME

Diane Levine Umemoto '65: London

Diane Umemoto's husband, Steve, was determined to do humanitarian work in Southeast Asia. So, shortly after they were married in 1966, he joined Unicef. For the next 30-odd years, they lived in South and Southeast Asia.

When the couple first moved to Asia in 1969, Umemoto taught at the University of Indonesia and Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. She also wrote freelance articles.

Umemoto says that Swarthmore's honors courses taught her independent study. The College instilled "lifelong loves"—literature and art—and gave her the skills to learn, a key to "survival" as a spouse who couldn't always obtain a work permit.

"What saved my life was finding other dynamic women who set up study groups, put out cultural publications, eventually wrote books, and always did charitable work. Learning and giving were Swarthmore's core values," she says.

Now a resident of London, she teaches at the American School there. When Steve retired in 2000, Umemoto did not want to retire or return to the United States.

"So, for the first time, I looked for a job on my own—rather than appearing on a school's doorstep as a 'local hire'—and was extremely fortunate to find this one in London," she says. Having taught in international schools for about 20 years, she describes teaching as a "portable profession."

Umemoto's neighborhood, near the school, has apartment houses, townhouses, terrace houses, and flats.

"If I walk in one direction, toward St. John's Wood, I'm in with the yuppies and wealthy retirees. In the other direction, toward Swiss Cottage, I'm in lower- and middle-class territory, like Queens, N.Y., where I grew up," she says of her "vibrant community," where samosas and bagels are available in the same shop.

Thirty-five years ago, Umemoto sewed all of her children's clothes because off-the-rack items were not available in Indonesia. Shopping was largely in outdoor markets, for all goods—not just produce. During biannual home leaves, her family spent hours poring over the supermarket shelves.

"London is like any big city, only better. It's safe enough to go out at night, and there are large beautiful parks within easy walking distance—all the cultural advantages of New York and greenery as well."

Umemoto's main hobby is watercolor painting, and she spends her leisure time poking around museums and historical areas. She particularly enjoys visiting historic mansions that are owned by the National Trust and open to the public.

"London is my soul home," she says, even while missing U.S. autumns. "When I was growing up in New York City, I read a lot of English literature. Living here is the fulfillment of a dream. The fact that London resembles my hometown, New York, doesn't hurt."

Despite concerns about finding high-quality affordable health

care, Umemoto would like to remain in London indefinitely.

"Gradually, I have become more out of sync with standard American views. In recent years, the disconnect has become immense. I find it more and more difficult to identify with the prevailing American attitudes, with the inability of many Americans to understand that America is now seen as a bully, not a savior," she says.

"For most Americans, people in the rest of the world—especially the Third World—are non-people, too alien to relate to. But for me,

having lived with them, they are very real indeed, ordinary people like the rest of us, just trying to get on with life. It matters to me when we Americans are responsible for their deaths and try to convince ourselves that we are only killing terrorists."

For those new to living abroad, Umemoto advises: "Understand that you are going to lose your identity, and go with the flow. The rewards can be enormous, provided you can stop expecting the small things of life to be the same as they were at home, which takes about 2 years to accomplish. You can reinvent yourself. Every moment in a foreign country is an adventure."

Umemoto adds that if you go to the Third World, you learn never to take any material goods for granted—and certainly not your health.

"If you are going as a spouse, the biggest challenge might be keeping your marriage together. Adjustments are much more severe for a nonworking spouse; my husband only had to face that after he retired and followed me instead! When culture shock hits, it's easy to blame each other."

## DEJA VU

Judith Lorick '69: Mougins, France

As a child in Philadelphia, singing was at the center of Judith Lorick's life. She started as a soloist in church and moved into jazz during her college years, when she performed at the Villanova Jazz Festival.

After college, Lorick lived in southern California, working her way up the corporate ladder in human resources. In the early 1980s, she formed the Judith Lorick Quartet in California and began a full-time career as a jazz vocalist, receiving rave reviews from local critics. Since then, she has appeared in concert as well as in jazz clubs and festivals in the United States and Europe.

*Libération*, a major French newspaper, said of Lorick (Dec. 1, 1998; translated from French): "One would place her more appropriately between Sarah Vaughn, for her boldness of melody and rhythm, and Shirley Horn, for an impressive art of silence that knows so well how to glide between the notes.... Judith Lorick navigates with sensuality through unexpected improvisations, just this side of perfection."

Lorick first visited Europe to study in Spain during the summer before her senior year. The train from Munich to Barcelona went through the Côte d'Azur, and she got off in Nice to spend some time at the beach.



JIM VARNEY

Teacher Diane Umemoto often takes her students to the British Museum (*left*), where the Asian artifacts are among her favorite collections.

Judith Lorick (*below*) is a jazz singer living in France. She also is an independent consultant who develops and facilitates leadership programs and skills-building seminars.

Lorick is more informed politically than when she lived in the United States. She says that living away from the States for so long has allowed for greater objectivity.

Swarthmore was her first exposure to many different cultures, enabling study abroad and encouraging curiosity. She was a language major, who learned French and Spanish and—equally important—how to learn a language, which facilitates living abroad. Lorick now speaks five.

To download samples of *A Sleepin' Bee* and *You've Changed* from Lorick's first CD and *Songs for My Mother* (1999)—a tribute to her mother and jazz singer Nancy Wilson—visit [www.flohr.net/judith](http://www.flohr.net/judith).

"It was an amazing experience: The air felt familiar on my skin; it smelled familiar. I seemed to know where to walk.... It was as if I had been here in a former life," she says.

Lorick decided that she would live in France one day. After living in southern California, she decided to step off the corporate ladder in human resources and pursue a career as a jazz singer in 1984.

"I decided to fulfill the rest of my dream and moved here," says Lorick, who moved to Mougins [just north of Cannes] in 1988 and continued to earn a living in music. A few years ago, Lorick enjoyed supervising the construction of a new home.

"It's very close to everything. But, when we look around, all we see are trees; blue skies; and, through a tiny hole in the trees, the Mediterranean," Lorick says. "The only thing that took getting used to is living behind gates. Unless one lives directly in a village, most of the villas have a huge hedge and an electronic gate. Popping over for a chat is just not done. I was thrilled recently to find a note from our new neighbor asking if I wanted to meet her. She's British and also misses the spontaneity of a neighborhood."

Lorick buys everything fresh at the green grocer, fish market, and bakery four or five times a week. She goes to the supermarket for staples only.

"I and my German partner, Heiner, have adopted some of the French obsession with food. Much of our social life is around lovely meals," she says. "We often drive over to Italy, less than an hour away, for lunch and shopping. We also collect and enjoy good wines."

Today, music is on the back burner for Lorick, who started consulting in 1998 and has a flourishing business as an independent consultant, developing and facilitating leadership programs as well as team-building and skills-building seminars. She also is a coach for executives in leadership positions in international companies.

Although Lorick misses friends and family, she only occasionally thinks about U.S. conveniences. She has to organize her activities around shops that close for lunch and by 7:30 p.m. as well as on Sundays.

"Home is definitely here now. I can't imagine living in the States at this point. I worked hard to rebuild my life here and did so successfully. I raised my son here; he lives in Aix-en-Provence," Lorick says. "Almost all of my work contacts are here, both in music and consulting. Most important, I am happy here.... I love my life."



HEINER BECKER

## LIMBO

Hannah Brown '84: Moshav Beit Nekofa, Jerusalem

New York City native Hannah Brown went to Israel in 1984, the summer after graduating from Swarthmore, just to visit the Jewish state and learn the language. During that year, she met her future husband, Yoram Yovell, and they moved back and forth for several years between Israel and America. But, in 2000, after their children were born in America, they moved to Israel permanently.

"My husband and I agreed when we married that we would return to live in Israel after our children were born. My husband was born in Israel and missed it very much when we lived in New York. So I don't see myself moving back to the States," she says.

"I've lived abroad so long that I don't feel quite at home in New York anymore but don't really feel at home in Israel either. I'm just in a kind of limbo."

Brown, a literature major who won two fiction prizes at Swarthmore, has worked as *Newsweek's* Jerusalem bureau chief and as an



COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN HENRY

editor and columnist for *The Jewish Daily Forward*. A former movie critic for the *New York Post*, she now writes for the *Jerusalem Post* and lives in a moshav—a small village—outside of Jerusalem.

"In the past, moshavim were similar to kibbutzim in that some of the land was owned and worked by the entire moshav, but people lived in their own houses. On a kibbutz, there are no privately owned houses. Now, in most of the moshavim in my area, there is no real agriculture, so they are more like suburbs," she says. Brown often shops in a nearby Arab village, Abu Ghosh, one of the few Muslim villages that have friendly relations with Jewish Israelis.

"Strangely, I don't feel that threatened by the possibility of being the victim of a terror attack on a daily basis," Brown says.

Whenever she goes to a public place, Brown is accustomed to searches of her purse and the trunk of her car. Her family rarely takes public transportation, where the risk of terrorism is greatest.

"I have friends on the left of the spectrum and friends on the right but almost never discuss politics with anybody. We all know where we stand, and no one I know really feels that there is any hope of changing anyone else's mind about anything," she says.

For a while, in 2003, Brown was concerned about the schools shutting down for the duration of the Iraq War. "Fortunately, that didn't happen," she says. Nonetheless, all children in Israel were required to have gas masks in school.

Still identifying herself as American, Brown has a greater appreciation for the high standard of living in the United States.

"For example, in Israel, almost no one has full-time hot water. You have to heat the water with a heater before you shower. In the summer, if you have a solar heater, you don't need to heat it electrically. But you can't always take for granted that there will be hot water," says Brown, who misses U.S. conveniences.

In particular, she can't help but notice that bureaucracy, the conveniences of daily life, and tolerance of people who are different—things that were so common in New York—are missing from the

For 2 weeks each month, Christian Henry (*above*) works and lives at The Island School in the Bahamas.

Writer Hannah Brown (*left*), on the roof of her home near Jerusalem, still identifies herself as an American.



SHIA LEVITT



Israeli way of life. Brown has two children, Daniel and Rafael, one of whom has autism.

"Although I work, my life revolves around my son's care and helping him learn. He is making progress, and it is very rewarding. But because of this, I probably have not been able to invest time in learning to acclimate myself to Israel," Brown says.

She describes the special-education bureaucracy in Israel as particularly rigid, with some administrators who don't believe that autistic children can ever be helped in any significant way.

"If I weren't forced into contact with these bureaucrats, then I would probably be more positive," she says. "On the plus side, my son receives treatment at the International Center for the Enhancement of Learning Potential in Jerusalem, founded and run by Reuven Feuerstein, a professor who has pioneered extremely effective techniques for teaching people with autism, mental retardation, learning disabilities, and brain injuries," Brown says.

## WHY NOT?

### Christian Henry '96: Cape Eleuthera, Bahamas

In 1998, after teaching at a private school in New Jersey, Christian Henry was open to adventure. An opportunity arose when he met an ex-Navy Seal who was starting The Island School in the Bahamas, a nonprofit school, where groups of students from high schools around the United States, the Bahamas, and Canada can spend 3 months experiencing the Eleutheran environment and people first hand. Henry accompanied the first group of 20 high school students to Eleuthera.

"It wasn't so much a question of why live abroad as much as why not?" says Henry, who divides his time between Eleuthera and Baltimore, where his fiancé lives. "My personal goal is to do good and do well, as the Quakers used to say. It is important to me to spend time creating a meaningful life for myself and others—and the fruits of that are a community of learning and growth."

In addition to English, math, and history, Island School students are offered environmental art and marine ecology. SCUBA diving, island exploration, and two short kayaking expeditions complement daily morning exercise. Science research projects and campus work help students to develop leadership and teamwork skills.

The fee for one semester is \$15,975 in 2007–2008. Each semester, about 40 percent of the school's students receive some financial aid; more than \$320,000 in scholarships, from small foundations or private individuals, were awarded this year.

"It was so much harder than we expected to start a school from scratch. Luckily, I have a boss who encourages people to grow. Through Duke's Cross-Continent Program, which combines on-campus and distance work, I was able to get an M.B.A. and still keep up my duties at the school," says Henry.

After 8 years, the school now has 500 alumni; a local middle school, founded by the nonprofit Cape Eleuthera Foundation in September 2001, which evolved from The Island School's Commu-

nity Outreach Program; and a marine science/green technology research institute.

As chief financial officer of the foundation since 2004, Henry helped to develop the school's academic program. Currently, he is responsible for management, administration, and development of relationships with high schools that send students to the Bahamas.

"I am also offering a course in entrepreneurship; it is a first step toward a longer process of making the lessons of The Island School real," Henry says. "It represents one small way we are trying to keep the promise we make to our students as they get on the plane to go home. We say that the learning they have done here is only useful to the degree that it has significant impact in their world."

In 2003, Henry co-founded the Cape Eleuthera Institute, which provides research opportunities for students and models sustainable systems. He received a 2003 Kinship Conservation Institute Fellowship to study market solutions to environmental issues.

"It's great to be part of a learning community and to feel like our school has impact outside the gates," Henry says. "Young people who have a vision and a way to make it happen in a self-sustaining way—in a way that creates value for everyone involved—are the most powerful force we have to change the world for the better."

Henry lives on campus, 5 miles from Deep Creek, the nearest town. The supermarket and bank are a 45-minute drive away. There is but one doctor on the island, which is a 2-hour flight from Miami. He says that the island "bush" is dense and low; the islands are flat, not volcanic.

"Tourism drives the economy here, and because most Americans choose Nassau and the glitzy casino world of Atlantis, islands like Eleuthera remain depressed. Houses stand half built; roads have potholes with names; and outside of government jobs, there is little besides fishing and farming to keep people going. But it's sunny, never dips below 50 degrees, and the color of the ocean at sunrise will break your heart every day," says Henry, who wakes up for a 6:15 a.m. faculty meeting before an hour of exercise with the students.

Born in Fort Belvoir, Va., Henry moved every 4 years until high school as part of a career army family. He lived in Germany and learned how to "regrow roots" in new places, he says.

"Barry Lopez writes about this great idea of home called the *querencia*. It's Spanish for 'home' or 'hearth,' but it also is the place in a bullring where a bull retreats to when a matador has hurt it. It is the place you get your strength from. I have several of these places; one is where I live with my fiancée in Baltimore, where I spend 2 weeks each month. One is in the woods in Lawrenceville, N.J., where I went to high school. One is in the bell tower at Swarthmore," he says.

"I went back for my 10th reunion. It was powerful to hear those bells ringing, and it brought me right back to being 19 and giddy on the smell of daffodils and fresh-cut grass." 🌱

*Andrea Hammer is a freelance writer and editorial consultant in Philadelphia. She is the former managing editor of the Bulletin.*

**"It's a risk to go abroad, but it's riskier to stay put," Henry says.**

# How Swarthmore College influenced the 2006 reauthorization of the 1965 Voting Rights Act – and other facts about black voting rights (in 20 dramatic steps).

Text by Jeffrey Lott and Richard Valeyly '75; design by Karlssonwilker, Inc.

1865

1 President Abraham Lincoln delivers a speech from the balcony of the White House on April 11, proposing partial African American suffrage. In the crowd is actor John Wilkes Booth. Three days later, Lincoln is assassinated.



1866: Veterans of the Confederate Army start the first Ku Klux Klan. It is suppressed by the Enforcement Act of 1871.

1867-1870

2 Black suffrage spreads rapidly through the South through Congressional Reconstruction under the protection of the U.S. Army. The process culminates in the passage of the 15th Amendment: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Congress is given the power to enforce this.



1871-1875

3 Congress passes five separate statutes that make it a crime to interfere with the right to vote and permit federal monitoring of elections.



1877

4 A great crisis in Republican support for black voting rights occurs when lame duck President Ulysses S. Grant and President-elect Rutherford B. Hayes permit Republican governments in three southern states to collapse, making way for white Democratic control.



1882: The Chinese Exclusion Act denies citizenship and voting rights to Chinese Americans.

COURTESY OF AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL; JAMES WORMLEY RECOGNITION PROJECT

1890



5 Mississippi Democrats meet in Jackson to write a new state constitution. It disenfranchises African-American voters, beginning a 20-year process of driving all black voters out of the Southern electorate through such devices as the poll tax, literacy tests, residency requirements, and the "white primary."

1893

6 For the first time since 1857, the Democratic Party gains control of both houses of Congress and the White House. They repeal the election enforcement statutes passed during Reconstruction. When they return to power 4 years later, Republicans acquiesce, leaving African Americans to fend for themselves.

1955: Rosa Parks refuses to give her seat on a Montgomery, Ala., bus to a white man.

1960

10 The Civil Rights Act of 1960 gives the Justice Department standing to sue local election officials and to petition federal judges to register black voters. The Kennedy administration encourages black voter registration, but the strategy fails in Deep South states, resulting in a wave of violence against black activists and their white allies.



9 In *Smith v. Allwright*, the U.S. Supreme Court, in response to pressure from NAACP lawyers including Thurgood Marshall, strikes down the white primary. It holds that racial discrimination in Democratic primaries violates the 14th and 15th Amendments. The decision triggers a huge black voter registration drive in the South, increasing black registration by more than 100 percent.

1944



BRUCE DAVIDSON

African Americans demonstrating for the right to vote



8 The 19th Amendment is ratified: "The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." Black WWI veterans return home and begin to organize local chapters of the NAACP. In 1921, Maggie L. Walker, a black woman, runs for education superintendent of Virginia.

1920

1915: D.W. Griffith releases *The Birth of a Nation*. The second Ku Klux Klan is founded.



7 Alice Paul graduates from Swarthmore College. She becomes a leader in the women's suffrage movement, devising the radical tactics that finally force President Woodrow Wilson and Congress to report the 19th Amendment to the states.

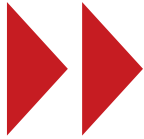
1905



Alice Paul unfurling the ratification banner, 1920

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS / WINNING THE VOTE BY FLOONEY





1964

1962: James Meredith becomes the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. President Kennedy sends troops to quell riots.



11 The Civil Rights Act of 1964 addresses accommodations and public transportation but not voting.

1965

1966: The Black Panthers are founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale.



13 Federal officials register several hundred thousand black voters. Between 1964 and 1968, the registration of black southerners increases from 43% to 62%. The 15th Amendment is restored to life.

1966

1970: The 1970 Voting Rights Act bans literacy tests in 20 states, including N.Y., Ill., Calif., and Texas.

12 National television attention focuses on a voter registration campaign in Selma, Ala., where police brutally beat demonstrators. Congress passes the Voting Rights Act in response to a dramatic appeal by President Johnson.



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1982

14 After twice being renewed by Congress—and extended to cover Latino voters—the temporary enforcement provisions of the act are extended for 25 years. A permanent amendment establishes the right of minority voters to elect minority candidates of their choosing.

1999



15 After a year as Eugene Lang Professor of Social Change at Swarthmore, Peyton McCrary returns to his job in the Justice Department. That summer, Christopher Seaman '00 works with McCrary in Washington under a Roland Pennock Summer Fellowship. Studying official correspondence, they code the legal basis of Justice Department reviews of Southern election plans. They thought the data might be interesting.



Christopher Seaman



Richard Valelly

15a Peyton McCrary is the historian in the Voting Section of the U.S. Justice Department.

Christopher Seaman '99 majored in history and later received a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently an attorney in Chicago.

Richard Valelly '75, professor of political science, has taught at Swarthmore since 1993. He wrote the prize-winning book *The Two Reconstructions: The Struggle for Black Enfranchisement*.



Peyton McCrary



**19** The Swarthmore article is discussed in Congressional hearings on reauthorization. The House Judiciary Committee reports an amended Voting Rights Act that specifically overrules *Bossier*. The committee report justifies reversing the court decision through extensive reference to the Swarthmore article, which is published in June 2006 by the *Michigan Journal of Race and Law*.

**2006**



PAUL MORSE

**20** President George W. Bush signs the renewed Voting Rights Act. It contains new language that strengthens the Justice Department's ability to fight discrimination against minority office-holding.



**2005-2006**

**18** Knowing that the Voting Rights Act's enforcement provisions would require Congressional renewal by 2007, they develop and circulate an unpublished manuscript among voting-rights lawyers.



**2004**

**17** Following *Bossier*, McCrary, Seaman, and Valelly analyze their data to predict the impact of the court decision on Justice Department efforts to gain compliance with the 1982 amendment. They find that *Bossier* clearly contradicts recent Supreme Court precedent and will likely prevent further increases in minority office-holding.



**2000**

2001, John Liu is elected to the New York City Council, becoming the first Asian-American elected to a major legislative position in the city with the largest Asian-American population in the United States.

**16** In *Reno v. Bossier Parish School Board*, Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for the Supreme Court, effectively prevents the Justice Department—when reviewing election changes under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act—from objecting to changes intended to discriminate against minority voters unless the change is designed to make matters worse for those minority voters.



15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 1870



INARA







*"Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government; that whenever things*

# AN INFORMED CITIZENRY

THE PRECARIOUS STATE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS BROADCASTING THREATENS OUR DEMOCRACY, SAYS JOHN SICELOFF '76, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF *NOW* ON PBS.

By Jeffrey Lott

KHADIJAH WHITE '04, the youngest staffer in a New York office full of experienced TV hands, is pitching a story—one of three being considered on a January afternoon for the PBS program *NOW With David Brancaccio*.

A half-dozen people listen as White explains how, after the Food and Drug Administration approved a vaccine for human papilloma virus (HPV), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) quickly recommended last year that all girls be vaccinated, starting at age 11–12. The virus, which is sexually transmitted, is thought to cause most cervical cancers in women.

Backed by the CDC recommendation, public health authorities in several states want to make the vaccine a routine part of childhood immunization schedules—like protection from hepatitis B, diphtheria, or polio. But, White says, conservative groups are objecting: "They say that giving the vaccine to girls as young as the sixth grade is like giving them permission to have sex."

White, a production associate, thinks that a recent clash over the vaccine in the Michigan state legislature might provide a good avenue for the weekly public affairs program to examine what could become a national issue.

Producer Peter Meryash, head of White's

production team, lists some of the public-policy questions being raised: Should the vaccination be mandatory, or might there be an opt-out provision for parents opposed to its use? Will most private insurance cover it? Will government health programs pay to vaccinate girls who are from families that cannot afford it?

Cervical cancer kills about 3,700 women each year in the United States—more than a third of those diagnosed with the now preventable disease. "To be most effective across society, the vaccine needs to be widely used," White adds.

Executive producer John Sicheloff '76 listens attentively to White's pitch and two other ideas offered by Meryash's team. Asking a few questions, he encourages them to keep working on a story about the legal fall-out from a constitutional amendment in Ohio intended to ban same-sex marriage—some judges there have interpreted it as voiding domestic-violence laws—and White's HPV piece.

SICELOFF, SLIM AND BOYISH AT 53, is a TV news veteran. His office overlooking New York's Penn Station rail yard is decorated with striking photos he took in Africa during a post-Swarthmore Watson Fellowship. His Watson project explored how different cultures constructed stories and how the introduction of photographs influenced those tales. Thirty years later, he's still telling stories with words and pictures.

Sicheloff worked as a filmmaker and freelance TV journalist in Africa and Central America from 1978 until 1984. He joined

CBS News in 1984 as a producer based in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, then covered the region for NBC from 1987 until 1989, when he returned to the United States. A decade of news and documentary production followed, first at NBC News and, from 1995, at ABC. He's won three Emmy Awards for national news and a Peabody Award for his work on ABC News' 9/11 coverage.

He left commercial television in 2001 to start *NOW With Bill Moyers* on PBS. Leading a staff of 60, Sicheloff and Moyers designed the hour-long program from scratch. Both wanted the freedom to do in-depth interviews, investigative reporting, and thoughtful commentary in a setting that wasn't driven by ratings or advertising concerns.

When accepting a 2004 Emmy for best report in a newsmagazine, Sicheloff said the mission of *NOW* is to "encourage viewers to participate as citizens—not just delivering the news but giving people the context to think about their relationship to the larger world." The Emmy-winning show *Inside the Pentagon* had examined a shadowy plan—later abandoned in light of publicity that included the *NOW* report—for the Air Force to lease a fleet of 100 air-tankers from Boeing for \$900 million more than it would have cost to buy them outright. Exposure of the deal later cost Boeing CEO Philip Condit his job.

Moyers, now 72, retired from *NOW* in late 2004. But the incisive, thoughtful brand of journalism he personifies remains the program's stock-in-trade. Despite the show's success—it has grown to 2.5 million viewers weekly, more than *Hardball With*

In 2001, John Sicheloff (left) teamed up with Bill Moyers to launch *NOW* on PBS. The weekly news magazine, hosted since 2005 by David Brancaccio, airs around the country on Friday nights.

*get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them to rights.” —Thomas Jefferson*

Chris Matthews and Larry King Live combined—Siceloff worries that “the space for serious public-affairs programming that looks at economic, cultural, and political issues that affect our lives today is shrinking. A democracy needs engaged citizens who have accurate information, but what passes for public information throughout the country is in a precarious state.”

THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR THIS “precarious state.” Serious public affairs broadcasting has been in decline on the commercial networks for two decades, a period that neatly coincides with the rise of giant media conglomerates that own TV networks, newspapers, and hundreds of radio stations. On the public side, a steady

“OVER THE PAST  
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drop in government support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) has led to a “culture of begging for funds” that threatens the quality of programming.

Then there’s the political pressure.

“Over the past 5 years, there have been sustained and repeated attempts to get us off the air,” Siceloff says, almost losing his Quaker cool. (A birthright Friend, Siceloff served for nearly a decade on the board of the American Friends Service Committee.)

The most serious of these attempts originated with Kenneth Tomlinson, who was appointed chairman of the CPB in 2003 by President George W. Bush. Tomlinson, a former editor at *Reader’s Digest* and close friend of Bush aide Karl Rove, went on a crusade against alleged liberal bias in public broadcasting. Without the knowledge of the CPB board, he commissioned an amateurish \$14,000 study of the week-to-week content of *NOW* that classified guests and topics. He also threatened in private e-mails to withhold funding if PBS did not offer its member stations a political commentary program hosted by the editors of the *Wall Street Journal*. The *Journal* program aired briefly on PBS and then moved to the Fox Network.

After Tomlinson’s actions were revealed, Moyers snapped: “The more compelling our journalism, the angrier the radical right ... gets. That’s because the one thing they loathe more than liberals is the truth. And

the quickest way to be damned by them as a liberal is to tell the truth.”

Tomlinson resigned from the CPB board in November 2005, following an internal investigation that determined he had violated corporation policy by trying to influence the content of PBS programs. Nevertheless, Siceloff says, “the thought is chilling. PBS belongs to the people, not to whatever administration is in power in Washington.”

A FURTHER CHALLENGE IS FINANCIAL. “It often surprises people to learn that less than 20 percent of funding for public broadcasting comes from the federal government,” he says. The rest must be raised—mostly by the member stations—from an aging member base, foundations, and corporations.” Still, 20 percent is important, and it’s repeatedly been the object of political manipulation.

PBS, which collects fees from member stations for the national programming it produces, provides about half of what’s required to put *NOW* on the air each week—about what it takes to do a talk show, Siceloff estimates. To pay for additional costs like research, travel, and field production, he and Brancaccio spend a significant amount of time raising money.

Despite significant corporate support from Calvert, the investment firm known for its socially responsible mutual funds, “we need to identify another \$1 million this year to keep the program at the level of quality we want,” Siceloff says.

It infuriates him to watch the Federal Communications Commission auction the electromagnetic spectrum to big corporations for huge sums—“our airwaves,” he says. “We’re in the midst of a land grab of space and spectrum by commercial interests that can make huge amounts of money.”

An effort to get Congress to funnel some of the auction proceeds to public broadcasting “went nowhere,” perhaps because the same Republican Congress had earlier tried to cut PBS altogether, giving up only after a grassroots campaign by members of local stations convinced individual representa-

Media conglomerates are moving away from tough reporting to “comfy, viewer-friendly news with big doses of celebrity and entertainment,” Siceloff says.



ELEFTHERIOS KOSTANS

tives to buck their leadership and restore the proposed cuts.

At the National Conference on Media Reform in January, Peter Hart, activism director at Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, described how "the fight against public broadcasting happens the same way every time."

First, "the right wing pundits or politicians ... scream about liberal bias and call for defunding the system.... Advocates for public TV rally to save Big Bird, save *Sesame Street*. The "compromise" result, Hart says, is a leaner budget. "The right has chipped away at public broadcasting. Management at public broadcasting will often express interest in accommodating these bogus right-wing concerns ... and then we repeat the whole thing about 2 to 4 years later."

The Bush administration's 2008 budget, delivered to Congress last month, once again seeks to eliminate federal support for public broadcasting. It's ironic, Siceloff says, that the "education president" wants to slash the budget for PBS, the largest single educational institution in the country.

THE PROBLEMS FACED BY *NOW* and PBS are no small skirmishes, but many media professionals and activists see the steady consolidation of commercial media ownership as the root cause of the "precarious state."

"More and more, journalists in these big companies are moving away from tough investigative news to comfy, viewer-friendly news, with big doses of celebrity and entertainment," Siceloff told an international audience of journalists at a recent meeting of World Information Transfer, a U.N. sponsored program.

And, because of its size and global reach, Big Media is inevitably enmeshed in a conflict of interest with government: "These giant companies have dozens of regulatory and tax issues working in Congress and the government at any one time. How can journalists in the employ of such megacorporations report on these issues without bias or influence from the corporate boss?" Siceloff asked.

*NOW* has regularly reported on media consolidation, especially after the FCC in 2003 attempted to relax rules that prohibited media companies from owning multiple



ELEFTHERIOS KOSTANS

SPANNINGER SAYS  
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PLAYOFFS."

outlets in a single market. The FCC proposal was blocked by a Federal court, but, Siceloff says, "most of the commercial press was silent on this story. A lot of the big players stood to gain."

In a commentary aired on *NOW* in November 2003, Moyers told viewers: "The

Martha Spaninger '79 has seen "a slow but steady erosion of the quality of news on TV" during more than 20 years in the business. She joined *NOW* in 2004.

founders of this country believed a free and rambunctious press was essential to the protection of our freedoms. They couldn't envision the rise of giant megamedia conglomerates whose interests converge with state power.... We think this is the most important story of all, the one that determines what other stories get told—and how."

Brancaccio puts it more bluntly: "Media conglomerates have so many fish to fry in Washington that they really don't want their news divisions rocking the boat."

SIXTEEN *NOW* STAFFERS—with equal numbers of men and women—gather for their weekly production meeting. The topic is this Friday's program.

Next to Siceloff, on one side of the square table, sits Martha "Marty" Spaninger '76, the program's senior supervising producer. The classmates have been friends since their theater days at Swarthmore and, although they have never worked as closely as they do at *NOW*, their careers have crossed paths many times. Spaninger joined *NOW* in early 2005 after nearly 3 decades of TV news jobs at CBS—where she



was first hired as a receptionist in 1977—and at NBC and ABC. She too owns a Peabody and an Emmy, both awarded in 1990 for the MTV documentary *Decade*, which chronicled the 1980s.

Producer Bryan Myers describes this week's program, which features country music legend Willie Nelson and his pet project, a brand of bio-diesel fuel marketed by a company he partly owns. "BioWillie," a blend of cottonseed oil and regular diesel fuel, can be used in any diesel engine. The NOW report will follow it "from plow to pump," Myers says, fielding questions that are both technical and editorial. The atmosphere is collegial, with discussion of a range of related issues, including ethanol and the role that Big Oil might play in the bio-fuels industry. Myers lists some of the potentially negative consequences of bio-fuels, such as the environmental impact of clearing more acres to grow crops for fuel.

Back in her office, Spanninger talks about the changes she's seen during her career. At NOW, she supervises five production teams, developing reports that can take as little as 6 days or as long as 6 months to get from idea to air. The environment at PBS is more conducive to this flexible pace—like it used to be at the commercial networks.

When she started in news production in the early 1980s, Spanninger says the Big Three news divisions "weren't expected to be profit centers." At the CBS Reports documentary news program, where she first encountered Moyers, "we could take a year to do a story that was important. There was no ratings pressure. We weren't expected to hold our own against the Academy Awards and the basketball playoffs."

But, she says, the commercial success of CBS's *60 Minutes*, which became television's most-watched show in 1979–1980, changed the news business by spawning "a whole industry of newsmagazines" that were also expected to make money.

At the same time, the networks were absorbed by larger corporations such as General Electric, which bought RCA/NBC in 1985, and Capital Cities Communications, which took over ABC the same year. More and more news divisions "had no gut for news" and "there was a slow but steady erosion of the quality of news on TV," Spanninger says.

IN PUBLIC BROADCASTING, it seemed that there could be a different model. PBS, which provides programming for 300 member stations, has a solid history of public-affairs shows such as *Washington Week in Review*, *NewsHour*, *Frontline*, and the documentary program *POV*. Moyers' contributions have included *Bill Moyers' Journal* and such deep-thinking series as *The Power of Myth*, *Healing and the Mind*, and *Genesis*. (In April, Moyers will come out of retirement to revive *Bill Moyers' Journal*.)

Brancaccio asserts that PBS is the most trusted media brand in the nation. "It's self-evident that we aren't doing things like [NOW] for ratings," he says. "It has to have some higher purpose." Still, he says, trust in a free and open press has fallen in recent

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years. He cites a recent poll conducted by the BBC, Reuters, and the Media Center, which found that although an average of 65 percent of people in the 10 countries surveyed thought that the media accurately reports the news, just 46 percent of Americans agreed.

"The information food chain is broken," Brancaccio says. "Journalists and others—like historians, sociologists, and scientists—are supposed to come up with the facts. And that's supposed to spark the next step. We hold hearings. We form solutions."

It's this public conversation that Sicheloff sees as vitally important to a functioning democracy. "In the next 10 years, we face both a crisis and an opportunity in how Americans learn about what's going on in the world." With the rise of the Internet,

"the paradigm for how people get, use, and act on information has changed.

"The crisis," he says, "is the increasing potential to insert government and corporate interests at the heart of determining what kinds of information we receive."

In a speech to the National Conference on Media Reform in January, Moyers asked: "What does today's media system mean to the notion of an informed public [that is] cherished by democratic theory? Quite literally, it means that virtually everything the average person sees or hears, outside of her own personal communications, is determined by the interests of private, unaccountable executives and investors whose primary goal is increasing profits and raising the share prices.... In-depth coverage of anything—let alone the problems real people face day-to-day—is as scarce as sex, violence, and voyeurism are pervasive."

THE MEDIA REFORM MOVEMENT, which has been gathering steam in the past few years, encompasses many different organizations and has a broad agenda, but consolidation of media ownership is seen by most reformers as the root of all other evils, including the decline in local programming on both radio and television.

In his new book, *Fighting for Air: The Battle for Control of America's Media*, New York University sociologist Eric Klinenberg asserts that "Big Media companies parlayed bold political entrepreneurialism and the federal government's blind faith in the power of markets and technology to win historic concessions from Congress [in the Telecommunications Act of 1996] ... which they used to dominate local markets coast to coast." Klinenberg's book also tells the story of grass-roots efforts by citizens and civic groups to keep local cultural and information lines open—essentially the story of the media reform movement itself.

Although groups across the political spectrum—from the American Civil Liberties Union to the National Rifle Association—have collaborated on some media reform causes, notably equal access to the Internet, the movement has its critics on the right.

Accuracy in Media (AIM), a conservative press-watchdog group, charges that "the so-called 'media reform' movement, which wants to check and dilute the power of con-

to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives.” —James Madison



ELEFTHERIOS KOSTANS

As a production associate at NOW, Khadijah White '04 has contributed important ideas to the program.

servative media, especially talk radio, includes members of communist groups openly dedicated to America's destruction."

Less strident criticism of Klinenberg's—and the movement's—emphasis on ownership conglomeration comes from Michael Schudson '64, professor of communication at UC—San Diego. Writing in the *Columbia Journalism Review*, Schudson acknowledges that ownership matters but says there are other factors that affect the quality of information found in the press and on the air.

These include public taste, which media companies may try to "anticipate and channel" but cannot control; "professional norms, values, and courage" among journalists, who, unlike their corporate bosses, are willing to "risk their lives covering Iraq" or "track down the expert who might explain cancer clusters"; the "public legitimacy" of the media and its natural foil "public disaffection and protest"; and "the climate of opinion within which the media operate"—including the current influence of science and religion, modern society's tolerance for a certain "coarseness of public expression," declining deference to "conventional authorities and canons," and the broadly endorsed "view of the United States as multicultural."

Finally, Schudson writes, "the degree of consensus in the political elite matters. When there is significant, open disagreement among politicians, the media are empowered and emboldened to report critically; when politicians close ranks, as they did ... in the wake of Sept. 11, the media have no constituency for pressing alternative viewpoints."

FIVE WEEKS AFTER SHE PITCHED the story on HPV and cervical cancer, Khadijah White is wrapping up last-minute production details for *Vaccine Debate*.

She conducted much of the initial research and set up interviews with a pediatrician, his 14-year-old patient, and the girl's mother. The story also featured Republican State Representative Patricia Birkholz, who introduced legislation requiring the vaccine in Michigan. Peter Sprigg of the Family Research Council argued that vaccination should be entirely voluntary. Another conservative is quoted as saying, "This is telling girls that they can be promiscuous and still be safe."

"We were looking for the best voices on both sides of the issue," White says. Asked what she hoped the impact of NOW's story might be, White paused, then said: "Ideally, parents will see this, and fewer girls will die of cervical cancer. As a woman, it's been good to help get this story out there. We try

to provide the information people need to make good decisions. A lot of the [health-care] agenda has been set by men who will never experience cervical cancer—and women need to be heard."

White says "it's fun to find something and watch it come to life." At NOW, she's contributed to stories such as one showing how laws intended to prevent voter fraud often make it more difficult for minorities and the elderly to cast ballots and another that investigated health-insurance policies that turn out to cover very few of the costs of being sick.

But, she says, there's often not enough time to do justice to a subject the way she was taught at Swarthmore: "It's hard, coming out of Swat.... I want to get as much information out there as possible. I'm always concerned that we haven't said enough. Still, this is a place where you can give voice to people who don't get heard."

It had been a good week for White, who joined NOW after teaching for a year in Brooklyn. The HPV story aired on Feb. 23, and she was credited as associate producer. The vaccination controversy heated up when Governor Rick Perry issued an executive order on Feb. 5 mandating the immunization of girls in Texas, so "it's fortunate that we went ahead with it," White says. And, in preparation for a future program, she had hung out for most of a day with actor and activist Danny Glover, who had unexpectedly helped her with something that's been on her mind since she left Swarthmore. Like many young college graduates, White is unsure about her future—it seems as if there are almost too many possibilities.

"[Glover] told me that he had 'kind of fallen into acting.' It wasn't what he had set out to do. He said, 'I always knew that what I wanted to do is to be of some use.'" White says. "That's what I want to do, too—to be of some use. I believe that all paths lead somewhere, whether it's teaching, journalism, whatever you do."

"He also told me that acting had been an unexpected revelation for him. I wrote that down. I guess I'm still looking for my unexpected revelation." ☞

Find links to NOW programs and other resources mentioned in this article at the Bulletin Web site: [www.swarthmore.edu/bulletin](http://www.swarthmore.edu/bulletin).



JIM GRAHAM

Denis Newbold '71 (*left*) and Dee Durham '83 have organized members of their community to oppose sprawl, but their efforts have not always been welcomed by highway planners, developers, and others in southern Chester County, Pa.





# Stopping Sprawl

## *What does urban sprawl look like?*

Nestled along Pennsylvania's border with Maryland and Delaware, southern Chester County, Pa., is rolling country known for its mushroom houses, horse farms, trickling creeks, and open spaces. Take a ride on Pennsylvania Route 41 from the Delaware state line north toward the city of Lancaster, Pa. You'll see tidy farms, historic villages, and occasionally, horse-drawn Amish buggies. But you'll also contend with scores of tractor-trailers and congested traffic from new housing developments and shopping centers that are springing up—almost like mushrooms—all along the corridor.

Known as the Gap-Newport Pike since the early 19th century, this 22-mile highway has served as the main north-south route between Lancaster and Wilmington, Del. Now it's under increasing stress from sprawl—and, to solve the problem of traffic congestion, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) proposed widening a 10-mile stretch to four lanes and building bypasses around the historic towns of Avondale and Chatham.

But some residents say they have a better way to manage growth and keep sprawl in check: If you don't build it, they won't come—at least not as quickly.

"My view on sprawl is that it is, to a large extent, facilitated by infrastructure," says Denis Newbold '71, one of the founding members of S.A.V.E. (Safety, Agriculture, Villages, and Environment). The nonprofit community organization, which advocates for sustainable transportation solutions in southern Chester County, counts two Swarthmore alumni among its leaders. "There's an insatiable demand for transportation. If government takes the attitude that it will support an insatiable demand for transportation, it will never stop," Newbold says.

Arguing that government can no longer build its way out of society's transportation problems, S.A.V.E.'s success so far can best be measured in terms of what hasn't happened, not what has. Formed in 1997 to block what seemed to be an inevitable expansion of Route 41, its efforts have prompted PennDOT to re-evaluate its original plan, backing off from the conventional approach of turn-

COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS OFFER  
ALTERNATIVES TO BIGGER,  
WIDER HIGHWAYS.

*By Elizabeth Redden '05*



COURTESY OF THE BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY



ing two lanes into four—plus turn lanes and high-speed limited-access lanes. Now, as PennDOT's environmental process moves forward, S.A.V.E. will be judged by what it helps to create through its continued advocacy for a two-lane alternative to widening Route 41. The transportation department's work to encourage townships within the corridor to replace traffic signals with roundabouts—an option long advocated by S.A.V.E. as a mechanism to enhance safety and cure some of the local congestion without building bigger and wider—is a step in the right direction.

Newbold, an aquatic scientist who studies southern Chester County's watersheds, moved there in 1983, before the suburban sprawl really hit. Even then, he says, he would shake his head while waiting to cross Route 41: "Even in the 1980s, I would think, 'Hmm, this is a pretty busy road; I hope they never turn it into a superhighway.'" But that was the plan.

"We've spent more than \$1.2 million in the last 10 years. Isn't that amazing? That's a lot of money to spend on battling your own government," says Dee Durham '83, executive director of S.A.V.E. since 2002 and the organization's only paid staff member. "The state was doing what they'd always done. They thought they were doing the right thing. How could a bunch of lay people know better than engineers?"

"The difference," Durham says, "is that the lay people love their community and know what they want it to be."

But where S.A.V.E.'s leaders saw a need for traffic-calming devices and limitations on trucks, the state wanted to double the road's capacity. Originally, Durham and Newbold say, their arguments faced great resistance, and in 2001, their two-lane alternative—which also featured a two-lane bypass around Avondale—was flatly rejected. "They shut the door on us at that point," Newbold says.

However, with the election of Democratic Governor Ed Rendell in 2002—and the looming reality of a state budget crunch that made building new highways less feasible—S.A.V.E. pushed the door back open. In a protracted game of high-stakes Ping-Pong, competing consultants produced studies alternately supporting S.A.V.E.'s two-lane proposal and rebutting it. In 2005, with PennDOT finally embracing the concept of "context-sensitive

design," S.A.V.E. and other stakeholders from local government, the business community, and industry, met with the agency monthly to find a solution to the safety and congestion problems on Route 41.

"PennDOT was looking at how to do things differently," says Mary Raulerson, the agency's project manager for Route 41. "We wanted a compromise alternative that everyone could live with." But, as Raulerson says, other than the stipulation of a need to make safety improvements at existing intersections, no clear compromise arose from the meetings.

Without a clear community mandate, PennDOT is now working with the Federal Highway Administration to formulate a list of appropriate capacity-building initiatives that will undergo environmental study. The options will then be presented in public hearings and only after assessing the feedback will the agency determine the "preferred alternative." The four-lane option isn't off the table, Raulerson cautions, and it likely will be studied alongside other alternatives. But, she adds tellingly, "We don't believe that the municipalities want four lanes throughout the whole corridor."

Durham says roundabouts will reduce existing congestion, citing federal data showing that roundabouts increase traffic capacity by 30 to 50 percent, in addition to reducing injury crashes by 76 percent, with up to a 90 percent reduction in fatalities. By routing traffic around a one-way circular intersection, cars can continue filtering through a yield rather than being forced to stop, preventing back-ups. "The U.K. model is 'Wide nodes, narrow roads,' in other words, fix the congestion where it occurs—at the intersections. There's no need to widen the whole roadway," Durham says.

Not everyone agrees with S.A.V.E.'s agenda. "The issue is one of under-capacity and significant congestion," says Jack Weber, chair of the Southern Chester County Organization on Transportation, which advocates for a bigger bypass around Avondale, further removed from the town, than the one that S.A.V.E. has proposed. Weber refutes the argument that roundabouts will cure congestion and believes that, although expansion is not a foregone conclusion, the state should purchase right-of-way now to prepare for possible future construction. "We respect S.A.V.E.'s opinion but don't necessarily think it's what's best for the county," says Weber.



KEARY LARSON/WWW.SOMETHINGINTHESKY.COM

*They explain optimistically  
that this is the direction  
of progress—a progress  
that begets preservation.*

*Opposite:* New housing developments are springing up along the Route 41 corridor in Chester County, Pa., built on some of the state's best—and most beautiful—farmland.

*Above:* Improving traffic flow through the use of roundabouts is an alternative to increasing a highway's capacity.

Not all townships in Chester County want a roundabout. But although the Britain-based roundabout movement was slow in coming to Pennsylvania, Durham and Newbold say an increasing number of municipalities are now embracing the roundabout concept. The first roundabout in southern Chester County opened in August 2005 on Pa. Route 82 near Unionville. It was the second roundabout to be constructed in the state and is a model for future construction, say Durham and Newbold. They explain optimistically that this is the direction of progress—a progress that begets preservation.

When asked whether they think they've fully escaped the threat of Route 41 becoming a superhighway, Newbold and Durham look at one another before answering. "We think so," Newbold says slowly, with the caution of a veteran community activist.

"There's change happening across the country," says Durham, who rode horses in Chester County as a child and previously worked in historic preservation. "You can't keep building bigger, wider roads to 'solve congestion.'"

"We're into an era—I hope—when we don't build dams and we don't build nuclear power plants and we don't build highways," says Newbold. "We now know there are better ways." ❧

*Elizabeth Redden writes for InsideHigherEd.com in Washington, D.C.*







### ERIN GO BRAGH!

Light of foot and  
nimble of finger,  
dancer Catharine  
McIntire Parnell '06  
and piper Jamie  
Kingston '07 led an  
impromptu parade of  
revelers through the  
campus on St.  
Patrick's Day 2006,  
treating the College  
community to a breath  
of Irish spring.





# A Singular Career

ROBERT MACPHERSON '66 DEFIES  
THE STEREOTYPE OF THE UNWORLDLY  
MATHEMATICIAN.

*By Dana Mackenzie '79*

If  
there is one thing a  
mathematician dreads, it's a  
singularity. Singularities are places  
where the usual rules—of geometry, or  
algebra, or calculus, depending on the  
problem—break down. For example, a  
black hole is a singularity in spacetime. A  
more ordinary example is the crossing  
point in a figure 8. If you were in a car  
driving along a figure-8 track, you  
could drive full speed ahead  
most of the time. Only at  
the crossing

point,  
the rules would change. It  
is the only place where traffic can  
come from another direction, and so you  
would have to slow down or stop and look  
both ways. That is the nature of singularities.

Robert MacPherson has made a career of going forward where other mathematicians were forced to stop. His specialty is understanding the structure of singularities in multidimensional spaces. Perhaps he is a singularity himself—in the best sense of the word. MacPherson is a person to whom the usual rules don't apply. The son of a conservative father, MacPherson became a political radical. He was beaten by police at the famous April 1969 Vietnam War protest at Harvard.



His first Ph.D. student, Mark Goresky, eventually became his life partner—a rare arrangement in math (but not so rare as either gays or mathematicians would think). “Goresky and MacPherson” has become practically a single mathematical entity, much like “Rogers and Hammerstein” or “Ben and Jerry.” In the early 1990s, MacPherson spearheaded a unique relief mission, raising more than \$100,000 to keep Russian mathematics afloat—and smuggling a significant part of that money into Russia himself.

MacPherson is not a rule breaker by choice. He’s more of a rule inventor, and nowhere is that more evident than in his mathematics. In the 1970s, he and Goresky created a new theory called intersection homology, which has revolutionized the way that mathematicians deal with singularities. Previously, they had mostly worked around them. A black hole can be understood by looking at the space around it. A figure 8 can be understood—sort of—by looking at similar shapes, the hourglass shape formed by the outside edges of the track, or the two separate oblongs formed by the inside edges. Goresky and MacPherson’s rules have in many cases eliminated the need for such work-arounds.

“Intersection homology totally changed the landscape,” says Paul Gunnells of the University of Massachusetts, a former student of MacPherson. “It’s a tool that is almost universally used now. For example, it revolutionized representation theory—it’s absolutely inconceivable nowadays that you could do without it.”

## MATH OR MUSIC?

Born in Ohio in 1944, MacPherson was the son of a nuclear engineer. Herbert MacPherson (called “Mac”) worked on the Manhattan Project as an expert in the production of graphite with no boron impurities. Mac was not pleased that Robert went into mathematics. “Among his friends, the word ‘mathematician’ was a put-down,” MacPherson says. “It meant a person who had no physical intuition, who was interested in the wrong aspects of any question and had no interest in reality.”

Robert MacPherson is far from the stereotype of the unworldly mathematician. He is an avid cyclist, loves boats, and is an

excellent chef and amateur carpenter. “He makes it a point to do everything at least once—build a wall, install plumbing, put up a barn,” says former student Tom Braden, now at the University of Massachusetts.

During MacPherson’s Swarthmore years, mathematics faced some very stiff competition from another passion—music. He majored in both. “I studied the Well-Tempered Clavier and the Goldberg Variations more than any other book, including math books,” he says. “The density of ideas is incredible.” As the only music major in his class, he enjoyed almost unlimited attention from the two-man music faculty of Claudio Spies and Peter Gram Swing.

During a summer internship at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where his father was the deputy director, MacPherson worked with a mathematician named Robert Coveyou. They were a good match—neither really fitting into the buttoned-down culture of the national laboratory. (Coveyou’s group was jokingly called the “Baker Street Irregulars.”) But their work is still cited.

To simulate nuclear reactions, engineers needed a way to generate lots of random numbers (because radioactive decay is inherently a random process). Mathematicians have devised various formulas to produce “pseudo-random” numbers. But Coveyou and MacPherson discovered that many of these approaches actually perform badly. If you graph strings of two (or three, or 20) consecutive pseudo-random numbers in a 2- (or 3-, or 20-) dimensional space, you will often find that they cluster onto planes instead of dispersing themselves randomly through space. Coveyou and MacPherson developed a “spectral test” to detect these bad pseudo-random number generators, and that test is still state-of-the-art today.

Although his career led to mathematics, MacPherson remains a serious music enthusiast, an opera lover with front-row season tickets at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. “Bob is extremely allergic to

Robert MacPherson (left) and his mathematics collaborator—and life partner—Mark Goresky (right) now reside in Princeton, N.J., where MacPherson is a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study. They have pioneered the field of intersection homology.

ELEFTHERIOS KOSTANS



background music,” says Goresky. “If there is music playing, then he’s listening to it, thinking about the harmonies, trying to hear the inner voices, concentrating on it.” The two own a Steinway grand piano, which MacPherson frequently plays after dinner.

## “INVENTING OUR WORLD”

While he was at Swarthmore, MacPherson says, he knew that there was something different about himself. “I remember thinking that there was some difficulty, and this was a difficulty I was going to overcome. I didn’t have a name for it,” MacPherson says. The words “homosexual” or “gay” were rarely uttered back then—even as insults.

For a while, MacPherson seemed to have his “difficulty” licked. He got married as a graduate student at Harvard, and many friends considered it an ideal marriage. But in 1970 he took a teaching position at Brown, and, in the fall of 1971, a graduate student named Mark Goresky arrived. Goresky was also married, but that didn’t stop a remarkable chemistry from emerging between the two men.

“During my third year of graduate school, Bob and I saw a lot of each other,” Goresky says. They worked together, had dinners together, even planned a garden together. MacPherson invited Goresky and his wife to come with him the following year to Paris. “It is easy to see now, 30 years later, that the intensity and electricity that was developing in our relationship was something very unusual,” says Goresky. “But at the time, neither of us imagined that we might some day move in together.”

Certainly, they had far from the typical student-teacher relationship. One memorable day, they were working together on a problem and couldn’t agree on the notation. MacPherson decided that there was only one way to resolve the impasse: a duel with water pistols. They chased each other around the Brown University Math Department, which was in an old house with lots of nooks and crannies, until Bob found the perfect spot to lay an ambush. Sure enough, he heard steps coming downstairs, leaped out—and soaked one of the most senior faculty members of the department.

During their year in Paris, Goresky and MacPherson discovered intersection homology, the theory that would make both of them famous. Goresky received a doctorate in 1976, and they spent the next year apart.

“During that year, both of us independently began to wonder about sexual orientation and to experiment to see what we were really attracted to,” recalls MacPherson. The following year, they spent increasing periods of time with each other.

Still, it couldn’t last. In 1978, Goresky and his wife returned to Vancouver, their hometown, where he got a job at the University of British Columbia, where he felt cut off from the rapidly developing circle of ideas involving intersection homology. After 3 years, he moved back to Massachusetts. In theory, at least, the move precipitated the breakup of his marriage in 1981. Bob was separating from his wife at the same time; in fact, the two couples were divorced in the same month. “It’s obviously not a coincidence,” MacPherson says. “You could see what was going on at an emotional level.”

During a 1985 sabbatical in Rome, Goresky and MacPherson tried living together for the first time—an arrangement that was conveniently ambiguous as long as they were abroad. By 1987, the ambiguity was over. Both of them were in the job market, making it clear they were a package deal. After being hired at M.I.T. (MacPherson) and receiving a substantial raise at Northeastern (Goresky), they bought a 100-year-old oceanfront Victorian house in Quincy, Mass.—a commitment akin to a marriage. “I loved that house,” says Goresky. “I can still remember our first night there. It was a hot August evening, and we had all the windows open. I fell asleep to the swoosh, swoosh of the waves on the shore.”

Asked to compare their story with *Brokeback Mountain*, MacPherson and Goresky give intriguingly different answers. “I guess the similarity is that both of us were highly resistant to the idea that we were gay, and we didn’t know any other gay people,” says MacPherson. “We were inventing our own world—that’s the parallel I would make with *Brokeback Mountain*.”

For Goresky, the movie portrayed a fate narrowly averted. “I found the story quite moving,” he says. “Time and again, Ennis makes plans for them to move in together, but it never happens. Then Ennis dies, and Jack ends up living an empty life of memories and regrets. This was almost our story. I came very close to staying in Vancouver.”

Now, the two are much more connected to the gay community at large, but they are not sure how much it accepts them. One

year, MacPherson helped plan a session on careers for gay students for the annual Sager Symposium at Swarthmore. He was stunned when no scientists were invited. The idea that gays could have careers in science was, apparently, news to the gay community.

“I get that same impression when looking at the national gay media as well,” MacPherson says. “There is huge coverage of people in politics, in queer studies, artists and musicians. It’s almost as if, if you’re a creative gay, that’s the end of the story.”

And yet Goresky and MacPherson are far from the first same-sex couple in mathematics. Two of the most famous Russian mathematicians of the 20th century are Andrei Kolmogorov (1903-1987)—virtually the inventor of probability theory—and Pavel Aleksandrov (1896-1982) a topologist and inventor of “Aleksandrov spaces.” Although printed references to their relationship are extremely oblique—homosexuality was a crime in the Soviet Union—they lived together for more than half a century, and the nature of their friendship was an open secret among Soviet scientists.

“Every Russian knew it, and there was a rumor that even Stalin himself knew it,” says MacPherson. “Kolmogorov was a member of the Academy of Sciences”—a body of great power in the U.S.S.R., quite unlike its American counterpart—“and he proposed Aleksandrov for membership. [Nikolai] Luzin said, ‘In the academy we only have mathematicians, not wives of mathematicians.’ At this point, Kolmogorov got up and slapped Luzin,” MacPherson says.

But that wasn’t the end of the story. Word of the incident reached Stalin, the supreme dictator, who could easily arrange for anyone in the Soviet Union to disappear forever. Stalin pondered, sucked on his pipe, and then pronounced, “I sometimes lose my temper, too.” In this way, Aleksandrov became a full member of the academy.

## A RUSSIAN WINTER

MacPherson has been closely connected to Russian mathematics since 1977, when he met Israel Gelfand, a student of Kolmogorov, in Paris. He first visited Moscow in 1980 and returned yearly thereafter. He smuggled Russian research papers out for publication in Western journals, cutting the names of the authors off the papers so they would not be in danger if the papers were confiscated. Not that they ever were.

Although it was illegal (the papers were supposed to be scrutinized first for “state secrets”), the border guards shrugged when they saw that it was “just mathematics.”

MacPherson, the consummate collaborator, found in Moscow the mathematical community of his dreams. “Every time I went there, I would feel so happy, as if I had come home again,” he says. None of the best younger mathematicians could get jobs doing math, because they were Jewish. Instead, they did research purely for the joy of it. “No one had an office, so math was done in people’s houses, over tea. The math was at such a high level and so pure in its motivations,” MacPherson says. “People thought that they would never get any material reward for the work they did.”

Unfortunately, after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the situation took a drastic turn for the worse. An economic crisis devalued the ruble to the point where \$50 in American currency could support a family for a month. Russia’s mathematicians (and other academics), who had supported themselves with low-paying sinecure jobs, suddenly stopped getting any paychecks. “The government had a choice of paying scientists or subway drivers, and they paid the subway drivers,” MacPherson says.

MacPherson asked the American Mathematical Society (AMS) to set up a relief fund, and within months, American mathematicians had contributed more than \$100,000. “I’ve never heard of anything else like it,” he says. Later, MacPherson helped persuade the Soros Foundation to contribute an even larger sum.

But there was a problem: how to get the money into the anarchic country? “This was the one romantic moment in my life,” MacPherson says. After the AMS determined that it was not worth paying outrageous commissions to untrustworthy middlemen, MacPherson and Tim Goggins, an AMS staffer, decided to carry it by hand.

“I was really worried,” MacPherson says, “because we were carrying about \$23,000—and, at that time, you could be murdered for \$50. The Russian law was that if we brought that kind of money in, we had to declare it at the border, but everyone knew the border guards were in touch with the hoodlums.” So after years of smuggling math papers out, he smuggled the money in.

MacPherson handed it out, \$200 or \$300 at a time, at Public School No. 2 in

Moscow. He resists any suggestion that the money was largesse. Officially, the payments were grants, awarded over the space of two years to 374 mathematicians on the basis of peer-reviewed applications. According to Sergei Gelfand, Israel Gelfand’s son, who is now an officer of the AMS, it was a watershed moment in Russian mathematical history—the first time that money had ever been awarded on the basis of merit. In spite of the chaotic conditions, every designated

MacPherson  
raised more than  
\$100,000 to help  
support Russian  
mathematicians,

then  
carried  
bundles of cash  
across the  
Russian border.

grantee eventually received his or her money, and every penny was accounted for. Most importantly, the program kept Russian mathematics going. “The situation today is definitely much better than I ever thought it would be,” says Gelfand.

Even so, MacPherson misses the old days. Most of his Russian friends have now emigrated to the West, and to see them he now has to travel all over the world, instead of crowding into an apartment or a public school in Moscow. But he agrees that the Russian system is producing talented young mathematicians, and the institutionalized anti-Semitism is thankfully a thing of the past.

## PARTNER AND TEACHER

It’s hard to tell exactly what has made Goresky and MacPherson such a perfect match, both as collaborators and as a couple. Part of it, undoubtedly, is that they are

not clones of each other. Everyone who knows them comments on this: MacPherson is the geometric mind, the intuitive thinker whose lectures, more often than not, include drawing beautiful multicolored pictures on the blackboard. Goresky is the perfectionist who makes sure all the details are correct, puts them into words, makes sure the papers get written. There is no “senior” or “junior” in the partnership, although it placed a strain on Goresky when MacPherson moved to his current position at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton. Goresky had to swallow the pill of becoming an unpaid member of the institute, but he has gradually come to appreciate the role of an independent scholar.

Despite his Russian adventures, MacPherson’s influence on mathematics has mostly been quiet. He is widely praised as an expositor. “When someone gives a lecture at the Institute and [Pierre] Deligne or [Robert] Langlands is in the audience, the speaker feels the need to go as fast as possible,” says Braden. “Bob does not do that. Because of his personality, he inspires people to give talks that others will understand.”

As an adviser, his quirks are legendary. Gunnells once wrote a guide for MacPherson students, which dispenses such advice as this: “If he leaves the room suddenly without announcement, don’t do anything. Just wait; most likely he’ll be back. Indeed, sometimes he will leave in the middle of a sentence, then return 10 minutes later to complete the sentence as if nothing happened... Exception: if he doesn’t return after half an hour or so, then you have missed the last train to Braintree.”

Nevertheless, MacPherson does give his students a full hearing on issues that can range far beyond math. “I spent my early graduate career being unsuccessfully mentored by straight white guys living conventional straight-white-guy lives,” says Laura Anderson, a professor at Binghamton University. “If any of them had any doubts about who they were and where they fit in the world, they didn’t show it. As I was preparing to bail out of math, I finally met Bob and had the first sympathetic conversation of my graduate career. He took a great weight of alienation off my shoulders.” ☞

*Dana Mackenzie is a science writer in Santa Cruz, Calif. This is his fifth feature article in the Bulletin.*



## recent...

## Delhi, India

There was an impromptu “connection” of 10 Swarthmoreans in Delhi, India, in January. Among the five young alumni and five students who found themselves—and each other—in India were Anmol Tikoo '07, Dan Hammer '07, Arpita Das '08, Aatish Bhatia '07, and Jesse Goodall '07 as well as Emily Wistar '06 and Tanya Aydelott '05, Sonal Shah '05, Raghu Karnad '05, and David Owen '06.



Emily Wistar '06 (left) and Tanya Aydelott '05 connected in India.

## Philadelphia

On Feb. 7, the Philadelphia Connection hosted a talk by Congressman Rush Holt (D–N.J.). Holt, a former Swarthmore physics professor, is now entering his fourth term in the House. Topics included the recent elections and the upcoming 109th Congress.

## Tucson

On Feb. 21, the Tucson Connection book group met for a spirited discussion of Jane Austen's novel *Persuasion*. The discussion was led by guest speaker Gene Koppel, retired University of Arizona professor of literature and author of *The Religious Dimensions of Jane Austen's Novels*. The group is organized by Laura Markowitz '85, and the meeting was graciously hosted by Dabney '51 and Kate Worth Altaffer '52.

## Washington

On Jan. 13, Sue Willis Ruff '60 hosted a get-together for the DC book group at her home. Then, she led the group onward to



Make your plans now to join us for Alumni Weekend, June 8–10.

nearby Politics and Prose Bookstore, where they enjoyed a lecture titled “Empire, Exile, and Longing for Home: Two Tales from the Sri Lankan Diaspora” by Professor of Psychology Jeanne Marecek, this season's faculty mentor. Marecek, who has worked in Sri Lanka for more than 15 years, discussed the books *Running in the Family* by Michael Ondaatje and *Funny Boy* by Shyam Selvadurai.

## upcoming...

## APRIL

## 13–15 On Campus

Family Weekend

## 15 New York City

Faculty Talk: “Is All Terror Local? Analyzing Communal Violence within the Context of the Global War on Terrorism,” with Assistant Professor of Political Science Jeffrey Murer.

## 15, 22, 29 New York City

Lifelong Learning Program: “Utopia On and Off Broadway,” a 3-week mini-course with Professor of History Robert Weinberg. For information, call (610) 328-8696, or visit <http://www.swarthmore.edu/lifelonglearning.xml>.

## 17 Philadelphia

The Meaning of Swarthmore Celebration

## 20–22 On Campus

Alumni Council Meeting

## 28 Haverford College

Men's lacrosse: Swarthmore alumni vs. Haverford alumni, followed by lunch and the varsity regular-season finale

## MAY

## 3 Wilmington, Del.

Garnet Sage Tour of Winterthur Country Estate and Gardens

## 8 New York City

The Meaning of Swarthmore Celebration

## 14 Washington, D.C.

The Meaning of Swarthmore Celebration

## 20 Princeton, N.J.

Faculty Talk: “What 35 Years of Drug War in Latin America Can Teach Us about Fighting a (35?)–Year War on Terror in Iraq,” with Kenneth Sharpe, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Political Science.

## 22 Baltimore

Faculty Talk: “Does a College Degree Reduce Employment Volatility?” With Philip Jefferson, professor of economics.

## JUNE

## 8–10 On Campus

Alumni Weekend: Reunions for classes ending in “2” and “7” and the Class of 2005

## 19 Boston

The Meaning of Swarthmore Celebration

For more information about alumni events, call the Alumni Office at (610) 328-8402 or e-mail [alumni@swarthmore.edu](mailto:alumni@swarthmore.edu).

# a real-world *externship* seeks new sponsors

Each January, when the College's Extern Program kicks into action, the Career Services Office takes on the ever-expanding task of providing hundreds of students with a week's worth of experience in professional settings in cities across the country. With the assistance of an extraordinary Alumni Extern Committee, headed by James Lindquist '80, 180 of the 269 students who applied for externships were placed this year, and 80 of them were also hosted in alumni homes. A record 358 alumni hosted or sponsored students this year.

Anonymous student program evaluations produced a number of positive comments: "I liked interacting with people who have been through Swarthmore and have done something great with their lives"; "They [alumni hosts] made the 'real world' a lot less daunting"; and "I feel fortunate to have such a strong network of alumni."

The Extern Program is always searching for additional sponsors, in particular in the fields of law and medicine. Externships are available primarily in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., although alumni from other cities may volunteer as workplace hosts, too. Alumni volunteers who live outside the primary extern cities are encouraged to also offer housing to interested students. If you wish to find out more or to volunteer, please contact [extern@swarthmore.edu](mailto:extern@swarthmore.edu).



Thanks to reception sponsors Mary-Mack Callahan '77, James Gregory '85, Susan Turner '60, and Wallace Clausen '60, alumni and student externs gathered in New York, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Boston for socializing and networking. *Left:* Ana Chiu '06 and David Vinjamuri '86. *Right:* Sanda Balaban '94 and Laura Dattner '95.

## *Lax Conference* *showcases* entrepreneurs

Each year, the The Jonathan R. Lax Conference on Entrepreneurship brings approximately 150 alumni and students to campus for education, networking, and socializing. This year's keynote speaker was Cheung Kwai Kong '86, president of the specialty retail business at Easton-Bell Sports, who addressed "The Role of Entrepreneurs in Shaping our World."

This year's offerings included a first-ever "case study" of Clarix LLC, with its CEO Jagath Wanninayake '96. A panel titled "Entrepreneurship and the Global World" featured Ronald Krall '69, senior vice president and chief medical officer, GlaxoSmithKline; Rebecca Voorhies '93, group director, finance and corporate development, Cadence Design Systems; and Theresa Williamson '97, founder and executive director, Catalytic Communities Inc. "Web 2.0: Buzzword or Power Shift" was discussed by a panel including Jonah Gold '04, producer, The Electric Sheep Company; John Hammond '82, senior director, Sony BMG Music Entertainment; Jeffrey Schon '73, partner, The Cheyenne Group; and Christophe Watkins '87, vice president, Icarus Studios.



## *swarthmore travels*

For more than 30 years, Swarthmore has offered popular Alumni College Abroad trips to alumni, parents, and friends. Trips to three destinations are planned for 2007.

### **Journey of the Czars**

with Professor of History Robert Weinburg, July 18–30

### **Salmon River Whitewater Adventure (Idaho)**

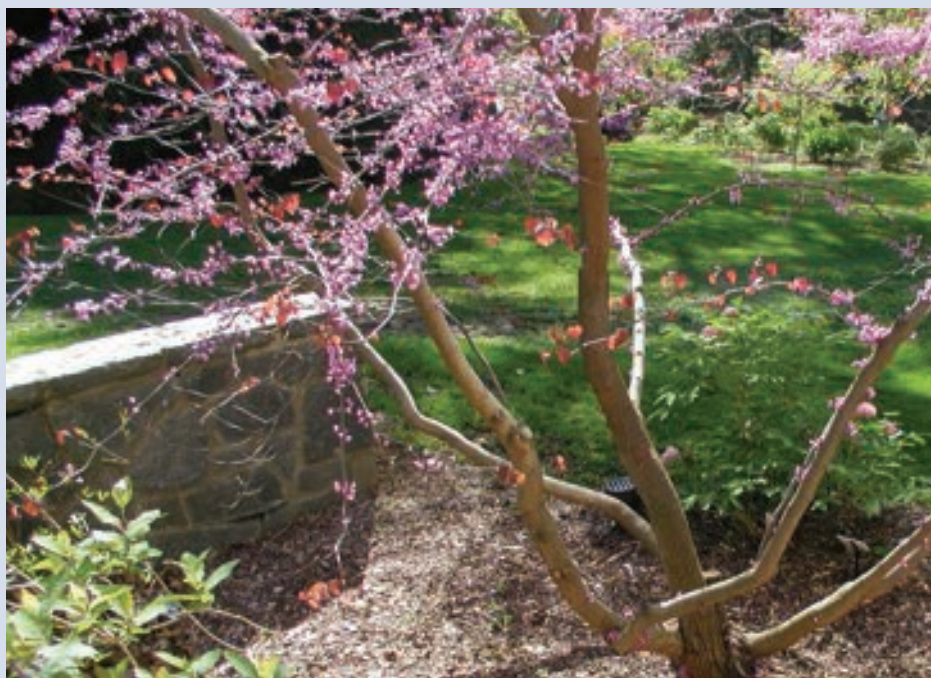
with Associate Professor of Biology Sara Hiebert Burch '79, June 18–24

### **Experience China**

with Associate Professor of Chinese Haili Kong, Oct. 12–27

For more information, call (800) 789-9738, e-mail [alumni\\_travel@swarthmore.edu](mailto:alumni_travel@swarthmore.edu), or visit the Alumni College Abroad Web site at [www.swarthmore.edu/alumni\\_travel.xml](http://www.swarthmore.edu/alumni_travel.xml).





## Postcards

Sculptor Phillip Stern '84 designs publications for the College and delights in capturing images of the beautiful postcard that is Swarthmore—cherry blossoms bursting forth in all their pink finery, stately lampposts gracing walkways, spent magnolia petals languishing on the lawn, a giant Adirondack chair (created by Jake Beckman '05) dwarfing a gathering of traditionally sized models on Parrish beach.





"All I want to be is average—but with a great deal of money."

"Looks like it's going to be a family affair. All the best affairs are."

"You can't expect everything to be altogether real all the time."

"I don't care about the *truth*. I care about the *facts*."

Facts and truth often get mixed up in murder mysteries. *Kill Me Like You Mean It*, the latest production by The Stolen Chair Theatre Company, twists truth and lies into a theatrical pretzel that circles around itself for 90 tight, funny minutes. It's staged in a keenly drawn cinematic style and delivered with ironic lines (like those above) that pop like flashbulbs illuminating the absurdities of life and death—creating what director Jon Stancato '02 calls "comic chaos out of the possibility that American life might actually be pointless."

Performed in January to sold-out audiences at The Red Room, a small off-off-Broadway space on New York's East 4th Street, *Kill Me* is the second production in Stolen Chair's planned "CineTheatre Tetralogy"—four plays in classic film styles. (The first, *The Man Who Laughs*, a live silent film for the stage, ran in fall 2005. It has since been published in *Playing with Canons*, an anthology of innovative theater adaptations of classical texts.) Playwright Kiran Rikhye's '02 new murder mystery draws its spirit from Eugene Ionesco's absurdist dramas and its style from 1940s American film noir.

Stancato says the play seeks to "revisit both forms in their original context and collide them to learn what they can teach us about our responses to the contemporary sociopolitical climate."

From the first scene—in which American Private Investigator Ben Farrell (Cameron J. Oro) receives a mysterious phone summons and then witnesses the murder of the beautiful nightclub performer (Emily Otto) who called him—*Kill Me* rolls out briskly as both whodunit and parody-of-whodunit. Absurdist overtones are apparent in every character, including the chief suspects: American Female Publisher Lydia Forsythe (Alexia Vernon); her writer, American Playboy

## comic chaos



Sam Dingman '04 (left) plays a police detective in *Kill Me Like You Mean It*, a new off-off-Broadway play by the Swarthmore-spawned Stolen Chair Theatre Company, one of many theater groups born here.

Tommy Dickie (Tommy Dickie); and his sister, American Ingénue Vivian Ballantine (Liza Wade White). The "truth"—or whatever you can believe of it—is eventually exposed by American Police Detective Jones, played with great presence and vocal power by Sam Dingman '04.

Stancato's cinematic direction—with jump-cuts between scenes, actors revealed at odd angles, and repeated lines that seem like zooms and close-ups—complements Rikhye's Tommy-gun dialogue, which tumbles out in staccato phrases and arresting aphorisms. Despite touches of color, such as Mona's red lips and Vivian's gown—the CineTheatre is shot through with black and white. Stark lighting by David Bengali completes the look. You can almost hear the old projector clattering in the booth behind you.

Rikhye's playful yet precise use of language and Stancato's well-informed direction have attracted attention in New York's bustling theater scene. NYTheatre.com named the company one of its People of the

Year for 2005. Reviews of *Kill Me* have boosted its reputation even further. (Read reviews and see more photos from the production at [www.stolenchair.com](http://www.stolenchair.com).)

*Kill Me* is the ninth production for the company, which was founded by Rikhye, Stancato, and eight other Swarthmoreans in 2002. Dingman, also a founding member, returned to the company for this production. Aviva Meyer '01 was the show's managing director.

Stolen Chair—the name comes from a scene in a film biography of Molière by Ariane Mnouchkine, seen in a Swarthmore theater class—is one of four resident companies of Horse Trade, an artists' collective that provides access to facilities such as the 32-seat Red Room and two other downtown theaters. In addition

to its stage productions, Stolen Chair offers professional workshops, in-school residencies, a youth physical theater camp, and master classes.

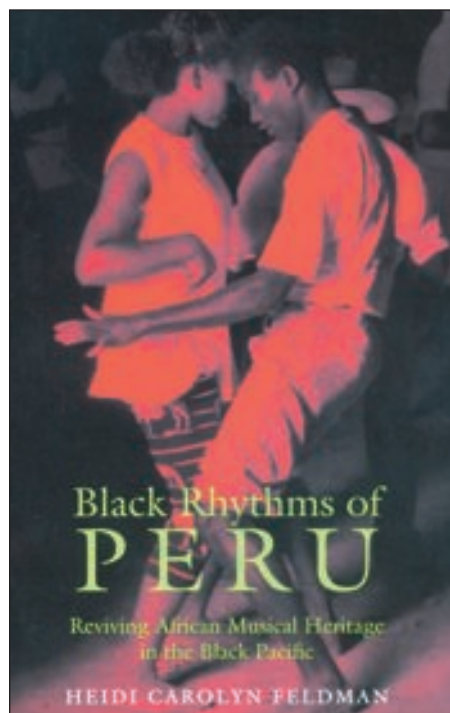
"Keeping a company like this going for 5 years is a milestone—a real sign of achievement," says Allen Kuharski, professor and chair of theater, who accompanied me to New York to see the production and lingered after the show like a proud uncle. Swarthmore's department—long known more for studying theater than for making it—has, in recent years, spawned an impressive group of young actors, writers, directors, and theatrical entrepreneurs. These include Philadelphia's Pig Iron Theater Company, currently led by Quinn Bauriedel '94, Dan Rothenberg '95, and Dito Van Reigersberg '94; SaBoogie Theatre of New York and Montreal, with Simon Harding '99; Early Morning Opera, a Philadelphia-based company directed by Lars Jan '00; Flying Carpet Theatre of New York, with Adam Koplan '95 as artistic director; Green Chair

Dance Group, the first dance-theater company to come out of the College; playwright Deborah Stein '99; actress Solveig Holm '97; Poland-based director Michal Zadara '99; and London-based designer Erik Rehl '94.

Recently, many of these alumni have been encouraged in their work through the Swarthmore Project in Theater, which provides free summer housing and rehearsal space for groups to develop their work. Stolen Chair has held five on-campus residencies with the support of the project.

Stancato recalls that he and Rikhye were the only two students in the advanced directing course at the College—an early seed of a collaboration that has lasted 8 years. “[At Swarthmore,] we really got a passion for both the process [of making theater] and the idea of using theater history as our palette,” he says. “Each project we do is a chance to throw ourselves into a new area of study—to open our minds beyond theater to literature and politics.”

—Jeffrey Lott



**Heidi Carolyn Feldman '87**, *Black Rhythms of Peru: Reviving African Musical Heritage in the Black Pacific*, Wesleyan University Press, 2006. In an exploration of the people and events that shaped the resurgence of black Peruvian culture, the author celebrates a cultural tradition that was nearly lost.

## BOOKS

**William Armstrong '54**, *Thinking Through the Children's Sermon*, The Pilgrim Press, 2006. In this book, the pastor-author offers suggestions for preparing and presenting children's sermons in ways that make them meaningful, edifying, and valuable additions to worship.

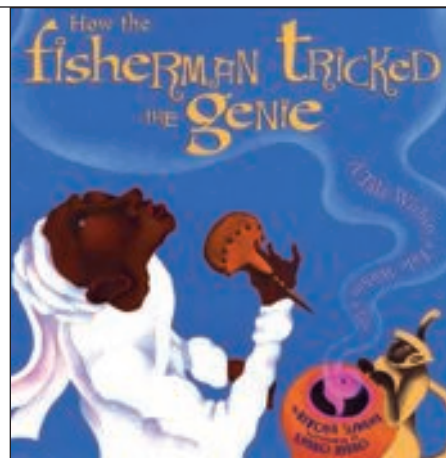
Glenn Good, **Bernard Beitman '64**, *Counseling and Psychotherapy Essentials: Integrating Theories, Skills, and Practices*, W.W. Norton & Company Inc., 2006. Integrating theories, concepts, and techniques into a single essential source for today's counselors and psychotherapists, the authors provide students with a textbook that connects their classroom experiences with their actual work with clients.

**Liza (Crihfield) Dalby '72**, *East Wind Melts the Ice: A Memoir Through the Seasons*, University of California Press, 2007. This set of essays is structured on ancient Chinese seasonal observances. Susan Griffin, author of *The Book of the Courtesans*, says, “Like a lush garden, this book is meant to savor.”

**Arthur Dannenberg '44**, *Pathogenesis of Human Pulmonary Tuberculosis: Insights from the Rabbit Model*, American Society for Microbiology Press, 2006. This 450-page text describes 40 years of research by Dr. Max B. Lurie (Dannenberg's mentor) and 40 years of the author's own research since Lurie died. Tuberculosis in the rabbit model resembles the human disease more closely than the disease in any other laboratory animal.

**Christine Downing '52**, *Gleanings: Essays 1982-2006*, iUniverse, 2006. This collection of essays reflects both the author's continuing exploration of Greek goddess traditions and other aspects of Greek mythology and her ongoing involvement with the thought of Freud and Jung.

**Christine Downing (ed.)**, *Disturbances in the Field: Essays in Honor of David Miller*, Spring Journal Books, 2006. This Festschrift celebrates the 70th birthday of David Miller, Watson-Ledden Professor of Religion Emeritus and Downing's friend and colleague.

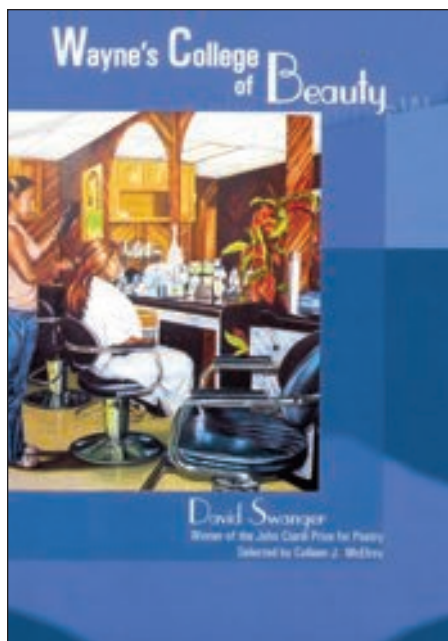


**(Christopher) Kitoba Sunami '97**, *How the Fisherman Tricked the Genie*, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2002. Accompanied by Amiko Hirao's illustrations, three interwoven stories show that good works should not be rewarded with evil. The book was selected as a 2003 “Notable Book” and nominated for a 2006 Georgia Book Award.



**Kenneth Turan '67**, *Now in Theaters Everywhere: A Celebration of a Certain Kind of Blockbuster*, Public Affairs™, 2006. In a review of the best big films of the last decade, Turan, who is film critic at the *Los Angeles Times* and is heard weekly on NPR's *Morning Edition*, explains what makes films such as *Blade Runner* and *Conan the Barbarian* so successful, revealing which filmmakers repeatedly bring quality entertainment to a mass audience.





**David Swanger '62**, *Wayne's College of Beauty*, BkMk Press, 2006. This collection of poems, which won the publisher's 2005 John Ciardi Prize for Poetry, is, according to the contest judge Colleen J. McElroy, about "neighborhoods and well-traveled paths.... The poet's strong sense of voice climbs above the resin of form. The cadence evokes imagery without losing the balance of sentiment and sentimentality. These poems are both hard edged and beautiful, an exciting collection."

**Steven Epstein '74**, *Purity Lost: Transgressing Boundaries in the Eastern Mediterranean, 1000–1400*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006. The author investigates the porous nature of social, political, and religious boundaries prevalent in the eastern Mediterranean during the Middle Ages.

**Caitlin Killian '95**, *North African Women in France*, Stanford University Press, 2006. This book examines how Muslim women construct and manage their identities in the midst of a foreign culture, why some cope better than others with the challenges that confront them in their new country, and how they raise their children who will one day be French.

**Carolyn Lesjak '85**, *Working Fictions: A Genealogy of the Victorian Novel*, Duke University Press, 2006. In this reconceptualiza-

tion of Victorian literary history, the author questions the relationship between labor and pleasure, two concepts central to the Victorian imagination and the literary output of the era.

**Andrew Low '73**, *Low on Appellate Practice: Collected Columns*, Continuing Legal Education in Colorado Inc., 2006. This collection of appellate attorney Low's quarterly columns written for *The Colorado Lawyer* during the past 16 years demonstrates his wit and wisdom in a creative narrative illustrating complex legal concepts.

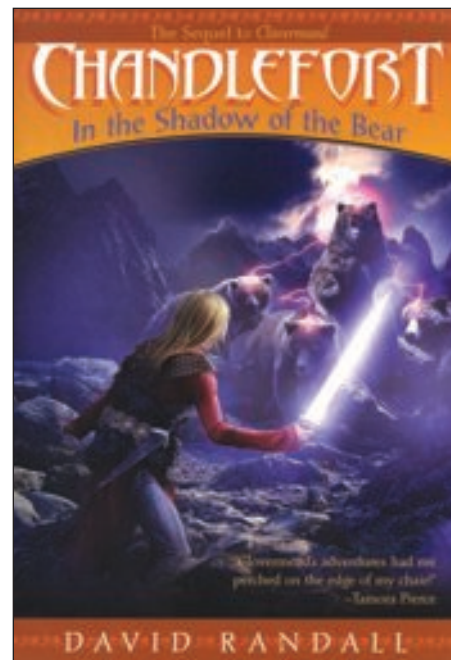
**John and Anne Tedeschi '56** (translators), *The Jews in Mussolini's Italy: From Equality to Persecution*, University of Wisconsin Press, 2006. This book, the Tedeschi's eighth translation from Italian, offers the first translation into English of Italian historian Michele Sarfatti's work, which focuses on the treatment of Jews in fascist Italy.

**Jeremy Weinstein '97**, *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence*, Cambridge University Press, 2007. Drawing on interviews with almost 200 combatants and civilians who have experienced violence firsthand, the author demonstrates how characteristics of the environment in which rebellion emerges constrain rebel organization and shape the patterns of violence that civilians experience.

**Richard Wolfson '69**, *Essential University Physics* (two volumes), Pearson Education Inc., 2007. This reasonably priced, calculus-based introductory-level physics textbook embraces proven techniques from physics education, employing a strategy-based approach to help students build the analytic and quantitative skills and confidence needed to apply physics in science and engineering.

## CDs

Denise Mitkus, David McCullough, **Lisa Wildman '84** (Peanut Butter Jellyfish), *Peanut Butter Jellyfish*, Peanut Butter Jellyfish, 2006. This CD of family-friendly music for children of all ages offers songs about tolerance and caring for the earth, children's favorites, and lullabies.



**David Randall '93**, *Chandlefort: In the Shadow of the Bear*, Simon and Shuster, 2006. The author's intense and compelling sequel to *Clovermead* (Simon Pulse, 2005) explores the strength of love, courage, and forgiveness in the battle of good and evil.



**Jane Goodall and Dana Lyons '82**, *Circle the World: Songs and Stories*, Lyons Brothers Music, 2004. This CD is the result of a collaboration between Lyons, a singer/songwriter and activist for the environment, social justice, and animal rights; and conservationist/chimpanzee expert and storyteller Goodall. Its title song was inspired by Goodall's vision for a global celebration on United Nations World Peace Day, with so many people marching all over the world holding giant peace-dove puppets that it would be visible via satellite from space.



# Care, Comfort, Convenience

BJ ENTWISLE '78 HELPS TO REVIVE AN ABANDONED MEDICAL TRADITION—THE HOUSE CALL.



GEOFF FORESTER

Patients are grateful for BJ Entwisle (*right*) and her Frail Elder House Call Program.

Thanks to BJ Entwisle '78, internist and geriatrician, a group of elders living in the Concord, N.H., area are enjoying the return of an abandoned medical tradition—the house call. Entwisle, director of the Frail Elder House Call Program, located in Concord Hospital's Capital Region Family Health Center, explains: "I took 13 frail, little old ladies I knew from private practice—who were homebound—to launch the program."

"There is something so rich about caring for people in their homes," Entwisle says. "It changes the power dynamic—the patient feels more empowered, the doctor less domineering." While there, she learns a lot about the patient: "I see photographs, talk with family members, and admire great-grandmother's quilt. When I'm in their kitchens, watching my patients take their medicines, it's the only time I really know what they are doing with their medicines."

Entwisle had been in private practice with The Hitchcock Clinic in Concord for 10 years when she accepted the position of professor of adult medicine with the newly developed New Hampshire-Dartmouth College Family Residency Program in 1998. She also signed on to launch the Frail Elder House Call Program. Each elder must meet strict conditions to be eligible for the program. "The first is that they have stopped driving," Entwisle says. "My nurse assistant,

Peggy Tucker, the hub of this whole program, then screens each candidate to measure their daily level of activity."

Today, Entwisle oversees the care of 120 elders—60 at home and the others in assisted living and nursing homes—assisted by 16 second- and third-year residents who are learning the finer points of geriatric medicine from Entwisle, a subspecialist in the field.

According to Constance Row, executive director for the American Academy of Home Care Physicians (AAHCP), the premise of elder house calls is simple: "It's a way to manage permanent health problems so elders can age in their own homes rather than an institution." Personalized care, convenience, and comfort are key benefits. Ethel Eisely, who cares for an 83-year-old quadriplegic in his home, says: "I don't know how we would have managed for the last 3 1/2 years without the program." House calls also eliminate transportation problems and provide someone to call with questions or in a crisis.

For Ely Buena, a second-year resident from Greenfield, Mass., Entwisle is a great mentor and resource who "listens to her patients and is aware of their environments. She wants us [residents] to see the elders as individuals who need independence as well as health care." Eighty-six-year-old patient Mary Lou Hancock of Concord, N.H., shared her litany of praises by phone: "Dr. Entwisle is very thorough, professional, thoughtful, and caring. She's also compassionate and perceptive."

After World War II, the rate of house calls sharply declined. "More patients had access to cars, and medical technology was centered in one place," Entwisle says, "so it made sense for patients to go to the physician. In the 1970s, renewed interest in house calls emerged; by 1984, AAHCP had been established. Row believes the growing number of elders who are unable to get to their physicians' offices and the financial benefits—home care is a fraction of the cost of hospital care—have contributed to the increase in house calls. AAHCP estimates that there are 1,000 house-call practices nationally. According to a study in the November issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the annual number of house calls increased 43 percent between 1998 and 2004.

Entwisle's bond with elders began with her maternal grandparents who lived well into their 80s. Her alma mater, Boston University School of Medicine, has the oldest house-call program in the country. As a fourth-year medical student, Entwisle spent a month doing house calls in Boston. As a resident at Boston City Hospital, "she realized how much she enjoyed taking care of older people."

Mother of Rachel, 19, a student at Bates College, Entwisle makes her home with four other Swarthmore graduates—Jordan Cornog '74, Julie Dewdney '75, Juliana Eades '75, and Christopher Cornog '77—whom she describes as a "family of friends."

Entwisle says, "I tip my hat to the little black medical bag of the past with an L.L. Bean briefcase that we call the "house-call bag."

—Susan Cousins Breen

# The Ethics Guy

BRUCE WEINSTEIN '82 IS IN THE BUSINESS OF DOING THE RIGHT THING.



GEORGE POULOS

Weinstein's most recent book is *Life Principles: Feeling Good by Doing Good*, which sets forth five basic principles to guide one's ethical decision-making: do no harm, make things better, respect others, be fair, be loving. He is currently working on an ethics book for tweens.

Your roommate turns in a term paper she downloaded from the Internet as her own work. Do you tell the professor? A dental hygienist sees substandard work done by her own employer. Does she tell the patient, discuss it with the dentist, or say nothing at all? An employee enhances his resume to get a job. He gets the job. A year later, should the employee tell the boss what he did? These are just a few scenarios that Bruce Weinstein '82, considers as an ethicist.

When Weinstein, known popularly as The Ethics Guy ([theethicsguy.com](http://theethicsguy.com)), entered Swarthmore, he thought he was headed for medical school. But a course in ethics taught by the late Gilmore Stott intrigued him and pointed him in a slightly different direction. After receiving a Ph.D. in philosophy from Georgetown University in 1989, he taught bioethics for 6 years at the West Virginia University School of Medicine.

While there, he decided that many of the questions bioethicists were facing were also applicable to the general public. "I decided to make the world my classroom," he said. In 1995, Weinstein left WVU and set up his own company, Ethics at Work Inc.

Now living in New York City, he regularly speaks to audiences with more than 5,000 professionals in fields ranging from medicine to real estate. He has a syndicated weekly newspaper column and appears frequently as an ethical analyst on TV news shows, including *Good Morning America* and *The Today Show*.

Weinstein said the reason to be ethical is because "it is the right thing to do." But when he asks his audiences the "why be ethical" question, the answer is often quite different.

"People will say 'so I can sleep at night,' 'so I can get into heaven,' or 'so I can look at myself in the mirror.' People have a self-referential response. People want to know 'What's in it for me?'" Weinstein said.

"As a leader, I needed to answer that question. The good news is that all roads lead to nirvana. If you do the right thing, you're satisfying your ethical obligation to other people and benefiting yourself. The flip side is if you take the low road, such as if you're a corrupt CEO, it will come back and hurt you. You'll risk legal liability, your reputation may be ruined, and you may be fodder for negative discussion in the media."

Weinstein has edited or written five books, and his syndicated column "Ask the Ethics Guy" appears on [BusinessWeek.com](http://BusinessWeek.com), where a recent comment drew fire in a way Weinstein hadn't anticipated.

He had given his response to whether an employee should tell the boss that he padded his resume when he applied for the job. Weinstein said he should tell.

"Owning up to one's mistake shows the moral virtue of courage," Weinstein said. "I believe the employer would keep the employee because he did something that wasn't easy to do."

But [BusinessWeek.com](http://BusinessWeek.com) readers disagreed.

"I know it was a skewed sample because people tend to write letters mostly when they're angry, but, having said that, there are so many people willing to defend the behavior of lying with 'everybody does it,' and 'the CEO did it.' Covering it up is really disturbing. It's why we see corporate scandals, and it will continue until businesses take ethics seriously," he said.

Weinstein said he chose to become a populist ethicist because "many of our society's issues are discussed from political, military, and legal perspectives. But we also need to talk about the ethical perspective. Ethics often requires more of us than the law does."

Weinstein doesn't think our world is any worse off than in earlier times. "As far back as Aristophanes and Plato, there were complaints about youth," Weinstein said. "Human nature hasn't changed much. But it's not clear to me that from an ethical perspective our society is any worse off than 20 years ago. The fact that I'm seeing, in my professional life, a more widespread recognition of the importance of ethics is evidence to me that we're not getting worse as a society."

—Audree Penner

# Orcas & Ice

THE WORLD IS AN ENDLESSLY  
EXCITING PLAYGROUND  
FOR ADVENTURE SEEKERS.

By Kerstin Kirschenbaum Rowe '93

During the past 2 years, I have driven beyond the Arctic Circle, hiked glaciers in a rainforest, sipped tea in 100-year-old gardens, clocked more than 4,000 miles on a car in Scandinavia, walked a road with my name on it, strolled around Hobbiton, been to Hell's Gate and back, felt a buffalo's tongue, watched a bear while sea kayaking, and witnessed orcas dancing atop the ocean.

When I am not teaching more than 120 students and grading more than 1,500 essays each school year, I travel. No. Not merely travel. The type of "vacation" preferred by my soul mate and me is an adventure—the type where the only things barring a longer one are the length of our summer breaks and countries that don't hand out visas that are valid for more than 30 days. Before leaving our continent, we usually have only plane tickets, two guidebooks, and hotel reservations for our first few nights. From there, we poke and prod, saunter and summit, walk and wander our way into and around the chosen destination.

## *No set itinerary*

We set out one morning in British Columbia expecting to arrive at our next destination by early afternoon. But *The Lonely Planet* always tells the careful reader about scenic byways. So we took a narrow little road just feet from the ocean through towns that can hardly be called towns. Maybe they were just collections of buildings that happened to be close to one another. We finally came to a town referenced in the guidebook, hoping for some breakfast and a bathroom. Walking along the one street, we came upon a sign:



DAVID ROWE

Kerstin Kirschenbaum Rowe explores a crevasse in New Zealand's Fox Glacier.

"Orcas! 40 minutes away! Tours at 12 and 5 p.m."

We looked at each other. Orcas only 40 minutes away? We wouldn't arrive at our night's lodging until after dark, but we decided to change our plans.

An hour later, stepping into the inflatable Zodiac boat, I was filled with anticipa-

tion. A 45-minute ride brought us well into the Georgia Strait, and the craft slowed. We saw the first of many orcas' dorsal fins coming right up out of the water, like so many sharks. We spent about 20 minutes watching the fins and noses of the orcas surfacing and submerging, surfacing and submerging.

And then I turned to the left.



"Look!" I screamed—but not in enough time for my husband to catch it. Never have I seen such a stupendous sight. Never will I forget the image of a 4-ton orca fully, completely, thoroughly airborne, horizontal to the water, flinging his mass free of his environment. In my mind, he will always be suspended in the air for as long as he likes, before gravity takes hold, crashing him back into the waves, into his element.

Then, in front of us, another orca leaped clear of the rough waters, flinging his body skyward before he, too, plashed back into the sea. For the next 5 full minutes, there was a symphony of orcas leaping around us. Over there. Then there. Then over there. You didn't know which way to look, so the three of us moved our heads like watching a frenetic tennis match, trying to keep our eyes on all parts of the ocean. From every direction, it seemed, the orcas flung themselves into the air like fountain jets in Las Vegas. The most amazing feat was by one that decided to somersault. Truly somersault. The orca whipped his fluke skyward, nose to the ocean, performing a vertical upside-down balancing act, flipping himself clear over his own enormous body. The power of these animals was stupefying. We took no pictures. To view the display through a camera lens would have cheapened it. It was also impossible, considering the rocking of the Zodiac and the speed of the whales.

As suddenly as it had begun, it ended. The orcas decided, for reasons unknown to the most experienced marine biologists, to stay in the water. To swim away. To continue their perennial search for salmon. Our jaws were slack. We could not find the words to express our excitement and wonder. We spoke in fragments. But we knew we had experienced magic—the magic that can only come from having no set itinerary.

#### *Take risks*

The risks we take do not begin with the overused title "Extreme ..." But we still take risks—healthy, good for the soul, low-possibility-of-dying risks.

Like the time we went glacier hiking. There are two places in the world where glaciers paradoxically reside in rainforests: New Zealand and Chile. Finding ourselves a scant 120 miles away, we boarded a train to traverse New Zealand westward to Fox Glacier and signed up for a full-day hike.

Grabbing an alpenstock and strapping

on crampons over rented boots, I felt like an old-time explorer. I was Shackleton, getting ready for his trip to the South Pole. Using the most basic gear, I would cross continents and summit mountains. The first step onto the ice was glorious. Tony, our 20-something guide, showed us how to get around. We had to do a funny kind of wide-legged stomping walk, like the villainous cowboy barging into a saloon. This shoved the tiny teeth of the crampons into the ice to prevent slipping. We had to play mental gymnastics with ourselves: The emotional part of the brain looked at the ice and said "Step tenderly! Or you'll slip!" Logically, I told myself, "Step firmly! So you won't slip!"

But I was not to be deterred. On more than one occasion, I got close enough to a fascinating crevasse to be able to ask Tony, "Can we go down there? It looks so cool!" And our expert guide would check it out, making sure it wouldn't cave in and send our group of 10 to a newspaper headline and the outfitter to lawsuits. More often than not, he gave the OK and would start chopping ice steps for us. Exploring the glacier's crevasses was amazing. We were surrounded by high walls of thick, clear, turquoise-blue ice, smoother than glass. They were narrow fractures, fit only for the fit. I imagined what it must have been like for Captain Cook and his men to have dis-

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Before leaving our continent, we usually have only plane tickets, guidebooks, and hotel reservations for our first few nights. From there, we poke and prod, saunter and summit, walk and wander our way into and around the chosen destination.

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It took me about one second to start stomping all over my icy playground. I felt like I could go anywhere, do anything—much to my husband's and Tony's horror.

"Get away from there!" someone behind me yelled, like a reproachful mother. "What?" I thought and half mumbled, annoyed at being distracted from my Lewis-and-Clark dream. "I just wanted to see how deep this crack was!" I called back petulantly. My husband stomped up behind me. "That can be really dangerous," he explained. "Those crevasses can go very deep, and you could fall far. I don't want to lose my wife." I was not prepared to believe him, his glacier-hiking experience being 35 minutes—exactly the same as mine. So I looked at Tony to get a different answer. But the look on Tony's face told me "the parents" were united. He clearly didn't feel like spending his fun workday saving some dumb American tourist from a deep, icy chasm. "Okay," I grumbled, sort of agreeing to stay away from the edges of potentially hazardous cliffs.

covered this glacier. How they must have slid all over it, chopped off pieces for 19th-century piña coladas, written home about the strange wonder.

We walked through glassy blue tunnels formed by the melting ice. Ice surrounded us. It was our floor, walls, and ceiling. It was the next room and downstairs. It was thousands of ice rinks. We had to grab our fear and stomp it just as we stomped our crampons. The day was exhilarating.

We emerged from our journey unscathed but deeply touched. My spirit was soaring, filled with confidence. We had entered a different world. A world of excitement and of the unknown. A world of risk taking. A world of adventure. ☼

*Kerstin Kirschenbaum Rowe worked for 12 years as an English teacher, the last 5 at Overland High School, in Denver, Colo., where she lives with her husband and fellow adventurer, David. Currently, she is enjoying the supreme adventure of staying home with their baby girl, born in August.*

# Compassion in Business

GABRIEL FAIRMAN '02 BELIEVES THAT CORPORATE SUCCESS DEPENDS ON MORE THAN JUST A PRODUCT.



MURILO RODRIGUES

Despite his facility with languages, Fairman describes himself primarily as an agent for social transformation. For more information on his company, visit [www.bureatranslations.com](http://www.bureatranslations.com).

Having been born in São Paulo, Brazil, Gabriel Fairman grew up speaking Portuguese. He also learned Spanish early on from his Argentine father and picked up English attending American schools, where he was also taught French. At Swarthmore, he learned Italian during a semester abroad in Italy. And, in his senior year, he began studying Mandarin Chinese, which he polished during a 5-month stay in a Zen Buddhist monastery in Taiwan.

So it's not surprising that Fairman—now back in São Paulo—makes his living working with words, as executive director of Bureau Translations, where translators interpret in 20 languages.

Beside his love of languages, Fairman has a penchant for philosophy and psychology—thanks to his College courses, he says, especially those taught by Frank and Gil Mustin Professor of Psychology Emeritus Kenneth Gergen. Fairman graduated with a special major titled *The Death and Rebirth of Human Agency*.

"This is just a fancy name for the study of how people are impaired in their decision-making by influences subconsciously engrained as a result of their culture," he says. The rebirth of these processes occurs when we become actively aware of this cultural conditioning of our modes of thinking and allow ourselves to be open to alternative explanations for human behaviors, rather than passively seeing only one "right" explanation. "I could never really accept any one way of thinking as the ultimate way," Fairman says.

Fairman's route to his current job was not a direct one. After months of monastic routine "working as a gardener, meditating, teaching English to children at an orphanage inside the monastery, and practicing kung fu," he worked at a New York consulting firm for a while, followed by a year with his father in international trade and 6 months in the export department of Brazil's largest mineral exploration company.

Back in São Paulo, Fairman was struck by the clash between the harshness of the business world in "this do-or-die, cut-throat city" and the insights he had gained in his pursuit of philosophy and personal inner exploration. "I was disillusioned by business practices that put the importance of human relationships in the background, so I took over the home business my mother founded 25 years ago and turned it into a start-up company that had at its core an emphasis on relationships," he says.

In light of Fairman's drive to reach beyond the limitations of culturally imposed perceptions, his choice of profession—in which he must strive on a daily basis to reconcile the cultural differences that reveal themselves through language—seems entirely appropriate.

His staff—experts at building connections through language—are expected to be equally adept in forming relationships based on traits like tolerance of differences, understanding, and compassion.

For example, Fairman describes being commissioned to translate a set of highly sensitive documents pertaining to a multimillion-dollar contract between a Brazilian company and Chinese company. "We had to understand the thought process of the Brazilian supplier and figure out how the wording in the original Chinese version of the contract would fit within this context. Brazilian texts are typically not concise and are often filled with flowery language. So, with the help of consultants, we examined the language of the original Chinese document before translation. Then, after translation, we consulted with lawyers in both countries and did more rewording or rephrasing before producing the final contract," he says.

Fairman's carefully chosen staff comprises 10 in-house consultants and 15 translators. All spend a fair amount of time in the office attending training sessions, seminars, or presentations. "I am looking for people who have the basic set of characteristics needed for working in a company, such as punctuality, diligence, and thoroughness," he says, "but above all, they should be able to understand and accept differences and be willing to learn from these differences, not just sit back and accept the status quo."

At weekly meetings, employees share ideas on topics such as project management, health issues, and company-client relationships. "We have a continuous learning system," Fairman says. "I'm trying to balance my theoretical background with the pressing demands for productivity to build a business based on harmonious and evolving relationships rather than just a product."

—Carol Brévart-Demm

# “preposterously delightful”

By Carol Brévar-Demm

Professor of German Hansjakob Werlen loves language—his own and others. Born in a tiny Swiss valley, he grew up speaking a local Alemanic dialect, the language in which he still feels most comfortable, even though his German is impeccable. So is his English. After attending Spanish classes taught by colleagues and spending time in Latin America, he also enjoys conversing in and reading Spanish. He gets by in French, too. He finds beauty in the sounds of words. As a graduate student at Stanford, his interest in semiotics led him to attend a seminar taught entirely in Russian by an Estonian semiotician, whose reading of Pushkin held Werlen spellbound for a semester, although he knew no Russian. He occasionally visits a Vietnamese restaurant in Philadelphia, where, over a bowl of steaming *phở*, he listens to the sounds of the conversation.

For 20 years, Werlen has been teaching 18th- and 19th-century German literature to Swarthmore students, many of whom stay in touch. Recently, he's been teaching contemporary German literature and food studies. He is a member of the International Herder Society and the American Goethe Society.

Passionately interested in food, Werlen founded the Philadelphia chapter of Slow Food in 1998. The international eco-gastronomic movement, with 80,000 members worldwide, is dedicated to ecologically sound food production, the invigoration of regional culinary traditions, and the pleasures of the table. He spent a week living with a Ketchua family in Ecuador, helping the local cooperative of 400 families expand its small cocoa-bean business into the international gourmet chocolate and cocoa market. A beer connoisseur, he has friends among Philadelphia's microbrewers.

Werlen enjoys using the occasional oxymoron. He's something of an oxymoron himself—intensely intellectual, wildly jocular. He describes his time at Swarthmore as “preposterously delightful.” The same can be said of time spent in his company.

*What's cool about the German language?*

Many German words have a kind of literal descriptiveness that can be fun when you teach the language, such as *Fingerhut* (thimble, literally, “finger hat”) or *Stinktier* (skunk, literally “smelly animal”).

*Which courses do you enjoy teaching most?*

My recurring favorite is the Goethe Seminar. He was such a revolutionary writer. All those trite, romantic settings of current soap operas could be vernacular variations on *The Sorrows of Young Werther*. Another good one was the freshman seminar Between Appetite and Aesthetics. This was a way to sneak in my preoccupation with food and the history of aesthetics. Rick Eldridge (philosophy) came and explained how the sensual part of taste was banned by German philosopher Immanuel Kant, and Mark Wallace (religion) talked about religious food taboos. It was great fun.

*Is there a work of German literature that everyone should read?*

Read Goethe's *Faust, Part I*. It's funny, beautiful, tragic, and relates to issues being debated now—the role of science, utilization of the earth, things like that.

*If you could be a German literary figure, who would you choose?*

I'd like to have been someone like E.T.A. Hoffmann. He was a jurist by training, composer, conductor, music critic, draftsman, caricaturist, and a great writer. He felt deeply about art and wrote beautifully and humorously, yet he also had a dark side. He was just a convivial, fun, irreverent guy. Everyone should read *Tales of Hoffmann* or listen to the opera.

*Are you planning any new research projects?*

I'm collaborating on a volume about the history of methodologies in my field. I'm interested in the “half-life” (as I call it) of theory, and I'm looking at a particular set of rhetorical practices that were important for Germanistik in the 20th century.

*Do you have a teaching style?*

I have no fixed script. I love to digress. After all, you're learning about life, so I'm as apt to deliver a *plaidoyer* for good stout as I am to talk about the Enlightenment.

*Do you have a favorite beer?*

Basically, the last good beer I drank. We have about 10 world-class small brewers in and around Philadelphia. I know them all because they come to Slow Food events I organize. Living in the United States right now is like living in beer heaven. When I'm in Germany, I declare apodictically that, after Belgium, the United States is the best beer country in the world. The Germans don't take this lying down, of course.

*What was your most recent Slow Food event?*

I invited Herb Eckhouse, an Iowa prosciutto maker and father of Laurel Eckhouse '03, to talk with us and let us taste his incredible cured meats. He brought speck, culatello, prosciutto, and pancetta. All his products measure favorably with the best Italian and Spanish cured meats. It's just like the American beer. Or Metropolitan bread. You can search far and wide in France before finding the quality of sourdough bread-making that you find at Philly's Metropolitan Bakery.

*Which three words describe you best?*

Curious, energetic, and change-loving.

*How do you think your wife would describe you?*

Generous, funny, and gregarious.

*What do you consider the height of success?*

It's a bit like what Barry Schwartz says about the paradox of choice—when you don't manically compare yourself and your lot with that of others, when you're happy with your own situation in life. I've reached it. I've been here for 20 years. I enjoyed it from the very beginning, and I enjoy it more now.

According to Hansjakob Werlen, the growth of North American microbreweries—such as Yards Brewing Co. in North Philadelphia (*right*)—has heralded a Golden Age of Beer in this country.





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