



**Haverford
and the Economy**
An Update



Rachel Hall '91
Math + Music = Harmony



Marathon Effort
Fords keep up the pace
after graduation

HVERFORD

The Magazine of Haverford College

FALL 2009

FREEING SPIRITS

Hip hop performer-turned prison chaplain **Charles Atkins, Jr., '90** helps young men behind bars find a higher purpose for their lives.

More Fords
Making a
Difference
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By Eils Lotozo

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"A Haverford education can empower and prepare our students not only to be critical thinkers and problem solvers of a high order, but also to put those skills to work as change agents."

by Stephen G. Emerson '74

view from founders



Steve Emerson, who celebrated his 35th reunion this year as a member of the Class of 1974, chats with some returning Fords at Alumni Weekend 2009. (See p. 50 for Alumni Weekend coverage.)

Haverford students tend to be a pretty modest bunch. Their academic abilities often seem matched only by a tendency to refrain from tooting their own horns, a characteristic that, I believe, helps make this such a wonderful place to study and grow.

So leave it to others to do the tooting for them – and this year, the chorus of recognition is loud and sus-

tained and is coming in the form of grants, prizes and fellowships from organizations dedicated to identifying, honoring and fostering growth in deserving, high-achieving college students. It has truly been a banner year, as you can see in the sidebars that list the recognition bestowed upon so many of our students.

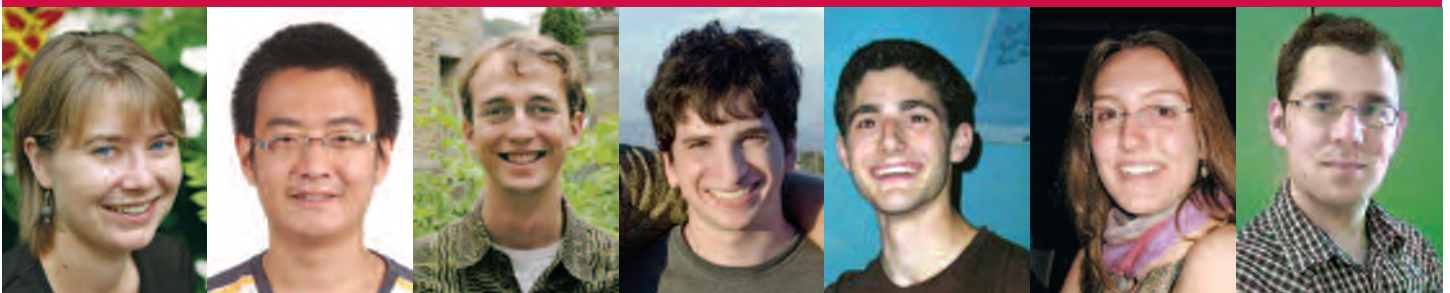
This success speaks volumes about the students who come to Haverford, the faculty with whom they work and often col-

laborate, the deans (who literally work around the clock to help bring out the best in our students) – and you, our alumni, parents and friends, whose generosity makes it all possible.

Awards are important for many reasons. First, the application process itself helps students examine their life goals and learn how to express those ambitions in a compelling, concise way. That's helpful at any age, and fellowship applicants discover the benefits early. Then there is the work that these scholars will be pursuing. Whether teaching or doing research under the auspices of a Fulbright or pursuing a postgraduate degree at Cambridge University as a Gates Scholar, these young men and women are poised to make the world a better place. Another benefit is the career-enhancing effect that such awards bestow: for a young adult who's just setting out on a professional path, these accolades often supercharge an emerging career. And of course there's the distinction these awards bring to our institution, which makes us all proud.

Given that most of these applications are facilitated by the College, we're familiar with the students' aspirations and cases for support. And it's becoming clear that the work they are doing at our three new Centers for Interdisciplinary Learning is fostering synergies across disciplines while providing cru-

Scholarship Winners *From left to right:*



Winn Johnson '09 won a Watson Fellowship to research sustainability in gardens outside North America.

Zhao Fang '09 was awarded a Gates-Cambridge Scholarship to explore early modern Chinese history at Cambridge University.

Martin Blood-Forsythe '10 was recognized by the Barry Goldwater Foundation for his work on nanoscience, as was **Brian Pepe-Mooney '10**, who was honorably mentioned.

Daniel Arnstein '09 will be studying neuroscience in Holland and **Colin Cahill '07** heads for Indonesia to study issues of public art and censorship, thanks to their Fulbrights, while **Tim Golden '09**

(Germany), **Angelina Gomes '09** (Spain) and **Elizabeth Gray '08** (Uruguay) all received Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships.

Benjamin Amendolara '10 used his Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study in Paris and is launching a newsletter for returning study-abroad students.

Anna Pancoast '09 received a National Science Foundation Fellowship to study galaxies while receiving her Ph.D. in physics at UC Santa Barbara, and **Daniel Sacks '08** will enter Penn's Wharton School this month in pursuit of a Ph.D. in applied economics, also a National Science Foundation Scholarship winner.

cial scholarly experience vital to a successful application. You can be sure that the Center for Peace & Global Citizenship, the Hurford Humanities Center and the Koshland Integrated Natural Sciences Center – which were all made possible by our most recent comprehensive campaign – will continue to provide a sort of connective tissue across all aspects of the academic experience here.

A Haverford education can empower and prepare our students not only to be critical thinkers and problem solvers of a high order, but also to be able to put those skills to work as change agents. Indeed, for opportunities such as the Gates Scholarship, a student must have demonstrated leadership, which underscores the fact that more than scholarly achievement is at issue here: yes, these are terrific students at a terrific school, but that's just the start of what they have to offer.

This is a breathtaking time to be at Haverford, and these winners remind us how and why the College remains a vital force in higher education and beyond. I am in awe. And while we're on the subject of super achievers, I'd like to acknowledge the many scholar-athletes of ours that were recognized by the Centennial Conference this year. As we all know, balancing Haverford academics with varsity sports can be challenging,

and to step up one's game by making it onto the Centennial Honor Roll is remarkable. And what's even more remarkable is the sheer number of students who have done so!

All the best,



Stephen G. Emerson, '74
President

P.S. In keeping with our commitment to reduce expenses given ongoing financial constraints, we've scaled back the page count of *Haverford* magazine to reduce design, printing and postage costs. In parallel, we've dramatically increased the amount of news and notes on our website, www.haverford.edu and its companion alumni site, fords.haverford.edu. I encourage you to visit us online – the students' summer blogs are inspiring. And speaking of blogs, Greg Kannerstein '63 is now blogging regularly on our Haverblog, linked from the homepage. It's like having a cup of coffee with Greg every day!

Scholar-Athletes on the Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll

Field Hockey

Maggie Cronin, Patrice Harkins,
Zoe Lloyd, Julia McGuire, Alex Waleko

Men's Soccer

Adam Care, Panos Panidis,
Brian Pepe-Mooney, Josh Price,
Max Stossel

Women's Soccer

Michele Buonora, Elizabeth Levitan,
Leslie Maienschein-Cline, Katey Scionti,
Annie Turner

Women's Cross Country

Heidi Bretscher, Maya Cabot, Lena
Edelstein, Harper Hubbeling, Aileen
Keogh, Darian Lunne, Hilary Mislán,
Kathryn Montalbano, Elizabeth Zoidis

Men's Cross Country

Paul Bisceglia, Mark Burgmann,
Taylor Burmeister, Joseph Carpenter,
Andrew Lanham, Dan O'Toole,
Chris Southwick, Elias Tousley

Men's Basketball

Doug Edelman, Dave Nowacki,
Sam Permutt, Greg Rosnick,
Alex Schwada

Women's Basketball

Kathleen Abels, Elizabeth Mayell,
Meaghan Ryan

Men's Track & Field

Paul Bisceglia, Mark Burgmann,
Taylor Burmeister, Joseph Carpenter,
Eric Chesterton, Michael Hildner,
Anders Hulleberg, Morgan Kist,
Andrew Lanham, Richard Marsico,
Zachary Needell, Dan O'Toole,
Jason Oaks, Nick Reynolds,
Chris Southwick, Elias Tousley,
Garrett Vanacore, Benjamin Walker,
Andrew Wei

Women's Track & Field

Jessie Belden, Heidi Bretscher,
Maya Cabot, Kaia Davis,
Lena Edelstein, Jackie Freund,
Harper Hubbeling, Darian Lunne,
Mara Miller, Hilary Mislán, Margaret
Morrison, Eliza Reiss, Elizabeth Welch

main lines

Engaging Exhibitions

Haverford's Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery has kicked its exhibition schedule up to an ambitious new level, with an array of shows scheduled for the 2009-10 season that will help connect the College more closely to the rich Philadelphia-area art scene and bring nationally and internationally renowned artists to campus.

The season opens with **"Beautiful Human,"** which runs from September 11-October 9 and is curated exclusively for Haverford by Shelley Spector, a Philadelphia sculptor, educator and founder of the pioneering Spector Gallery/Projects, which has become known for setting art world trends and boosting the careers of many young artists. The exhibit focuses on the theme of human beings as both subjects and observers, and features works from six Philadelphia-based artists, including James G. Mundie, Joshua Mosley, Laura Graham and Rob Matthews. October 23-December 11 the gallery will feature an exhibit entitled **"Imaginative Feats Literally Presented/ Three Fables for Projection: Guarded, Flat Land, Lost."**

The show offers an unprecedented display of the sound/media installations created by California College of Arts professor Jeanne C. Finley and John Muse, current Visiting Professor in Independent College Programs, whose works have been exhibited at New York's Museum of Modern Art, the Guggenheim Museum and the Whitney Biennial. Beginning January 22 and running through March 5, Haverford hosts the East Coast premiere of internationally acclaimed photographic artist Chris Jordan's first travelling exhibition, **"Running the Numbers: An American Self Portrait."** Jordan's monumental, intricately detailed photographic panels depict the staggering statistics that reflect American culture. From March 19-April 30, the Gallery presents **"Mapping Identity,"** an exhibit co-curated by Visiting Associate Professor Carol Solomon and Janet Natalie Yoon '10 that will coincide with Solomon's interdisciplinary course, "Art and Cultural Identity."



"Commute," a digital animation by Joshua Mosley, is included in the "Beautiful Human" exhibit at the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery September 11-October 9.

To make its space more adaptive for these diverse exhibitions, the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery has undergone significant renovations, according to Matthew Callinan, Campus Exhibitions Coordinator. "We're seeking to operate at the highest level possible and with that we need the space to meet certain standards of display," says Callinan. In addition to upgrades on the temperature and humidity controls, smoke and heat alarms, sprinkler systems, light fixtures, and security measures, the Gallery has recently had its fabric-covered perimeter walls replaced with paintable dry wall. Another major change in the Gallery took place over the summer with the construction of "floatable" walls, roughly 10 feet tall by 12 feet long,

that can be easily moved using a system called an Airsled. "Floatable walls allow us to create different environments for each display," says Callinan.

Part of Haverford's larger plan to enhance visual arts on campus, the goal in planning the new exhibition season, says Callinan, was to "get top quality work from challenging artists and curators that would engage the community in new and meaningful ways and expand the scope of what the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery has done in the past." 🐾

—Brenna McBride

To see a gallery of images from past art exhibitions go to www.haverford.edu/HHC/exhibits/virtual_museum/.



New Dean of the College

Haverford College welcomed a new Dean of the College in July, when Martha J. Denney took over the post from Greg Kannerstein '63. Kannerstein has

moved into a new position as a Senior Advisor to Institutional Advancement and lecturer.

Denney was most recently an Associate Dean at Georgetown University where she was Director of the Undergraduate Program at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. She was selected as Dean of the College after a three-month search process guided by a search committee that included Haverford faculty, staff

and three student representatives. The committee brought in 12 candidates for interviews before narrowing that pool down to four finalists.

"The diversity of her experience and concern for the whole student are matched by her energy, good cheer and empathy," says Haverford President Stephen G. Emerson '74 about Denney. "We know that she'll be an enthusiastic contributor as we develop new

Mapping the Past

“When I agreed to be Professor Krippner’s research assistant,” says Catie Curry ‘10, “I never thought I’d be making a map!”

Yet that’s just what Associate Professor of History Jim Krippner asked her to do: create a map of the Mexican cities and sites photographer Paul Strand visited in the early 1930s for his *Mexican Portfolio*. Krippner plans to include the map in his forthcoming book, tentatively titled *Paul Strand in Mexico, 1932-34: A Journey with Pictures*. The book will reconstruct in detail Strand’s years in Mexico, while also offering insights into Mexican cultural history.

The goal of Curry’s map, says Krippner, is to “provide the best way to represent the real places that Strand travelled through and photographed, helping us more precisely situate the images he constructed.”

Working from a list of 20 cities that appears on the front page of Strand’s *Mexican Portfolio*, as well as from letters and photograph captions, Curry began by researching the cities’ existences. Some were difficult to find, as their

names had changed in the ensuing decades; for example, the present-day city of Oaxaca was in the ‘30s called Oaxaca de Juarez in honor of revolutionary hero and former president Benito Juarez.

Curry also searched far and wide to locate the road Strand travelled from Laredo, Texas to Mexico. Her research unearthed the Pan-American Highway, the Mexican portion of which (called the Inter-American) was built in 1933. “It fit the parameters,

trajectory, and time period of Strand’s route,” she says.

To draw the actual map, she used mapmaking software called ArcGIS, which is available on every computer in Magill Library. Assisted by Laura Allen, the library’s Coordinator for Research, Instruction and Outreach, Curry first created two preliminary maps, one with outlines of Mexico’s cities and one outlining its states. She then arranged a spreadsheet of the cities, plotting the latitude and

longitude of each. The map she eventually sent to Krippner’s publisher pinpoints the cities themselves, with the states outlined.

“Catie demonstrated perseverance and ingenuity in tracking down [all of the] places,” says Krippner. “Her research was essential because it freed up time for me to write during the fleeting summer months.”

Developing the map has given Curry a clearer sense of what most interested Strand as he shot his portfolio. “He was drawn to many smaller, rural towns,” she says. “He stayed south, away from the American border. He was looking for towns with more of a Mexican feel.”

Krippner plans to give Curry credit for the map when his book is published in August of 2010—coincidentally, Curry’s birthday month. “The only present I want is a copy of the book with my name in it!” she says with a laugh. 🐾

—Brenna McBride



Catie Curry ‘10 with photographs Paul Strand took in Mexico during the 1930s; a map Curry created to track Strand’s journey will be included in a book by Professor Jim Krippner.

programs that will take the student experience – and, in turn, the College as a whole – to new heights.”

Denney graduated from Hamilton College with a degree in French, earned a master’s degree in Education from Harvard University and a master’s degree and Ph.D. in Anthropology from Brandeis University. In 1995, she was appointed Assistant Dean of Students for International Affairs

at Colby College in Maine, where she taught in the departments of anthropology and education. Denney also served Colby as Director of Off-Campus Study and Academic Affairs and as Associate Dean of the Faculty.

Denney says that it was Haverford’s integration of the academic and extracurricular in a single Dean’s Office role that attracted her to the position. “This combines things in a way that is

more consistent with the actual student experience,” she says.

Denney was also impressed by Haverford’s strong tradition of independence and student self-government. “This aspect of the College is one of the things that appealed most to me when I made the decision to apply to be Dean,” said Denney in an interview with the *Bi-College News*. “One of my main criticisms of higher education is that students are not

encouraged enough to take primary responsibility for themselves and for each other, which leads to a culture of dependence and asymmetry, in which administrators can be seen as adversaries rather than facilitators. That Haverford takes this seriously is really a wonderful thing; not always smooth in practice I’m sure, but well worth the struggles and difficult discussions.” 🐾

Of Puddings and Prophets

Hard to believe, but the face of the prophet Ezekiel glimpsed in a cup of tapioca pudding and the meeting of two Haverford alumni have one thing in common: fate.

The aforementioned dessert is the focus of the musical *The Tapioca Miracle*, in which ordinary housewife Doris Blodgett watches as the world descends on her house to behold the pudding prophet. As she realizes just how profitable her tapioca has become,

she transforms herself into the uber-powerful president of the Dairy Miracle Network. And just as Mrs. Blodgett was destined to discover her icebox icon, composer **Dan Kazemi '04** and **Larry Kaye '83**, who co-wrote the musical's book with playwright Eric Coble, seemed fated to join together on a journey that could end on Broadway.

Kaye, a Washington, D.C. lawyer with a sideline as a

theatrical producer and director, first met Kazemi when he cast him in a production of the musical *Forever Plaid* that he directed for his Haverford class reunion. Kaye, who started a student-run theater group when he was at Haverford, was impressed by the student's stage presence. "Dan had a highly developed aesthetic, especially for someone 20 years old," says Kaye. When Kaye later produced *The Fantasticks* at Haverford, he again cast Kazemi. For a production of *Godspell* at the College, he tapped Kazemi as musical director.

After Kaye began work on *The Tapioca Miracle*, which was based on a minor character in a play by Coble about religion on the Internet, he thought of Kazemi for the composer's slot. A music major at Haverford, Kazemi had just completed his senior thesis, with compositions based in avant-garde and contemporary classical styles. "I had to adjust my ears and sensibilities to commercial musical theater," says Kazemi, who credits his ability to make that shift into different genres as a composer to his thorough musical training at Haverford.

After two years of development, Kaye, Kazemi and Coble organized a series of readings in Cleveland, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Perhaps their biggest achievement came in April when *Tapioca Miracle* received a reading at Chelsea Studios in Manhattan, directed by Tony award-winner John Rando (*Urinetown*) and featuring an all-Broadway cast.

"It was wonderful," says Kaye. "The audience latched on to the humor and we received some constructive criticism." That means the musical will undergo a series of rewrites while he, Kazemi and Coble look for a regional theater to produce the show as a "pre-Broadway tryout," or work to create a workshop production (a scaled-down version of a show that helps develop new material and create buzz) in New York. Also a possibility: finding a producer to back the show on Broadway. "There are lots of different ways to shape a show," Kaye says. "Every step is exciting and fraught with its own peculiar risks and rewards." 🐿️

—Charles Curtis '04



(left to right) The *Tapioca Miracle* creative team—book writer Larry Kaye, composer Dan Kazemi, and book writer Eric Coble—in the lobby of Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre.

faculty news

The Sound of Sci(l)ence

What happens when three visionary musicians/composers/filmmakers/visual artists/polymaths meet up with a posse of Haverford science professors and their students?

All sorts of interesting things, as those who attended the "Sound of Sci(l)ence" event on Haverford's campus found out. The three-day series of workshops, conversations and performances, which ran June 15-17, featured Will Calhoun, a Grammy Award-winning percussionist and member of the band Living Colour; Jaron Lanier, an artist, composer, writer and virtual reality pioneer; and Paul Miller (aka DJ Spooky), a hip-hop musician and performance artist.

"The Sound of Sci(l)ence" (subtitled "Listening to Quantum Mechanics, the Big Bang and Nanotechnology") was funded by a Mellon Arts Residency Planning Grant from Haverford's Hurford Humanities Center as part of its mission to stimulate new ways of looking at the arts and how they can illuminate Haverford's curriculum. Organized by professors Joshua Schrier (chemistry) and Stephon Alexander (physics), the idea behind the gathering was to explore the intersection of music

and quantum mechanics, which both deal with wave phenomena. The aim: to discover whether music could offer useful analogies for teaching some of the complex concepts of quantum mechanics, a branch of physics that studies the behavior of matter and energy on the scale of atoms and subatomic particles.

The line-up of events in the series included an open panel discussion on the connections between concepts of quantum mechanics and sound, as well as a virtuoso performance by Will Calhoun on the Wavedrum, a programmable electronic percussion instrument with a pressure sensitive acoustic surface that can reproduce a universe of musical sounds. Paul Miller/DJ Spooky screened his newest work, *Rebirth of a Nation*, which applies a "DJ mix" to D.W. Griffith's notorious 1915 silent film *Birth of a Nation*, along with an original score performed by the Kronos Quartet. (After the Haverford event, Miller's film went on to a screening at New York's Museum of Modern Art.) Closing out the series was a performance by Calhoun on percussion, Jaron Lanier on piano and Stephon Alexander, an accomplished musician as well as a physics professor, on saxophone.

That final performance had an unusual twist though, says Alexander, who has played with Lanier and Calhoun before. "We opened it up with

Academic Comeback

Most Monday afternoons last term, you could find **Ron Christie '91** sitting in the Coop lounge savoring a cup of coffee and preparing for his evening class. The experience reminded him of his undergraduate days. But this time he wasn't taking a class—he was teaching one.

Christie—former special assistant to President George W. Bush for domestic policy and author of *Black in the White House*—is just one of several Haverford alumni who have returned to campus as teachers. Some, like **Theresa Tensuan '89** (English), **Andrea Morris '91** (biology) and **Stephon Alexander '93** (physics), join the faculty as professors; others, like Christie and **Neal Grabell '77**, visit for one or more semesters and share the knowledge they've acquired in their varied careers.

"While I had previously taught professional education courses, I'd never taught at a college before,



Ron Christie '91 (left) discusses the basics of strategic advocacy in a seminar he taught at Haverford during the spring semester.

and it was an adjustment," says Grabell, a lawyer and former executive vice president and general counsel of a large retailer, who has taught a course on business ethics each fall since 2006 and will do so again in the fall of '09. Says Grabell, "I had to remember how I had first learned concepts that are now second nature to me, and figure out how to present these concepts in such a way that others without experience in the field could learn and benefit."

During the spring 2009 semester, Christie taught a seminar for junior and senior political science majors called "Strategic Advocacy: Lobbying and Interest Group Politics of Washington, D.C." Christie, who is also an adjunct professor at George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management and runs his own consulting firm, Christie Strategies, approached political science chair Steve McGovern about developing a course that would serve as a

practicum rather than focus solely on theory. "I show students how strategic advocacy and lobbying is practiced in D.C. today," he says, "and give them the skill sets to succeed as advocates at whatever level they pursue."

As a teacher, Christie relishes the opportunity to pass on his knowledge to current Fords and considers it a "thrill and an honor" to be included as part of the political science faculty alongside Anita Isaacs, who was his favorite professor during his undergraduate days.

Christie is also receiving as much of an education as he's giving. "My students push me hard," he says. "They challenge me on my assumptions, and on assertions I make in class. It's not a one-way street." They also want to know how his background as a conservative Republican and member of the Bush administration has informed his opinion on various topics. "They like hearing a different perspective, and that's what Haverford is all about." 🐕

—Brenna McBride

Josh Schrier giving the background on a fundamental problem in quantum mechanics called 'the measurement problem,' " says Alexander. "Josh gave this very clear and accessible presentation and then we used that to show how you could think about the measurement problem with a jazz group improvisation."

"What came out of the 'Sounds of Sci(l)ence' event at Haverford was something unique," says Alexander. "It revealed the potential for a genuine interface where scientists and artists can take in new concepts. And that can make our science and our art better."

"We got some very good ideas out of this—some far better analogies than we had thought of before," says Schrier, who says plans are in the works to try to bring the three artists back to campus for longer residencies. "There are a lot of different ways they could interact with faculty and students," says Schrier, who points out that Will Calhoun has done extensive ethnographic research on drumming and rhythm patterns around the globe. "Part of having this grant was getting the chance to interact with our colleagues in the social sciences and humanities and these visitors could plug into their curricula as well." 🐕

—Eils Lotozo



Among The Sound of Sci(l)ence performances was a jazz improvisation by Jaron Lanier on piano and celesta, Haverford physics professor Stephon Alexander on saxophone, and Will Calhoun on drums.

Winning Fords

Thanks to a combination of hard work and a bit of good luck 16 Fords (a record number) won highly selective scholarships, fellowships and awards in 2009.

Six Haverford alums and class of '09 grads were chosen as Fulbright scholars. Four others received graduate fellowships from The National Science Foundation and the Department of

Energy. Also part of Haverford's extraordinary winning streak: two Goldwater Scholarships, which recognize undergraduate excellence in science, and the College's first-ever Gates Cambridge Scholar. [For more on our winners see "View from Founders" p. 2.]

The success of Haverford students and alumni in earning



Fulbright scholar Angie Gomes '09

these honors hinges on several factors, according to Dean of

Academic Affairs Philip Bean. "Our students and alumni obviously have the right qualities to be viable candidates for such scholarships, but they also put months of work into their applications in collaboration with me, other deans, faculty members and, frequently, scholars abroad," he says. "There's also luck involved: The students who won awards and fellowships were fabulous candidates, but so were those who didn't win. We're very proud of the efforts everyone made."

Visitors' Corner

In March: Scientist **Rocky Kolb**, distinguished professor of astrophysics at the University of Chicago, explored advances in the field of cosmology with a talk entitled "The Mysteries of the Dark Universe." Efforts to end homelessness through public policy and community organizing was the subject of a panel discussion whose participants included **David Wertheimer '77** of the Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation's Pacific Northwest Homeless Initiative and **Eric Tars '98** of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.

In April: Former presidential candidate **Reverend Al Sharpton** spoke on campus about social justice and race in the age of President Obama. **Jeffrey Sachs**, professor of sustainable development and health management at Columbia University, a special advisor to

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, and author of *The End of Poverty*, gave the inaugural Lecture for Social Justice: "Emerging Prosperous, Fair, and Sustainable from the Global Economic Crisis." **Stephen Lewis**, a professor in global health at Ontario's McMaster University who was named by *TIME* magazine as one of the "One hundred most influential people in the world," gave a talk that explored the

question "Where Does the World Stand with the AIDS Pandemic?" And **AcadeMIX**, a panel discussion on the history and intersections of hip hop and social justice, featured hip hop dancer, choreographer and historian **Jorge Pabon**; music journalist **Yahsmin M. B. Bobo**; former Black Panther Party leader **Dhoruba Bin-Wahad**; and poet, actress and activist **Caridad De La Luz**.



Professor Brett Mulligan is using the latest technology to teach Classics. Among his innovations: podcasts of readings in Latin and Greek, a Classics blog, student wiki projects and a digital workbook.

From Papyrus to Podcasts

The study of Latin and Greek has come a long way, from the days of papyrus scrolls to an age of podcasts, wiki projects, websites, and digital workbook exercises. And assistant professor of Classics Brett Mulligan has been one of the pioneers of this new approach.

Since arriving at Haverford in 2005, Mulligan has developed innovative tools to aid in the instruction of ancient languages. With the help of several students and a Mellon Teaching with Technology Grant, Mulligan has developed an archive of audio and visual recordings in Latin and Greek that features more than 400 vocabulary words, sentences, and short passages from the elementary Latin textbook, "Learn to Read Latin." Using iTunes, students can easily generate playlists that include any collection of these words, and play them on shuffle to review.

Meaghan Ryan '11 says the podcasts lend themselves to extreme absorption. "I could be staring at a vocabulary pop quiz and suddenly recall that miser, misera, miserum means miserable, wretched, sad because I thought it was a fitting description of mile three while I listened to my Latin vocabulary podcasts on my iPod on the treadmill," she says.

In addition to the textbook supplements, there are currently 20 podcasts of longer works available in Latin, including readings from Caesar and a speech by Cicero, read by Xander Subashi '09.

Bean says he's happy to work not just with current students, but also with alumni as they apply for various fellowships. "Alumni are excellent candidates for these awards," he says. "They have a different perspective after being out of college for a year or so, their senior year grades are included as part of their academic transcripts, and the experience of completing a senior thesis allows them to write more nuanced, informed application essays." 🐿
 —Brenna McBride

CPGC Summer Interns Work for Social Change Around the World

Working on an organic farm in France...promoting human rights in Niger...helping troubled girls in Nicaragua...volunteering at a community health center in New York...These may not sound like the summer plans of a typical college student. But these are just a few examples of what more than 60 Haverford and Bryn Mawr students experienced this summer as Center for Peace and Global Citizenship (CPGC) interns.



Meghan McAllister '10, one of the 2009 interns, studied the architecture of social housing in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

CPGC's summer program, which matches students with domestic and international organizations working for social change, supported a record number of internships this year, according to Parker Snowe '79, CPGC executive director. Snowe attributes this growth in part to the Center's relationships with its institutional partners. "The decision to leverage relations with our partners is a win-win," he says. "Our students are slotted into existing internship opportunities, and the local partner gets a reliable source of student interns to carry out its work." Examples of the Center's institutional partners include *La Casa de los Amigos*, the Quaker center in Mexico City, and The Amity Foundation, a social service organization based in Nanjing, China.

Snowe sees another pattern emerging in the growing number of students who apply for summer

research funding through the CPGC. "This is indicative of an overall trend over the past year of linking CPGC funding to academic research," he says. "I expect this trend to increase in the coming year."

Although traditionally political science and anthropology have been the most popular majors represented in the summer program, Snowe notes that more students from the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, psychology) are participating as well. "This is encouraging," he says, "since it affirms the broad appeal of the CPGC and the global nature of the issues we want to address." 🐿
 —Brenna McBride

Many of the 2009 interns kept the Haverford community informed about their work and their thoughts through blogs on the College's website. Learn more at www.haverford.edu/news/blogroll.php.

Other visitors to the campus in April included Columbia University professor **Robert Thurman**, a prominent scholar of Buddhism and an ordained Buddhist priest, and **Brother Guy Consolmagno**, an astronomer at the Vatican Observatory, who discussed the symbiotic relationship between science and religion in a talk entitled "The Cosmic 'Why?'" 🐿

Some of the Latin podcasts come in two styles. The "natural" readings capture the sound, rhythm and pace of natural speech and performance, while the "study-speed" slows down the readings, with articulation, word groups, and clauses emphasized to help students understand the sentence structure.

Deficiencies in his own training are what inspired him to come up with these technological teaching tools, says Mulligan, who realized he had never really heard the languages spoken until grad school. "I had not been taught to appreciate these languages the way I wanted my students to," he says. "I wanted to give them a valuable resource I wish I'd had."

This year, Mulligan, with the help of Academic Web Support Specialist David Moore, is using the Mellon Grant to develop a digital workbook that will allow professors to assign homework exercises online. Students will be able to log into the web-based application at any time, take quizzes, time themselves, and review their answers. The workbook will not only show when students get an answer right, but also all the ways they got it wrong. A trial version will be ready this fall, and then made more user-friendly based on student feedback.

Classics is a good test for such technology because it includes multiple alphabets and accents, says Moore. If he and Mulligan are able to design a workbook for the Greek alphabet, he says, the program should work for any other discipline and be compatible with other languages, with scientific and mathematical formulas, as well as musical notation.

"For a professor of ancient languages, Mulligan is one of the most technologically advanced professors on this campus," says Moore. Besides podcasts, every one of the professor's classes has its own website, and Mulligan has also assigned collaborative wiki projects through the wiki function in Blackboard. Students write simple versions of classical myths or plays and then read and edit each other's entries on the wiki pages. He also maintains a blog whose entries focus on the treatment of Classics in pop culture (including movie adaptations and comic book versions) and on recent archaeological discoveries.

Classics major Asher Reisman '11 says podcasts "let students encounter ancient texts in the way the ancients would"—by having them read aloud. All kinds of ancient works, and not only poetry, would have been most frequently experienced at public or private readings, he says.

"Classics podcasts are an as yet underdeveloped field of Classical practice, one that Haverford could be a real pioneer in," Reisman says. "At this point, if one does a Google search for Classics podcasts, Haverford's departmental webpage is the first hit and that's something we should not only take pride in but be keen to develop further." 🐿
 —Heather Harden '11

To check out the Classics podcasts, visit <http://www.haverford.edu/classics/audio/>.

For more Faculty News go to www.haverford.edu/news/faculty.

Ancient Footprints

In 2005, anthropologist **David R. Braun '98** was digging a trench with some fellow researchers at Koobi Fora, a rich archaeological site in northern Kenya where he spends three months out of the year. Eight feet below the surface, the team spotted some unusually shaped impressions. "They looked like footprints," says Braun. They were footprints as it turns out—made about 1.5 million years ago by some of our early human ancestors.

That extraordinary find became major news in February when the journal *Science* published a study of the prints as its cover story. Braun, who was one of the co-authors of the study, says the rare footprints have attracted widespread interest because of what they add to our understanding of human evolution. "The earliest hominid footprints are the Laetoli prints which were found in Tanzania and date to 3.5

million years ago," says Braun, a lecturer in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cape Town, in South Africa. "But they don't show an arch like we have. When we walk we hit the ground with our heel, then transfer to the outside of our foot, and then finally to the ball of the foot and push off from there. That distinct human structure doesn't appear in those earlier prints."

It does in the prints found at Koobi Fora by Braun and his colleagues. "They are so well-preserved you can see individual toes," he says. Also aiding the team's analysis was a new technique developed by the study's lead author Matthew Bennett, a geologist at Bournemouth University in the United Kingdom. "Previously, to capture footprints you had to make a plaster mold, which had the potential to damage the prints," says Braun. "But Matt has perfected the use of a mobile

laser scanner to scan over the prints with sub-millimeter accuracy." Based on the digitally captured evidence, the authors of the study attribute the footprints to early *Homo erectus*—the first hominid with similar body proportions (longer legs and shorter arms) to modern *Homo sapiens*.

Braun, whose research focuses on discovering how early humans made and used stone artifacts, first visited Kenya's Koobi Fora as a Haverford student majoring in anthropology at Bryn Mawr. He was taking courses at the University of Pennsylvania and working with some scholars associated with Penn's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology who suggested he attend the Koobi Fora Field School. Says Braun, "It was run out of Harvard then, and it was meant to

Those 1.5 million year old footprints became major news when the journal *Science* published a study of them as its cover story.



provide an avenue for young people studying paleo-anthropology to get experience in field work and learn about the techniques used." Now the program, conducted in a remote, rugged place where temperatures soar above 115 degrees part of the year, is run through a collaborative agreement between Rutgers University (where Braun received his Ph.D.) and the National Museum of Kenya.

Braun says he'll be forever grateful to Haverford, whose Presidential Discretionary Fund made that first foray to Africa possible. "The funny thing is," says Braun, "I went there as a student, and now I actually co-direct the Koobi Fora Field School." 🇰🇪
—Eils Lotozo



Anthropologist David R. Braun '98 at the Koobi Fora Field School in northern Kenya, which he co-directs. Braun was part of a team that discovered a set of footprints made by our early human ancestors.

Hitting the Poker Big Leagues

Steve Begleiter '84 jokingly calls the past year and a half "a tale of riches to rags to riches." In 2008, he left Bear Stearns after 24 years with the company. Then, on July 15, the Chappaqua, New York resident finished as one of the final nine players in the World Series of Poker's Main Event, guaranteeing Begleiter winnings of at least \$1.25 million. And he's not done yet.

This year, the annual Main Event, which is held in Las Vegas, changed its format: Previously, the entire tournament took place over a few days and was televised months later; now, the final group of competitors will resume playing their hands this November. That means Begleiter and eight others will spend the next four months dwelling on the possibility of winning the \$8.5 million prize. "I'm using this time to prepare, but I don't want to talk too much about it," says Begleiter. "I'm reading as

much as I can. It's like having 115 days to prepare for an open book exam at Haverford."

Surprisingly, Begleiter isn't the first Ford to strike paydirt in poker. **Richard Lederer '59**, known for his nationally syndicated column "Looking at Language," taught the game to his children, Howard Lederer and Annie Duke, who are now poker pros. **Rich Kain '93** earned \$208,000 on the third season of the World Poker Tour. And **Matt Lessinger '96** was hired as a prop player to compete at the Oaks Club in California and spice up the action at the club's poker tables. He also wrote *The Book of Bluffs*, published in 2005.

Begleiter's rise to the top started the same way it did for many of the 6,494 players at this year's Main Event. Essentially, a Texas Hold 'Em poker league (in his case, one that a friend of his started a few years ago) staked him the required \$10,000 entry fee.



"The catch is that the league gets 20 percent of whatever that person wins," he says.

Some members of the league, who are euphoric at the results thus far, came down to Las Vegas to show their support, as did his wife Karen, whom Begleiter says kept him sane throughout the Main Event. "In a huge poker tournament like that, you have moments of self-doubt and deep gloom. You don't get through it without that support," he says.

For Begleiter, now a Senior Principal at private equity

investment firm Flexpoint Ford, the money he'll win this fall isn't the driving force. "Life is about relationships," he says. The bond he's referring to is the connection he has with a huge group of supporters made up of former employees of Bear Stearns, where he spent his entire career after graduating in 1984, and left in June of 2008 after the investment bank was sold to J.P. Morgan.

"Bear Stearns was a great place to work and a lot of really exceptional people came out of there," Begleiter says. "We're scattered all over the place and this brought a lot of people something to root for."

Begleiter has no concrete plans for how he'll spend his prize money, though he says he's not going to change his spending habits or his way of life after the final table is resolved. For now, he'll try to get over the shock of outlasting 6,485 other poker players and try to stop smiling. After all, he's got time to get his poker face ready. 🐿

—Charles Curtis '04

Teaching for America

This fall, nine graduates from the Class of '09 will join Teach For America, making Haverford one of the largest contributors to the program among schools its size. Teach For America (TFA) is a national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit two years to teaching in



Stephanie Pickering '09 in Chicago for Teach For America's intensive summer training institute.

urban and rural public schools. In the upcoming academic year, over 7,300 first- and second-year teaching corps members will teach in 35 regions across the United States.

Founded in 1990, TFA has developed an increasingly selective application process to identify individuals who will be successful teaching in low-income communities. This year a record 35,000 candidates applied to join the corps.

"At more than 130 colleges and universities, more than five percent of the senior class applied, including 14 percent of Haverford seniors and 11 percent of all seniors at Ivy League universities," reports Lorraine Anderson, managing director of regional communications for TFA.

Stephanie Pickering '09, who will be teaching high school math in Charlotte, NC, says she feels extremely privileged to have been selected for TFA. "It is an incredible organization involved in an even more incredible movement—closing the achievement gap in the United States," she says.

Pickering describes educational inequality as the civil rights movement of our time. "The fact that where you are born, how much money your family makes, and the color of your skin determines the caliber of your education and thus your future is absolutely absurd," she says. "I went to public school in suburban Boston and received an excellent education. I joined Teach For America because all children deserve that same excellent education."

Pickering, who graduated pre-med with a B.A. in religion,

completed a five-week summer training institute, which is required of all TFA members before they begin teaching. "So far, I have learned that teaching is so much harder than anything I have ever done," she says. "Being a good teacher is not easy; being a great teacher takes everything out of you."

"You do everything you possibly can for your students," says Pickering, "whether that means re-drafting a lesson plan that you know isn't going to work, or calling parents to tell them how well their child did that day, even if it means going to bed an hour later that night."

Pickering hopes she can close the achievement gap for her students. "In my opinion, educating the youth of America is the most important job out there," she says. 🐿

—Heather Harden '11



Commencement 2009

After an unbroken 26-year run outdoors, Haverford's 2009 Commencement ceremony was driven indoors by a light rain that began falling in the early hours of Sunday, May 17. Inside Alumni Field House, where seating had been set up days earlier in case of just such a last-minute switch, President Stephen Emerson '74 told 302 excited, about-to-be-Haverford graduates, "You are now fully prepared to go forth and find your life's work ... May you find joy every step of the way."



Doctor of Humane Letters recipient Iris Nydia Brown (right), a community activist who works with the Norris Square Neighborhood Project of Philadelphia to change lives and the landscape in her inner city community, was introduced by Haverford Board of Managers member Anjan K. Chatterjee '80. "What I have learned from her," he said, "is that if your goal is transformation there a few things you need to keep in mind. Transformation is not easy, it does not happen overnight and it does not happen in a straight line." Thanking the College for honoring her, Brown said, "I am a gardener. I am a mother. I am a grandmother. I am a cook. I am a dreamer. I am always dreaming. I have many notebooks full of possibilities. But I did not dream of this ..." And to the graduates: "... What I want to say to you is, 'Please don't be afraid.'"





Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge (right), Deputy Speaker of the South African Parliament, was awarded a Doctor of Laws. The lawmaker, who has served in the South African government as Deputy Minister of Health and Deputy Minister of Defense, established the African Women's Peace Table, and has advocated for the use of scientifically tested methods in the treatment of HIV/AIDS. "I congratulate all the students who are graduating today," Madlala-Routledge said, "but I wish to remind you that the world you are about to enter is changing ... " Quoting Nelson Mandela, she said, "No one is born hating another person for the color of their skin, or their religion or their background; they must be taught to hate, and if they can be taught to hate they can be taught to love ... Be proud of who you are. Test your conscience in the deepest part of your inner being and persevere in what you know is right ... "



Derek Lee '09 and Shinil Stuart Lee '82. To see more legacy photos from Commencement go to fords.haverford.edu and click on "photo album."

books

Michael Steinberger '89

Au Revoir To All That

Bloomsbury, 2009

We've all had those meals, the ones that stick in your brain and replay themselves again and again. You can still taste the pork belly, or the wild salmon, or the morel mushrooms; you can still recall the pinot gris.

Journalist and *Slate* wine columnist Michael Steinberger has enjoyed more than his share of memorable meals, many of which occurred in France. His first book, *Au Revoir to All That*, opens with an account of one of the most unforgettable, a dinner ten years ago with his wife at a highly regarded Strasbourg restaurant called Au Crocodile. They ordered the *baeckeofe*, a traditional Alsatian stew in which the chef swapped the customary mix of meats for "an entire lobe of duck liver...

bathed in a truffled bouillon." The dish, Steinberger writes, was "outrageously good—the liver a velvety, earthy, voluptuous mass, the bouillon an intensely flavored broth that flattered everything it touched." The meal concludes with a flirtation, a midnight tour of the kitchen, and an armful of gifts from the chef to Steinberger's wife. "This sort of thing could surely only happen in France, and at that moment, not for the first time, I experienced the most overwhelming surge of affection for her."

While *Au Revoir to All That* is indeed a love letter to French cuisine, it is also an unblinking critique of its modern failings. For Steinberger, who began his journalism career in Hong Kong and has written for a wide array of publications including the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Times* of London, the *Economist*, and the *Financial Times*, the

bloom is dangerously close to falling off the rose, and this book—part memoir, part journalistic chronicle—is his effort to make sense of France's shifting gastronomic identity.

With a first chapter devoted to the grandfathers of French cuisine (La Varenne, Brillat-Savarin, Carême, and Escoffier), Steinberger quickly homes in on the Michelin Guide, which he claims has had a "revolutionary influence" on French dining for the past century. Though known for its tires, Michelin's guide to food and its use of stars (*etoiles*) to denote quality has made and broken not only restaurants, but chefs themselves. Steinberger writes: "With a third Michelin star, a chef not only became a gastronomic colossus; he became a cultural icon, as esteemed as any novelist, poet, musician, or artist." The flip side, of course, is that when restaurants lose favor with the



Q&A: Michael Steinberger

Cheryl Sternman Rule: I understand that you spent a lot of time as a journalist in Asia during the mid-1990s before turning to food and wine writing. Where does France enter this picture?

Michael Steinberger: I first went to France when I was thirteen and experienced the odd sensation of feeling as if this was the place I was meant to be; I couldn't quite put words to it at that age, but there was just something about France that really agreed with me, a feeling that was reinforced during subsequent visits there. France fed me better than any other place. It was where my wife [Kathy Brennan '89] and I became romantically involved—it was a country for which I developed the greatest affection, and as I got into writing about wine and food, personal affection was married to professional interest.

CSR: So, including that first trip when you were thirteen, how many times in all have you been to France?

MS: It's not been hundreds of times, but I've lost count. For the book, I made seven trips to France and spent about five months on the ground in total. And, of course, I was drawing in part on material accumulated over the course of a decade of reporting from France.

CSR: You said that France "was a country for which [you] developed the greatest affection," which is interesting, because I very much read *Au Revoir to All That* as sort of a love story, but one in which the main character (i.e. you) is simultaneously captivated by and disappointed, somewhat, in the object of his affection. Is this a fair read?

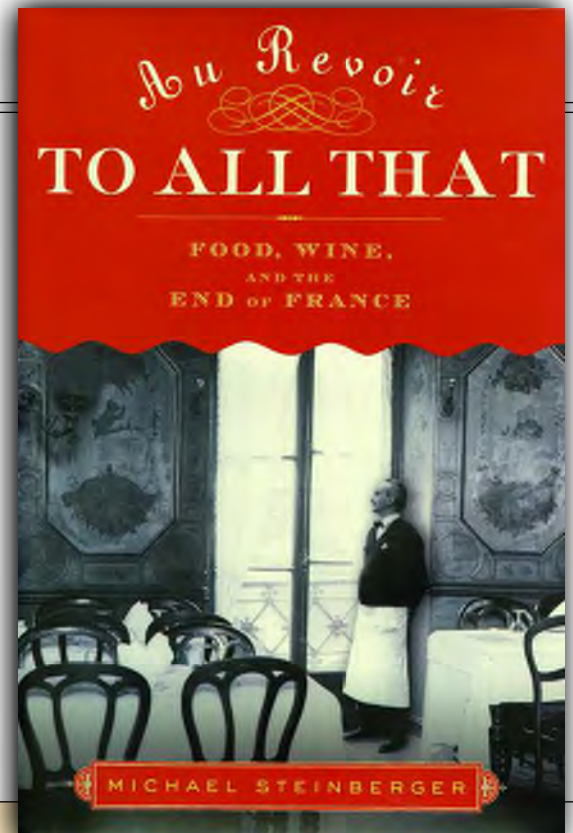
MS: I'm delighted you read it as a love letter to France, because that's really what it is—it is a love letter from a concerned friend. What inspired me to write the book was my disappointment at some of the changes I was seeing in France and a growing feeling that France was

Guide's critics, entire careers can be jeopardized. In one famously tragic case, three star-chef Bernard Loiseau committed suicide soon after his restaurant was downgraded in the 2003 Michelin Guide. Some chefs, in protest of the Guide's undue influence and shroud of secrecy, have even begun giving back their stars.

Steinberger also examines several factors that have led to a questioning, or downright rejection, of the formerly sacrosanct notion that France continues to dominate world gastronomy. One factor is the French government, whose economic policies have stifled innovation and whose failure to integrate the nation's roughly five million immigrants represents, for Steinberger, a missed opportunity for the restaurant industry. Another factor is the influx of fast food culture, part of which reflects a generational shift.

Even home-cooked meals in France are now "slapdash," hastily thrown-together affairs. Couple these changing mores with a rise in the reputations of several non-French chefs, notably those from Spain, Japan, and the U.S., and Steinberger paints a portrait of a country that risks resting "on former glory" rather than adapting to modern tastes and times.

Even as he levels such criticisms, however, Steinberger never loses his wit, and his descriptions of people and meals are both illustrative and often quite funny. Of Camembert producer Francois Durand, he writes: "There was something medieval about Durand. In fact, he was exactly what I imagined a fifteenth-century cheese-making monk would look like. His assistant, a sullen



squandering this wonderful gastronomic heritage. My hope is that in some small way, *Au Revoir*, by calling attention to what is being lost, might help turn things around.

CSR: What was the idea behind your somewhat ambiguous title, *Au Revoir to All That*?

MS: I'd love to take credit for what I think is a really good title, but it was my agent's suggestion, and it was an inspired one. It is a variation, of course, on [poet Robert Graves' famous World War 1 memoir] *Goodbye to All That*. What I especially like about the title is that "au revoir" doesn't just mean "goodbye"—it also means "see you again," and the last third of the book looks at some of the people who are attempting to reinvigorate French cuisine and is actually quite hopeful.

CSR: So you do believe that French gastronomy can indeed recapture some of its former glory, or even break new ground and become a leader once again?

MS: A lot has been lost, and I don't think we'll ever return to a time when France is the unrivaled gastronomic leader—there's too much good food happening in other places now (Spain and the United States, to name just two countries that have experienced culinary revolutions in the last few decades). But there are still a lot of very talented chefs, cheese makers, vintners, bakers and other culinary artisans in France, and many of them are acutely aware of what has been lost and are working tirelessly to keep their traditions alive and reinvigorate them. As I make clear in the

book, the problem is not that France doesn't produce great chefs anymore; it is that France has been economically stagnant for the better part of the last thirty years, and successive French governments have created a business climate that is distinctly hostile to business. We've gone too far here in de-regulating the economy; France has gone too far in the opposite direction, and French cuisine has paid dearly for it.

CSR: In closing, any advice for fellow alumni who may want to marry great food and wine, writing, and travel? You seem to have crafted a fairly idyllic career...

MS: Journalism is in a really bad place at the moment, ditto publishing, so I wouldn't want to glamorize the work. That said, I feel very fortunate to have been able to develop a career that allows me to do a couple of things that give me limitless pleasure—eating great food, drinking great wine, and writing. My advice to anyone interested in pursuing a similar path is very prosaic: Just go for it. Having gone down the wrong path once (I worked on Wall Street for four years before turning to journalism), I learned that it is much better to be guided by your passions; do what you are really passionate about, and everything else is likely to fall into place. 🐾

woman with an alarmingly full moustache, only amplified the feeling of having stepped into a scene out of the Middle Ages.”

Au Revoir to All That is ultimately a plea from a still ardent fan, and the book ends on a note of optimism when Steinberger returns to a Parisian patisserie to eat a *mille feuille*, a flaky, praline-laced pastry he has adored for many years. He fears, given his recent disillusionment, that the pastry won't live up to his expectations, and yet, it exceeds them. With “bite after blissful bite,” the specimen is even better than the original. And with that, Steinberger leaves the door open for France to win his heart, and ours, once again. 🐘

—Cheryl Sternman Rule '92 is a California food writer whose blog can be found at <http://5secondrule.typepad.com>.

John Hough, Jr. '68

Seen the Glory: A Novel of the Battle of Gettysburg

Simon & Shuster, 2009

John Hough, Jr., has written several well-reviewed books, including *The Last Summer*, but *Seen the Glory*, his first historical novel, is his masterpiece. Its spine is the story of two teenagers, Luke and Thomas Chandler, sons of a doctor from Hough's own Martha's Vineyard, who join Mr. Lincoln's army in the discouraging spring of 1863. Arriving just after the federal defeat at Chancellorsville, they march with the Army of the Potomac as it fitfully pursues General Robert E. Lee through Virginia, Maryland, and finally into the obscure little town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Hough's brilliant, carefully researched account of the climactic battle, as fine a rendering as any in print, is helped by the fact that the brothers' regiment, the 20th Massachusetts, was at the very apex of Pickett's Charge, the desperate rebel assault that proved a key turning point of the fight and perhaps the war.

But this is not exclusively, even primarily, a war novel, its narrative not as linear as the road to battle. A prologue set in 1858 involves a fugitive slave briefly sheltered by the Chandler family, and in an epilogue a surviving brother visits Gettysburg National Park in 1922 to reflect on the battle, the cause, and its results. In between, events along the march are interwoven with flashbacks and letters to the Vineyard, which, however peaceful, is marked by issues of class and politics. Racial prejudice, too, circles around Rose, the Chandlers' proud and beautiful Cape Verdean housekeeper, close to both boys and a reluctant inspiration for their enlistment.

Hough exercises his nuanced gift for characterization, much of it established through dialogue, wherever the novel takes us. The 20th Massachusetts is a complex society in itself, some officers boasting Harvard degrees, the ranks a mix of farmers, laborers and craftsmen, native and immigrant, relations among them as varied as their backgrounds. At one obvious level this is a coming-of-age story for the Chandlers: Luke at eighteen may be a man, unlike sixteen-year-old Thomas, who had to lie to enlist, but both are thrust among more experienced and worldly soldiers, who are initially wary of their relatively privileged origins and heartfelt abolitionism. In one social reversal, Elisha Thomas, a poor

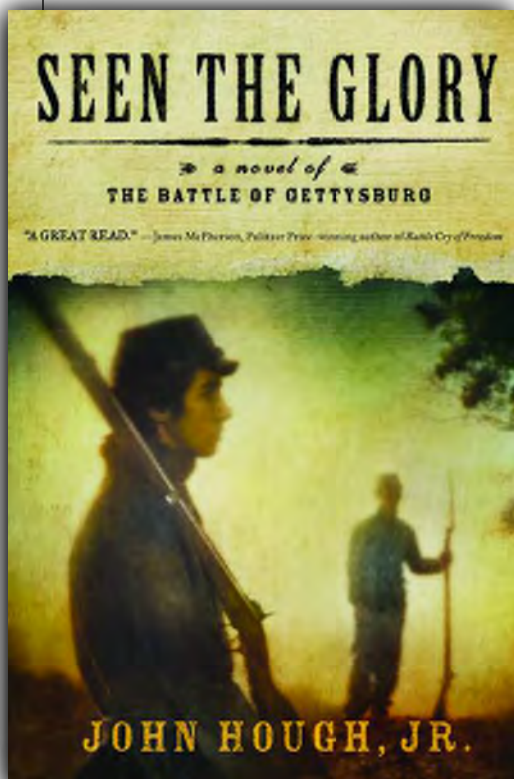


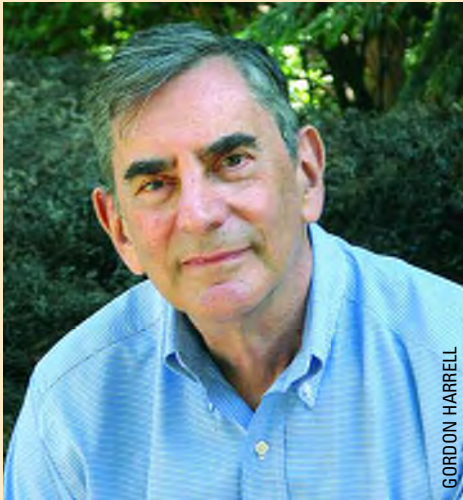
John Hough, Jr. '68

farm boy whom they had befriended back on the Vineyard, is in the new context a guide and mentor. Along the way the marchers meet civilian men and women, blacks free and slave, and finally Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Each encounter, as it builds towards the last one, is a time of revealing, testing, growing.

The Civil War precisely defined the mid-Victorian era in the United States, a time of extravagant sentiment and naivete matched by brutality and squalor. Hough gives us idealism, courage, and several kinds of love, without letting misguided nostalgia for the most romanticized battle in American history mask the horrors of July 1-3, 1863, the stench of 100,000 soldiers arrayed along a few hundred yards of ridge and hill, no time to dig latrines, struggling within a nightmare full of dead horses, comrades, and dreams. This is historical fiction at its finest. 🐘

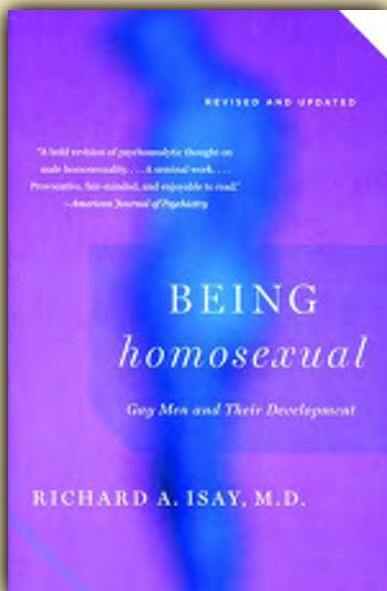
—Roger Lane, the author of *Murder in America: A History* and other books, is Research Professor of History at Haverford.





Gay Rights Groundbreaker: Richard A. Isay M.D. '56

When psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Richard A. Isay M.D. '56 published his first book, *Being Homosexual: Gay Men and Their Development*, the year was 1989. AIDS was still a deadly scourge in the gay community and the American Psychoanalytic Association was still resisting allowing openly gay and lesbian people into its training institutes. When Isay published his second book, *Becoming Gay: The Journey to Self-Acceptance*, in 1996, Congress had just pushed through the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act, and the notion that states would someday legalize same-sex marriages was considered a fantasy by many.

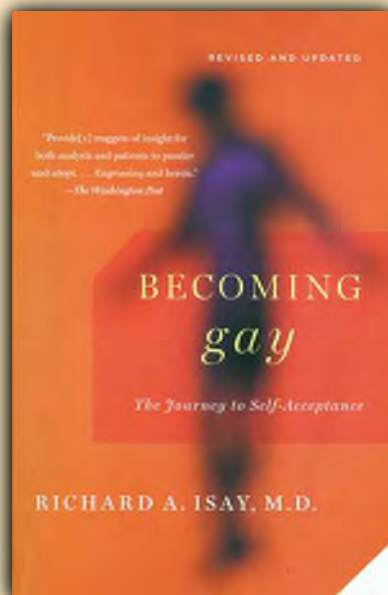


Isay's first two books, published in 1989 and 1996, have been reissued by Vintage Books in revised and updated editions.

Now, these two ground-breaking books are being reissued by Vintage Books in revised and updated editions, released into a world where it seems so much has changed. Gay characters populate prime time television, openly gay figures host talk shows, the number of same-sex couples raising families is burgeoning and six states have legalized same-sex marriages, while six others offer broad protections to gay couples in the form of civil unions.

Yet, even in the face of greater acceptance of homosexuality, these books remain relevant, says Isay, a clinical professor of psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College: "Many gay men continue to suffer and are not able to form long-term loving relationships." That's something Isay knows only too well. Ninety percent of the clients in his Manhattan psychoanalytic practice are gay men. (Isay's 2006 book, *Commitment and Healing: Gay Men and the Need for Romantic Love*, explores more deeply his ideas about the value of committed relationships and the difficulty some gay men have in developing such ties.)

Along with poignant case studies from Isay's practice, *Being Homosexual* surveys the field of psychology's changing attitudes about homosexuality, examines the emotional development of homosexual boys and looks at how the era of AIDS affected gay relationships. *Becoming Gay* includes more case studies and offers some frank chapters from Isay's own difficult coming out story. That book touches on his time at Haverford, where



Isay's latest book explores the value of committed relationships for gay men.

he sought career advice from visiting lecturer Erich Fromm, a psychoanalyst and author of the international bestseller *The Art of Loving*, who advised Isay to go to medical school and become a psychiatrist before seeking psychoanalytic training.

Isay married and had two children before he was able to admit to himself, and later his wife, that he was gay. Eventually, he embarked on a tenacious battle, recounted in *Becoming Gay*, to change the attitudes and discriminatory policies of the American Psychoanalytic Association, many of whose members held to the belief that same-sex attraction was a curable perversion into the late 1980s. (The American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of disorders in 1973.)

Isay, who became the American Psychoanalytic Association's first openly gay member, has enjoyed a 30-year-long loving relationship with Gordon Harrell, an artist and dealer in American glass. His mission now, he says, is to reach out to parents whose sons are gender atypical, to urge them to love them for who they are. He laments that fathers tend to turn away from sons who reject rough and tumble activities and prefer the company of girls, while mothers are likely to become too close, which leads, in the long run, to confusion about relationships. While the number of states allowing gay marriage is encouraging, Isay says that legal unions won't ensure enduring bonds. The capacity for intimacy originates in childhood, says Isay, and it will be realized only when parents recognize and enthusiastically embrace their gay sons right from the start. 🐾

—Eils Lotozo

Gloria Hochman contributed to this article.

Additional Alumni and Faculty Titles

Loren Ghiglione '63

CBS's Don Hollenbeck: An Honest Reporter in the Age of McCarthyism

Columbia University Press, 2008

Radio's Revolution: Don Hollenbeck's CBS Views the Press

University of Nebraska Press, 2008

In *CBS's Don Hollenbeck*, Loren Ghiglione, Dean of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, recounts the life and suicide of newscaster Don Hollenbeck, who became a target of conservatives during the McCarthy era. Hollenbeck's groundbreaking radio program *CBS Views the Press* criticized the *New York Times* and other renowned newspapers and drew the ire of anti-Communists. In *Radio's Revolution*, Ghiglione brings together 20 significant transcripts of Hollenbeck's program, and provides historical context and insight into the newscaster's approach.

Adam Lankford '02

Human Killing Machines: Systematic Indoctrination in Iran, Nazi Germany, Al Qaeda, and Abu Ghraib

Lexington Books, 2009

An assistant professor of criminal justice at the University of Alabama, Adam Lankford uses case studies to explore how systems redefine morality to transform ordinary people into torturers, terrorists and killers, and offers recommendations for reducing Al Qaeda terrorists' commitment to their missions, increasing the accountability of the U.S. military, and encouraging the downfall of Iran's oppressive regime.

Dawn Potter '86

Tracing Paradise: Two Years in Harmony with John Milton

University of Massachusetts Press, 2009

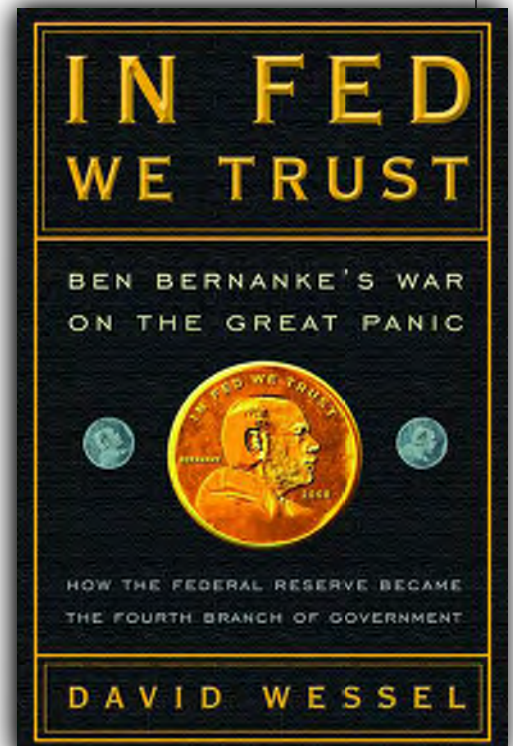
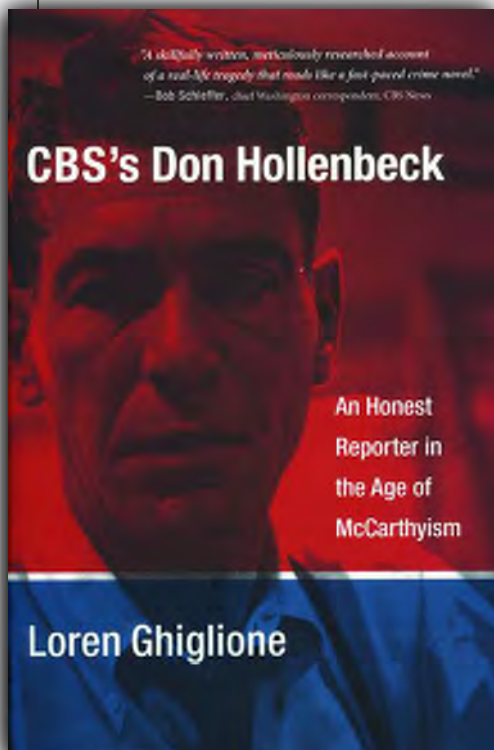
What began as an effort to better understand the art of Milton's *Paradise Lost* turned into a strange, obsessive project for Potter in which she copied out every word of the immense epic poem. In this memoir, Potter, the author of two poetry collections, explores her responses to Milton's work and traces the surprising connections between a 17th century biblical epic and the pleasures and sorrows of domestic life in rural Maine.

David Wessel '75

In Fed We Trust: Ben Bernanke's War on the Great Panic

Crown Publishing, 2009

David Wessel, the *Wall Street Journal's* Economics Editor, turns a critical eye on Chairman of the Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke, his handling of the U.S. economic crisis and the 2008 failures of such financial giants as Bear Sterns and Lehman Brothers. Wessel discusses the history of the Federal Reserve, the influence of Alan Greenspan, the Fed's rescues of Bear Sterns, Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, the fallout from Lehman Brothers and AIG, and the decision to force taxpayer capital on the banks.



A Musician's Roots



faculty profile

Composer and pianist Curt Cacioppo's works, often inspired by Native American music and lore, have been performed around the globe. *By Brenna McBride*



Composer and pianist Curt Cacioppo's latest original work will premiere at Carnegie Hall in November.

You could say that Ruth Marshall Magill Professor of Music Curt Cacioppo owes his career to a childhood deal with his parents.

Although today Cacioppo is a celebrated musician and composer who has performed in national and international venues and has had works commissioned by numerous orchestras and ensembles (including the Chicago Symphony, the Emerson, American, and Moscow String Quartets, and Duo Alterna of Turin, Italy), he may have followed a different

path had his nine-year-old self not followed through on a family agreement. "The deal was that we would rent a piano for a month on a trial basis, and my mother would give me lessons," says the Ohio native. "If at the end of the month I could play some songs recognizably, we would keep the piano."

Young Cacioppo went on from there to master the works of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, and other classical giants. He also made arrangements for the jazz quartet in which he played with his friends,

and began composing his own pieces at age 14. “I love creating music, generating something that wasn’t there before,” says Cacioppo, who majored in music at Kent State University, where he had given his first recital at age 11.

Cacioppo earned a master’s in musicology from New York University in 1976 and a master’s and Ph.D. in composition from Harvard in 1980. During the late ’70s and early ’80s his fascination with Native American music and culture—which have been hallmarks of his music for the past three decades—deepened. In truth, the roots of his interest can be traced back to his childhood, growing up in Ohio’s Cuyahoga Valley. (“Cuyahoga” means “crooked water” in the Haudenosaunee language.) At the bottom of the Valley, he recalls, sat a boulder adorned with a bronze plaque bearing the image of an Indian carrying his canoe over his head as he crossed on foot from one bend of the Cuyahoga River to the other. “My grandmother would take me down to that spot,” he says, “and I’d bring my sketch book and draw that image over and over.” Later he became aware of distant Native American heritage in his own family—one of his ancestors had married an Indian woman during the Civil War.

In Massachusetts, Cacioppo made friends with members of the local Wampanoag tribe, including their Supreme Medicine Man, John Peters (Slow Turtle), and was invited to attend their gatherings and participate in their songs and rituals. He also found a mentor in professor David McAllester, an anthropologist and founder of the field of ethnomusicology, who had studied with Margaret Meade and was best known for his documentation of Navajo ceremonies. Cacioppo himself would eventually become instrumental in efforts to preserve the music of the Navajo Coyoteway healing ceremony, working with Navajo elder John Co’ii Cook. His string quartet entitled “Coyoteway” stemmed from that collaboration, and appears on his 2008 double CD set *Ancestral Passage*.

“These healing ceremonies were elaborate,” says Cacioppo. “They involved not only medicinal treatments but also incantations, text, costumes, the impersonation of deities and characters from the tribe’s origin history. You would be

diagnosed with a specific ailment, and the ceremonial treatment was chosen accordingly.” The ceremonies fell into disuse during the 70 or more years that they were outlawed by the U.S. government; the Coyoteway ceremony was last performed in the early 1970s.

Cacioppo and Cook tracked down all recorded chronicles of the ceremony, digitized and restored them in their proper order and created 10 CDs of songs with text annotations. (All of these materials can be found in Haverford’s Special Collections: “We wanted to make an archival document that would be accessible to humanities scholars in general, and to students of Native religious practice in particular,” says Cacioppo.) The restoration of the Coyoteway was made possible in part by Haverford’s Native American Fund, which Cacioppo and Haverford alumni Mitch Winn ’54 and Benn Sah ’62 established in 1998. Proceeds from sales of Cacioppo’s CDs go towards the fund, which supports research, events and guest speakers.


In May of 2009, Cacioppo’s latest Native American-themed work, “Lenape Refrains,” was premiered by the Philadelphia Classical Symphony. The piece, commissioned by the Philadelphia Music Project with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, included Indian instruments such as rattles, a pueblo drum, and the traditional water drum (“There is water in the shell, and when you flip it over and wet the skin, it takes on a fixed pitch,” explains Cacioppo). The composer participated in the performance, singing vocal passages in the Lenape language that, he says, is among an alarming number of Native tongues that are becoming extinct. “Lenape Refrains” also has a direct connection to Haverford’s campus: Its first movement, “Intimations Under the Elm,” refers to the tree that stands on Barclay Beach, the last remaining descendant of the tree under which William Penn entered into a treaty with the Lenape people in 1682 [For more on the tree see “Then and Now,” inside back cover].

“Curt is a performer’s composer,” says Karl Middleman, artistic director and conductor of the Philadelphia Classical Symphony. “His music is frequently complex, but speaks with great authority and

bigness of heart; I think it reaches towards broad human emotions, gestures that move us whether we understand them completely or not.”

Cacioppo is currently working on a commission for New York’s American Composers Orchestra, which will premiere the piece at Carnegie Hall at the end of November. The work deals with a tragic episode in Native American history, a time in the mid-1860s when the Navajo were forced off their land by the U.S. government and marched to internment camps, while the sacred peach orchards in their ancestral canyons were chopped down by the Army. He also anticipates the release of a new CD in late fall, *Curt Cacioppo: Italia*, which features compositions inspired by his Italian family background and his travels in Italy.

Meanwhile, Cacioppo’s wife and two sons are keeping the music in the family. Wife Christine teaches introductory piano classes at Haverford, and just finished a book based on her instructional method; older son Charles recently entered the doctoral program in composition at Cornell University, and last year was among the Walsum Awards Composition Competition winners; and younger son Nic, a drummer, who is pursuing jazz studies at William Patterson University in New Jersey, hopes to publish a book of his transcriptions of solos by the legendary Tony Williams.

Now in his 27th year of teaching at Haverford, Cacioppo continues to oversee the music department’s keyboard studies program, and to bring his passion for performing, composing and music history to the classroom; he was honored with Haverford’s Innovative Teaching Prize in 2007. “In many of Haverford’s peer institutions, harmony is taught with a textbook, but Professor Cacioppo teaches the entire cycle with only scores, recordings, a piano and a piece of chalk,” says former student Ben Finane ’99, editor of the magazine *Listen: Life with Classical Music*. “His hands-on approach underscores his supreme knowledge of and passion for the material.” 

For more information, blog, and sound and video clips, visit Cacioppo’s website at curtcacioppo.com.

Marathon Effort



Haverford runners keep up the pace long after graduation

By Katherine Unger '03

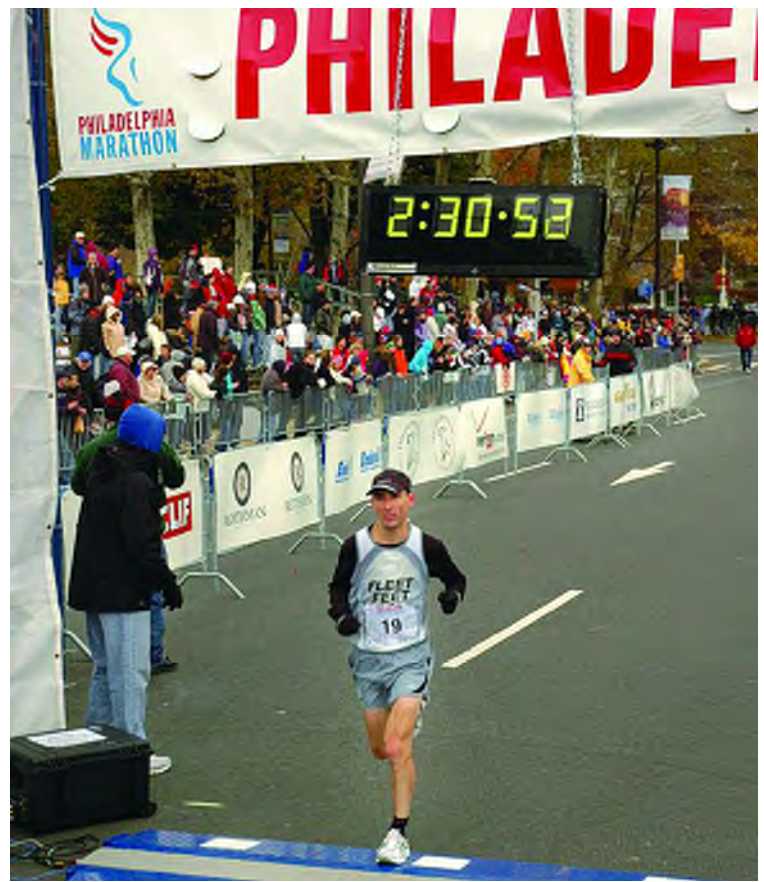


(above, left to right) Zach Vaslow '07, Brandon Rowe '04, and Bernie (Muller) Jones '06 after running the 2007 Chicago marathon in heat so severe organizers were forced to shut down the race before all the runners had finished. (top) Elliott Frieder '92 ran his first marathon at age 30.

After spending months training in perfect quiet and solitude at 4:30 in the morning, Joanna Wapner '03 found the screaming spectators lining the streets of the 2009 Boston Marathon startling and invigorating. Wapner had run marathons before, but this one was different. Her uncle was ill with cancer and she was running for the LiveStrong Foundation in his honor, along with her brother and her cousin. "The high point for me was at mile 24 where I actually saw my uncle," she

says. He was there with a slew of supporters, including aunts, uncles, cousins, Wapner's parents, and a few friends. In the end, Wapner finished the 26.2 mile marathon in three hours and 28 minutes. That was nearly 10 minutes off her best time, but the experience, she says, was unforgettable.

Wapner is part of the Haverford running tradition, having competed for the cross country and track teams throughout college under coach Fran Rizzo. Both the women's and the men's run-



Tamara Lave '90 (left), shown competing in the 2007 Boston marathon, has twice qualified to run in the Olympic Trials marathon race. Elliott Frieder '92 (right) at the finish line of the 2007 Philadelphia marathon.

ning team (under coach Tom Donnelly) have had lengthy records of prime showings at the conference and national levels. But for certain alumni, graduation doesn't mark the end of their athletic careers. Instead, they continue to log miles and train at near-elite levels in the marathon. And for some of these dedicated athletes, their continued commitment to the sport of running has reaped rewards.

For Elliot Frieder '92, an accomplished athlete who earned All-America and multiple All-Mideast and conference honors at Haverford, the idea to run a marathon first came up at graduation when a family friend inscribed a book with the message: "Run a marathon one day and take your brother with you." It took him nearly a decade to heed that advice, but finally, on his thirtieth birthday, Frieder ran a marathon with his identical twin brother. The pair completed that race in an admirable two hours, 41 minutes with minimal training. It wasn't until he shaved eight minutes off his time and

placed among the top finishers in his second race, however, that Frieder realized the marathon might be the distance for him. He has since achieved a time of 2 hours, 26 minutes.

Tamara Lave '90, a 2:37 marathoner and a former Haverford cross country and track team star, calls running "the quintessential American sport: If you work hard, you get better."

An average man finishes the marathon in around four and a half hours; the average woman in just under five hours. Running two hours faster than average isn't easy, though graduates of Haverford's running programs have a good base on which to build. "The mileage wasn't a big jump at all," says Brandon Rowe '04, a 2:28 marathoner, who had run 100 miles or more per week while training in college. For Bernie (Muller) Jones '06, the decision to continue training was not even

in question after he went on to graduate school. "My previous eight years, [running] was a big part of my life," says Jones, who is a 2:29 marathoner. "I had even more free time in grad school, so

what else was I going to do? The marathon seemed like the natural progression."

Several standout performances prove that the hours of pounding pavement and trails have paid off for Ford alums. On the women's side, Tamara Lave '90, a 2:37 marathoner and a former Haverford cross country and track team star, has twice qualified to run in the Olympic Trials marathon race. She calls running "the quintessential American sport: If you work hard, you get better."

Her career highlight—accomplished in the midst of a busy career as a public defender and later as a doctoral student—was representing the United States at the marathon world championships in Paris in 2003. Even though she was not feeling well and didn't perform to her typical high standard, running for her country, she says, was "an incredible honor."

For the men, Bobby Cannon '05 has achieved impressive marathon finishes at an age once considered too young to legitimately compete at such a distance. His first marathon, which he trained for with Jones, went poorly. After starting out at an Olympic Trials-qualifying pace (running each mile in just over five minutes and 20 seconds) Cannon's legs cramped up at the 20-mile mark. He painfully jogged the last several miles to the finish. His next outing was far more satisfying. In Houston in 2007, Cannon qualified for the Olympic Trials, dipping just under the standard with his two hour, 21 minute finish time. That November, he competed in the Trials with just over 100 other men—the cream of America's marathoning crop—and finished 51st.

To make such a serious go at a marathon, an athlete may run anywhere from 80 to 140 miles every week. In addition to the hours spent running, training involves stretching, ice baths, strength work and drills. Marathoners also devote chunks of time to plotting out a training plan, logging miles in a diary, traveling to races or workouts, or simply eating and napping to help recover for the next outing.

Fitting all of this around a work schedule can be a challenge. While Jones found it fairly easy to fit marathon training around his grad school schedule, now that he's in a job that can require long hours, workouts have become trickier to schedule. Wapner, a nurse in a cardio-thoracic unit, completes her runs before sunrise since she would be simply too exhausted to run after a 12-hour shift on her feet. And Ian Fraser '01, an All-American in the steeplechase at Haverford, scouts fish populations off the coast of Washington state and must occasionally squeeze his runs around the tides. Despite these

To make a serious go at a marathon, an athlete may run anywhere from 80 to 140 miles every week.

complications, Fraser, a 2:24 marathoner, won a 50k trail race in Bellingham, Washington, in June, finishing more than one hour ahead of his nearest competitor.

A critical factor in being able to stick with a serious running regimen, say these Haverford alums, is the support of those around them. Lave was encouraged by the judges and other lawyers with whom she worked, many of whom would eagerly inquire about her performances or even schedule court appearances to accommodate her training schedule. Loved ones must be part of the team as well. "My wife is just a saint in so many ways," says Frieder. "She's never tried to stand in the way of

running." For Fraser, whose wife, Alice '01, competed for Haverford's women's team, running is a family affair. The couple frequently pushes their two young children in jogging strollers during runs. "They ask to go for runs," says Fraser. "They hate it when I'm going to do a workout on the track and they can't come."

Family support aside, the Haverford connection provides a driving force for some runners. Many graduates and current runners post logs of their running online for friends to see. "There are definitely times in the winter when it's 30 degrees and sleeting and windy and you don't want to go out for your second run," says Bobby Cannon. But he knows his former teammates will be out there. "And they're going to write in their logs, 'I went out and ran 10 miles in sleet and wind and 30 degree weather.'" So out into the weather he goes, to get that run in. 🐿️



Former Haverford runner Bernie (Muller) Jones '06 (left) ran the Berlin marathon in 2008. He says his move into distance running after college "seemed like a natural progression." The mileage involved in preparing for a marathon "wasn't a big jump at all," says Brandon Rowe '04, (right) who ran the Boston marathon in April. His training at Haverford, he says, had him running 100 miles a week or more.



Haverford and the Economy: An Update

Like most colleges and universities across the country, Haverford has been feeling the effects of the global financial crisis. We asked President Stephen G. Emerson '74 and Vice President for Finance and Administration G. Richard Wynn to talk about the new economic realities and about the steps being taken to ensure that Haverford remains on firm footing in these uncertain times.

What is the biggest impact the downturn has had on the College?

Steve Emerson: Haverford relies on investment income from its endowment for about a quarter of its operating budget. We have seen the endowment fall from more than \$500 million in 2007 to under \$350 million today. Because of the plunging markets, the endowment saw a negative return of more than 30% last fiscal year. With income from the endowment declining, we need to reduce what we are spending and that's why the administration, with the input of faculty and staff, has worked with the College's Board of Managers to come up with a careful plan to cut more than 8% (\$6.1 million) from the current fiscal year's operating budget.

Why can't the College just tap into some of that endowment money in a lean year?

Dick Wynn: To ensure Haverford's long term financial health and to balance the needs of future Haverfordians against those of our current students, we believe it is crucial to preserve the endowment. To make sure we don't eat too much into our principal we allow ourselves to spend only a certain percentage of the endowment, usually between four percent and five and a half percent each year. That percentage is calculated according to a formula that takes into account several years of investment performance and new gift additions to the endowment, which is largely the result of alumni generosity.

What are some of the ways the College has found to cut that \$6.1 million from the operating budget this year?

DW: For starters, we've cut back on, but certainly have not eliminated, travel. Our Institutional Advancement and Admission staff still need to travel to raise money and recruit students. But we are reducing conference travel and asking people to look for options closer to home. We've also reduced the amount of food and beverages we provide at ordinary meetings and we've reorganized the faculty dining room to reduce staffing.

Another big cut came through a reduction in Haverford's contribution to employee pension plans. We reduced our contribution from 12% of salary to 10%, which is still competitive by industry standards. That was a savings of \$570,000 at the expense of employees and that's something we hope to restore as soon as funding is available.

We also saved \$1.2 million by changing the basic health insurance plan offered to employees to a plan that does not reduce coverage but involves more managed care. We examined all of the possible options and we feel confident people will still get excellent medical care. Also new is that we are now asking single employees, who previously were not required to pay anything toward their health insurance, to contribute. But we put in a three tier system that requires our lowest paid employees to contribute only 5%. Those in the middle tier salary level pay 10% and the highest paid employees pay 15% of the premium's cost. We thought that was a more equitable way to spread the burden.

But the biggest single cut came from the Renewals and Replacements budget, which provides funds for major capital projects such as roofing, road work and building renovation. That had been scheduled to go to \$3.05 million. Instead it was cut almost in half to \$1.6 million. That means we've had to defer some projects as well as reduce the work that goes to outside contractors by asking our facilities maintenance staff to take on more.



Has the College had to institute layoffs?

DW: We've reduced staff by a total of 28 positions, but more than half of those were through simple attrition, by not replacing those who left the College for a variety of reasons and redistributing the workload. Nine positions were eliminated through a voluntary retirement program. Finally, six staff members lost their jobs through an involuntary separation and were given severance packages and provided outplacement counseling.

Will students notice any changes on campus as a result of the budget cuts?

SE: Probably not. Instructional programs were largely excluded from the cuts. Students may notice we are slightly reducing the hours the Fitness Center is open. Athletics Director Wendy Smith analyzed usage and concluded that very, very few members of our community would be affected. The Dining Center is also looking to save some money by offering a more limited menu between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., when few students are up, and then going to full breakfast at 8:30.

Almost all individual departments did reduce their operating budget requests. For example, student services reduced their operating request by \$100,000.

How is Haverford faring compared to other colleges?

DW: Though a financial crisis of this magnitude certainly wasn't on anyone's radar, Haverford turned out to be relatively well-positioned to weather such an event. Many schools have ended up running deficits, and have been forced to close buildings, cut entire academic departments or halt construction projects they'd already begun. For Haverford, the upheaval has occurred at a time when we're between comprehensive fundraising campaigns and have no major construction projects in the works. We also think our endowment spending policy, which was designed to minimize the effects of external financial troubles, has helped.

Has the downturn had an impact on giving to the College?

SE: Yes and no. Overall gifts to the college are down, dropping from a total of \$22.3 million in 2007-2008 fiscal year, to \$12.3 million this year. However, one bright spot in the giving picture was the 2008-2009 Annual Fund drive, which brought in \$557,447 more than it did last fiscal year, an increase of more than 13%. All told, 7,769 alumni, parents and friends gave \$4,633,496 to the Annual Fund, a record amount for the College. On one hand, you could say that's unexpected given the economic climate; on the other, it's not surprising given how this community feels about the College.

The Board made the decision to raise student charges, which include tuition, fees and room and board, by 4.1% for the 2009-2010 academic year. Why are we raising tuition at a time when so many families are facing serious financial distress?

SE: Throughout the past year, we debated what to do about tuition, which provides about 42% of our operating revenues. It was the major topic at two successive Board meetings where we seriously discussed minimizing any tuition increase. If the College's financial position were stronger, we might have been able to do that, but tapping the endowment further as an alternative to tuition increases would jeopardize our ability to provide the sort of experience—beginning with need-blind admission—from which generations of Haverford students have benefited. We realize that many families are facing financial stress, but any and all students can apply for financial aid. We've intentionally increased the fraction of entering students receiving aid, as well as the amount each new student receives.

Some schools are reporting that the economy's impact on family finances is reducing the number of new students enrolling and even preventing some students from returning to school. Has Haverford seen anything like this?

SE: No. Our target for first-year students for the fall was 315, and we expect to have 323. Further good news is that, at this point, it appears that the financial need of the 323 is right around our budget projection. The pattern of returning students also seems similar to past years. We have had a few more inquiries than usual from parents whose personal finances have been affected by the economy; however, those requests for aid have not been for large amounts. So we are cautiously optimistic.

Will the budget cuts be enough to help Haverford weather this financial storm?

SE: We hope so. Cutting further would mean cutting into core academic programs. Other schools have chosen to do things gradually, making some cuts this year and planning more for next year. We decided to make the reductions immediately. The economy seems to be staggering along and some analysts think we may be past the worst of it. Of course, others think things have not bottomed out yet. None of us at the College claims any knowledge of where things are going to go other than to say it's likely we're in for a couple of lean years. We're just hopeful the cutting is over and that we're well-positioned to begin an upward trajectory. 🐿



A professor of mathematics and a concertina player, Rachel Hall '91 explores the connection between science and art.

By Brenna McBride

MATH+MUSIC=HARMONY

On an evening in late June, a group of musicians gathers in front of the altar in a Wilmington, Delaware, church clutching dulcimers, fiddles, recorders and other assorted instruments. They have spent the afternoon in a workshop led by fiddler Linda Littleton, guitarist Karen Hirshon, and concertina player Rachel Hall '91—collectively known as the folk trio Simple Gifts—and they are itching to show off the new techniques they've learned.

After an introduction by Hall—"I bet you didn't know Simple Gifts had this many members," she cracks—the group launches into a spirited, professional-sounding rendition of "Oh, Dem Golden Slippers." It's a testament to Simple Gifts' teaching skills that the members of this impromptu band sound as if they've been performing together for years.

Finishing to rousing applause from the audience in the pews, the group cedes the spotlight to Simple Gifts, whose set includes a Bulgarian tune in seven-eight rhythm, a klezmer song, traditional music from Greece and Ireland, and a polka written by Hall herself. Her English concertina, which is an accordion's smaller, more compact relative, expands and contracts as Hall demonstrates how the instrument allows her to play melody with both hands by pressing buttons on either side. At one point, she breaks out a baritone-treble concertina from the 1890s, which creates notes both exceedingly low and extremely high.

During a break in the set, the trio introduces one another to the audience, and Linda Littleton reveals a fact about Hall that takes some by surprise: She's also an associate professor of mathematics at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Hall is one of the few mathematicians in the country studying the application of math to music; in her work, the disparate chords of science and the arts blend together in unusual harmony.

...

Hall grew up in Cincinnati in a family of folk musicians. Her mother sang and played the recorder and the hammered dulcimer; her father played the concertina and accordion. Hall began with piano lessons as a child, got her first paying gig in junior high, and moved on to the bassoon and the saxophone in high school. At Haverford she played bassoon with the Bi-College Orchestra and lent her voice to the Bi-Co Chamber Singers, but it was also during these years that she discovered her true passion for the concertina.

"I love the pure sound of it," she says. "There's really no other instrument like it." Unlike the accordion, she explains, which has many reeds operating in sync, the concertina has a single reed that works like a pitch pipe. "My mathematical brain likes its odd geometrical pattern, like a puzzle I'm trying to figure out," she adds. She took possession of her father's old instrument and played in a band during her junior year abroad in St. Andrews, Scotland, and then in a Haverford



Rachel Hall performs with her folk trio, Simple Gifts. Left to right: Hall, fiddler Linda Littleton, and guitarist Karen Hirshon.

folk rock band called Broadside Electric during her senior year.

Although Hall majored in ancient Greek (“because I loved reading *The Odyssey* in the original language”), she did an independent study project in math with Professor Curtis Greene and found that the analytical subject was surprisingly more creative than her own humanities-based field of study. “You don’t keep discovering new Greek plays,” she says. “We were studying, in minute detail, things that weren’t going to change. But in math, there are always new discoveries.” A summer research program for women in math cinched Hall’s decision to enter a Ph.D. program at Penn State.

Before graduate school, Hall embarked on a year-long tour of Norway, Denmark, the Shetland Islands, and Ireland, studying traditional dance music on a Watson

Fellowship. “I learned ‘how to learn’ folk music,” she says. “You must learn by imitating; you can’t just look at it as it’s written. There’s so much subtle, rhythmic timing, and every different kind of music has its own swing.”

While at Penn State, she began performing with local folk musicians, including Karen Hirshon. Eventually, Hirshon introduced Hall to Linda Littleton, who had formed Simple Gifts in 1989. The three started playing as a trio in 1995 and they’ve been together ever since, playing and teaching throughout the Mid-Atlantic states and as far afield as West Virginia and Ohio. Twice a month they meet to rehearse at the Wingate Hotel in Harrisburg. They’ve also released five CDs: *A Place Just Right*; *Down by the Sally Gardens*; *Other Places, Other Times*; *Time and*

Again; and *Crossing Borders*. (More information on the trio can be found at www.simplegiftsmusic.com.)

Often, during the school year, Littleton and Hirshon perform most of their Central and Western Pennsylvania engagements as a duo to accommodate Hall’s St. Joseph’s schedule. “I couldn’t have stayed in the band if they needed me for everyday gigs,” says Hall, who recently bought a house in Center City Philadelphia.

Hall joined St. Joseph’s faculty in 1999, the same year she received her doctorate. Right away, she knew she wanted to break new ground in the study of mathematics as it relates to music theory. “Many mathematicians are interested in the physics of music, how instruments produce sound,” she says. “I was looking for things that hadn’t been done to

death.” She has always seen an inherent mathematical thinking in music: “The chords, harmonies, and orchestrations all have an abstract structure.”

One of her main areas of study is the mathematics of musical rhythm. In an article called “Math for poets and drummers,” which was published last year in

In a journal article published last year titled “Math for poets and drummers,” Hall related how studies of the rhythms in Sanskrit poetry led scholars in ancient India to the discovery of fundamental mathematical structures.

the journal *Math Horizons*, Hall relates the earliest examples of the relationship between math and rhythm. In ancient India, for example, scholars’ studies of rhythms in Sanskrit poetry led to the discovery of such fundamental mathematical structures as the Hemachandra numbers (better known as the Fibonacci numbers in the West), a sequence in which each number is the sum of the previous two, and Pascal’s triangle, a triangu-

lar array of numbers in which each entry is the sum of the two above it. Today, Hall says, many styles of music are identified with repeating rhythm patterns such as those explored centuries ago.

Hall’s most recent project deals with geometrical music theory, an area that she says is gaining popularity due to articles published in the journal *Science* (including her own in 2008). Many music theorists, she says, invoke geometry in modeling musical objects like chords, rhythms, and scales.

In addition to teaching a class on math and music, Hall also offers St. Joseph’s students a unique course on ethnomathematics, or multicultural mathematics, comparing various cultures’ approaches to the subject. “For example, we look at how numbers are expressed in other cultures,” she says. “Everyone has a counting system, but some use different bases, such as 10 or 20.” In some parts of the world, she says, religion plays a role: “People are fascinated with the infinite—they imagine that if you keep going towards higher and higher numbers, you’ll get closer to God.” In other cultures, however, mathematics is purely practical, used only by merchants.

Most of Hall’s math classes are geared towards non-math majors fulfilling a curricular requirement. Many of these students, often more inclined to the arts and the humanities, view math as a nuisance at best. “I try to show them that math is relevant,” she says, “and connected to



Hall, with bandmate Littleton (right), sees a link between her two passions: “With music, you always get the sense that you’re creating something. It’s the same way with math.”

their interests.” She’s had lots of practice in this area, as she tries to convince fellow musicians of math’s necessity and appeal.

“So many of them say, ‘Oh, I hated math, I never understood it.’ One problem is that, in elementary and high school, math courses tend to be taught in a particular sequence that ignores other kinds of math not emphasized in the curriculum. Sometimes people are very good at one kind of math, and not so good at another.”

Right now, Hall is continuing to direct her energies to the kind of math that suits her, as she enters her tenth year at St. Joseph’s and works on finishing a book called *The Sound of Numbers: A Tour of Mathematical Music Theory* for Princeton University Press. And she can always be found on the festival circuit with Simple Gifts, introducing the wonders of the concertina to young and old. Recently, she’s also begun playing Bulgarian music informally with some Philadelphia musicians, Nikola Ivanov (accordion) and Nezih Antakli (percussion). “The concertina works really well with that kind of music,” she says. “Simple Gifts has a particular sound, so it’s fun to play with other musicians who push you into a different area.” She also plays at Philadelphia folk dances with Jim Speer ’90 and Helene Zisook Speer BMC ’92, founders of that now-defunct Haverford band Broadside Electric.

“With music, you always get the sense that you’re creating something,” says Hall. “It’s the same way with math.” 🐾

Rachel Hall loves the concertina’s “pure sound” and “odd geometrical pattern.”



Freeing Spirits

Hip hop performer-turned prison chaplain Charles Atkins, Jr., '90 helps young men behind bars find a higher purpose for their lives.

By Eils Lotozo

In the unadorned chapel of the Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, 17 young men clad in baggy tan prison jumpsuits sit in a circle listening intently as the Reverend Charles Atkins, Jr., '90 reads a passage from the Bible.

"Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you," recites Atkins, the prison's Protestant chaplain. Repeating the line, from Acts of the Apostles, he pauses to let the group consider its meaning. The men, Bibles open on their laps, lean in as Atkins begins to muse on the radical notions of community and social responsibility embraced by the early Christians.

"This was a harsh time," he says of that late Roman era, "The dominant culture said if you are not my family I don't have any responsibility for you. But this new Christian church was showing itself to be different. These people came together and started caring for strangers."

The group, an evening Bible study class led by Atkins, ponders this for a moment before going on to parse a chapter of Acts in which Peter encounters a crippled beggar asking for money and heals the man instead. Atkins wants to know: Do they see any connections between this ancient text and the modern world? "How about what we're going through today?"

A young man raises a hand. "What it makes me think about is how we are always trying to get stuff we think is going to save us," he offers. "But the things we may think we need are not what we really need."

Around the circle, heads nod in agreement. Atkins' face lights up. These small moments of grace and dawning wisdom are what it's all about for him. "I really take heart when I see someone's eyes open, when the light bulb goes on and they realize they want to live a life with purpose," he says.

Atkins has found his own life of purpose in prison ministry. As a chaplain at the Yardville, New Jersey facility, which houses more than 1,700 men, ages 18 to 29, the hip hop performer-turned minister offers spiritual counseling and presides at weekly chapel services that feature an 18-man choir and five musicians. He facilitates a class aimed at helping pris-



oners to understand the impact of their crimes; and he teaches a course whose curriculum he developed himself to aid inmates approaching release discover a new direction for their lives.

Atkins advocates for the incarcerated beyond the prison system as well, offering training for faith-based groups on how to mentor ex-prisoners returning to the community. A non-profit organization he founded, dubbed The New Name Alliance for Motivation and Education, offers inspirational arts and educational programs to disadvantaged youth and adults.

Atkins' message of hope and change in the face of defeat and despair comes out of his Christian faith. But his sense of mission, in many ways, has been fueled by what he observed growing up in Camden, New Jersey.

One of America's poorest cities, Camden is a place where more than 40 percent of the residents live in poverty. Block

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“Educating to serve” isn’t just a slogan at Haverford, as the alums featured in the pages that follow show. In their work aiding the poor, the sick, the homeless and the imprisoned, they’ve found diverse ways to improve the lives of those in need.

DIFFERENCE

Healer of the Homeless

Dr. James Withers '80 practices street medicine with his pioneering Operation Safety Net.

By Patricia Sheridan

As the sun sets on a sticky summer evening Dr. James Withers '80, an internist on the teaching faculty of Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, heads for the streets to begin his rounds. Carrying a backpack filled with medical supplies such as non-addictive pain killers and bandages, Withers, the founder of Operation Safety Net (OSN), is focused on finding, helping and healing the homeless.

This night, as he approaches an area where men and women gather, waiting for a church group to give out sandwiches, he is greeted with smiling salutations of “Hey Doc Withers!” One of the men, Darryl Upshur, explains that he used to be homeless but is off the streets now and just comes here to see Dr. Withers, whom he calls his primary physician. “He’s a beautiful man,” says Upshur. “He’s a great doctor. He helps you.”

But Withers has bad news for Upshur this night. He tells him he might have hepatitis and gets on his cell phone to make arrangements for Upshur’s medical care.

With nicknames like “Dancing Pete” and “The Junk Man,” Withers’ clients, as he calls them, welcome his services, which include the distribution of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, water and clean socks. It’s the kind of warm reception he remembers his father, a family medicine doctor, getting from his own patients

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PHOTOS BY PATRICIA SHERIDAN



PHOTOS BY RORY MACLYSAGHT

A Sailor’s Mission

George Todd '54 and his 65-foot schooner offer sailing escapes to families coping with cancer and other grave illnesses.

By Laura Onstot

Standing at the helm of the 65-foot schooner *Mallory Todd*, Captain George Todd '54 grabs a microphone. His hand is tanned dark from years pulling rigging lines and trimming sails. Overhead, the Jolly Roger flaps in the light breeze. Across Seattle’s Lake Union rides the enemy. The Attack Ducks are on the water. Todd prepares to command his crew.

“Okay,” he instructs them. “When the Lake Union Attack Ducks come around the corner, you have to quack at them like this to keep them away. *Quack-quack, quack-quack!*”

Todd’s crew is not exactly a collection of swashbuckling privateers. They are cancer patients and their families on one of the free cruises offered by Todd’s non-profit Sailing Heritage Society. Those Ducks are not a rival pirate gang, they’re amphibious tour buses that ply the Seattle waterways during the summer.

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after block of abandoned buildings, boarded up homes and empty lots give some sections a post-apocalyptic look, and the crime rate is so high Camden regularly tops the list of the nation's most dangerous cities.

When the prison gate slides shut behind him and he heads home at the end of the day to the comfortable house in Collingswood, New Jersey, he shares with his wife, Margaret (and three children from a previous marriage), the thought that often comes to mind, says Atkins, is "There but for the grace of God go I."

Yet, while Camden's dire statistics touched Atkins' life, they did not define it. His father was a county government worker and church pianist, his mother was a teacher. They sent him to a Catholic elementary school (though they weren't Catholic), insisted he sing in a church choir and enrolled him in after school enrichment programs where he discovered a talent for public speaking. "I would go to speech com-

petitions in other states and that helped me see there was more to life than Camden," he says.

He spent his high school years at the same Camden public school his mother taught at. "She kept a close eye on me," says Atkins, who was selected to attend the Governor's School of New Jersey, a residential summer program for academically talented students held on college campuses around the state. It was through his Governor's School experience that Atkins first learned about Haverford College, thanks to James P. Keen '68, then director of the program. "He was a wonderful guy and a very nice recommendation for the school," says Atkins.

When it came time to choose a college, Haverford surged to the top of Atkins' list after a visit to campus. "What really hit me about Haverford was the Honor Code," he says. "I liked that assumption of trust, because where I

came from the assumption was one of mistrust. I also liked that we had the option of taking classes at Penn and Bryn Mawr and Swarthmore. That told me I could have a diverse experience and still not be too far from home."

As a gung ho Haverford freshman he played on the soccer and basketball teams and ran track. "I calmed down the second year and just focused on track," says Atkins, who made his mark as a hurdler. He majored in sociology at Bryn Mawr and minored in French, and spent a semester abroad at L'Universite de Montpellier in France, where he studied sociology and developing world economics. "That experience just took my thinking to a whole new level," he says. "I was meeting people from all over the world."

After graduation, Atkins spent a year as a research assistant to a sociology professor at Indiana University-Purdue University, in Indianapolis, then entered the school's graduate program in sociology. But Atkins soon found himself



Atkins discovered his calling in prison ministry as a seminarian when he took an internship at the very facility he works at today. "That's when I found out that prison can serve as a place where people can wake up and get serious about their lives," he says.



Atkins greets prisoners arriving to set up for an evening chapel service. As the Protestant chaplain at the Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, he presides over worship services that feature an 18-man choir and five musicians.

drawn back to something that had been a passionate interest since adolescence: hip hop music.

As a teen, he'd done a fair share of performing as a rapper and beatboxer (a form of vocal percussion). At Haverford, though, "the music was on the down low," he says. "I was focusing on academics and trying to make it out of there. Only if you were in my Customs group did you really know."

In Indianapolis, he befriended a musician who helped him make a demo record. "I had this idea of doing a song, partly in French and partly in English," says Atkins, a fluent French speaker. A producer who heard the song sent Atkins to France, where hip hop was beginning to catch on. There, he found a manager and got signed to a record label. Recording under the name Manchild, he made his first CD, *C'est le hip hop* (This is Hip Hop), and toured France, North Africa and French Guyana.

Despite his growing success, Atkins found this life was not for him. "What looks like glitz and glamour can be a life of loneliness, instability and anxiety," he says. "You have a bunch of people who want something from you. You're a product."

When a recording contract dispute offered him an exit, Atkins returned to the United States. As he gathered together his belongings, which had been scattered, after years of moves and travel, among his mother's home, apartments

in Paris and a storage unit in Indiana, one thing struck him. "I noticed all these books that dealt with theology and spirituality," he says. "I realized that's what had kept me grounded during those years as a performer. That's when I decided to apply to seminary."

Atkins attended Princeton Theological Seminary, where he received a Master of Divinity Degree and an M.A. in Religious Education, and was ordained as a minister for both the National Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Churches. He also got something else at seminary: a reinvigorated musical career grounded in his faith. "I thought the music thing was over, but it got out at Princeton that I did hip hop and a guy who was doing an internship at a church in Philadelphia asked me to do a holy hip hop concert," he says. "At the time there was nothing



Atkins got to explore big spiritual questions as host and narrator of "Beyond Theology," a 10-part television series which has aired on PBS stations across the country since it premiered in 2007.

out there. It sounded corny, but we did it and it worked."

As a seminarian, Atkins spent weekends touring with the Bill Glass Prison Ministry, bringing inspirational messages and music to prisons across the country, and performed for a time with a Christian hip hop group called LoveOne Entertainment. His most recent musical effort is a CD titled *Get Brand New*, released in June, which he made with a group of teens he works with through a community organization in Trenton. A project of Atkins' New Name Alliance, his teenaged collaborators come from the foster system and many have parents in jail. The group also made a music video, with Atkins' help, of one of the CD's songs, about peer pressure and making hard choices, which they screened at the Holy Hip Awards conference in Atlanta in January 2009.

Using the music as a way to explore and express hard truths and difficult feelings has turned out to be a great way to connect with the kids, says Atkins, who began his work with the teens with the same question he uses in his seminars for prisoners: Why are you on this earth?

"This is the biggest question we will ever deal with," he says. "Why am I here? It guides how we choose a career, how we create a family and who we hang out with. In the New Name program I say you need to identify a word or phrase that best describes you and what you can

Fords Making a Difference

give to the world. You need to create a new name for yourself.

“I think we all need that. And if we have that, if we get focused, I think it helps us not get caught up in a lot of the nonsense that is going on around us.”

Atkins got to explore some of those big spiritual questions in a different way when he was tapped to be the host of the 10-part television series “Beyond Theology,” which has aired on PBS stations across the country since it premiered in 2007.

The series, which features interviews with some of the world’s top scholars and authors in the field of religion and spirituality, examines how the guiding myths of modern civilization are changing in a time of global culture clash and environmental crisis. Dave Kendall, who produced “Beyond Theology” for KTWU-TV in Topeka, Kansas, had gotten to know Atkins through the Council Grove Conference, an invitation-only annual event that brings together a wide variety of thinkers to discuss, says Kendall, “creative, alternative world views.” (Started by the Menninger Foundation in 1969, Council Grove has become known as the

place where many New Age ideas were first presented and discussed.)

It was during one of those conferences that Kendall realized he’d found his program’s narrator after a scheduled presenter was sidelined by illness and Atkins stepped in to read the woman’s poetry. “It was really powerful,” says Kendall about that performance. But when he brought Atkins to Kansas to tape the segments that begin and end each “Beyond Theology” installment, he was even more impressed. “I had no idea what he was like on camera,” says Kendall. “I had not seen that side of him. I was just blown away when he showed up and did what he did.”

Says Atkins, “‘Beyond Theology’ definitely challenges peoples’ world views. And it speaks to that question of why are we here. I think the program invites people to focus on what is essential.”

On a June afternoon, Atkins is sitting once again in the prison chapel, which does double duty as a meeting room. Along with several social workers from the New Jersey Department of Corrections, he’s presiding over the final

session of “Focus on the Victim,” a voluntary, 14-week course that brings prisoners together with guest speakers who come to talk about the impact of crimes such as assault, rape, domestic violence, robbery and homicide on victims and their families, and to teach about such concepts as restorative justice and making amends.

As Atkins coaches the dozen inmates who make up the class through the task of filling out an evaluation form, he commends the group’s commitment to what can be a difficult process. Noting that a few of the men had taken the class previously, he tells the group, “It helps when we have someone who has participated before to get the discussion started. In some classes people just shut down. I think you all stayed open and aware.”

At the end of the session, Atkins hands out graduation certificates and dispenses handshakes and hugs to the men filing out. It was at this very prison that Atkins discovered his particular calling as a minister. He was still in the seminary and was serving an internship with the chaplain whose job he eventually



When the prison gate slides shut behind him at the end of the work day, the thought that often comes to mind is “There but for the grace of God go I,” says Atkins, who grew up in Camden, New Jersey, a city whose crime and poverty rates are among the highest in the nation.



Left: Atkins hands out graduation certificates to inmates who have completed a “Focus on the Victim” class he helps facilitate. Right: In a weekly Bible study class he leads, Atkins encourages the intensely focused participants to find connections between the ancient text and their own lives. “I really take heart when I see someone’s eyes open, when the light bulb goes on and they realize they want to live a life with purpose,” he says.

took over. “That’s when I found out that prison can serve as a place where people can wake up and get serious about their lives,” he says.

To help that process along, Atkins developed a course he calls The Logos Program for Holistic Health and Life Direction. “I wrote the curriculum as an experiment and got a group of volunteers to help with it,” says Atkins, who has seen more than 70 prisoners at Garden State go through the 7-year-old program, which is aimed at soon to be released prisoners. Along with preparing them to be mentored when they get out, says Atkins, “What we try to do is help them understand that they need nourishment not just for the body, but for the mind and the soul. That means creating positive relationships and understanding where anger comes from and how to deal with it.”

So far, only two of the men who attended the program have been rearrested. And Atkins counts among the post-prison success stories a chef, a community organizer, a welder and a machinist. “I don’t try to tout this program as something that changes people,” says Atkins, who would like to see his Logos course expanded beyond Garden State. “But at

the very least it attracts people who are ready to change.”

But as Atkins labors to help those with the potential to turn their prison stay into a life-changing experience for the good, he also is blunt about how widely destructive to families and communities the nation’s burgeoning incarceration rates have become. “We have two million prisoners in this country,” says Atkins. “The prison population has grown by 600 percent since 1972. Either we are getting incredibly depraved as a country or we are getting incredibly caught.”

All evidence points to the latter and the nation’s “get tough” on drugs policies and harsh sentencing guidelines for those convicted of nonviolent drug violations. Atkins, still an avid reader in sociology, cites the work of Harvard’s Bruce Western, whose book *Punishment and Inequality in America* is part of a growing body of research that looks at the real costs of mass incarceration in terms of broken families, permanently dampened economic prospects for ex-inmates and social breakdown in communities where prison has become the formative experience of young manhood.

Atkins has glimpsed the stark illustration of those social trends. “After sem-

inary I was volunteering at the prison and serving as an interim minister at a church in Camden,” he recalls. “During the week all I saw was young men. And on the weekend, in church, it was just women and children and retirees.

“Certainly, there are some people who need to be put away,” says Atkins. “But for what purpose? Is it to warehouse them, or so they can get better? Ninety-five percent of incarcerated people get out eventually. What then?”

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Withers grew up on a farm in Hanover, Pennsylvania, where his father was a country doctor and his mother a nurse. He recalls going with his father on house calls. “He took me with him as early as I can remember,” Withers says. “My own journey is based on the very organic experience of my dad going into these homes and people trusting him and saying, ‘Would you like a cup of tea?’ and ‘Is this your son? Is he going to be a doctor?’”

But things, at first, weren’t so friendly for the man whose work on the streets was inspired by those house calls his father used to make. “I had guns pointed at my head,” says Withers. “A guy threatened to kill me with a board full of nails and one man said he was going to slit my throat back to the bone.” Even the police gave him trouble in the beginning. “They thought I was a burglar and nearly arrested me, and at one point I had a policeman pointing a gun at me.”

That was in 1992 when he first ventured out to attend to the homeless, dressing like one to blend in. In 1993 Withers established Operation Safety Net, designed to give medical assistance to people living on the streets. It was one of the first street medicine programs in the country.

One of Withers’s inspirations for creating Operation Safety Net was a trip to India where he witnessed the work of Jack Preger, a British physician whose organization Calcutta Rescue runs street hospitals that treat and feed the destitute. “Seeing Jack’s program fueled my desire to develop the street medicine network,” says Withers, who also made it a point to meet Mother Teresa during that visit to India.

Withers also sees his time at Haverford as influential in the kind of doctor he became. “It was all male when I went there, but it was just an incredibly liberating place intellectually, where people loved talking about ideas,” he says. “You could go to the professors’ homes, they were right on campus, and talk about things.” He graduated knowing ideas are the first step to action.

“As soon as I realized how many people were out there and how disconnected they were from society I just felt it was the right thing to do,” he says about founding Operation Safety Net. “Once



Top: Emma Lo '08, Operation Safety Net’s volunteer coordinator, with Withers in a spot called Grease Alley where they often find homeless people. Lo was drawn to the organization after she heard Withers speak at a public health symposium. Bottom: Withers (front, right) making street rounds with an OSN team that includes Lo.

that sinks in, it’s extremely difficult to turn your back.”

Another Haverford graduate,

Emma Lo '08, feels the same way. She joined Withers in Pittsburgh after hearing him speak at a public health symposium in 2007. Lo was so inspired by the program and its ideals that she volunteered with OSN over her winter and spring breaks. Her senior year, she dedicated her fine arts thesis to painting portraits of homeless people.

“Dr. Withers’ philosophy of going to the people and working where they are, on their terms, and not assigning judgment, strikes a deep chord for me,” she

says. Last summer, Lo volunteered full time, and in the fall she took a position with Americorps so she could continue with OSN, whose volunteers go out in teams five days and four nights a week. The organization also sees patients at a modest office near Mercy Hospital.

“Being out there puts you in a different place and your perspective is different,” says Withers of working with the homeless on the streets. “In trying to be some kind of a healing presence for someone like that you do need to go physically and emotionally to where that person is.”

Like his father before him, he has brought his own children along.



The streets, like any wilderness, are easier to navigate with a guide, which is how the formerly homeless Mike Sallows got involved. “Mike had been homeless for seven years and got himself out of that and was helping those still out there,” says Withers. The two met at a meeting for homeless providers and Sallows liked what the doctor was doing and wanted to help. Today he is employed by OSN taking teams out on the streets.

“Mike was from the culture and understood the culture,” explains Withers. Sallows had warned him sternly, “Don’t come looking like a doctor.” So in typical Withers style, he went to the library and read about how to work with homeless people. “There was a book that explained how to put dirt in your hair and wear dirty clothes and things like that,” he recalls. There were no books, however, on how to build a trusting relationship with the wary people he encountered, or how to compartmentalize the suffering he witnessed.

Withers remembers one of his first street patients, a man called Grampa. “He was about 80 years old and I think he’d been on the streets since he was in his 70s. He was one of these older folks you would typically call a bag person, with mental health issues. He had been mugged when I first met him. He had a cut on his forehead and his leg was horrible. The combination of actual danger, and the danger [he imagined] from people who were making devices that would project beams into his legs, were all part of one reality for him. But he was a great teacher.”

Withers says that one of the driving forces for working with the homeless was the chance to teach doctors how to listen, connect and understand the humanity of the situation. “I have always thought of my street work as just a classroom that should help us look at our overall health care delivery principles.”

Withers sees the current state of health care as fear-based and trapped in bureaucracy: “How might we get sued? Does this fit the billing structure?” OSN volunteers, who include nurses, EMTs and doctors, love being able to just do what makes sense in any given situation, Withers says. Street medicine, he notes,



Top: Withers (left), with volunteer EMT Bernard Bechara (right), dispenses a decongestant to client James Gleason. Bottom: Withers and Lo talk to a man they know as Birdy, who the street team was surprised to find passed out under a bridge. Operation Safety Net had found Birdy permanent housing months earlier, but he appeared to be slipping back into street life.

Christopher, 23, (who wants to be a doctor), Jonathan, 21, Gregory, 18, and daughter Jeneni, 13, have all participated to varying degrees in his street work.

“They shared a lot of interesting experiences, especially early on before we had real rules,” Withers says. “The rules for how you do this kind of medicine were non-existent then.” He pauses and laughs. “I don’t even know if it was legal.”

He is currently working on a book about street etiquette, which Withers jokes may take him 30 years to finish. The idea of “cross-pollinating,” as he puts it, linking things that don’t necessarily go together, has always appealed to him—like the way his rock

climbing skills have served his street medicine mission.

A skilled mountaineer, his talents have come in handy for scrambling up walls, on to ledges and under bridges to get to people in need. Withers also got into wilderness medicine while serving as an instructor in a mountaineering school run by the Explorers Club of Pittsburgh. “I learned what to put in a back pack and how to help outside a well equipped hospital,” he says. “That is the most obvious connection between the two interests.” Also necessary, he says, to both mountaineering and street medicine: a spirit of adventure and a keen desire to know what’s over the next hill.

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is “more fluid and much more person-centered.”

With a paid staff of just 15 full and part-time employees, OSN's troops of volunteers are key to keeping the operation going. “We’ve been very blessed by the people who have donated money and the organizations that have helped,” says Withers, who divides his work life evenly between OSN and his teaching duties at the hospital.

Along with providing medical help, Operation Safety Net, which has an annual budget of \$600,000 supported by grants and donations, also works to get its clients off the streets permanently. In the last three years the group has found housing for 300 chronically homeless people.

But that too is a fluid situation. An ever-present danger is that those they have housed will fall back into old ways. And that is exactly the situation the OSN outreach team encountered later on their rounds on that hot summer evening. After leaving the group waiting for sandwiches, Withers, Lo and volunteer EMTs Robyn Bates and Bernard Bechara came across a figure that looked to be sleeping in a gritty area near an underpass. The



Withers at the memorial he helped create to the homeless who have died on the street. The brass plates with the names of the dead, which are affixed to a wall under an overpass, now number 100.

man, who they knew as Birdie, seemed disoriented, but what Withers found disturbing is that Birdie is not homeless.

“We found him a place and now we have to keep an eye on the situation,” Withers says. “We don’t want him falling back.”

Still, as hard as OSN volunteers try to get them into a stable environment, some of their clients remain on the streets where their fate is uncertain at best. Homeless people are easy targets and are often beaten up, mugged and worse.

Thanks to Withers and OSN, the destitute in Pittsburgh are no longer forgotten when they die on the streets. On a wall under a downtown highway overpass are 100 brass plaques with the names of the dead. Withers originally wanted to put up plaques at the very places the bodies were found, but was told that would be illegal. Instead, the city gave him the wall.

“Among the homeless it’s a place of healing,” he said. “It’s about love.” 🐾

Patricia Sheridan is an associate features editor at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

For more information:
www.pmhs.org/operation-safety-net



Left: Withers chats with some of Operation Safety Net’s clients on a downtown Pittsburgh corner. Middle: A skilled rock climber, who has served as a mountaineering school instructor, Withers’ talents have come in handy for scrambling up walls, on to ledges and under bridges to get to people in need. Right: On a hot, sticky night spent delivering medical care on the street, Withers stops to rinse his hands off in a fountain.

Serving South Asia's Poorest Patients

Bibhav Acharya '06 helps bring a health clinic to a remote corner of Nepal.

It wasn't so long ago that the 250,000 citizens of the Nepali district called Achham had not one doctor to call their own. But that was before Nyaya Health.

The Nyaya (pronounced NYA-ya) regional health center, co-founded by a group of Yale University medical students that includes Bibhav Acharya '06, provides 24-hour primary care and maternal and child health services to the people of Achham. For a region considered one of the poorest in South Asia, whose health infrastructure has been nonexistent for decades, Nyaya is an invaluable asset.

From the start, Nyaya's founders knew that all services offered would be free of charge. "This is an extremely poor, remote area," says Acharya, who had twice interned in Nepal through the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship (CPGC) during his undergraduate years. "It seemed criminal to charge people for the right to be healthy." And, given that Achham once had one of the world's highest mortality rates among women and children—"Almost all deliveries happened outside of a health center," says Acharya, "and one in 125 women died in labor"—they also decided that obstetrics services would be offered in conjunction with regular checkups.

In April 2008, Nyaya officially opened, and the all-Nepali staff took up residence in a newly renovated five-room grain shed. Today, the doctors treat approximately 100 patients a day, some of whom walk eight hours to reach the center. Nyaya boasts a pharmacy, a diagnostic laboratory, and a 24-hour birthing center. In addition to the on-site doctors, the clinic also relies on a network of community health workers who live in the more far-flung villages and keep tabs on the residents' general health.

Integral to Nyaya's success has been its partnership with the local government as they strive to rebuild Achham's health system. "We've recently added tuberculosis treatment, and the government gives us free medication to distribute," says Acharya. "They also provide us with a vaccination/immunization center, and will contribute to the HIV treatment we'll soon be implementing." The government is also working with Nyaya to renovate a nearby abandoned hospital so that the clinic can expand its services to include surgery and provide more sophisticated tests.

One facet of Nyaya about which Acharya is especially passionate is its "open source" policy of transparency, making all budgets, plans and clinical protocols accessible to the public. When Acharya interned

with Nepali public health organizations through the CPGC, he says, he found it "impossible to get a sense of what was actually going on, how much things cost, how many people were seen." On Nyaya's website (www.nyayahealth.org), the clinic posts daily breakdowns of how their money is spent. "Donors want to know exactly where their money is going," says Acharya.



Bibhav Acharya (behind desk) and nurse Gauri Sunar conduct a training for Community Health Workers at Nyaya Health Center in Achham, Nepal.



Bibhav Acharya in Achham with the town of Sanfebagar in the background; the town is a 45-minute hike from Bayalpata Hospital, operated by Nyaya Health.

In the past three years, Acharya has spent a total of six months at Nyaya, and plans to put in more time once he completes his third year of medical school. In the meantime, he serves on the clinic's Board of Directors, and he and his Yale colleagues and professors act as virtual doctors when Nyaya staff members send them e-mail queries about specific patients and illnesses. "We can research the problem, consult local doctors, and use the information to help the patients," he says. "This keeps us connected to the clinic, caring for patients halfway around the world."

—Brenna McBride

For more information:
www.nyayahealth.org

Fords Making a Difference

Continued from page 31

The kids on board—some are sick themselves, others have endured months watching a parent undergo radiation and chemotherapy treatments—suck in air, preparing to burst forth in a chorus of quacks at Todd's signal.

Within seconds a Duck rounds the corner and Todd gives the signal. "Uno, dos, tres!" he calls. The kids respond with enthusiasm: "Quackquackquackquack!"

Todd didn't start out planning to run a vessel filled with cancer patients around the waterways of Seattle. He studied literature and philosophy at Haverford and then, after graduation, entered Navy flight school in Pensacola, Florida. He wrapped up his military tour in the Philippines in 1959. Then, with three friends, he traveled to Hong Kong, where he built his first sailboat, the 40-foot yawl



The Sailing Heritage Society offers families a day out on the water, away from worries about treatments and test results.

Suzy Wong. When the boat was prepared for sea, they loaded up arms in case of any encounters with real pirates (there would be two) and sailed around the southern tip of Asia, across the Indian Ocean, up the Red Sea, across the Mediterranean and then across the Atlantic Ocean, and ended the two-year trip in Florida in 1961. By then, the sea was in Todd's blood.

Over the next two decades, he got involved in various ventures, including the rehabilitation of an old Seattle hotel. More than anything, he had learned that he enjoyed being out on the water. He wanted another boat. "It dawned on me that if I built a large boat it could be chartered for enough money to make it self-supporting," he says.

So he went big—65 feet. At first, the *Mallory Todd* was a long-distance cruiser that companies would charter for trips to the San Juan Islands. But then, while moored in South Lake Union, several kids from the Seattle-based Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center came down to look at the boat while on a rare outing. Todd decided to take them out for a sail on the *Mallory Todd*. They loved it, and so did he. He eventually formalized the whole thing as the non-profit Sailing Heritage Society 15 years ago. "Who could resist this," he says. "It's a lot better than just taking my friends out to drink beer."

Sailing is uniquely suited to people undergoing cancer treatments—people like Karen Hendrickson, one of the passengers on a recent Sunday morning sail. Out on the water, she sits back and listens to her son Benjamin and his girlfriend Courtney O'Keefe talk excitedly about the wedding

they just went to, gossiping about manicures and pre-nuptial dramas. Hendrickson smiles and laughs. Because the treatment for her multiple myeloma compromises her immune system, she can't be indoors around large groups of people. Thanks to the Sailing Heritage Society, Hendrickson is getting to enjoy a few short hours with no treatments, no concerns about chemo, just listening to Ben and Courtney chatter while waves lapped at the hull. "It's nice to get out," she says.

The Sailing Heritage Society has an operating budget upwards of \$50,000. Support comes from individual donations and corporate sponsorships. Chartering the *Mallory Todd* pays for boat maintenance costs. There are no full-time paid staff members, but more than 30 volunteers give their time to help out on cruises. Todd says he'll write some of the longer-term volunteers a check to cover expenses such as parking and driving to the marina, "which I have to persuade them to take," he adds.

Some of the volunteers are Coast Guard certified captains who pilot the boat on behalf of the Sailing Heritage Society. Among them is Ken Lazarus, an electrical engineer with a love for the ocean who moved to Seattle three years ago. His wife was looking into volunteer opportunities when they first arrived and she came across the Society. "She said, 'This would be perfect for you,'" he recalls with a laugh.

Gloria Doyle is a nurse who started out on the trips keeping an eye on everyone, but now knows how to run almost everything on the schooner itself. "I just thought it was a nice thing to do," Doyle says, looking out over the water.



The 65-foot schooner *Mallory Todd* in full sail.



Kids get the chance to help out with the ropes (left) and try out the wheel (right) on the free day cruises provided by Todd's Sailing Heritage Society. Todd also invites children who have lost their hair to cancer treatments to join the Balde Eagle Club he invented. Members get a special headband and a certificate with a photo showing them at the helm of the *Mallory Todd*.

Todd has an almost preternatural instinct for children—perhaps because he never quite grew up himself. The kids that come on board are his crew. And like any good captain, he can spin a yarn in a pinch to keep his crew motivated. Several years ago, he had two young cancer patients on the ship who were clearly uncomfortable with their newly bald heads. Afraid they wouldn't have a good time, he called them to the bridge and asked if they were interested in his club. "What club?" one of the boys asked skeptically.

There was no club, of course, but "sometimes you just have to make up a story," Todd explains. Tales true and tall are essential to a life at sea. So he told the boys he had a club just for people with bald heads. He couldn't be a member, but they could. Now the Balde Eagle Club (which employs the Old English spelling of bald) has headbands with an eagle head on the front. Todd drew the eagle himself, but finding a model was difficult, he says. Eagles are always pictured looking fierce. He wanted his eagle to smile.

All kids who go out with Todd, regardless of their qualifications for membership in the Balde Eagle Club, get certificates with their photo at the helm declaring them an "Honorary Captain" of the *Mallory Todd*.

In addition to taking kids and families battling cancer on the day cruises, the Sailing Heritage Society has been expanding its program to include children from a local shelter for battered women. Doyle is reaching out to the local criminal justice system to bring kids whose parents are incarcerated onto the water as well.

Todd also brings on interns every summer, and he has a particular penchant for hiring Haverford and Bryn Mawr students. Last year, Leah Tsao '09 was preparing for her senior year as an East Asian Studies major at Haverford and looking for something to do over the summer when she came across a posting for Todd's Sailing Heritage Society. He liked what he saw in her application and Tsao headed to Seattle.

"It was probably one of the best summers of my life," she says. While friends were learning the ropes at financial firms, Tsao swabbed decks. Her favorite part, she says, was helping the kids who came on board learn sailing basics like knot tying. "It makes you realize how much you can do to uplift someone's day," says Tsao.

During the summer, when the Sailing Heritage Society trips are in full swing, Todd lives with his partner of 15 years Eileen Brickley, and four cats, in a house he designed and built across the lake from Seattle. They spend winters in their condo in Southern California's Coachella Valley, and in the spring Todd helps coordinate the Sailing Heritage Society's annual "sail training" trips on the *Mallory Todd* up the Inside Passage to Glacier Bay, Alaska.

These two month-long training cruises are an important element of the organization's educational mission, says Todd. "We need a good number of volunteers to provide no cost crews on some 200 trips," he says. "While we have trained several young people over the years from beginner to U.S. Coast Guard licensed

captain, that is not our goal. Our goal is to train competent, safety-conscious sailors who will grow to be good citizens in the Seattle community. The Alaska trip is a wonderful finishing school for diligent volunteers."

Todd says that if he had the time, he'd build another boat. "A bigger boat!" he declares. As it is, he's in the process of trying to expand the Sailing Heritage Society to other cities. One place he's looked at recently is Baltimore, where he has piqued the interest of some fellow Haverford alums. Still, Todd says he worries a little about letting other people use the Sailing Heritage Society name. And if the expansion effort does get off the ground, he fully intends to do surprise inspections to keep everyone in line. But for now, thanks to Todd, adults and children who spend an unimaginable amount of time hooked up to machines and IV drips are getting a chance to get on the water and call a loud "ahoy!"

"It's a good life," Todd says. "I am privileged to do this work." 🦅

Laura Onstot is a Seattle-based writer.

For more information:
www.sailingheritage.org

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A career shift into documentary film yields a PBS debut

In the eight long years it took to complete *At Home in Utopia*, her documentary about a radical 1920s cooperative housing experiment in New York, Ellen Brodsky admits to having her moments of doubt. “There were definitely times when we worried,” says Brodsky, who co-produced the documentary with Michal Goldman, the film’s director and writer. “The two big questions were: Would it get done and would it be seen?”

Brodsky’s worries are finally over. *At Home in Utopia*, which premiered at the New York Jewish Film Festival at Lincoln Center in January and screened at festivals across the country, got a national airing in April on PBS’s “Independent Lens” series.

The film tells the story of the United Workers Cooperative Colony, known as “the Coops,” a complex of Bronx apartment houses built by a group of immigrant Jewish garment workers who were inspired by ideals of a just society. The complex, which housed more than 2,000 people, featured space for gardens, community rooms for meetings and dances, and a library with 20,000 volumes in Yiddish, Russian and English. The activist residents of the cooperatively owned Coops, many of whom were practicing Communists, were on the cutting edge of a number of progressive social reforms. They pushed for unemployment insurance and mortgage relief during the Depression, and invited African American families to live in the complex in an era of segregation.

Early into the documentary project, Brodsky recalls reading about the lively debate during the planning stages of the Coops, which was one of four worker-owned complexes to rise in the Bronx. One side, she says, couldn’t imagine taking time out from waging the revolution to build homes. “The other side, many of them women,” Brodsky says, “couldn’t imagine raising the next generation of revolutionaries without living in a community committed to their radical ideals—and without cross-ventilation and a view from every window.”

Before becoming a filmmaker, Brodsky, who has a master’s degree in human services management from Brandeis



University, led a national training center on HIV prevention for the CDC, directed sexuality education programs in a number of school districts and was a Harvard University teaching fellow for classes on sexuality and positive psychology. But after she had two children, Brodsky found herself looking for a new direction for her professional life.

“At Haverford, I’d taken a ‘Film and the Novel’ course with John Ashmead and studied play writing with Professor [Bob] Butman,” Brodsky says. “I directed and acted in theater and I even went into Philadelphia to take an adult education course on how to make videos. So, I decided why not go back to my old love of storytelling?”

Brodsky started exploring video. One day, she was shooting some promotional footage for the Cambridge, Mass., cooperative daycare center her children (now 10 and 13) attended when a fellow parent spotted her with the camera. Andy Hazelton was an architect who’d taught courses on housing and he’d gotten a grant to make a documentary about the Coops. He asked Brodsky about directing. “As soon as I heard about it, I thought, that sounds like a PBS documentary,” recalls Brodsky. “I told him, I’m not that experienced, but I’ll help you find a director.”

Enter Michal Goldman, whose films include *A Jumpin’ Night in the Garden of Eden*, about the revival of Klezmer music, and

UTOPIA

for Ellen Brodsky '85. By Eils Lotozo



A 1926 artist's rendering (above) of the Coops, a cooperative apartment complex built by immigrant Jewish garment workers in the Bronx. Left: Ellen Brodsky '85 (on right) with Michal Goldman, writer, director and Brodsky's co-producer on the documentary *At Home in Utopia*. Early cooperators (facing page) on the steps of the Coops, which were still under construction in 1926.

"We had a student who did a 12-hour day for us at the Harvard library researching records on microfiche," Brodsky continues. "And we've had students scanning archival photos and helping us with fundraising." The most recent bi-co extern, Rachel Park BMC '10, helped with national outreach for the PBS broadcast.

Umm Kulthum: A Voice Like Egypt, about the diva of Arabic music. "At this point I was trying to figure out how to learn filmmaking," says Brodsky, who is married to fellow Ford Ted Rybeck '85, a business consultant. "I wanted to make the switch from public health but I wasn't sure how. Michal said, 'Why don't we do this together?' So, rather than going to film school, I learned everything on the job."

In the years it took to complete *At Home in Utopia*, which is narrated by actress Linda Lavin and includes interviews with many former residents of the Coops, now in their 70s, 80s and 90s, Brodsky completed another documentary, co-directed with Dunya Alwan. Titled *Dental Farmer*, it's about Brodsky's father-in-law, who ran a free dental clinic on an organic farm in West Virginia. That film won a director's choice award at the Black Maria Film Festival and is now touring the world as part of the Best of Rural Routes Film Festival.

A big boost to getting *At Home in Utopia* made, according to Brodsky, was the help of eight bi-co students who worked on the project through the Bryn Mawr/Haverford Career Development Office's extern program. Among them: Matthew Scheinerman '09 and Jane Steinemann '04.

"I still remember our first extern who showed up on a day when we had seven historians flown in from Boston to advise us," she says. "It was her job to take notes.

At Home in Utopia takes the story of the Coops up to the 1950s, when the backlash of McCarthyism, along with dark revelations about the reign of Josef Stalin, moved residents to abandon the revolutionary vision their belief in Communism had inspired. "It's a thought-provoking film that leads to a lot of debate," says Brodsky. "But in general, the reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. People are grateful that a chapter of American activism that was made nearly invisible by McCarthyism has come to light."

The documentary continues to travel to festivals around the country and will be the subject of a series of screenings in Massachusetts, in the cities of Boston, Lowell and Lawrence, that will include panel discussions with activists, historians and the filmmakers. Funded by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and the Puffin Foundation, and organized with the help of local community organizations, those screenings, say Brodsky and Goldman, will emphasize the links between the past and the present. The idea: to draw connections between the issues faced by the 1920s and Depression-era immigrants in the film to the issues immigrants and working people face today. 🐼

For more information go to: <http://filmmakerscollab.org/films/at-home-in-utopia/>.



Bruce Partridge (wearing a Haverford hat) at the May 2009 launch of the Planck satellite in French Guiana.

Faculty Friends

Catching Up with Former Faculty Members

What are the true origins of the universe? Emeritus Professor of Astronomy Bruce Partridge has spent his career looking for the answer to that question. He was among the first in his field to study fluctuations in the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)—heat left over from the Big Bang—in hopes of discerning information about the distribution of matter in the first 300,000 years of the universe’s history. In May of 2009, Partridge saw 16 years of research come to fruition when the Planck satellite was launched; its goal is to map the entire sky and provide more sensitive measurements of the CMB, and Partridge has been involved with its development since the project was first proposed.

Now, Partridge has retired from Haverford after nearly 40 years of teaching, but his search for astronomical answers never stops. *Haverford Magazine* spoke with him about his plans, the changing science of astronomy, and what the future holds for the field.

What brought you to Haverford?

Bruce Partridge: I was looking for a smaller institution devoted to teaching. I enjoyed my time at Princeton, but there was pressure to focus largely on research, and teaching was secondary. During my interview at Haverford, I was also impressed that students were involved in the hiring process, that the faculty and administration trusted them to make these important decisions.

How have Haverford’s astronomy department and the study of astronomy in general changed during your years as a professor?

BP: Well, for one thing, astronomy at Haverford was a one-person department when I arrived: Louis Green, a fabulous teacher, a wise leader and a deeply loved member of the community. Louis’s courses focused on stars and the mathematical underpinnings of astronomy; today, mine and Steve’s (Steve Boughn, Professor of Astronomy) focus on modern astronomy and astrophysics, less on math. At colleges across the country astronomy is becoming more focused on cosmology and galactic structure, and more people are dealing with the big questions like the age and origin of the universe.

After all your years of work, how did it feel to watch the Planck satellite finally take flight?

BP: It was exciting, and slightly teary. In some ways, it was anticlimactic: I spent 16 years on the project and the launch was over in three minutes! The important thing is that the news continues to be good: Planck is performing as hoped.

How much closer are astronomers to discovering the origins of the universe?

BP: We’ve moved from knowing almost nothing to having a well-regarded standard model of the universe that is accepted by most people and correct in its general features. But the origins of structures like galaxies within the universe are less clear. Instruments like Planck are our primary means of pinning down details about cosmology.

What do you predict will be astronomers’ biggest concerns during the next decade?

BP: Scientifically, there’s still the question of the evolution of structures in the universe. It’s only partially solved. There’s also the evolution of planetary systems; we know there are more than 300 planets around other stars (and probably billions more if we could find them) and all of their solar systems are radically different from ours.

On a sociological note, astronomy has been well-supported by the American public. But

what happens when that funding levels off? Will we—should we—generate more astronomers or slow everything down? Moving forward, we also have to consider the sizes of our projects. When we first started looking for fluctuations in the CMB, the equipment cost the same as a large car. Now, many facilities like Planck fall in the billion-dollar class.

How will you be spending your retirement?

BP: I’ll definitely be continuing my research; my main reason for retiring from classroom teaching is to have more time for it. In addition to Planck, I’m also involved with the Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT), which is based in Chile. In support of both ACT and Planck, my students and I make ground-based observations, using radio telescopes to find galaxies that are creating radio waves which may interfere with the measurements of these larger projects.

I’m also president of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. I’m hoping to move the Society more aggressively into science education in the service of science literacy, and to make it more international in reach.

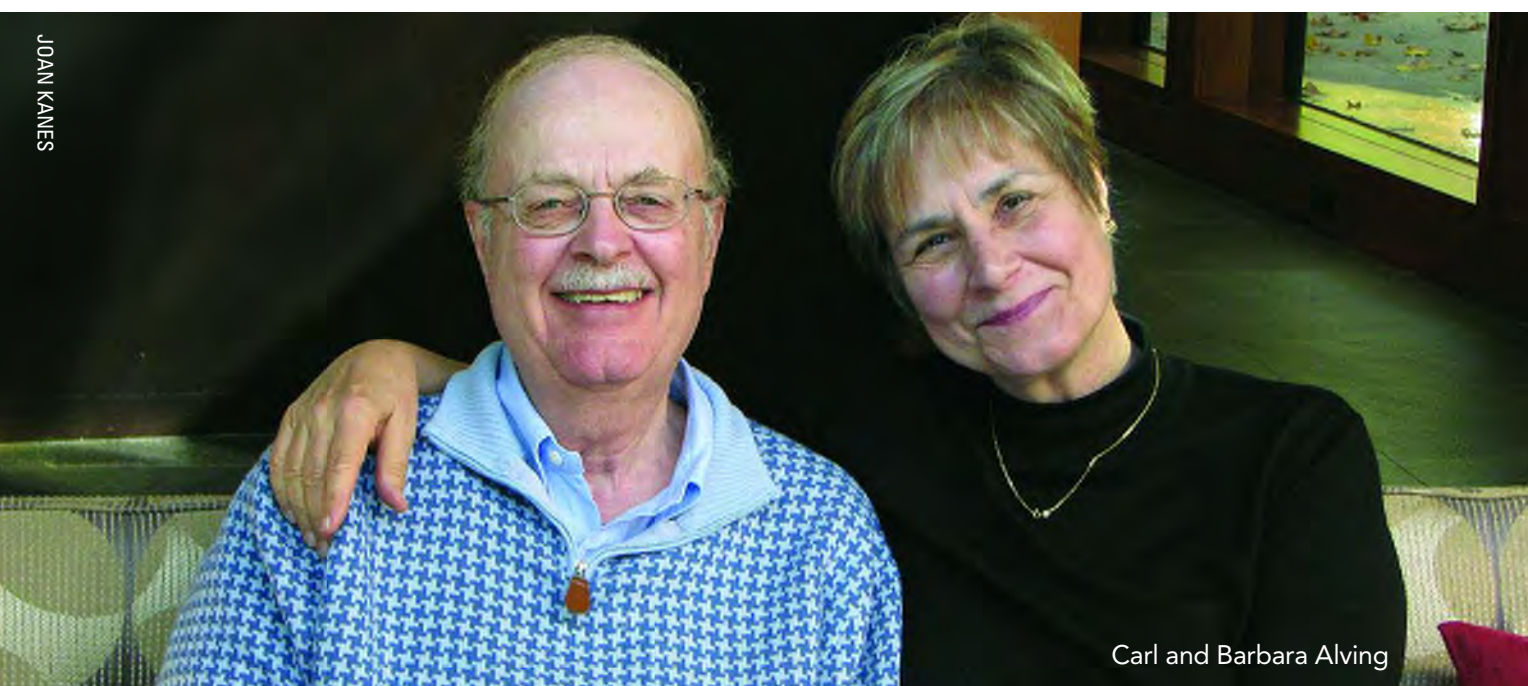
And I’m writing a book that will discuss homely examples illustrating aspects of astronomy that I’ve developed while lecturing to non-majors at Haverford. The working title is *Lawn Chair Astrophysics*. 🐼

Inspired by the Haverford Experience

Two alumni establish scholarships to thank the College for shaping their lives and create similar opportunities for future Fords.

By Brenna McBride

JOAN KANES



Carl and Barbara Alving

While in high school, Chicago native **Carl Alving '61** toured 15 East Coast colleges, and Haverford emerged as a clear favorite. “I loved the campus, and the interactions I had with the students,” he says. “I knew it would offer an intellectually top-notch experience.”

Alving had been an outstanding student in elementary and high school, but at Haverford he quickly found that he was far from alone in this distinction. “All of us were on the same intellectual plane,” he says. “The students were so incredible that my own self image sometimes suffered, but then I heard others express the same sentiment about themselves.” With a number of his classmates, he formed friendships that are still going strong today.

Alving went on to become a respected physician and researcher with the U.S. Military HIV Research Program. As a department chief of the institution’s retrovirology division, Alving has been actively involved in developing an effective prophylactic vaccine to protect against HIV. His profession-

al success made it possible for him to consider many philanthropic possibilities, and in the end he chose to focus on people—namely, Haverford students—rather than places. “I didn’t want to invest in a physical structure,” he says. “I wanted to help relieve students’ financial stress.” He and his wife, Barbara, decided to establish the Carl and Barbara Alving Endowed Scholarship Fund to support students being trained in scientific disciplines.

“We wanted to keep the playing field level, and help the College attract students in a need-free environment,” he says. “And, because of the small size of the school, the alumni base on which to draw for support is obviously relatively limited. We recognized that the potential impact at Haverford might be greater than at many larger schools.”

At first, the assets that attracted **Charley Beever '74** to Haverford were the obvious ones. “I liked the small size, the excellent academic reputation, and the fact that the teaching was done by professors, not T.A.s,” he says. “Professors took



Barbara and Charley Beever

“We both highly value education. It’s an area where it is most productive to be charitable.”
-Charley Beever '74

a direct interest in each of us, and were actively engaged in our development in a way to which all teachers should aspire.”

It wasn't until years later that Beever came to fully appreciate the subtler side of the Haverford experience: the Quaker ethos, the atmosphere of open-mindedness and tolerance. “At first I didn't recognize the Honor Code as real, as being applied more broadly than an academic setting,” he says. Although he was comfortable with the Code's scholarly aspects, like unproctored exams, he was less prepared for the Code's role in con-

fronting fellow students on such issues as playing loud music at night. “Early on, I learned how to civilly engage with them, without appealing to authorities.” This skill has served him well in his job as partner in a management consulting firm, where, while advising corporations' senior executives, he finds himself more willing to listen to different opinions and perspectives.

Beever and his siblings benefited from the financial planning and generosity of their grandparents, who provided the funds for college and graduate school expenses. “I'm incredibly

grateful to them,” he says, “because otherwise attending Haverford would have been an enormous financial challenge.” He's aware that many students at Haverford and other schools—including his wife, Barbara—received scholarship aid or worked their way through college. That's why the couple established the Charles and Barbara Beever Scholarship, to allow current and future Fords the opportunities they themselves had been given.

“We both highly value education,” he says. “It's an area where it is most productive to be charitable.” 🐿

Philadelphia Scholarship Makes a Difference for Two Local Fords

Philadelphia residents **Dominique De Leon** and **Rachel Edmonds**, both class of '12, had their own reasons for wanting to attend Haverford. “What sold me,” says De Leon, “was the laid-back, trusting, and respectful atmosphere that the school owes both to the Honor Code and its Quaker roots.” Meanwhile, Edmonds says she liked the idea of “taking any class I wanted before having to make a decision on a major.”

Both women are attending Haverford courtesy of the Philadelphia Scholarship, which was established by Jackie (Davis) Brady '89 in 2008. The scholarship provides financial assistance to underrepresented students from Philadelphia who qualify for need-based aid.

De Leon's first year at Haverford has made her certain that the school is right for her. “I've met some of the most brilliant and outgoing people, who I know I'll be friends with for a long time,” she says. She wants to major in chemistry, she says, because “I like thinking about things on a structural level, down to molecules and atoms and why they work the way they do.” She also writes short stories and poetry, some of which have been published in the College's literary magazine, *Haverford Review*.

“I liked my first year classes because it was the first time in my life that I was challenged academically,” says Edmonds,

who is thinking of majoring in both math and African studies. She has enjoyed math since she was a child: “I used to sit in the back of the car during family road trips just doing math problems.” Her interest in African studies, she says, is influenced by her African American heritage. Edmonds explains that she was raised by her parents to give back to her community, either locally or globally; she'll fulfill their wishes, she says, by becoming either a math teacher or an ambassador to the U.N.

De Leon and Edmonds can't say enough about their gratitude towards Jackie Brady and the Philadelphia Scholarship for making their Haverford educations possible. “I'm the first person in my immediate family to go to college,” says De Leon, “which means that I can be where I am today, and later on in life I can have the responsibility and pleasure of supporting another student in the way I have been supported.”

—Brenna McBride



Philadelphia Scholarship winner
Rachel Edmonds

Why I Give

"During my four years at Haverford, I participated in evening phonathons with the field hockey and lacrosse teams and asked alumni to give generously to the Annual Fund. I always said to myself, 'If only everybody on my list would give \$10, think of how much we would gather in pledges every night!' I vowed to myself then that I would give every year, no matter how small an amount, as an appreciation for all that Haverford offered to me then and all that present students work towards today."

—Robin Albertson-Wren '91



Colby Wren, Jonathan Wren '91, Kayli Wren, Robin Albertson-Wren '91

Why do YOU give to Haverford? We want to hear from you!

As someone whose support ensures that the next generation of Fords will have the best experience possible, you could inspire other alumni, parents, and friends to invest in the College and its mission. Please take a moment to share your reasons for giving to Haverford by visiting fords.haverford.edu/donorprofile.

2008-2009 Annual Fund Results

At a time when we might expect philanthropic support to be on the decline, Haverford's Annual Fund experienced the opposite response over the past fiscal year. Members of the Haverford community joined together to support the College as never before and raised an astonishing \$4,633,496 for the unrestricted Annual Fund. This represents an increase of \$557, 447 or 13.7% over fiscal year 2007-2008 and also represents the largest Annual Fund total ever secured by the College.

The Annual Fund provides a crucial revenue stream for the College. Like all premier institutions, Haverford relies on three sources of revenue to support its operating budget – tuition, a carefully calculated percentage of endowment income, and gifts. Two of those revenue sources are strategically capped, so the College's ability to respond flexibly and dynamically to opportunities and challenges in the operating budget comes

primarily from the Annual Fund.

Many, many thanks to the 7,769 alumni, parent and friend donors to the College who stood by the institution this year. The Annual Fund will continue to play a vital role for the College, and we sincerely appreciate your past, present and future generosity.

—Alumni Relations and Annual Giving

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SOCIETY
OF THE ANNUAL FUND
HAVERFORD COLLEGE



Commemorating the year in which the College was founded, The 1833 Society is made up of Haverford's most generous Annual Fund donors. Alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff who make gifts of \$1,833 or more to the unrestricted Annual Fund in a given fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) are considered members. Young alumni are invited to join the Society at special gift levels. Membership is renewed annually.

Through their collective generosity, members of The 1833 Society lead the way in enabling Haverford to provide today's students with a premier liberal arts education. More than 80% of the

College's unrestricted Annual Fund is made up of gifts from Society members.

Haverford recognizes the commitment and leadership of 1833 Society donors by sending unique communications from the College and invitations to select receptions and events on and off campus. This year's Society members were invited to attend a special reception with President Emerson, as well as a lecture and exhibit featuring historical items from the College's Special Collections.

For the 2008-2009 fiscal year, there were a total of 803 Society members, compared to 646 members last fiscal year.

The 175th Anniversary Young Alumni Challenge:

Congratulations to the Classes of 1994-2009

This past June, in honor of Haverford's 175th Anniversary and as a tribute to the loyal alumni whose financial support enabled the College to reach this significant milestone, an anonymous donor matched every gift made to the Annual Fund by a young alumnus/a who had not yet given, up to \$100,000.

The 175th Anniversary Challenge to Young Alumni was a great success. The goal at the start of the Challenge was to secure 450 young alumni gifts during the month of June. Thanks to the hard work of dedicated Class Volunteers and the generosity of members of the classes of 1994-2009, we met our

goal and finished with a grand total of 578 alumni donors and \$69,538 in matching dollars! This display of support from Haverford's youngest graduates is reflective of the spirit of alumni generosity that will sustain the College for generations to come.

Visit www.haverford.edu/youngalumni to read more about

the results of the Challenge and to view a complete list of young alumni donors for last fiscal year (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009).



Thank you, Rob!

Robert Eisinger '87 served as Chair of the Annual Fund and Chair of the Annual Fund Executive Committee from 2006-2009. Rob, whose tenure ended on June 30, helped grow the Annual Fund after the Educating to Lead, Educating to Serve campaign and worked hard to increase participation within our young alumni population and among our most consistent donors. We appreciate Rob's service to the College.

As of July 1, Alexander Lowry '99 took over this position and will serve in this capacity until June 30, 2011. Alexander looks forward to preparing the Annual Fund for its role in the upcoming comprehensive campaign.

Haverford Parents' Fund Update: Thank you for your support

The Parents' Fund totaled \$275,679 for fiscal year 2008-2009 with over 1,175 current parents and parents of Haverford alumni contributing to this important fund.

The Parents' Fund is part of the overall Annual Fund that directly supports the operating budget and supplements endowment spending and tuition revenue. From financial aid to student research opportunities, gifts to the Parents' Fund are put to work immediately

to uphold Haverford's commitment to excellence in academics and beyond.

To support the Parents' Fund for the 2010 fiscal year, make your gift online at: www.haverford.edu/makeagift
Or, call 1-866-GIFT-4HC.



Parents: Want to get involved?

Parent volunteers play a key role within the Haverford community. Volunteer opportunities are available for parents in the areas of fundraising, admissions, career development, event hosting, and parent newsletter contributions. To learn more about parent volunteer opportunities or to join the proud group of parents who are already serving the College, contact alumni@haverford.edu, or call 610-896-1004.

notes from the alumni association

Alumni Association Executive Committee Leadership and Members 2009-2010



President
Bradley J. Mayer '92
Seattle, Washington



Vice President
Julie Min Chayet '91
New York, NY

Alumni Association Executive Committee Members

Lisa Berenson Hurst '01
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Admission Liaison

Anita V. Crofts '92
Seattle, Washington
Regional Coordinator (Seattle)

Kyle W. Danish '89
Washington, District of Columbia
Athletics Liaison

Emily D. Davis '99
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Awards Liaison

David L. Fogelson '73
Pacific Palisades, California
Career Development Liaison

Continued on next page

Dear Friends,

It was wonderful to see so many of you on campus for reunions at Alumni Weekend this past May. Besides the glorious, mild spring weather, returning alumni were treated to a wide variety of activities, including faculty-led “mini-classes,” a concert under the stars by a fun classic rock cover band, and the opportunity to connect with old and new friends.

Speaking of alumni, in conjunction with the College’s office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, we are excited to welcome our newest alumni—members of the Class of 2009—at “First September,” a social event and all-alumni mixer to be held in eight major cities across the country. This event has quickly become an annual tradition and is an excellent way for both new and “not-so-new” alumni to connect and meet fellow Fords in your area. You can find further details about this event, and all upcoming activities, at the College’s new and improved alumni web site, fords.haverford.edu. If you haven’t yet visited the site, please check it out.

Also this past May, the Alumni Association Executive Committee (AAEC) thanked Scott Kimmich '51 on the completion of his term on the Committee and for six years of outstanding commitment and service to the College. In addition, we were excited to welcome three new members to the AAEC: Uzma Wahhab '94, Washington, D.C. Area Regional Coordinator; Spencer Ware '01, Communications and Technology Liaison; and Philip Hawkins '65, Annual Giving Liaison. All three have demonstrated incredible volunteer support to the College in the past, and we are thrilled to have them contribute their talents to the AAEC.

Lastly, the AAEC is currently taking nominations for new members. We’re looking for Haverford alumni who have volunteered in some capacity in the past and who would be willing to help contribute and further alumni activity in the future. For more information on the AAEC and member expectations, please visit www.haverford.edu/alumnirelations/association. Nominations should include name, class year, and why this alumnus/alumna would be a good addition to the AAEC. Self-nominations are welcome. All nominations to the AAEC are due by December 1, 2009. If you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact me (bmayer@alum.haverford.edu) or Deb Strecker, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving (dstrecke@haverford.edu).

Warm regards,

Bradley J. Mayer '92

Would you like to organize a happy hour or career networking event in your city? Do you have a reunion coming up and have ideas for weekend programming?

Alumni Relations and Annual Giving is looking for new volunteers to serve as liaisons between the College and the alumni body. Positions are available for fundraisers, reunion volunteers, regional event hosts, and event planners.

What better way to spend your time than connecting with fellow Haverfordians on behalf of the College! If you’re interested in learning more about how you can become involved, please contact us at 610-896-1004 or alumni@haverford.edu.

Alumni Weekend: May 29 – 31, 2009

Elliot Gordon '78
Santa Monica, CA
Regional Coordinator (Los Angeles)

Philip Hawkins '65
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
Annual Giving Liaison

Garry W. Jenkins '92
Columbus, OH
Past President

Neil Kahrim '04
Bloomfield, NJ
Multicultural Liaison

Alexander Lowry '99
London, United Kingdom
(Chair, Annual Fund Executive Committee)
Annual Giving Liaison

Douglas N. Mason '81
Royersford, Pennsylvania
Athletics Liaison

Eric Muther '94
Lansdowne, Pennsylvania
Career Development Liaison

Thalia Myriantopoulos '95
Chicago, IL
Admission Liaison

Jim Pabarue '72
Philadelphia, PA
Multicultural Liaison

Theo Posselt '94
Berkeley, California
Regional Coordinator (San Francisco)

Polly Ross Ribatt '90
Chestnut Hill, MA
Member at Large

Alex Robinson '96
New York, New York
Alumni Weekend Liaison

Benjamin L. Rose '80
Chicago, Illinois
Regional Coordinator (Chicago)

Burton R. Saidel '53
Dayton, Ohio
Scarlet Sages Liaison

Gabriella Sarnoff '95
New York, New York
Regional Coordinator (New York)

Bruce Segal '83
Narberth, Pennsylvania
Regional Coordinator (Philadelphia)

Uzma Wahhab '94
Washington, D.C.
Regional Coordinator (D.C.)

Spencer Ware '01
Mountain Lakes, New Jersey
Communications and Technology Liaison

If you would like to nominate an alumnus/a for the Alumni Association Executive Committee, please call 610-896-1004.

Over 800 alumni, friends and family returned to campus for this year's Alumni Weekend. Class years represented ranged from 1936 to 2009, and attendees hailed from 34 states, as well as Canada, Austria, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Turkey.

The weekend's highlights included a musical performance by Andy Simon '74 and a talk by Gurdon Brewster '59 called "No Turning Back: My Summer with Daddy King." During the Alumni Celebration Ceremony, which took place on Lloyd Green on a sunny Saturday morning, several outstanding members of the Haverford alumni community were

recognized and class gifts were celebrated. The Class of 1959, celebrating its 50th reunion, raised over \$40,000 for the Annual Fund with 88% of the class participating. Their cumulative 50th reunion gift reached an impressive \$6,383,391. Celebrating its 25th reunion, the Class of 1984 welcomed more than 50 members and enjoyed a reception at the President's home on Friday and a softball game versus the Class of 1979.

We'd love to include your photos in our Alumni Weekend repository. Log in to Flickr.com (accounts are free) and upload your pictures to your account. Make sure to tag them if you know who is in them! Then join the

Haverford Flickr group and share your Alumni Weekend set with the rest of the group.

Save the date for next year's Alumni Weekend—May 28-30, 2010! All classes with a graduation year ending in a "0" or a "5" will be celebrating a reunion; however, we welcome all alumni back to campus. Alumni Weekend updates will be available at fords.haverford.edu. If you would like to serve on your Reunion Planning Committee, let us know by calling 610-896-1004 or emailing alumni@haverford.edu.





The 2009 Alumni Weekend inspired Richard Gilder '84 to compose this poem:

Our memories	While
Of	We
Who	Greeted
We	One
Were -	Another
Vivid	Made
Bright	Contact
Fire flies	However
Burning	Brief
Into	Fleeting
The	Soon over
Fabric	Once
The	Again
Essence	After
Of	So/Too
Our	Many
Existence	Years.
Larger	We
Than	Laughed
Life	We
Exuding	Spoke
Athletic	We
Mental	Shared
Energy	As we never
From	Could
Every	'Til
Pore	Our years
Superimpose	Apart
Themselves	Turned
Upon	25.
Who	And
We	Then
Have	We
Become -	Returned
Worldly	To
Life	Our
wise	Presents
Valuing	From
Meetings	Those
of	Four
Friends	Indelible
And	Years
The	Of
Loves	Our
Of	Pasts,
Our	Gladdened
lives -	Enheartened
Wives/	Quickened
Husbands	By
Kids	The
Work	Chance
Individually	We
All three	All
Unclear	Took
Though	To
It be	Come
Which	Together
Is	Once
Which.	Again.
Surprised	Drops
Shocked	In
Thrilled	The
At once	Bucket
Full of joy	Yet
And	Somehow
Whelmed	We
With	All
Sadness	Belong/ed
For	To
Those who	One
Are gone	Another -
Were	And
We	Always
All	Will.

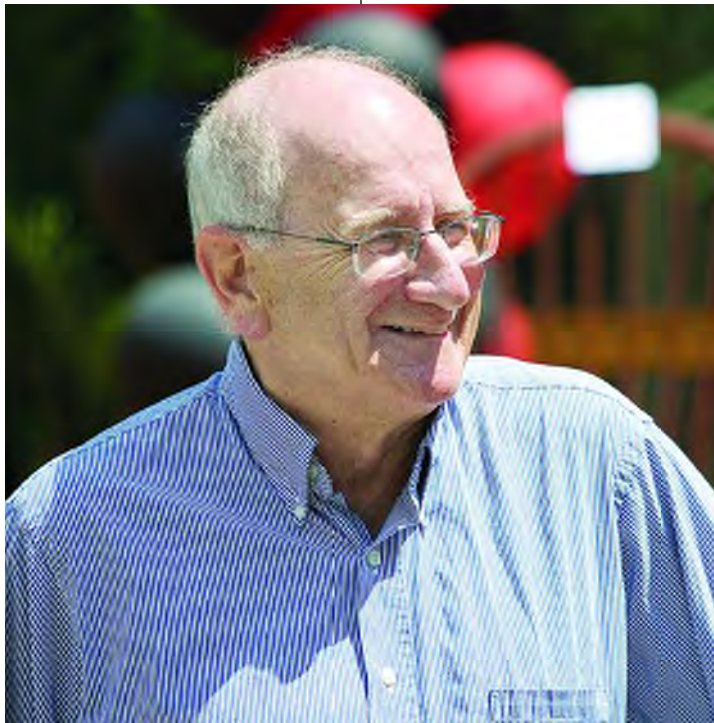
notes from the alumni association

Alumni Weekend

The Alumni Award: Greg Kannerstein '63

Since 1968, Greg Kannerstein has served Haverford in a variety of roles. These include Dean of Freshmen, Baseball Coach, Athletic Director, Acting Dean of Admission and, most recently, Dean of the College. Kannerstein, who holds a doctorate from Harvard's Graduate School of Education, is also the author of *The Spirit and the Intellect*, a history of Haverford since its founding in 1833. Independent of his Haverford

career, he has worked as a reporter for the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin* and covered the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama for the *Southern Courier*, a job that led to a teaching position at historically black North Carolina College in Durham, NC. On July 1, 2009, Kannerstein began a new chapter at Haverford as Special Advisor to Institutional Advancement and Lecturer in Independent College Programs.



The Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award: Ronald Kaback '58

As a direct result of his experience at Haverford—which, in 1955, became the first undergraduate institution in the world to teach molecular biology—Dr. Ronald Kaback pioneered the development of bacterial membrane vesicles (small sacs that store or transport substances within a cell) early in his career. In recognition of his accomplishments, Dr. Kaback was elected to membership in the

American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1986 and to the National Academy of Sciences in 1987. He is also a Distinguished Alumnus of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (1988) and a Fellow of the Biophysical Society, the American Society of Microbiology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as well as the recipient of a number of national and international awards.



Haverford Seeks Nominations for Alumni Awards

Classes ending in a "0" or "5" will be celebrating their respective reunions May 28-30, 2010, and it's not too early to begin thinking about nominating an alumnus/a for one of the Haverford Alumni Awards. Your nominee does not necessarily have to be in a reunion class; however, it would be a wonderful tribute to receive an award upon returning to the College for a reunion! The

following awards will be presented:

- For Service to Humanity - Haverford Award
- For Excellence in Athletics - Forman Award
- For Sustained Service to the College - Alumni/ae Award
- For Accomplishments in Leadership - Haverford College Young Alumni Award

- For Outstanding Contributions in a Profession - Haverford College Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award

Please Note: In order for your nominee to be considered, you must provide detailed background information (including personal stories, newspaper articles, testimonials from other alumni, or other information) in support of

your nomination. To submit a nomination, go to: www.haverford.edu/alumnirelations/awards. For questions, call Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at 610-896-1004 or email alumni@haverford.edu.

The Young Alumni Award: Ann Marie Baldonado '94 and Elissa Steglich '94

Ann Marie Baldonado (below, left, with President Steve Emerson '74) is a producer of "Fresh Air with Terry Gross," the award-winning National Public Radio (NPR) show. "Fresh Air," which focuses on contemporary arts and issues, is one of public radio's most popular programs; each week, nearly 4.5 million people listen to the Peabody Award-winning weekday magazine's broadcast on 500 NPR stations across the country.

Baldonado began her career working as an unpaid intern for WHYY, an NPR affiliate, more than 10 years ago. Today, as a senior producer at "Fresh Air," she is responsible for covering television and films, acting as both a critic and a facilitator/collaborator of conversations with a diverse range of writers, actors, directors, producers, and film or television subjects. In 2008, Baldonado returned to Haverford to speak with students about her career as

part of Alumni Year in the Arts.

Elissa Steglich (right) is the Managing Attorney at the American Friends Service Committee's Immigrant Rights Program in Newark, New Jersey. In addition to supervising legal staff, she provides direct representation to asylum seekers, immigrant children, and immigrant victims of violence and human trafficking. Steglich was the Managing Attorney at the National Immigrant Justice Center in

Chicago, Illinois from 2002-2006, and Trafficking Project Officer at DePaul College of Law, where she conducted extensive field research on human trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean. She is co-editor of *In Modern Bondage: Sex Trafficking in the Americas* (Transnational, 2003), and the author of several articles in respected journals.



The Haverford Award: H. Alan Hume '49

H. Alan Hume, M.D., FACS, has been involved in the field of medicine for three decades. During his 18 year career in Philadelphia, he worked at Penn Medicine and Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park. After moving to Maine in 1976, he worked in a U.S. Public Health Service Project as Director of Emergency Medical Services. He returned to surgical practice in Waterville, Maine in 1980 and continued until his retirement in 1990, at which point he became Medical Director of Student Health

Services at Colby College. Dr. Hume and his wife, Dorothy, have endowed and created the college's Colby-Hume Center, and have served as volunteers at the MaineGeneral Medical Center in Waterville for a number of years.



Mark your calendar!



Family and Friends Weekend Friday, October 23-Sunday, October 25, 2009

Spend time with your son or daughter and take part in the special events planned for all three days.

Some highlights include:

- Classes for parents
- Engaging faculty talks
- Student life panels
- Parent volunteer meeting
- President's reception featuring key members of the Haverford community

We look forward to seeing you on campus this fall!

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.haverford.edu/familyweekend

Or, for more information, call Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at 610-896-1004.



FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEKEND OCTOBER 23 – OCTOBER 25, 2009

Dawn Potter '86

I was not a star student at Haverford, and neither were my closest friends. We were a distracted, volatile bunch, up all night with our Clash and Tammy Wynette records. But if we were a mess academically, we were also fully aware of a parallel education in loss and love, though it seemed likely to get us nowhere as adults.

In an academically prestigious school, it can be hard to cope with one's inability to conform to the studious model that most other students display so competently. For me, the fact that I had embodied that model in high school made the situation even more distressing. Yet even as I fretted, I was reading, reading, reading. During my years at Haverford, I read every novel by Dickens, every novel by Austen, Tolstoy's *War and Peace* at least twice. Simply, I needed to read, even if the books had no relevance to the courses I was taking. This is not to imply that my classes were valueless, for several were vital. I think particularly of freshman English with Joanne Hutchinson, where we memorized the opening of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, lines that will stay with me till I die. I think also of Bob Butman, who pressed us to envision literature not as scholarship but as an extension of our humanity.



Bob was, in Virginia Woolf's terms, a common reader, "guided by an instinct to create for himself, out of whatever scraps he [could] come by, some kind of whole." I've taken his lesson to heart; for since graduating from Haverford, I've never gone back to school. I have no advanced degree, no academic affiliation. Instead, I've slowly learned, with much self-doubt, to follow a private, idiosyncratic route into books and the imagination.

After graduation, I worked for a year as a reading instructor in Massachusetts, another year as the

herd manager on a Vermont dairy farm. I spent a few years in the editorial offices of a Rhode Island textbook publisher. Eventually I migrated to Maine, where, for the past sixteen years, I've lived in the small, rural, poverty-ridden town of Harmony. Here in the woods I've raised two sons with my husband, photographer Thomas Birtwistle (a member of the class of 1987), meanwhile working as a freelance editor, a substitute music teacher, and a visiting poet in the schools. Along the way, I've written and published two collections of poetry and a memoir.

At every turn of the road, I've met another person struggling to link eye with ear with hand with mind with heart—for instance, the Harmony eleven-year-old who can't write his name but whose words, dictated to me as his amanuensis, nonetheless strive to delineate his world. "Big heifers in the corn again," he tells me. "And them horses is hungry." I write down his words and read them back to him. He smiles: Yes, that's right; that's what he meant. He thought hard about what he knew best, he searched for the precise words to describe that knowledge, and now the vision within that language belongs to him. This is the essence of learning, and of longing to learn. The fire burns: We stoke its flame.

Dawn Potter's most recent book is Tracing Paradise: Two Years in Harmony with John Milton (University of Massachusetts Press, 2009). For more about Dawn and her work, go to dipotter.blogspot.com.

Rob Korobkin '08

It's a spring day in 2006, at the end of my sophomore year, and I've recently declared as a Cities major. I'm on my way back to my room in Lunt when a brightly colored sign outside of the rear entrance to Founders Hall catches my attention advertising, "Sign Up Today For The National Marrow Donor Program!"

I'm one of those "radical" Haverfordians who writes papers decrying the evils of the prison-industrial system and organizes stu-



dent trips to antiwar protests. I'm confident I know right from wrong, and joining the National Marrow Donor Program seems like an easy way to do some good and get a free cookie. So I climb the stairs, fill out the paperwork and swab a few cells off the inside of my cheek with a Q-Tip.

In March of this year, I receive a phone call from the program. There's a man in his fifties dying of leukemia. I'm one of only a handful of people in the system who might be sufficiently genetically compatible with him to donate the stem cells he needs to survive.

I don't know the guy, and the program's strict confidentiality policy keeps it that way. Three years have passed since I signed up. I've moved to Portland, Maine to study investigative journalism. Donating part of my body couldn't be farther from my mind. But the procedure seems safe, and I feel it's pretty clear what the right thing is to do. So, I go ahead with it.

On each of the four days preceding the donation, a nurse comes to my house to administer a drug that

increases the number of stem cells in my bloodstream. The shots sting worse than getting hit point blank with a paintball gun and the drug renders my muscles sore and my energy drained. By the last day, I'm bedridden, unable to sleep but too weak to do much else.

As uncomfortable as it is to spend six hours the next day at Massachusetts General Hospital tied into a contraption that looks like a cross between a microwave oven and something from *The Matrix*, the donation goes relatively smoothly. By the time it's over, the machine has cycled through all of the blood in my body five times and has filled a plastic medical bag with about a third of a liter of stem cells the color of grapefruit juice. A few hours later, doctors pump the bag's contents into the dying man's body, possibly extending his life a few months.

Within a couple days, I'm back to normal, riding my bike and playing drums in my rock band. But even though my body has returned to normal, my mind is still processing the whole thing. To be honest, I really don't know if I'd do it again. It's easy to talk about moral responsibility when you're an idealistic kid on a beautiful and sheltered campus, but I'm beginning to realize how complex and difficult it can be to actually live out those ideals. Sometimes, however, you get an opportunity to help save a life without even asking for it. Sometimes you take it.

Rob Korobkin can be contacted at rob.korobkin@gmail.com

Care to share your story of roads taken (or not taken) since graduation?

**Drop us a line!
cmills@haverford.edu**

This 1915 photo of Barclay Beach shows a ring of just-planted American elm trees donated by C. Cresson Wistar, class of 1865. The seven trees were grafted from an American elm, planted on Founders Green in 1840. That tree was a direct descendant, it is said, of the elm under which William Penn signed his historic treaty with the Native Americans. (Note the tower, now gone, atop Barclay.)



THEN
AND
NOW



Today, just one of the elms remains. Now monumental in size, the tree (far left and pictured in inset photo) is the lone survivor of the Dutch Elm disease that felled the other six, plus the Founders Green elm, during the 1960s and 1970s.

