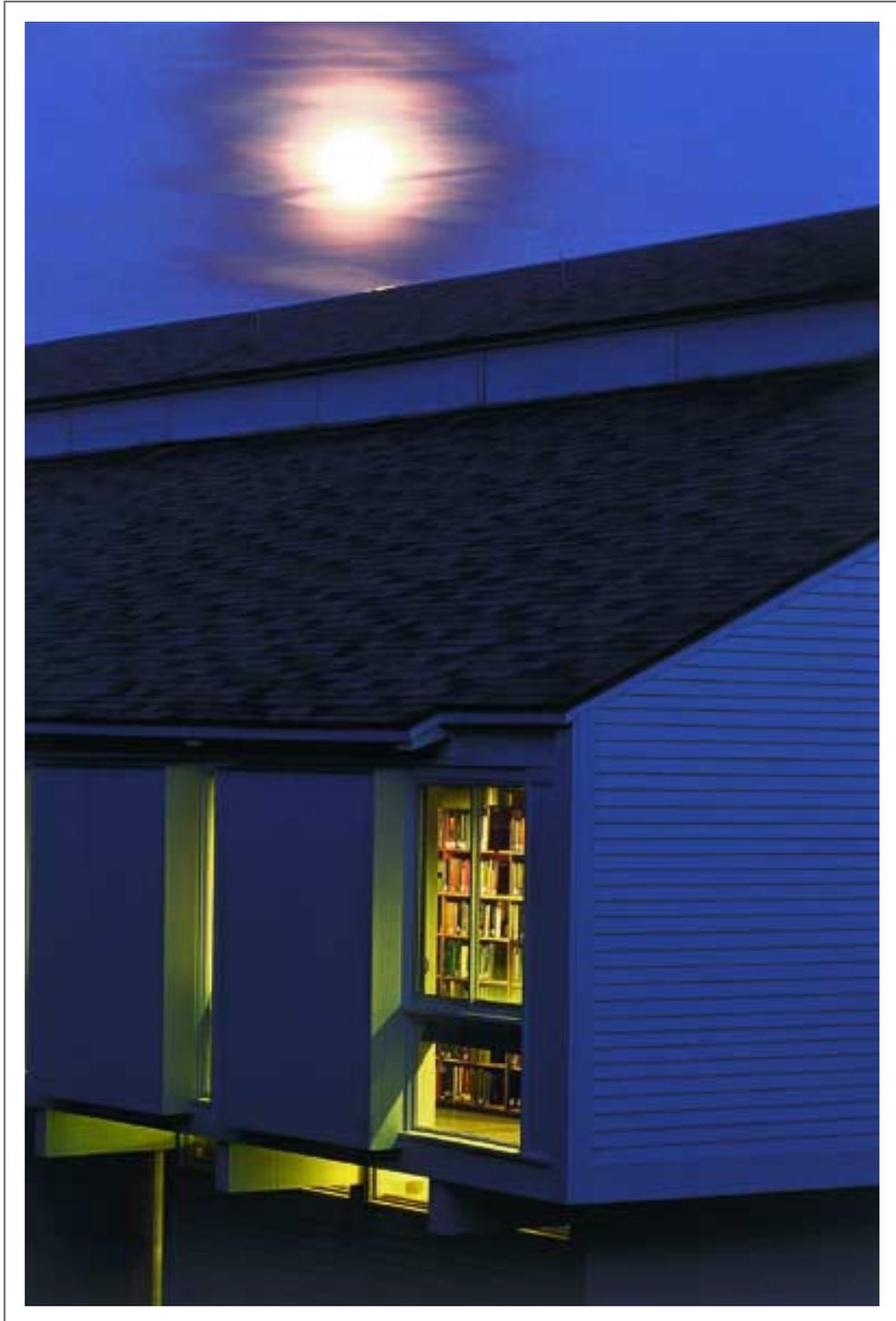


# Potash Hill

The Magazine of Marlboro College • Winter 2001





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# Potash Hill

The Magazine of Marlboro College

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Cover photo: Full moon over Rice Library, by Jerry LeBlond  
 Back cover photo: Mather at sunset, by Jerry LeBlond

# JOURNEY TO SAFO

Text and photographs  
by Eugene Richards



THIS MORNING, the sky over Niger is clouded over and foreboding. The moon and the stars that would normally be visible this early, an astonishing net of diamonds, appear to have dropped off the earth. "It's going to rain," my traveling companion, Leslie, says wistfully when she feels the very first breath of wind; before then the air had been utterly still. In our car's headlights, we watch sticks and feathers and scraps of toilet tissue being blown down the streets. Halos of dust form above the tiny bumps of lantern light that mark where whole families are sleeping.

We drive cautiously leaving Maradi, a city of 65,000, dodging children who have crawled onto the road and the goats that wander everywhere, and are out on the brushy flatlands when the air abruptly turns hotter, the sun brighter. Yesterday, when we were in Safo, the home of 3,500 Hausa, traditional healers performed to the beating of drums "a dance for rain" around a sacred baobab tree. These women danced to exhaustion. Yet here it is again, the sun, sickly white, streaming upward, draining what color, moisture and relief the nighttime had lent this parched earth.

Barely five minutes later, after jouncing across the dried-up river, we pass two boys plowing with oxen, then climb a hill into the clay-walled village. Our documentation of health conditions almost completed, this will be our last day in Safo before heading home. We are returning to say our good-byes. We stop first at the compound of the village chief, then at Hassana's house. Hassana had been Leslie's mentor the years she worked here as a Peace Corps nurse; the family has been a great help to us on this trip.

The women in the compound are already at work, hunched over, pounding grain in rhythm with each other, tending the cook fires, stirring the morning meal and shelling peanuts, while



the infants on their backs contentedly sleep. They see us, and we are nearly overwhelmed by a chorus of greetings.

"*Ina kwana?*" (How did you spend the night? Did you sleep in health?) "*Ina kwana?*" a dozen people call out. Leslie, who had learned to speak Hausa, is drawn away into conversations.

"*Ina kwana?*" I'm asked again.

And I reply, "*Lafiyalo.*" (In health) "*Lafiyalo.*"

"*Ina gajiya?*" (Are you tired?) "*Ina aiki?*" (How is your work?) More questions.

"*Lafiyalo, lafiyalo,*" I reply again, but more timidly. Men repairing the compound's walls are waving to me. They want to talk to me about the work they are doing, about the long years of drought, about the photographs they see me taking. But I'm embarrassed that even now, after working in Safo for two weeks, I can't speak more than a few Hausa words.

Sensing how I'm feeling, Hassana approaches me, and for a brief moment holds both my hands. Then she touches her heart—a way of saying to me, I think, that

despite my shortcomings I'm still welcome here. Before we leave, we are invited to share some of the morning meal, a porridge made with millet. The usual diet for Hassana's family, not one of the poorest in the village, is this millet porridge in the morning and afternoon, millet paste flavored with the juice of okra leaves in the evening.

Now I'm told to hurry. Rahamou, "the old woman," is waiting for me to do the interview we planned and say a final good-bye to her. When we enter the tiny compound, she is sitting surrounded, as always, by children, and just out of reach of the late morning sun. She makes a sweeping motion with her hand, and it becomes hushed, but for the sounds coming from beyond the wall. Because it is market day, ox-drawn carts are being piled high with millet, pots and firewood to be sold in Maradi. And so I begin my interview of this extraordinary woman, with Leslie as translator.

"How old are you?" I ask as a way to begin, though I already know the answer.

"Eighty years," Rahamou answers with a polite nod.

"How long have you lived in Safo?"

"Since the day I came out of my mother."

"Was Safo different when you were a child?"

"Yes, very different," she answers, lifting her chin and speaking louder. "There were many trees, and the river was here all year and it rained a lot. People were able to eat more food and were able to eat bush meat. Elephants. And we would also kill those animals that eat people—lions—and we would eat those, too. There were fish in the river that we would eat."

The growing crowd around Rahamou is now calling out answers. "Yes, yes... Now the rains never come... Yes, the millet doesn't grow... Our stomachs are never full."

"So why do you think you have lived for so many years?"

"Allah," Rahamou replies, without hesitating.

"How many times did you give birth?"

"Eleven times, but only three are alive."

"Why did some of them die?"

"Because of Allah."

"Were they sick or malnourished or did they have accidents?"

"Don't you remember the baby I had who was sick?" Rahamou asks. She stares at me. I want to tell her that I could never forget Bilia. "Well," she adds, "my children died like that."

The very first child the village midwives wanted to show us when we began our research two weeks ago was a severely malnourished ten-month-old. Her lymph nodes were swollen, her liver enlarged. The baby had been given a penicillin injection at the poorly equipped and understaffed local clinic. The malum, the spiritual healer, had made tiny leather amulets for the child to make her eat.

The second child that we were shown, moments later, was also malnourished and dehydrated. Named Bilia, he was being carried on the sinewy back of Rahamou, his great-grandmother. The boy's mother, Rahamou's granddaughter, had died two years earlier, and now the child was refusing food and water. When our offer to transport the boy to hospital was turned down, Leslie explained to Rahamou how to prepare an oral rehydration solution with water, salt and sugar. And after asking permission, I made a photograph, inches from her and the boy who would cry in pain as he slipped in and out of sleep.

Two days later, Leslie and I went to Rahamou's house to check on Bilia. Some men sitting in the shade outside informed us that the boy's condition had very suddenly worsened and the old woman had to carry



# The Re-imagined World

J. Birjepatil

OF SURESH JOSHI

*THERE ARE AT LEAST 14 major languages in India with literary traditions that are older than English, but the world only knows works produced mostly in the West by English-speaking Indians such as myself.*

*Suresh Joshi, one of the most distinguished writers in modern India, wrote in Gujarati, a dialect of Sanskrit and the language of Mahatma Gandhi. I got to know Joshi during my tenure as professor of English at Baroda University in Western India and eventually came to think of him as one of my teachers. Although I am not literate in Gujarati or any other Indian language, Joshi asked me to help him edit his short story "Circle," which he had translated into English. I was also invited by Sahitya Akademi—an agency established by the government of India to make creative writing in Indian languages available to readers outside India—to edit 10 short stories by Joshi, translated into English by eminent bilingual scholars in India.*

*Born in 1912 to an Audichya Brahmin family in a tiny, map-eluding spot called Valod in Gujarat, Joshi was deeply read in Eastern and Western philosophy and literature and drew on a whole repertoire of artistic strategies. He experimented in Gujarati with cinematic montage and trompe l'oeil competing narratives where the embedded secondary reality superceded the primary world. By problematizing the imbalance between traditional values and the perplexing and morally directionless state of modern Indian society, he sought to confound the reader's idea of reality itself.*

*But Joshi's more ambitious work defies classification and requires the finely honed skills one brings to the reading of Kafka, Joyce and Borges. The necessity that drove his work was the fashioning of an interiorized private self, reaching out to a community of minds beyond regional and national boundaries. A serious reader will soon discover that because of its self-reflexive urbanity, Joshi's fiction, not unlike Rushdie's, generates a diasporic discursive space. And yet Gujarat and India remain the ground and horizon of Suresh Joshi's writing.*

*In stories like "Circle," Joshi's writing becomes truly inaugural. All precursive ghosts are laid to rest and a fiercely original script takes shape. He wanted the translation to retain the playfulness and lightness of touch of the original. We worked on it for several months. To say that it is impossible to negotiate a nuanced transfer from one language to another is to labor the obvious. In the first draft I had managed to Anglicize the idiom to a point where the flavor of the original Gujarati had dissipated. To reproduce in English the shape and feeling of Suresh Joshi's Gujarati is like trying to make bricks without straw. What dictated our final choice of one word over another was the idea that there is such a thing as what George Steiner calls "the shared logic of emotions" that can help trace the hidden roads from one culture to another.*

*I believe that translation is possible only when boundaries between languages are made as porous as between meaning and significance and when non-transposable singularities are highlighted rather than*

Marlboro literature professor J. Birjepatil recently completed editing a collection of English translations of short stories by eminent Indian writer Suresh Joshi. He shares here his thoughts on Joshi and the process of translating fiction. On the following page begins one of those translations, "The Circle."

him to the hospital in Maradi. She may have had to walk 11 kilometers, they said. When we arrived at the hospital in Maradi, women who were waiting there with babies told us that Bilia had died. We hurried back to Safo, but still couldn't find Rahamou. Villagers later told us that she would have stopped on the way back at the home of relatives, who would prepare the boy for burial.

I dreamt that night about my meeting with a man who had tuberculosis and about Rahamou. The man with tuberculosis was sitting alone in a three-sided hut, in a kind of isolation, coughing, emaciated, his shoulder blades as slim and shiny as bat wings. Around him, peering in, very afraid, were his relatives and neighbors. Rahamou, when I dreamt of her, was walking across the ashy, blistering hot landscape, never reaching her destination. The lifeless child was against her bare back.

Leslie and I awoke early, both having slept badly. At Rahamou's compound, a great crowd of villagers had gathered to express their sympathy.

"I heard the news about Bilia," Leslie said. "Ba shi," Rahamou softly replied. "Ba shi," meaning he's no longer here, he's not anywhere.

"When did it happen?" Leslie asked. "Yesterday, when the sun was straight overhead."

Listening, not wanting to take pictures or intrude, I stood in back of the crowd. But Rahamou suddenly motioned for me to come forward. Remembering that the photographs I had made earlier were of her and the critically ill Bilia, she asked if I would please take a different picture of her. One that spoke of the future, perhaps a happier one. One with "a fat baby," she said.

Rahamou adjusted her head cloth and dress and lifted the chubbiest baby in the compound onto her lap. She looked straight at me. The infant cooed and giggled. I took the picture.



Eugene Richards is the author of nine books, including *Americans We*, 1995 winner of the International Center of Photography Award for Best Photographic Book. He was a visiting artist at Marlboro in 1999. "Journey to Safo" originally appeared in *Choices: The Human Development Magazine*. It is reprinted by permission of the author.

*smothered. When translating from an Indian language into English, the most formidable challenge is how to translate a gendered subject into a neutral one. Joshi's Gujarati is not policed by a metanarrative and preserved like an artifact in a museum. When he uses an everyday sort of word in an unusual context, its very meaning is being rethought. He used to say that writing often engenders the words it requires; the right word often slips out of the previous sentence like natural birth. Strangeness is his mode, and in his text lurk ghosts of other languages. Arresting the flow of his textuality with a literal English prototype results in the loss of texture. Every translation is a site of "mourning"; something precious has already been lost. I believe that translation as the "outlived" must transform this sense of deprivation into celebration of the spirit of the original.*

## The Circle

by  
Suresh  
Joshi  
and  
J. Birje patil  
translated  
by  
Suresh  
Joshi

SUDDENLY Labhshankar stopped to listen, those footsteps—they sounded familiar. The intruder might escape if his presence were revealed. He stood there motionless, afraid to breathe. The silence was palpable, it seemed to draw those steps closer. A shiver rocked his body, his eyelids drooped, and his left hand began to stroke the big wart on his forehead. It was an old habit.

His wife often tweaked him about it. "Why did you marry me," she would say, "that stupid excrescence means more to you than I ever did. You never caress me that way. That ugly bump is your Lord Protector—your holy sanctuary. A little tiff with somebody and you climb right back on it. You act as though its mere touch would make you invincible."

Now his wife was no more. But that wart, well, it was still going strong and from something as minute as a chickpea it had swollen to the size of Ganesha's ball of sweets. Many a fearsome demon vanquished by the wart languished within its walls. That day, accosted by a new demon within yards from home, he had ducked behind the wart.

Beads of perspiration dotted his forehead. Few drops, picking traction from the wart,

dripped down his eyelids. He wiped them off like tears, but his eyes had snapped open with their moist touch. Yet that strange sense of heaviness persisted. He cocked his ear once again, but all he heard was the pounding of his own heart. He shrugged off the thought of those footsteps. "Why, I must have been hallucinating." But the very next moment, with a pang of recognition he cried out,

"Raman! Raman!"

Not even an echo ruffled the absolute silence this time. The mirage curled into a bubble and he felt someone's breath tickle his shoulder. He stared blindly into the void for a long time, then asked, "Raman, have you come to fetch me? Where's your mother? Where's Bakul?" Faces of his two dead boys and their mother began to stain the mirage. He hastened towards them, but an odd sort of heaviness, as though he were staggering to the burning ghat under the collective weight of their three corpses, kept him from moving. He wiped off the sweat running down his eyes. As he rubbed them clean and peered into the mist ahead, he spotted a splash of red at some distance. At once he relaxed. "Thank the Lord, home at last," he thought.

"Surely that red object is the mailbox and I should be home pretty soon." But his leaden body slumped to the ground, while his mind raced ahead. There was that rusty padlock and that broken windowpane which had stayed that way through all these years. One evening, returning home rather late, he had peeped in through that pane. His wife, after a long anxious wait, had dozed off by the window. To take her by surprise, he had playfully lobbed a tiny pebble at that pane. Rising in terror with a scream, she had hurled herself at him, clinging to him in fright. Soon passion had overtaken panic. Now, luxuriating in the warm glow of that distant moment, he could not quite shake off that feeling of heaviness around his shoulders. His reverie broken, the present lumbered back with heavy steps.

He clutched a bagful of vegetables; their fresh smell stirred in him a sense of joyous anticipation. He had always been something of a gourmet. Till the end of her life, his wife's culinary skill never rose beyond the average. Now the pungent smell of spices crackling in the pan stung his nostrils; the aroma wafting from fresh coriander and garlic were now his confederates in that desolate house. Often pensively he would light the stove and cook his depression away. His interest was purely gastronomical. He wasn't given to wolfing down food. What he savored most was the appetizing smell rising from dishes at various stages of cooking. Children from the neighborhood would pop in, drawn in by those smells. Labhshankar loved to watch them eat. And those two salivating old crones. They would shuffle up, licking their chops. Dalsukhram, who was roughly Labhshankar's age, would often quip, "I bet if the God of Death came to fetch you, he would take time to gorge on your food before

hauling you away." Every single stage through which a dish passed before it was ready to be served had him deeply entranced. The smell of rice soaking in water, smoke rising from the logs in the grate, the tang of lush green vegetables and the pat of ghee dissolving in a fair portion of rice—all, all filled him with absolute joy. Who knows, perhaps his taste buds were not as finely tuned as his sense of smell! Once, holding his wife's soft hand, he had moaned in rapturous delight "Why, you are a dainty cucumber."

He propped himself up from the ground and instantly felt something crawl up his arm. When he managed to adjust his sight, he saw a green caterpillar, a real whopper, dislodge itself from a radish leaf to sneak under the sleeve of his jacket. He couldn't brush it off. He was unable to lift his hand, which hung from his shoulder as if it were totally indifferent to his plight. It no longer seemed to take orders from him.

Mimicking the caterpillar, Labhshankar tried to crawl forward. He had a sensation of moving. The whole world of objects around him began to glide with him, including the sun in the sky and the demons who had scaled the prison walls of the wart. Since every single thing within sight was on the march, it was difficult to tell movement from stillness. The red dot of the mailbox had vanished, everything inched forward like a turtle and the mirage seemed to close in from every direction. Even sounds made by tiny things fell in step with him. A strong current gushing forth from the mirage bore him away. Chunks and chunks of flesh from his dismembered body whirled in the maelstrom and gradually sank to the bottom. Terrified, he desperately clung to his wart. He directed the army of demons spilling out of the wart to



build a levee against the floods released by the mirage. Several thousand molecules of sound from his immediate vicinity began to crawl up his body like that caterpillar. Panic-stricken millipedes scampered up and down his back. He began to sort them out one by one. Some infant sounds had not even opened their eyes. He tried to scrape them up with his fingertips. The toothless mouths of some of the sounds lisped unintelligibly, then tightly sealing their lips, they stared at him: he heard the tintinnabulation of anklets on the wobbly legs of his own infancy, the sharp report when his irate grandfather slapped his cheek, the furtively uttered obscenities picked up from friends, his tiger-like roaring when he'd tried to scare a bevy of chattering girls on their way home from school, his son Ramu's cry of pain whilst he twisted his ears coming up from behind, his voice breaking unexpectedly in his late teens—it had sounded unfamiliar like that of a stranger, his frenzied sobbing in the empty house, pining for someone or something, the logs crackling on his grandfather's funeral pyre, the tinkle of bangles breaking on his widowed aunt's arms, the lilt in that girl's voice as she whispered the first words of love he had ever heard, the anguished moan wrung out of his lonely heart when he lay delirious with high fever, the hissing of thousands of cobras uncoiling in every vein of his body one evening in the month of Shravana, death stalking his house for five long years, the flutter of tear-stained eyes smarting in the fumes of nuptial fires, his shoulder blades rattling under some dead weight, the cry of his firstborn announcing his arrival in the middle of the night, the whoosh of his wife's breath blowing off the taper by which he read till the small hours, the thud of some unfamiliar weight descending

on his chest in the hush of one sleepless night, the heart-rending shriek of a mother stumbling after her firstborn's hearse, the sound of the wart growing bigger every night, the joints of his second dying son's fingers cracking as they sank deep into his flesh like roots of a tinder-dry tree, the swish of the widowed wind chasing him all the way into the house, one unlit evening the clack of rudraksha beads passing through his fingers, shadows of flames dancing on the wall glimpsed while waking up from a nightmare, the slow-breathing silence, the respiration of grief looking deep into his eyes one night, death scrabbling to get in through the closed door, the faintly lisping faces in the photograph, coming suddenly alive in the glow of the evening lamp, the skulls of fleeing ghosts banging on the doors at dawn, the racking of the sun in the crucible of darkness, the gurgle of the dark current towing away the bloated corpse of the drowned moon, and the deep growl of a chimera trying to trap with its fangs all those myriad voices. By then, Labhshankar could only watch helplessly, getting himself more and more entangled in the gathering skeins of sounds. Like lichen strangling a ruined monument, those sounds dug into him with their tiny claws, and as that caterpillar continued to scrape away at the radish leaf, there was no letup in the ravaging of his body by the sounds. He made one last desperate effort to brush those sticky sounds off, but in the process, he himself seemed to cave in like ash, crumbling from a consumed joss stick. He tried to sink like a fading ember deep into a pile of ash.

He feared that he would be naked to the bone, once the ash was scattered by his own breath or by the murmurous waves skimming

through the air. He wondered if the auspicious vermilion mark on his wife's forehead could shield him. What if he camouflaged himself among the shades of darkness lodged for generations in the rafters of his house or got locked within the lock itself or climbed right back into the womb. He doggedly tried to make himself as inconspicuous as possible, knocked on the doors of seedlings dozing under the loam, making himself into a ball he rolled under the curves of fresh buds, laid himself down among spent bullets on a battlefield, tried to cut his way into a corpse's bone, wormlike wriggled into the red ooze of the sun and looking for a hideout tried to hobble into Time's shattered cranium. Finally, scratching himself like that caterpillar and diving deep within himself, he searched for a hiding place, hacking his way through an outgrowth of several millennia, but when he attempted to duck into a sculptor's discarded mold of a godhead, it cracked open at his touch. In the end, taking courage in both hands, his sense of vulnerability notwithstanding, he prepared for a final showdown with the Void and hurled himself into Nothingness like a comet, sending sparks all over, and as he soared incandescent, the entire zodiac caprioled into light. With a profound sigh, the sun opened its eye, the ocean billowed skywards, the winds began to play, the forest hummed, birds warbled, children smiled.

J. Birjepatil has taught English literature at Marlboro since 1987. He is the author of *Beneath the Axel Tree*, a critical study of the work of T. S. Eliot, and he has just completed a manuscript examining cultural hybridity in Indian garrison townships, focusing on the work of such Indian-born British authors as Rudyard Kipling and Lawrence Durrell. His critical articles and poetry have appeared in a number of journals and anthologies.

Photo by  
Patrick Hahn '00



Patrick Hahn '00



Patrick Hahn '00 spent eight months in India, most of that time teaching art to children aged 2 to 11 in Udaipur, Rajasthan, while conducting research for his Marlboro Plan of Concentration. These are photos of his students. "I wouldn't take a picture of any of the kids until I'd known them at least a month," he said. The photos were "a reflection of my relationship with them."





*In 1994 Alan Weisman was one of a handful of journalists who traveled the world to document humanity's search for solutions to global environmental and social problems. Weisman chose to report on Gaviotas, Colombia, in the heart of the llano—the barren grasslands along Colombia's eastern border. He'd been told that 25 years earlier a group of Colombian visionaries had decided that if they could fashion self-sustaining peace and prosperity in this, one of the most daunting places on earth, it could be done anywhere. Weisman returned to Gaviotas several times in the following years, and in 1998 published Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World (Chelsea Green Publishing Co.). Last year, he participated in Marlboro's lecture series "El Medio Ambiente: Cultural and Environmental Landscapes of Latin America."*

# Tapping the Gaviotas Pines

Text and photographs by Alan Weisman

TWENTY YEARS EARLIER, Paolo Lugari, founder of the remarkable village in Colombia known as Gaviotas, had told Oscar Gutiérrez, the first Gaviotas doctor, something that seemed particularly crazy—even for Lugari. At the time they were flying over the pallid green llano, Colombia's vast eastern savanna, laced with darker green ribbons of riparian forest along the sluggish caños. Savannas are usually considered transitional zones between rain forest and desert or coastline, but Lugari insisted that the caños were like probing fingers of jungle, feeling their way back to their former domain. In primordial times, Lugari explained, the llano of Colombia and Venezuela—a mostly treeless expanse the size of New England—had been part of the Amazon, until rising trade winds blew fires through the region faster than the rain forest could regenerate. "The forest can repopulate itself here, Oscar," he told him solemnly. Oscar had wondered if he was out of his mind.

But now, two decades later, in 1996, returning to a Gaviotas reminiscent of a jungle settlement surrounded by thousands of hectares of dense woods, he experienced an eerie feeling that Lugari's premonition had come true. When they showed him the tropical forest sprouting among

the Caribbean pines they had planted—the latest count was 245 native species—he was convinced. How could Paolo have known?

For years, the Gaviotans had become known in their country for their artful devices that tapped solar and wind power. The Caribbean pines that they'd discovered could grow in these poor soils had turned out to be veritable nutrient pumps, machines that processed light and water into a forest product for which they had found an ample clientele. "Whether we do it with solar collectors or with trees," Paolo told him, "our future is to transform sunlight into energy."

Best of all, like solar energy, the forest product they were harvesting—natural pine resin, which has myriad industrial and medicinal uses—was renewable. It wasn't the sap they were drawing, but a fluid produced by the bark that acted like a natural insecticide, protecting the tree from wood-boring ants and other pests. They could safely tap a pine for at least eight years, working their way up the trunk on four sides, then resting the tree for another eight years, then beginning again. This would mean never having to chop their forest down in order to make a living from it. And, like an extra bonus for finding a way to have their resource and profit from it too, when they heated raw resin to purify it, the residue was another marketable by-product: clear turpentine.

A Bogotá engineering professor had helped Gaviotas design a steam boiler that would burn trees and branches thinned from the forest in a two-tiered oven designed to produce nearly smokeless heat, to refine their harvest into the clear, cultured amber known as industrial-quality gum resin. Since the wood fuel came from their own renewable

agro-forestry crop, the contribution of added carbon dioxide to the atmosphere would be zero. Years earlier, Gaviotas had developed microhydroturbines sensitive enough to produce 10 kilowatts from the languid tropical caño that meandered through the village. But they still depended partly on a diesel plant, especially during dry months when the stream ran low. Now, however, a two-cylinder, steam-driven co-generating engine would draw upon the resin boiler's exhaust vapors to generate electricity, bringing Gaviotas virtually to full energy self-sufficiency. (As a result, Gaviotas was awarded the 1997 World Prize in Zero Emissions from ZERI, the United Nations' Zero Emissions Research Initiative.)

Paolo and Oscar followed what sounded like a flock of giant woodpeckers to a cool glade where men were hacking incisions in the pine bark and stapling plastic bags in place for resin collection. The *resineros* wore Gaviotas caps, long-sleeved shirts, and rubber boots to guard against pit vipers and carnivorous ants. About 60 in all, according to Project Director Otoniel Carreño, were drawing resin from 250,000 trees. Many

were Guahibo Indians who had been children when Oscar had been the doctor here, and he was bemused to watch them zip in and out of the forest on white all-terrain bicycles adorned with the Gaviotas logo. They headed to a test patch where the men were collecting resin with receptacles made from old bike inner tubes; once perfected, Otoniel said, the design would be reusable, eliminating the need for plastic



bags. Next, Otoniel showed them coffee plants growing between rows of five-foot pines.

"We have another experimental plot in open llano. But we think they're going to do better here in the shade of the pines."

"Coffee needs good soil. Are you fertilizing?"

They had divided their test plants into two groups. One received mineral supplements similar to those used in hydroponics. Others were getting cow manure. "But," said Otoniel, stooping down and picking up a handful of soft tan dirt, "we think we might be able to go with just this. Look."

He opened his hands. They were filled with the decomposing residue of pine needles, leaf mold, and bark from various native plants. Otoniel dug down a few inches and came up with more powdery humus. "Pines are supposed to make soil too acidic. But the pH of this is far less acidic than the surrounding llano. We're making soil here. Real organic soil. Look at all the stuff growing here." Oscar glanced around at the flourishing native undergrowth, in time to glimpse a pair of gray foxes disappear into a thicket.

"In three years, when this coffee matures," Otoniel told him, "we'll know if we have a new viable crop here. Café Orgánico de Gaviotas—think it'll sell?" He laughed, stood, and wiped his hands. "It'll be interesting to see if it's pine-scented."

Thirteen years earlier, this woodland—now the biggest reforestation in Colombia, including all the government's forestry projects combined—had been mainly empty savanna, devoid of anything but low, nutrient-poor grasses. By 1995, the number of trees Gaviotas had planted was approaching six million.



When the early Gaviotans first came out to these largely deserted eastern Colombian plains from Bogotá in the early 1970s, intent on seeing if humans could one day survive here when the fertile regions of their country grew too populous, they had tested hundreds of crops. Nothing thrived in these highly acidic, rain-leached tropical soils, whose natural levels of aluminum bordered on toxicity. Then, in 1982, a Venezuelan agronomist suggested they try seedlings of *Pinus caribaea*, the tropical pine that grew in a variety of soils throughout Central America. The soil engineer at Gaviotas, Dr. Sven Zethelius, obtained seedlings from Guatemala, Nicaragua, Belize, and Honduras. Surprisingly, they all grew, with the *hondurensis* variety performing the best. The Gaviotans debated among themselves whether it was wise to cultivate an exotic species. Some argued that the issue was political, not environmental, since the same pines also grow in Panama, which was once part of Colombia. Had the United States

not stolen the isthmus and installed a puppet government in order to dig their canal, these would still be native Colombian trees.

The controversy was settled by a succession of random occurrences, the kind of unpredictability that the Gaviotans had come to love as they tinkered with improving reality. Over the previous twelve years, Gaviotas had become known as a far-fetched scientific experiment that proved successful beyond anyone's wildest expectations. Back in the late 1960s, guessing that someday either Colombia's cities would become unmanageably swollen or people needing places to live would start chopping down all the forests, Paolo Lugari had launched a one-man campaign to convince scientists, engineers and students from local universities to see if the forbidding eastern llanos—home mainly to mosquitoes and malaria—could become habitable for human beings.

A decade later, what began as a field camp had turned into a permanent community that had contrived ingenious devices for not just

surviving, but thriving in a land where eight months of rain per year washed all the nutrition from the soils. In 1979—after seeing Gaviotas solar collectors that worked under rainy skies; hand pumps that could draw water seven times beyond the reach of conventional pumps (and which were so easy to use that they'd connected them to see-saws to tap kid power for the village); lightweight windmills that could harness soft tropical breezes; and hydroponic systems for growing vegetables without soil—the United Nations Development Programme named Gaviotas a model village to the Third World in appropriate technology. Constant encouragement to be creative had produced some instructive failures, but even more serendipitous, innovative successes. But who would have foreseen that the same approach could apply to agro-forestry?

Who could have guessed, for example, that Caribbean pines would prove to be sterile in the llanos, posing no invasive competition to local flora? Or that their bark resin would flow so copiously here that it could be harvested like maple syrup—more, really, like milk from cows, because tapping the thick amber liquid seemed to stimulate production without hurting the trees? Or that pines would mature here nearly a decade faster than forestry texts predicted? Or that beforehand, Colombia had been importing \$4 million worth of resins annually for paint, varnishes, turpentine, cosmetics, perfume, medicines, rosin for violin bows—until, that is, Gaviotas inaugurated a forest industry that involved leaving trees in place, not cutting them down?

As in weeding a garden, routine forestry practice requires clearing underbrush that might compete with or actually displace the cash crop. Partly to avoid herbicides, partly

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due to cost and labor, partly out of curiosity, Gaviotas hadn't bothered to eliminate the extraneous foliage that inevitably sprang up in the pine rows. Since they weren't adding fertilizer, they reasoned that the surrounding savanna grasses might contribute some meager nourishment to the sparse soils. As the pines grew surprisingly fast, there seemed to be no need to weed subsequent plantings, even when all kinds of vines, shrubs, and woody plants began emerging in the moist, cool shade of the spreading pine boughs.

Paolo pointed through the pines at a doe and fawn lapping rainwater from resin catchments. "We're seeing wildlife in this forest that had nearly disappeared," he whispered. "Deer, anteaters, capybaras, armadillos, eagles. But especially," he said, indicating the tangle of vines he was disengaging from his ankle, "all this."

All around them, interspersed among the pines, grew shrubs with crimson flowers, wispy purple jacarandas, curare, sandbox trees, paper-barked white saplings called tuno blancos, and wild fig vines, where formerly there were only a few kinds of grasses. No one knew for certain if these were from dormant seeds of native trees not seen on the savanna for millennia or if birds were sowing seeds from the gallery forests here with their droppings. According to Sven Zethelius, either way the reforestation was unprecedented: Sheltered by Caribbean pine trees, a diverse, indigenous tropical forest was either regenerating or being replanted in the llanos with surprising speed.

"The native plants don't hurt the pines?"

"We think to the contrary. The biologists believe this is a much healthier forest than pine plantations in Venezuela, because it's not a monoculture. Our trees grow and

mature faster than theirs."

"Amazing." Dr. Gutiérrez recognized ficus, laurels, scheffleras, ferns, horsetails, several legumes and an assortment of flowering specimens whose taxonomy he couldn't immediately identify, but which he thought might hold pharmacological promise.

"Still," said Paolo, "we expect that one day the tropical foliage will overrun them. Sven tells us that we can harvest resin for decades until the natural forest chokes out the *Pinus caribaea*. We want to keep marching across the savanna, planting more pine trees, and leaving a tropical rain forest in our wake. We can give seedlings to all our neighbors, process their resin, turn this desert into a productive land, employ *campesinos* and the Guahibo, and at the same time return the llanos to their primeval state: an extension of the Amazon. Just imagine: There are 250 million hectares of savannas like these in South America alone. There's Africa. The tropical Orient. Places where there's space and sun and water. If we show the world how to plant them in sustainable forests, we can give people productive lives and maybe absorb enough carbon dioxide to stabilize global warming in the process. This is a gift just as important as our pumps and solar water purifiers. Everywhere else they're tearing down rain forests. We're showing how to put them back."

#### POSTSCRIPT

At the close of my book, *Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World*, from which the above material is excerpted and adapted, Dr. Oscar Gutiérrez vows to return to Gaviotas to found a center for medicinal plant research. Gutiérrez, now a professor of pharmacology at

a Cali university, saw immense commercial possibilities in the natural understory regenerating in the shade of the Gaviotas pines: medicines that could provide not only yet-unknown cures for various diseases, but a viable cash crop to substitute for the illegal drugs that have become the bane of his country.

This and other encouraging plans for Gaviotas' future noted in those final pages have not yet come to pass. Rather, along with most normal human activity in Colombia, they have been usurped by a staggering, ferocious expansion of the country's civil war. For decades, this was a class conflict, waged against wealthy elites by leftist guerrilla groups purporting to represent disenfranchised poor people. Today's reality is far more complicated, as all sides have been corrupted by the lucre of illegal drugs. The stakes have soared so high, and the armaments so plentiful and powerful, that the only certainty is that no one is safe anywhere in Colombia. The drug war is also an economic war, of course—the vast, illegal traffic in drugs and arms is the dirty underside of our much-vaunted global economy. In prosperous countries like the United States, the effects of drugs and guns are merely a minor irritant compared to the hell that is Colombia today: For the Colombians, the very future existence of their nation is now in serious doubt.

Huge swaths of the incomparable Colombian ecosystem—home to more bird species than anywhere else; second in plants and amphibians; third in reptiles—have been either mowed down for coca cultivation or defoliated with drug-eradicating herbicides. Amidst all this environmental, economic, and social terror, Gaviotas still manages to cling to survival. Trucks bearing its renewable resin have been hijacked; clients ensnared in the war's

fiscal paralysis frequently can't pay for its products; supplies now barely flow between the village and Bogotá because the army suspects every shipment through the hinterlands to be destined for guerrillas. Scores of civilians in the surrounding savannas have been massacred; battles have even occurred in the Gaviotas forest. The llano and Gaviotas have become far too dangerous for visits from foreigners, who are prime targets in a country where kidnapping for ransom has become a major fund-raising activity for both right-wing paramilitaries and left-wing guerrillas.



Nevertheless, the trees, millions of them now, continue to grow: both the Caribbean pines and the reborn native species, whose diverse taxonomy unfortunately remains largely unstudied—another casualty of the war. The people of Gaviotas have shown the world huge, bountiful possibilities for reversing environmental destruction and for living sensibly and productively. Their own future, though, is largely beyond their control—it's no longer a question of whether their fascinating experiment will succeed, but whether the world will let it.

These poems are from Wyn Cooper's new collection, *The Way Back*, published by White Pine Press. He taught at Marlboro from 1993 to 1996, and now lives and writes on Green River Road in Halifax, Vermont.

## The Way Back

The sound the form the way it is  
the way the bricks climb the wall  
to form the building where we sit  
making sounds with words we found

The sound the beat the way it was  
the pounding from within the walls  
leaking out to August night  
sheen of cars beneath the stars

The bird the worm words not said  
pavement wet no tread no tire  
dogs that run beside the car  
chasing sounds of who you are

The moon the wind the winding road  
the way the houses blur  
the families inside looking out  
purr of engine puff of smoke

The sign the miles ways to go  
here to there and then get home  
another way through the hills  
a road that no one knows

The car the night the radio  
the songs that make you young  
what they shine on there and there  
seen at last for what they mean

The sound the light the way to be  
the music driving into night  
notes from somewhere coming on  
telling stories of the road

The lost the found the in between  
the place we find ourselves  
and now the room the fire lit  
sleep to take us way back home

## Train

Train skims fields like a low-flying  
plane, dusting the crops with poison,  
looking for the one bad seed.

It runs through woods like a man  
after dope, tracks still warm to the touch  
of a hand, vibration fading fast.

Train floats through a bog of bones  
where voices rise to rancor,  
rise from water to the din of air.

What happened there can be felt  
on the train, the shudder  
of wheels off the track.

Train cuts through rock  
where no road goes, no town  
lit up for welcome home.

It winds through the night  
blue and elastic, finds a way  
downhill around curves.

Train skids across the flats  
of ice, the word not said,  
the thought contained.

It pushes aside what stands  
in its way, unless it stands  
for something else, metaphor

backward, something big stands for  
something small, unimportant  
as weeds beside the rail bed.

## Firenze

The women have all gone  
to Italy. The men  
have stayed behind.

The women have gone to see  
what the men would have  
kept from them, which the men

can no longer have, now  
that the women have gone  
to a country shaped like a boot.

The men kick themselves with the boot  
in their heads, where it hurts most.  
At dawn they look into the sun,  
toward the ocean across which  
the women have flown.

The women are in Firenze. They burn  
in the midday sun, and they will  
burn tonight. The men continue  
to say "Florence," and wonder  
why they were left behind.

Poems by Wyn Cooper

# Take Back the Queers

Meg Mott

**A**BOUT SIX YEARS AGO, in the wake of the fatal stabbing of Judith Hart Fournier at the Mobil Station on Putney Road, I invited Jill Ker Conway to speak at Marlboro as a benefit for the Brattleboro Women's Crisis Center. The fact that Judith was killed in spite of having a restraining order against her assailant had raised concerns about the efficacy of the local sheriff's department. I asked Professor Conway to speak because I thought the former president of Smith College might add something to the discussion on how to protect women from similar fatal encounters. At the time, the women's community was in a particularly vehement law-and-order phase of development, and I assumed that any self-respecting feminist would join in the general chorus to enhance the powers of the state to put the perps away. But I was wrong. Unlike my sisters in the battered women's movement, Professor Conway didn't push for enhanced prosecutorial powers. She didn't want to put the men in jail, she wanted to challenge the very bourgeois notion of marriage.

Standing at the podium in a darkened Whittemore Theater, our stately speaker, dressed in a suitable light woolen suit, delivered a far more subversive speech on the

social condition of women than my radical friends could ever make. It is the nuclear family, said Conway, with its isolation and overdeveloped sense of privacy and property that is most harmful to women; not enraged ex-boyfriends or flaccid sheriff departments. Women do not need state protection, they need more public participation. The problem isn't necessarily male violence but the tyranny of bourgeois capitalism. In order to disrupt capitalism we need to disassemble its constituent unit: the nuclear family.

Unfortunately, Conway's critique has not informed the politics of our times. Not only did the Violence Against Women Act enhance the state's powers to prosecute domestic violence, giving the state more power to put both women and men in jail, but the institution of marriage has just received a resounding stamp of approval from gays and lesbians. When Governor Howard Dean signed the civil union bill into law, supporters celebrated his executive act as a step toward social equality, but there is another way of looking at this event. Rather than a step forward for gays and lesbians, Vermont's

civil union marks the encroachment of a bourgeois mentality into a formerly uncolored community: the nation of queers.

It wasn't that long ago that the gay agenda was bigger than the nuclear family. Queer activists questioned the constitutionality of anti-sodomy laws, demanded more public funding for AIDS research, and modeled the possibility of a sexuality outside of the abortion debate. Gay concerns were concerns of greater communities, of subverting existing norms and expanding the possibilities of what it means to love. Rather than demure couples exuding normalcy, the gay movement presented itself with the outrageousness of drag queens. Nowadays, instead of pushing envelopes we're pushing family values. Instead of reveling in extralegal improvisations, we're conforming to the requirements of a justice of the peace. And why are we so eager to join our souls into civil unions? Because of tax advantages? Insurance benefits? Where is the greater good in these nuclear concerns? Despite rhetoric to the contrary, civil union is not about social justice but about getting equal protection for private property.

The polemics surrounding Vermont's civil union make it hard to offer this critique; either you're for civil union or you're against

homosexuals. The people who are against civil union, and there are many in my town, put up signs that read Take Back Vermont, a back-handed compliment to the effectiveness of the rhetoric of the women's movement. After Judith was killed, we had a Take Back the Night rally here in Brattleboro. It was our way of taking back the sense of safety that Judith's assailant had wrongfully taken away. My neighbors are making the same claim: that something inalienable was given away, the Vermont that they knew and loved.

I'm tempted to join them in this rhetoric, however, with a slightly different twist. My campaign will read Take Back the Queers. I want to take back certain inalienable parts of my gay community: our sassy independence, our subversive culture and our remarkable ability to offer a social critique just by our very being. I want us to go back to thinking beyond the family, beyond income tax deductions and protecting property rights. We used to offer a real alternative to American middle-class values. Let's hope that all these civil unions don't undermine the real benefits of being queer.

Meg Mott is a visiting professor of political science at Marlboro College. A former columnist for the *Brattleboro Reformer*, her book *Catholic Roots and Democratic Flowers: The Political Systems of Spain and Portugal*, co-authored with Howard J. Wiarda, will be published this winter by Praeger Press.



# Hilly van Loon '62 retires

Susan Keese

**H**illy van Loon, an inveterate Town Meeting devotee, had been tempted to skip this one. It was May, a busy time, with the semester—her last as director of advising—building to its final crescendo. The meeting's main business was to be a forum on decision-making, an outgrowth of a winter-long debate. In the end she decided it was too important to miss. The dining hall was packed, she noted, as she took a seat.

When the forum was announced, Dean of Students Amy Angell and two students took their places by a flip chart with the letters W and E printed on the first page. One of the students flipped the page:

L-O-V-E.

He flipped again:

H-I-L-L-Y!

Suddenly the entire Marlboro community was on its feet, clapping and cheering. There were flowers and speeches and tears, a fold-out card scrawled with messages: "You seemed to know I could accomplish my ideas and dreams before I did," one student wrote. And: "When things were confusing, you helped me to be calm and organized." It was only the beginning of a wave of parties and honors that would include an honorary master of arts degree, presented at commencement, and a prize in Hilly's name: a gift from the Class of 2000.

Feelings had run high since Hilly's announcement—following the retirement of her husband, long-time Marlboro business manager Piet van Loon—that she planned to leave the college to work as a freelance editor and concentrate on her own literary memoir.

Hilly at 60 is a warm, quiet woman with an impulsive laugh tinged with perpetual amazement. In her years as director of advising, she became a central figure at Marlboro, a trusted liaison between students and faculty and staff. Her comfortable Mather office had been called the Switzerland of Marlboro—a neutral zone where people came to sort out complicated issues having to do with academics and much more.

"Hilly has a way of diffusing panic," said John Sheehy, co-director of the college writing program.

"She never backs away from the truth," added literature professor Geraldine Pittman de Batlle. "But the students trust her because she is absolutely kind, and always has their best interest at heart. She's good at telling us faculty what we're doing wrong, too. I always listen when she tells me, 'I think so-and-so is going through this or that...' because I know that she's telling me how to implement my academic standards without driving that student over the wire."



Ask Hilly to talk about herself and chances are she will tell you a story about someone else. An attentive listener seemingly unencumbered by ego, she has a concerned eye for nuance and detail that is also evident in her writing. She speaks of the young people she works with as “brave.”

“I guess I really am interested in other people and what their dilemmas are,” she said in an interview this summer. “I don’t care who they are, I’m interested in their stories. And I have a perspective on the college as a whole, which I think helps.”



That perspective dates back to 1959, when her parents—who knew then-President Tom Ragle from Exeter Academy, where Hilly’s father taught Latin and Greek—brought her to Marlboro for a visit following an unhappy year at an all-girls’ teacher’s college in Boston. She was Helen Gillespie then, a shy, observant girl who had never quite felt she fit in anywhere.

“I knew right way that I could be comfortable here,” Hilly said. “There were only fifty-six students. We were just like a little family! I loved singing in the chorus with Blanche Moyse, working on crew and Town Meeting committees and being part of a real community.”

Hilly met Piet in the room that would later become her advising office. He arrived in her second year. “Some of us came down from the women’s dorm to check out the new guys,” she said. “He was in that corner, building a wall cabinet for his books. He had been in the Marines. I thought he was intriguing.”

They were married in 1962, after Hilly graduated. Though Piet still had a year to go at Marlboro, they rented an apartment in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Hilly enrolled at the Harvard School of Education. Halfway into the semester, she became pregnant with the first of the three van Loon children. For most of the next decade, she and Piet lived in upstate New York, where Piet worked as a forester for Hamilton College and Hilly devoted herself to motherhood. Then in 1973 Tom Ragle asked Piet to return to Marlboro as business manager.

Hilly had already been active in Marlboro’s Alumni Association. Back in Vermont, she started stopping by the college when the kids were in school to collect material for *Potash Hill*. The magazine, which was just getting started, became Hilly’s project after she persuaded Ragle to hire her—at \$1,000 a year—as the college’s first alumni director. Ten years later she had worked her way up to a three-quarter time position when she decided that she wanted to try something different. Toward the end of her stint as alumni director she’d been “volunteered” as a student advisor. “I really liked getting to know the students,” she said. In 1983 she took a job as a college counselor at the Putney School. Three years later, when Marlboro was looking for someone to take its advising system in hand, Hilly was back wearing a new hat.



“John Hayes, who was dean then, trusted me to make the job what it needed to be,” Hilly recalled. One of her first responsibilities was to match up students with faculty advisors. But no guidelines existed that explained just what faculty advisors were supposed to do for their advisees. It took years of determined collaboration, with Hilly as the driving force, to develop the web of orientations and advisor training that exists at Marlboro now.

“It took me a while to feel comfortable telling faculty what I thought they should do,” Hilly said. “I wanted them to think about who the students were, and what it was going to mean to them to be in this environment.”

Gradually faculty came to rely on her advice. At midterm and final faculty meetings, they counted on Hilly to be ready with information and insights on any student who might possibly be in academic trouble. In her mind, no academic problem could be divorced from the student’s larger struggle. Speaking at the annual RA training, she urged dorm leaders to watch for little clues in the dining hall—who was sitting alone? who looked ill at ease?—to identify students who might be having trouble.

She became a point person for students with learning disabilities, an enormous task. Endless anxious outpourings over the Plan of Concentration convinced her that students needed more guidance. She began putting together workshops for students about to go “on Plan.” When the college equipped her with a computer, she immediately learned desktop publishing and began churning out information that had previously existed only in the minds of individuals. “So much of the college culture had never been written down!” she recalled.

First on her list was a two-year course book with guidelines for a Plan in each discipline. Next came the “Insiders’ Guide,” a pithy compendium of information for new faculty and staff, who invariably came to her with their questions. Later she helped organize an annual orientation for new college employees. She developed a library of graduate school information and published a newsletter with information on fellowships and other opportunities. Other projects were just getting started when she decided it was time to move on.

“There will never be a good time to leave,” she lamented. But as Hilly’s job has grown, Hilly has grown with it, gaining confidence and discovering, among other things, a strong voice of her own. One turning point, she said, was being asked to speak at Paul LeBlanc’s inauguration as college president in 1996. She had never been comfortable in front of an audience. But there were things she wanted to say. Looking into the crowd, Hilly said, she realized, “I can speak to these people.” She joined a writing group and began spinning out stories with an eccentric cast of characters and scenes from her childhood. She participated in readings at Marlboro and elsewhere, and has been encouraged by the response to her writing. “I want to write a book, damnit.”

Then, too, there is her garden, her weaving, her passion for sleuthing out flea-market treasures and antiques. And there’s Piet, who has more time now, and her children and grandchildren, who all live nearby. There’s travel—she spent two weeks in Ireland in September.

“Hilly can never be replaced,” someone said. “She can only be followed.” But she’s ready to move on.

Susan Keese, former editor of *Potash Hill*, is a freelance writer living in South Newfane. Her work appears in many magazines and newspapers.



**K.D. Maynard “comes home”** In the early eighties, when Hilly van Loon was ready to leave Marlboro's alumni office to begin a new career, K.D. Maynard was part of a small conspiracy of co-workers who convinced her that she had a knack for student advising. K.D., who was admissions director at Marlboro at the time, made the contact that landed Hilly a job in the counseling office at the Putney School. Several years later, when Hilly returned to Marlboro, K.D. found herself working in Hilly's old office at Putney.



Photo by  
Carlye Woodard '01

Now K.D. is back as Hilly's successor in the Marlboro advising office. She's excited about her new role as associate dean for academic advising. “It's an interesting combination of coming home and starting out brand new,” she says.

K.D. is looking forward to serving as a liaison between students and faculty and staff. She is passionately committed to looking at the big picture when it comes to academics and student life. She believes in the power of “substantive feedback,” which she says is all too rare in American culture. “All of us need concrete information about what we're doing well and how others perceive us,” she asserts. And she hopes to play a key role in Marlboro's efforts—spearheaded by the college's committee on the first two years—to define educational goals and provide increased guidance for students in the two years leading up to the Plan of Concentration.

For the past 10 years K.D. has worked as a teacher and administrator at Community College of Vermont, where, among other things, she taught an interdisciplinary seminar for new students. “After I get my feet wet, I hope I'll be teaching in the freshman seminars that Marlboro initiated last year,” she notes. K.D.'s recent work at CCV has focused on strengthening ties between students and faculty and building a learning community that fosters student engagement and self-esteem. In 1996, she was hired to oversee student support services for Vermont's statewide community college network. The job allowed her to take part in some exciting decision making and planning, but she missed the direct contact with students. And her frequent trips to Montpelier kept her away from her family. When Hilly's job became open, it seemed an obvious next step.

CCV Dean of Students Joyce Judy speaks highly of K.D.'s intellect and enthusiasm and ability to bring out the best in people. “She has an exceptional gift for helping students and for helping faculty and staff see the importance of doing that,” Joyce says. “Marlboro is gaining a real treasure.” —Susan Keese

**Howell leads accreditation team to Russia's first liberal arts college** The similarities between Marlboro and Russia's first liberal arts college led to Marlboro cultural historian Dana Howell heading a higher education review team to St. Petersburg's Smolny College last spring. Smolny represents the first attempt by Russians to offer a significantly different alternative to the German university model, with its focus on specialized career preparation, that has long dominated Russian higher education.

Smolny was established as a separate liberal arts college within St. Petersburg State University, and offered its first classes last fall. Created by a group of Russian academics in association with Bard College, Smolny is financially supported by the Higher Education Support Program (HSEP) of the Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundation. Its graduates will receive degrees from both St. Petersburg and Bard.

Rhett Bowlin '93, deputy director of HSEP's Budapest office, had asked Dana, a specialist in Russian culture, to lead the review because of the many similarities he saw between Smolny and Marlboro. Smolny hopes to maintain a student body of 300 students and employ a highly democratic approach to decision making. It is establishing an interdisciplinary curriculum integrating the arts with the liberal arts. It will also promote student and faculty exchanges with Bard and with European colleges.

“Everyone is enthusiastic,” Dana reports, explaining that the review team met with key administrators, faculty and students. “The students are excited because Smolny is different and because it offers the opportunity for Western exchange. Most of the faculty are not used to teaching in a way that involves a lot of interaction with students, and they're surprised at how stimulating it is to teach in this environment.”

The trip also enabled Marlboro's cultural historian to revisit old haunts in St. Petersburg, check out the vast structural and commercial changes under way in the postcommunist era and sharpen her language skills. She found a growing international presence in St. Petersburg, evidenced in restaurants, shops and other businesses. “A Westerner can be completely inconspicuous there now,” she reports. “That's a major change.”

For Dana, looking carefully at another liberal arts college also reaffirmed for her how special Marlboro is. “I'm struck by what an excellent model Marlboro is and what great opportunities it creates for students,” she says. “We tend to take this for granted. We don't value it enough.” —Bill Wilmot

**Brelsforads bring home gold medals** Foreign language and literature faculty members Veronica and Edmund Brelsford recently won five gold medals between them at the Winter 2000 National Senior Games in Lake Placid, New York. Veronica won the 5-kilometer and 10-kilometer women's freestyle cross-country ski races, while Edmund won the 10-, 15- and 20-kilometer men's cross-country races.

Known informally as the Senior Olympics, the series of competitions is staged every two years for athletes aged 50 and older. As in the Olympics, there is a summer series comprising track and field, tennis, cycling and a host of other sports; winter games include cross-country and alpine skiing, snowshoeing, curling and hockey. The games are national, with qualifying rounds in individual states.

For Veronica, “It was a lot of fun, and I think the kick I get out of all this is the chance to measure myself against other women my own age and surprise myself by the amount of joy I feel in having done well.” Veronica also enjoyed being interviewed by CNN—“the fun of this sort of thing can come from unexpected ways.”

Edmund points out that for he and Veronica, fitness is a lifestyle, one that encompasses all four seasons. “It's exhilarating,” says Edmund. “One of the deepest satisfactions is that it permits you to never miss a class” because of illness. Language expertise has also benefited Edmund's athletic involvement: at the 1980 Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid, Edmund was the stadium announcer, apparently because he was the only one who could pronounce the names of the competitors. At the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City, the Brelsforads will be interpreters for the Race Committee for Cross Country Skiing and for the International Ski Federation. —Tristan Roberts



## Students explore expeditionary learning in Cuba

In their recipes for the ideal spring break getaway, most students would probably include the sun, warmth and the beach. Four Marlboro students found this recipe and much more on an Outdoor Program trip to Cuba last March.

Proficiency in Spanish and previous travel experience were prerequisites for the trip, as each student assisted O.P. Director Randy Knaggs '94 in developing academic contacts in Cuba. Brian Schechter '02 attended the Language Institute at the University of Havana. Jeremy Vanneste '02 toured the country, investigating architecture and appropriate technology. Cuba's well-established organic farming industry attracted Lauren Beigel '01, while Rebekah Cantor '01 explored the relationship between Cuba's AfroCubana music and Santeria religion by looking up musicians from Havana to Santiago. While learning about land use policies, Randy also cultivated contacts with several state-run research centers and UNESCO Biosphere Preserves.

The group ate and slept in "Casa Particularis," a network of rooms for rent within Cuban homes. Their experience was woven together by the many Cubans they met, and an ongoing conversation with Cubans about life in Cuba, the Revolution and life in the United States.

The students' explorations dovetailed with their academic interests, while they also helped develop Cuba as one of several "expeditionary learning" sites for Marlboro, according to Randy. Many students spend a semester or more of their junior and senior years abroad, but without extensive travel experience they may lack the confidence to travel inquisitively. The expeditionary learning trips will

attempt to provide that experience, he says, with a fast-paced itinerary that will include service work, family stays, culturally mixed study groups and academic study relevant to the site.

"I see an opportunity to provide travel experiences which complement the academic mission of the school," says Randy. The final objective, he says is to "provide a glimpse at how other cultures are actively solving problems and challenges in the world." Pending U.S. permits and Cuban sponsorship, Randy plans to lead a Marlboro expeditionary learning trip to Cuba within the next two years. Other sites for possible program development include Costa Rica; Mondragon, Spain; and Gaviotas, Colombia. —Tristan Roberts



Photos: Rebekah Cantor '01

## LeBlanc consults on Muslim women's university

Marlboro President Paul LeBlanc has seen firsthand the dramatic changes in education and social mores that are taking place in some corners of the Arab world. Last March he traveled to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at the invitation of Zayed University. The two-year-old university for women, with a focus on technology and distance learning, asked Paul to assess its technology, curriculum and faculty development program, and to offer his recommendations.

"Sheik Zayed wants to make Dubai the center of e-commerce in the Middle East," says Paul. "He recognized that this will only be possible if women, as well as men, become proficient with emerging technologies. That's why he created this university."

Technology-focused education, explains Paul, can only be successful if the technology is genuinely integrated throughout the learning program. This entails training faculty to use new tools creatively and effectively. "Instructors have to reimagine their courses and totally rethink the way they teach in the classroom." Helping them learn to do this is particularly challenging at Zayed, which has recruited faculty members from all over the world.

"The students are bright and talented, and they all have laptops" says Paul. "It's quite a sight—women in abayas, with veils covering their faces and laptops slung over their shoulders! Many of the students see themselves as pioneers and have high career expectations."

Paul's work with Zayed University is opening doors for visits by Marlboro students and faculty and their counterparts in Dubai. The university, he says, can be a terrific resource for Marlboro students interested in Arab cultures. —Bill Wilmot

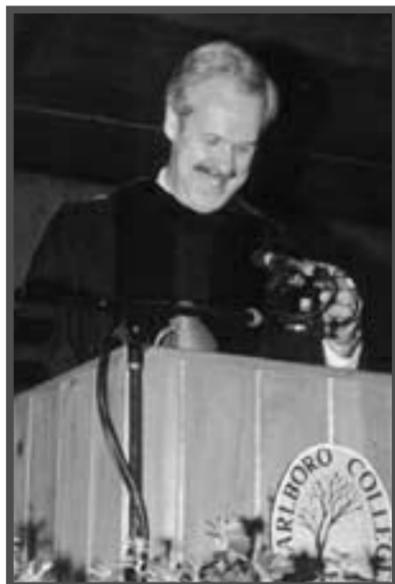


Spring break for humanity Ten Marlboro students, led by Student Activities Director Carrie Weikel, spent their spring break at Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge Spring Break Program in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. There, they helped construct a Habitat house and did chores at a residential school for boys located on a working farm. They also found time to hit the beach for some fun. "I was very happy with the turnout for the trip, which had a waiting list of students hoping to go," says Carrie. "I'm looking forward to making the service trips a spring break tradition."

Photo: Andrew Sandlin '02

# Commencement 2000

AMAZINGLY, JUST A MONTH BEFORE the beginning of one of the wettest summers in Vermont history, May 14 proved warm and sunny, continuing a streak of fine commencement day weather as far back as most can remember. Marlboro graduated 43 students this year, and



awarded a joint degree to a student from its sister college in London, Huron University. Graduates, in addition to hearing words of encouragement and inspiration from Vermont Congressman Bernie Sanders, senior speaker Kermit Woods, Marlboro President Paul LeBlanc and Board of Trustees Chair Ted Wendell, enjoyed the awarding of an honorary degree to Hilly van Loon '62, a treasured staff member who retired this year. Also receiving an honorary degree was longtime Marlboro Elementary School Principal Connie Barton, who retired this year after 16 years as principal and 32 as teacher.

**President's address** "Despite all the hoopla of the millennium, the end of the twentieth century, and Y2K hysteria—there is still something deeply symbolic about graduating this first class of the twenty-first century. While the markers of progress we impose upon the passage of time are arbitrary, the hope and dreams we attach to

any new group of graduates are genuine and heartfelt. While the burdens of memory and the weight of the past pre-empt any conceit of a clean slate, those zeros lined up next to each other suggest a new canvas upon which you will paint your collective legacy over the next forty, fifty, and sixty years." —Paul LeBlanc

**Commencement address** "... But there is another world that is looming out there as well. And that is a world of authoritarianism and lack of democracy; a world in which a handful of multinational corporations produce almost all the products we consume and much of what we see, hear and read. It is a world in which famine and disease continue unabated in many parts of the planet; a world in which more and more money is spent on weapons of destruction; a world in which the environment continues to be degraded and a world which is divided wider and wider between a small number of people who have unbelievable wealth while billions of people try to survive on almost no income.

"What happens in the future, what direction the world goes in, remains very much in question. To a large degree, the role that your generation plays in this country and throughout the world will make all the difference."  
—Bernie Sanders, Independent Congressman from Vermont



**Senior Speaker address** "This home of higher learning, shaped from humble barns and farm outbuildings, was conceived in the fertile minds and built—yes, realized—by a small handful of veterans fresh from the fatigue and perpetual nightmares of a world war. I have often found myself reflecting on why and how so many soldiers must fall in the obsessions of war, that these survivors dared dream, that they dared to believe in dreams, that these veterans started new lives after a war that claimed their youth and innocence and then somehow courageously endeavored to nurture the mind, suppressing their fears and insecurities, that they built this hearth, over which we have all stretched our hands and claimed in one way or another as our own.

"Veterans built this school from ideals and experiences I can only imagine; this act is one we must never even for the briefest moment compromise or fail to acknowledge." —Kermit Woods



**Hilly van Loon citation** "... as director of academic advising, your generous, tireless efforts in behalf of students have earned the admiration of everyone connected with Marlboro. When asked whom they would seek when

faced with a serious academic difficulty, students invariably name you. When faculty are unsure about what to do with a student, they invariably seek your advice. That's what makes you who you are—you cross all lines and skills effortlessly.

"As wise counsel to deans, faculty, staff, and students, your presence at Marlboro will be sorely missed, but we wish you the fondest of farewells as you expand your own writing efforts in the future." —Paul LeBlanc



Above: Senior speaker Kermit Woods.

Left: Dean of Faculty John Hayes presents Hilly van Loon with an honorary master's degree hood.

Photos by Tom Raffelt

**Connie Barton citation** "So we can ask now for an accounting: How many of our children did you teach over all those years? How many parents did you counsel? How many teachers did you guide through rough times? How many school board members did you work with over how many years?

"We could ask for a show of hands right here in this auditorium and learn a good number of the answers. The product of your intellect and skills are young students and once-young students who are now grown men and women and who help make our community the wonderful place it is." —Paul LeBlanc

Above: Marlboro President Paul LeBlanc.  
Right: U.S. Representative Bernie Sanders.

Photos by Tom Raffelt

## Scholarships

ROLAND W. BOYDEN SCHOLARSHIP is given annually by the humanities faculty to a student who has demonstrated excellence in the humanities. Roland Boyden was a founding faculty member of the college, acting president, dean, and trustee.  
*Ian Garthwait*

GEORGE I. ALDEN TRUST supports two scholarships given annually, one to an older student who has returned to school and the other to a student who shows promise of excellence in the natural sciences. Older student: *Christopher Wray*  
Natural sciences: *Benjamin Corum*

ROBERT SHELDON STAINTON SCHOLARSHIP is named for the father of Robert T. Stainton, class of 1954. It is awarded annually to an upperclass student for academic excellence and service to the community. *Choya Adkison-Stevens*

M. BRENN GREENE SCHOLARSHIPS are awarded through the generosity of the late trustee, Brenn Greene. *Skye Allen, Edward Augustyn, Sarah Corey, Lupin Mindlin, Aiyana Kane, Hanna Clutterbuck*

THOMAS THOMPSON TRUST SCHOLARSHIPS are awarded to Windham County residents. *Rebecca Gembarowski and Theron Toomey*

CHRISTOPHER BOETH SCHOLARSHIP is given to a junior or senior whose Plan of Concentration is in the field of literature or writing, and who has demonstrated a gift for and an appreciation of the usage of language. *Peter Blair and Timothy Collins*

JEAN CROSBY MARKHAM SCHOLARSHIP is given to a junior or senior who best exemplifies the grit and determination needed to complete his or her education. *Heidi Peters*

LILLIAN FARBER SCHOLARSHIP is given to a junior or senior whose Plan demonstrates a passion for social justice. *Kelly Bergstrand and Ariane Burke*

WOLF KAHN SCHOLARSHIP is awarded annually to the junior or senior who demonstrates superior talent in the visual arts. *Kate Merrill*

THE LYNSAY TRUST SCHOLARSHIP is awarded annually to financially deserving students from rural New England communities.  
*Robert Drozek and Kristina Lemay*

## Prizes

THE SALLY AND VALERIO MONTANARI THEATRE PRIZE is awarded annually to a graduating senior who has made the greatest overall contribution to the pursuit of excellence in theater production.  
*Kate Osborn*

THE ROBERT H. MACARTHUR PRIZE was established in 1973 in memory of Robert MacArthur, class of 1951, and recently rededicated to Robert, and also to John, and to John and Robert's parents, John and Olive MacArthur, who founded the science program at Marlboro College. The contest for the prize is in the form of a question or challenge offered to the entire student community.  
*Edward Augustyn, Lauren Beigel*

THE FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE ESSAY PRIZE, given annually for the best essay written for a Marlboro course. It is awarded by the English committee.  
*Tim Collins*

THE AUDREY ALLEY GORTON AWARD, given in memory of Audrey Gorton, Marlboro alumna and member of the faculty for 33 years, to the student who best reflects the Gorton qualities of: passion for reading, an independence of critical judgment, fastidious attention to matters of style, and a gift for intelligent conversation. *Lupin Mindlin*

THE WALTER AND JANE WHITEHALL PRIZE, awarded by the humanities faculty for the best Plan of Concentration in the humanities, one that represents the greatest intellectual challenge in conception, design and execution. *Eric Brown*

THE HELEN W. CLARK PRIZE, awarded by the visual arts faculty for the best Plan of Concentration in the studio arts. *Jon Tobiasz, Anna Vogler*

THE DR. LOREN C. BRONSEN MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLASSICS, established by the family of Loren Bronson, Class of 1973, to encourage undergraduate work in classics.  
*Peter Blair*

THE FREDERICK JOHN TURNER PRIZE, awarded to a student who demonstrates excellence in the natural sciences, who uses interdisciplinary approaches and who places his or her work in the context of larger questions. *Alex Rogalski*

## Class of 2000 graduates and their Plans of Concentration

David Eric Allen  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Psychology/Education*  
A study of motivational theory and applied psychology in the adventure education setting, focusing on Edward Deci and Richard Ryan's theory of Intrinsic Motivation and William Glasser's Reality Therapy construct.  
Project: Two papers and a connected field study. The primary paper and field study combine to examine the significance of Intrinsic Motivation in both the theoretical realm and in Outward Bound course settings. The second paper explores Reality Therapy and Choice Theory through adventure education student populations.  
Sponsor: Thomas L. Toleno  
Outside Evaluator: Jan E. Dizard, Amherst College

Brian K. Andrews  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Photography/Linguistics and Art History*  
A study of the relationship between ideographic and phonetic writing systems, in an attempt to determine whether postmodern typography constitutes a blending of the two systems.  
Project: Two papers and artwork. The first paper examines the relationship between ideographic and phonetic writing systems. The second paper examines postmodern typography in light of the first paper. The artwork will draw on the papers for content.  
Sponsors: John Willis, Felicity Ratté, Edmund M. Brelsford  
Outside Evaluator: John Hegnauer, Rhode Island School of Design

Joshua Quinlan Baisinger  
*Bachelor of Science*  
*Biochemistry and Ceramics*  
A biochemical examination of the visual system and a study of glaze chemistry and production of functional pottery forms, with independent work in woodfiring and vapor glazing.  
Project: Biochemistry of the visual system; a study that tracks stimulation of the visual system starting at the eye, with a detailed look at the light-triggered reaction and the visual processing system. An exhibition of work in ceramics.  
Sponsors: John W. Hayes, Michael Boylen  
Outside Evaluator: Patrick Dolph, Dartmouth College

Eric Balfour Brown  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Philosophy and Religion/Asian Studies*  
A study of philosophy and religion focusing on the traditional Chinese arts of existence and the political technology of individuals in modern China.  
Project: Three papers including an essay on Foucault's contribution to the philosophy of self, a study of self-cultivation in traditional Chinese thought and a study of the invention and politicization of self in modern China. Independent work is a paper on modernity and cultural

change in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China.  
Sponsor: James E. Thomas  
Outside Evaluator: Don Eric Levine, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Jason Buening  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Painting and Art History*  
An exhibition of painting based on perception and memory, complemented by an essay investigating the recognition of postmodern theory in visual form by analyzing the work of Cindy Sherman and Michael Graves. In addition, a second paper analyzes the continued presence of postmodernism in contemporary art.  
Project: An exhibition of paintings. Two critical analyses of contemporary art.  
Sponsors: Cathy Osman, Felicity Ratté  
Outside Evaluator: Richard Ryan, Brandeis University



Angela Joy Burton  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Environmental Studies/Land Use and Ecology*  
A broad examination of land use patterns in the Northern Forest, with a focus on regulation and forest disturbance.  
Project: A paper analyzing the Adirondack Park as a model for preservation, land use planning, and the integration of public and private interests.  
Sponsors: James A. Tober, Jennifer Ramstetter '81  
Outside Evaluator: Thomas K. Wessels, Antioch New England Graduate School

Dea Rey Denison  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Painting and Biology/Ecology*  
An exploration of the relationship between art and current ecological issues.  
Project: An exhibition of original artwork that explores



Above: Brian Schwartz

Right: The 2000 commencement platform party. Front, from left: Board of Trustees Chair Ted Wendell, honorary degree recipient Connie Barton, Reverend James E. Thomas, Dean of Faculty John Hayes. Back, from left: Commencement speaker U.S. Representative Bernie Sanders, honorary degree recipient Hilly van Loon '62, senior speaker Kermit Woods, President Paul LeBlanc.

Photo by Tom Raffelt

the selective perceptions of the natural environment through a series of abstract paintings supported by two papers. The first paper explores relevant works and philosophies of artist Joseph Beuys. The second paper is an interpretation of how science and environmental issues have influenced personal perspectives and artwork. Sponsors: Cathy Osman, Robert E. Engel  
Outside Evaluator: Jeanette Cole, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Karen Eileen Dyer  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Literature and Political Science*

Indian cultural conflicts and their representation in fiction during and after independence.  
Project: A paper in three parts. The first part is an introductory chapter focusing on postcolonial theory. The second discusses fiction of the colonial period, including the novels of *Raja Rao*, *Kim*, and *A Passage to India*. The third examines Salman Rushdie and his contemporaries. An additional paper is on Indian society in transition. Sponsors: Jaysinh Birjepatil, Kamalika Chanda  
Outside Evaluator: Alok Bhalla, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, India

Allyson Fauver and  
Tiffany Fleming

Photo by Rachel Portesi



Geoffrey T. Eads  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Film and Cultural History*

A study in film style and production with historical background in early Soviet film, with a focus on the works of Eisenstein and Vertov.  
Project: A short film produced collaboratively with Marlboro College students, with a supporting paper on Eisenstein and two documentaries based on the film styles of Vertov and Eisenstein. Sponsors: Dana P. Howell, Jay Craven  
Outside Evaluator: Ken Peck, Burlington College

Allyson M. Fauver  
*Bachelor of Arts in International Studies*  
*Development Studies*

A multilevel analysis of development that explores the underlying and persistent patterns in African-Western relations since colonization.  
Project: A case study of development in Uganda supported by historical and theoretical frameworks. The first of two papers reviews the precursors to Uganda's present socioeconomic circumstances and examines the Ugandan government's current program for national development. The second paper focuses on two specific development themes, those of women and tourism, from individual, national, and international perspectives. Sponsors: Carol E. Hendrickson, Lynette Rummel  
Outside Evaluator: Janaki Natarajan, School for International Training

Kathryn Keeney Flanagan  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Painting and Ceramics*

A study of the function of art in Chinese culture and the creation of a body of work in painting and ceramic sculpture influenced by the relationship between geometric and organic forms.  
Project: An exhibition of painting and ceramic sculpture and a paper investigating the history of Chinese scholars' rocks and their multifaceted function in Chinese culture. Sponsors: Michael Boylen, Cathy Osman, Timothy J. Segar  
Outside Evaluator: William Brayton, Hampshire College

Tiffany C. Fleming  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Biology/Plant Ecology and Conservation*

A study of biology, focusing on reproductive plant ecology and the conservation of rare and endangered flora.  
Project: A conservation plan for a globally rare orchid. This study explores the population dynamics of *Cypripedium arietinum*, in relation to light availability and habitat characteristics. An additional paper examines the evolutionary forces influencing life history strategy and genetics of rare plants. Sponsors: Jennifer Ramstetter '81, Robert E. Engel  
Outside Evaluator: Robert Popp, Vermont Nongame and Natural Heritage Program

Solveig Deidre Gannon-Ask  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*History and Political Science/Women's Studies*

A study of Islamic women in Egypt and their relationship to power through the writings of Western and Egyptian women as well as critiques of United States and British foreign policy.  
Project: Four papers: The first focuses on women and international relations, the second looks at U.S. foreign policy and Islam as a form of rebellion, the third looks at Egypt as an Arab state and the fourth is a paper in French about the lives of Algerian women both in Algeria and in France. Sponsors: Timothy F. Little, James E. Thomas  
Outside Evaluator: Abdoul Diallo, School for International Training

Patrick Ryan Hahn  
*Bachelor of Arts in International Studies*  
*Psychology and Sociology/Education and Photography*  
An examination of art education in India based on an internship in Rajasthan, using sociology and psychology. Project: Three papers and a photography exhibit. The first paper looks at the environment surrounding the arts in Rajasthan, India, focusing on the influences of tourism and commercialism. The second is an ethnographic study of a private, primary school in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The third paper is a description and analysis of the process of art education within the school. The exhibit includes photographs of children in both India and the United States and their artwork. Sponsors: Thomas L. Toleno, John Willis  
Outside Evaluator: Dalton Miller-Jones, Portland State University

Adam Michael Hammick  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Writing and Literature*

An exploration of identity through literature and writing, particularly through an exploration of the role of gender in Sappho's lyrics and of disjunction in selected poems of Emily Dickinson, with supporting study of selected British and American poets.  
Project: A collection of poems. Sponsors: T. Hunter Wilson, Jennifer Ingleheart, Molly Tamarkin  
Outside Evaluator: Wyn Cooper

Zachary Hulme  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Visual Arts*

A study of photography concentrating on the technique and history of the photo documentary project.  
Project: One paper and a photo documentary project. The paper examines documentary imagery with an emphasis on socially concerned photography. The documentary project explores the Vermont and New Hampshire timber industry. Sponsors: John Willis, Felicity Ratté  
Outside Evaluator: Tom Young, Greenfield Community College

Kati Anne Knapp  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Literature*

An examination of the problem of identity formation in the writings of Virginia Woolf and Agnes Smedley.  
Project: Two papers explore language, memory and social order in Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* and *The Waves*. A third paper focuses on gender and social class in Agnes Smedley's autobiographical novel *Daughter of Earth*. Sponsors: Geraldine Pittman de Batlle, Kathryn E. Ratcliff  
Outside Evaluator: Elizabeth Lambert, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Emilie Katherine Kornheiser  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Sociology/Education*

An examination of the ideals surrounding public education focusing on the contradictions inherent to industrial

era reforms and the contemporary system of public schooling. Project: Two papers. The first paper examines the progressive education movement through a historical case study of Gary, Indiana's platoon system of education focusing on the tension between efficiency and education for the whole child. In the second paper the aforementioned themes of efficiency and evolution are illuminated through a composite narrative of dissenting voices from the Brattleboro High School Community. Sponsors: Kathryn E. Ratcliff, Gerald E. Levy  
Outside Evaluator: Donald Oliver, Harvard Graduate School of Education



Jessicca Noel Lucier  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Anthropology and Photography*

An examination of and response to postmodern conceptions of representations particularly as these have to do with gender and the position of the subject in contemporary media texts.  
Project: A series of three papers: one discussing theories of media representation and two analyzing representations of gender and the subject in advertisements and fine art photography. A related photographic installation. Sponsors: Carol E. Hendrickson, John Willis  
Outside Evaluator: Susan Jahoda, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Xavier Alain Maurice Massot  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*History and Sociology*

A study of anarchism and its relationship to social change. Project: Two major papers: one on the historical and literary variety of anarchism, and another on the anarchist's role in the Spanish Civil War. In addition, one supporting paper on contemporary anarchism and an art show dealing with anarchist themes. Sponsor: Gerald E. Levy  
Outside Evaluator: Robert Houriet, Historian

Katherine C. McCarthy  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Sociology*

A sociological study of the relationship between attitudes toward sexuality and the treatment of AIDS in America. Project: Three papers. The first paper is a history of the post-World War II sexual revolution. The second paper is an



Above, left: Parisa "Dove" Norouzi receives her degree and a hug from Hilly van Loon.

Photo by Tom Raffelt

Above, Josh Schlossberg and Lisa Hughes '03.

Photo by Kate Merrill

Top: faculty members  
Jerry Levy, Carol  
Hendrickson, Jim Tober,  
Jenny Ramstetter and  
Bob Engel.

Photo by Rachel Portesi



Bottom: Brooke  
Powalisz and  
Kate McCarthy.

Photo by Kate Merrill



examination of the orientation of three generations of Americans and their attitudes towards AIDS. The third paper explores the treatment of AIDS in contemporary America.

Sponsors: Gerald E. Levy, Thomas L. Toleno  
Outside Evaluator: C. J. Churchill '91, Brandeis University

Donald John Meno  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Biology and Ceramics*

A study of biology focusing on aspects of pollination success in the *Orchidaceae* and work in ceramics including organic forms inspired by the orchid *Cypripedium acaule*.  
Project: A field study investigating the correlation of soil nutrients and the pedicle length in the orchid *Cypripedium acaule*.

Sponsors: Jennifer Ramstetter '81, Michael Boylen  
Outside Evaluator: Dorothy Allard, Biologist

Kristin Ann Miselis  
*Bachelor of Science in International Studies*  
*Biochemistry/Immunology*

A study of biochemistry and immunology, including a research project on parasite evasive mechanisms and

determinants of disease in *leishmaniasis*.

Project: Three papers: One is an overview of the disease *Leishmaniasis* and the parasite, *Leishmania*, that causes the disease. The second concerns the interaction of the parasite with both the humeral and cell-mediated branches of the host immune response. The last paper is a write-up of completed lab research that addresses the role of different *Leishmania* species in inducing cytokine production by the human monocytic cell line U-937 and by human peripheral blood monocytes.

Sponsors: John W. Hayes, Todd Smith  
Outside Evaluator: Jacqueline Channon, Dartmouth College

Diana Lynn Morrill  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*American Studies/Gender Studies and Computer Science*

A study of women and science in U.S. history, with an emphasis on education and employment.

Project: Two papers addressing issues relating to gender, science, education, and employment in the Progressive and Cold War eras.

Sponsors: Kathryn E. Ratcliff, Mark Francillon  
Outside Evaluator: Karen Cangialosi, Keene State College

Cory Elizabeth Nelson  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Theater/Dramatic Literature*

A study of modern American dramatic literature, with a focus on postwar playwrights.

Project: Three papers exploring the works of Tennessee Williams from different perspectives. The first examines the central themes and dramatic structure in Williams' writing, while the second discusses the plays in their historical context. A third paper explores Williams' influence on the contemporary playwright Tony Kushner.

Sponsors: Gloria Biamonte, Kathryn E. Ratcliff, Gaen Murphree  
Outside Evaluator: Len Berkman, Smith College

Parisa Bonita Norouzi  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Environmental Studies/Environmental Policy*  
An exploration of public lands policy and interest group politics in the United States.

Project: An examination of interest group influence on national forest policy, as revealed through a case study analyzing the history and current politics of national forest revenue sharing.

Sponsor: James A. Tober  
Outside Evaluator: Christopher McGrory Klyza, Middlebury College

Jennifer Anne Nottage  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Theater and Literature/Early Modernism*

Rereading and re-presenting selected works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

Project: Three papers. The first paper surveys theoretical perspectives on early modern drama. The second focuses on Falstaff within the allegorical frame of the *Henriad*. The third paper examines cultural and moral conflicts in early modern problem plays. Direction of a production of *Titus Andronicus*.

Sponsors: Jaysinh Birjepatil, Paul D. Nelsen  
Outside Evaluator: Leah Gardiner, Wesleyan University

Kathleen Rejane Packard  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Psychology and Cultural History*

An exploration of the phenomenon of narcissism in contemporary American society and the individualizing of ritual which accompanies it.

Project: Two papers. The first is a psychoanalytical examination of the definition of narcissism and the accompanying change toward a new American individualism. The second is a cultural and psychological examination into how this new American individualism relates to contemporary ritual.  
Sponsors: Thomas L. Toleno, Dana P. Howell  
Outside Evaluator: Thomas Hersh, Psychologist

Michael Andrew Pascoe  
*Bachelor of Science*  
*Biology and Biochemistry/Cell Biology and Physiology*

A study of cell biology and physiology with an emphasis on the human nervous system.

Project: A paper discussing the current research implications of Alzheimer's disease etiology and pathogenesis. Also a short paper discussing the brain's utilization of nutrients.

Sponsors: John W. Hayes, Todd Smith  
Outside Evaluator: Kathy Newell, Harvard Medical School

Jennifer Robin Perilli  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*American Studies*

An exploration of 20th century society and culture with an emphasis on truck driving.

Project: Two papers which examine popular culture representations of truck drivers in the 40s, 50s and 70s.

Sponsor: Kathryn E. Ratcliff  
Outside Evaluator: Randall Knoper, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Simon Edward Piluski  
*Bachelor of Science*  
*Biology/Ecology*  
A study in biology and ecology focusing on the dynamics of temperate forested ecosystems.  
Project: Two papers: a literature review concerning the role of natural disturbance in the northern hardwood ecosystem and examination of the red cockaded woodpecker, an endangered species in a critically endangered ecosystem.  
Sponsors: Robert E. Engel, Jennifer Ramstetter '81  
Outside Evaluator: D. Craig Rudolph, USDA Forest Service

Brook Ariadne Powalisz  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Psychology*

A study of psychology, focusing on adolescent and contemporary development issues.

Project: Four components. The first is a compilation of case studies of adolescents and contemporary development issues. The second focuses on adolescents and their respective educational environments. The third paper discusses adolescents and their niche in society. The fourth component illustrates a correlation between youth at risk and different learning styles.

Sponsor: Thomas L. Toleno  
Outside Evaluator: Dalton Miller-Jones, Portland State University



Jessica Lucier  
and family.

Photo by Tom Raffelt

David Thomas Ralph  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Philosophy*  
An analysis of Plato's conception of the proper role of reason in life.  
Project: A thesis that argues that reason is a means and not an end in life according to Plato.  
Sponsor: Neal O. Weiner  
Outside Evaluator: David Roochnik, Boston University

Right: Colin Young and Huron University graduate Preslava Stoeva.

Photo by Rachel Portesi

Below:

**Tristan Demian Roberts**  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Computer Science and Philosophy/Cognitive Science*  
 How could a machine exhibit intelligence to an observer, and what approaches are likely to produce the required behavior? A cross-disciplinary examination of this question with emphasis on Kantian epistemology.  
 Project: A thesis and two independent papers. A thesis on the relevance of Kant's analytic of concepts to the empirical problem of producing artificial intelligence. One paper that relates Kant's antinomies to the problem of creating a machine that can be interpreted as intelligent, and one that analyzes Kantian epistemology as supporting the Gibsonian theory of direct perception.  
 Sponsors: Mark Francillon, Neal O. Weiner  
 Outside Evaluator: John T. Sanders, Rochester Institute of Technology

**Josh L. Schlossberg**  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Writing and Music*  
 An exploration of various elements in the Western tradition of popular and folk song, through studies of poetry and song, and with supporting work in music composition and lyric writing.  
 Project: A collection of original songs (lyrics and music).  
 Sponsor: T. Hunter Wilson  
 Outside Evaluator: Tom Smith, Castleton State College



**Brian C. Schwartz**  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Philosophy*  
 A study of philosophy showing the incongruence of Heidegger's ontology.  
 Project: A paper investigating the relation Heidegger's ontology has to ethics.  
 Sponsors: Neal O. Weiner, James E. Thomas  
 Outside Evaluator: Charles Ketcham, Smith College



**John Michael Wulfrun Shadis**  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Sociology, Psychology and Political Science*  
 A theory of ideological conditioning as it relates to contemporary American thought and international relations.  
 Project: One major paper relating U.S. foreign policy and the mass media to the social control of the masses.  
 Sponsors: Gerald E. Levy, Thomas L. Toleno  
 Outside Evaluator: C. J. Churchill '91, Brandeis University

**Lisa Karen Shapiro Hecht**  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Psychology/Education*  
 A study in psychology and sociology for an examination of identity formation in preadolescent and adolescent girls.  
 Project: The development and implementation of a curriculum designed to meet the psychosocial needs of adolescent and preadolescent girls engaged in the exploration of their identities. A follow-up study analyzing the effectiveness of the curriculum and the impact of the curriculum on the students.  
 Sponsor: Thomas L. Toleno  
 Outside Evaluator: Dalton Miller-Jones, Portland State University

**Richard Paul Sobiecki, Jr.**  
*Bachelor of Science*  
*Biology and Environmental Studies*  
 A study of plant responses to elevated carbon dioxide concentrations and of market-based pollution control measures.  
 Project: Two papers. The first presents original research conducted at Oak Ridge National Laboratory that examines the effect of elevated carbon dioxide on photosynthesis of *Liquidambar styraciflua*. The second explores the history, effectiveness, and potential of tradable emission permits in pollution control.  
 Sponsor: Jennifer Ramstetter '81  
 Outside Evaluator: David S. Ellsworth, Duke University

**Jon Craig Tobiasz**  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Photography/Philosophy of Religion*  
 A photographic and written study of spirit and ontology to illuminate these and inspire imagination through visual language.

Project: A photographic exhibit of associative abstractions drawn from natural geography. Supported by three related papers. The first paper is an examination of Bantu ontology; the second paper is a set of transcribed interviews and an accompanying essay on religion in the Western province of contemporary Kenya. The third paper is the connective tissue unifying the writing and the imagery in this Plan of Concentration.  
 Sponsors: John Willis, James E. Thomas  
 Outside Evaluator: Tom Young, Greenfield Community College

**Anna May Vogler**  
*Bachelor of Arts in International Studies*  
*Anthropology and Visual Arts*  
 An anthropological and visual arts study of identity in shifting cross-cultural contexts.  
 Project: Two papers and an art exhibition. The first paper examines adolescence in the shanty towns of Guatemala City, focusing on questions of identity in the context of street and home. The second paper analyzes a Pokomam Maya ritual as it is performed in "traditional" and touristic contexts. The art exhibition includes photographs and ceramics.  
 Sponsors: Carol E. Hendrickson, John Willis, Michael Boylen  
 Outside Evaluator: Abigail Adams, Central Connecticut State University

**Kermit D. Woods**  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Biology and Visual Arts*  
 A study of biology and art in an effort to better understand the evolution of form and function in organisms within the context of their physical and social environments.  
 Project: A selected literature review of animal defense systems and observations on deimatic behaviors in Galliformes.  
 Sponsors: Jennifer Ramstetter '81, Cathy Osman, Robert E. Engel  
 Outside Evaluator: D. Craig Rudolph, USDA Forest Service

**Colin Albert Young**  
*Bachelor of Science*  
*Biology/Ethnobotany and Conservation Biology*  
 A broad study of the natural sciences with a focus on the disciplines of ethnobotany and conservation biology.  
 Project: Two papers. The first paper based on original research in Central Belize examines the cultural construction of sickness among Belizean Creoles with a focus on medicinal plants used in the healing process. The second paper is an extensive literature review of the ecology and conservation of tropical dry forest ecosystems.  
 Sponsors: Jennifer Ramstetter '81, Robert E. Engel, Carol E. Hendrickson  
 Outside Evaluator: Gregory Anderson, University of Connecticut

HURON UNIVERSITY LONDON  
 IN ASSOCIATION WITH MARLBORO COLLEGE

**Preslava Stoeva**  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*International Relations*  
 Preslava is being awarded her degree from Huron University in association with Marlboro College, pending completion of her internship in London this summer. She attended Marlboro for a final semester of study before completing her degree in international relations. Her studies focus on public international law and international economics with research in international human rights and the responsibilities of transnational corporations under conditions of globalization.



Top: Tristan Roberts and Hilly van Loon.

Bottom: Jon Tobiasz gets a kiss from Anna Vogler.

Photos by Rachel Portesi



'48

HUGH A. MULLIGAN reports, "In my forty-eighth year with Associated Press I visited Belize, Honduras, Guatemala and the Yucatán for post-hurricane report on Mayan ruins and tribes. I surveyed the boom in Irish culture and economy. I was honored with the 'Spirit Award' by AP as the staffer who most exemplified ideals. Recent Associated Press assignments took me to the Holy Land with the pope, to Rome, Berlin, London, Limerick, Galloway, Ulster, for the changing cyber-face of Europe. Not much time for golf, at which Brigid still wins."

'49

FRITZ GREETHAM is living in North Syracuse, New York. Last September Fritz received a notification that he owed a fine to the city of Brattleboro for illegally parking his vehicle, registered NY-5928-EC. "The only problem is, NY-5928-EC is my eight-foot rowboat," wrote Fritz. The mistake was probably made by the parking

enforcement officer who must have punched an incorrect letter or digit in his handheld computer, especially since Fritz hasn't been back to Vermont since 1949. "I can assure you that I have never sailed my rowboat through Brattleboro!"

JOHN D. KOHLER writes that he enjoyed coming back to Marlboro last May for his 50th reunion.

'51

JUSTIN "SAM" LIGHT and his wife Sue celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in October 1999. "Among the wedding photos that our children unearthed was a nice picture of DAN DARROW '51 in his twenties.... We are living in a retirement home and loving it," writes Justin.

CHARLES G. STAPLES writes, "Joan and I remain very busy in Chicago with volunteer work and other commitments in the community. We've done some domestic travel, but are limited due to the need to attend to the needs of elderly relatives. We



Charles Staples '51, Alumni Director Teresa Storti and Vice President of Advancement Will Wootton '72 got together during Charlie's trip to Marlboro last fall.

Photo by Dianna Noyes '80

did enjoy a nine-day get away in December to Oahu and Kauai in the Hawaiian Islands. I still hike when possible in the White Mountains, also the Colorado Rockies. We got to the Marlboro Festival in July."



Lucy Gratwick, Marlboro's bookstore manager for 10 years, retired at the end of the 1999-2000 academic year. Her longtime assistants Bruce and Barbara Cole '59, who started when Lucy became manager, also took the opportunity to retire. The three were feted at a dinner in May and presented with rocking chairs and paintings created by former faculty member Gib Taylor. Pictured here from left to right are Bruce Cole '59, the Cole's daughter Jennifer Nilsen, holding her son, Nicholas, Michael Boylen, Lucy Gratwick and Barbara Cole '59, seated.

The Coles offered the following thoughts: "I guess that I'm sentimental but will gladly admit it. These past few months have seen what I consider another changing

of the guard at Marlboro College. Piet and Hilly van Loon, Bruce and Barbara Cole, and Lucy Gratwick have decided it is time to move on. We are all not going far, however.

"Both of us, Bruce and Barbara, being legitimate Marlboro Pioneers and longtime supporters of Marlboro College, find it somewhat poignant to see the next generation of staff and faculty moving up into their deservedly more senior status. We are fortunate to be able to say that we came in on the ground level with great educators such as Roland Boyden, Audrey Gorton, Dick Judd, Olive and John MacArthur, Buck Turner, and Tom Ragle as our teachers. The men and women who have followed have had big shoes to fill in maintaining the high standards set by the early faculty. It has been a pleasure over the years to see the Marlboro tradition continue and grow.

"Now it is with excitement and awe that we see what President Paul LeBlanc has done over the past three years. Marlboro is entering the 21st century well prepared with new buildings, new programs and off-campus sites that offer a broader base for educational opportunities plus the addition of an unprecedented sizable endowment. Good luck to all."

**'52**

HARRISON ELDREDGE is working at Albuquerque theaters and busy acting in Shakespearean dramas. Last spring he acted in *Much Ado About Nothing* and, more recently, in *The Winter's Tale*. He enjoys playing music with members of the Albuquerque Recorder Society. He says he is happy to hear that Marlboro is thriving, but he doesn't think he would recognize it today.

"Still enjoy Maine and retirement," writes R. BOYD THOMPSON. "Enjoyed a beautiful summer with lots of visitors—none from Marlboro tho—Would love to see you—working in the Food Pantry for Rotary December."

**'53**

BRUCE BOHRMANN reports that he is "sort of retired" and still playing basketball once a week. He still talks to BOB THOMPSON occasionally.

**'55**

We are happy to report the birth of IRWIN ROSEN's granddaughter, Charlotte Bliss!

LARRY F. TOYE writes, "Joanne and I are keeping kids five days a week since 1995. We will give this up when we move from Irving to Lively, Texas, where we have a 64-acre farm."

**'60**

MARGARET (Penny) SAYRE WIEDERHOLD remarked, "Great article about TV and Marlboro. I'm glad to see the students are still independent thinkers! It has served me well."

**'61**

LINDA GREENBERG KRAMER is still teaching after all these years. She became the proud grandmother of Noah, born to her daughter and son-in-law, on 9/9/99.

**'62**

PATRICIA MILLER NOYES writes "I had wonderful trip to Eastern Europe and was awed—especially by Prague. Both of my kids are now married, so I'm off on travel adventures. Next stop is Patagonia. I'm going to try to make the most of my 60s! I look back with gratitude at the enrichment I received at Marlboro. A belated thank-you!"

**'63**

RONALD E. WHITEHORNE teaches science in an inner city middle school. He is active in the education reform struggles. "I play the guitar and fish for relaxation and I'm happily married with two nearly grown children," he writes.

**'64**

JEREMIAH BURNHAM is now working at NBC for a show called *Access Hollywood* as music administrator. His wife, Raun, is working for Chris Rosmini in garden design.

DANIEL T. MOORE writes, "For the past six years, I have been employed by Trump Marina Hotel Casino in Atlantic City. I miss southern Vermont and New England and always look forward to my annual trips up there."

**'67**

"Marlboro should have a goal of building the endowment to \$50M by 2004," writes DAVID DORMAN. "\$10M is a great start."

DIANTHA DOW SCHULL writes, "I am executive director of Libraries for the Future, an organization dedicated to promoting equal access to information and library services. My husband, Walter, and I divide our time between New York City and New Hurley in the Hudson Valley. Our two children are still at Berkeley, evolving academically and spiritually."

**'68**

WILLIAM GUY CAIN says, "Vermont is the place to go to college, but Southern California is the place to live...78 degrees and sunny on Thanksgiving Day. We are doing well and we have enjoyed the communication from Marlboro, the visit from WILL WOOTTON '72 and Ted Wendell's information on the trustees."

DEBORAH EISENBERG recently won The Rea Award for the Short Story and was a cast member in the New York premiere of the play, *Designated Mourner*, by Wallace Shawn.

JENNIE GREEN persuaded MAGGIE MARX '70 to abandon New Orleans for a week last August and reminded her of the beauty of the Northeast. "Had a great visit. Son Prescott is living at home—a pleasure. Son John, teaching skiing in Aspen," says Jennie. "I am still running

Indian housing here on the Island." (Martha's Vineyard) "Too busy!"

DINAH LANE is still artistic director of Watertown Children's Theatre and board member of Watertown Arts on the Charles. She is also working as a family therapist at a community mental health clinic in Burlington, Massachusetts—a new career that she is enjoying very much.

RICK K. NICKERSON writes, "John turned 16 and is driving! Molly is finishing her second year at the University of Colorado, and Roxanne is working full time as an occupational therapist. I'm still flying and selling helicopters for Bell Helicopter. Home is in West Chester, Pennsylvania. All goes well."

SUSAN WHITEHORNE-RUSTEN is working at a nearby middle school and serving as vice president of the local education association. "Struggling to survive coping with two teenage sons," she says, "and trying to grapple with 'letting go.' Hiking is my salvation. Still in Halifax, Vermont, after all these years, and would really enjoy hearing from old friends."

**'69**

EUGENE ZUCKOFF says he's "back in school for retraining as something more useful than an attorney, and married for a year to a local girl!"

**'70**

KITSY BUMP ATHEY writes, "Still working for ENCON International. Never thought I would be working as a programmer in the year 2000. Daniel is almost 15 now. Don is semiretired and taking care of his parents."

"All is well with us," writes JANIS KARPIN BROOM, "My children, Jasmin and Misha, graduated May 21st from UVM College of Medicine and Amherst College, respectively. Seems like yesterday they were running around the dining hall!"

DAN DALY continues work as an illustrator and artist in Maine. He has been to Texas and North Carolina this past fall doing murals and works regularly for various publishers such as Derrydale Press and *Times-Mirror Magazine*. He extends a welcome to anyone traveling through Maine to stop by his studio in Camden.

PAMELA J. HIGGINS writes, "I continue to run K. Jorgensen Antiques in Wells, Maine, with my brother, sister-in-law, and father. I had two high school seniors ask about Marlboro College this past year, and I encouraged them to attend!"

TOM MACE attended Alumni Day in 1999 to reintroduce herself and had a great time at the soccer game and evening festivities. She wrote to *Potash Hill* that "after struggling with a condition called gender dysphoria for fifty years, I have changed my name to Jennifer and my gender to female. This condition is actually created in the womb, when the brain does not receive a 'wash' of testosterone in about the 15th week of gestation—we now have a small body of scientific evidence (rat studies, CAT scans) that show that this actually happens. My brain, and all that goes with that—my thinking, my ideas, my identity, my self, my soul—have been female from the start, even though the external clues didn't agree. I tried for years to convince myself and various professionals that I was crazy (I've known since I was four there was something wrong, named myself when I was 15)—but as soon as I dealt with the dysphoria as the physical problem it is, it went away. We can't fix the soul (and shouldn't), but we can, recently, fix the external perceptions and interactions. My brain and 'self' now receive interaction consistent with its hard-wired understanding of itself, and it is such a relief. Having transitioned, I am normal for the first time in my life, and loving both being myself and a woman. My full name is JENNIFER (Jenny to friends) TAMSYN WOLCOTT—Wolcott was my birth name. I am one of the few female venture capitalists, and am having a ball funding start-up high-tech companies while living in Silicon Valley. And no, my life in no way resembles a Jerry Springer weird act. If you have been following the Dana Rivers story (a good friend), that is closer to reality." Marlboro friends can reach Jenny at [jwollcott@eldil.com](mailto:jwollcott@eldil.com).

REBECCA WATHEN-DUNN is now working as an illustrator (computer graphics) at Hanscon AFB in Bedford, Massachusetts. She is three courses away from her certificate in computer graphics at Rhode Island School of Design/Continuing Education, Providence, Rhode Island, where she got her B.F.A. in 1971. She still resides

in Foxboro with her husband of six years, Jarlath Crowe.

**'71**

DAPHNE CROCKER has been retired for two years now but has kept quite busy. She lives in Hancock, Maine, is still singing with the University of Maine chorus and is involved in volunteer work. She also contributes history to *Hancock Point*, being written by a good friend. Daphne extends a warm welcome to anyone in her area. "I'd love to see anyone who happens to be up this way—I have plenty of room in addition to my cozy little home."

FREDERICK GRAY reports, "I'm halfway through my fourth year here at Putney School, second year as dean of students, teaching Spanish, dorm head, etc. My daughter Harriet will be 32 (!) in March, living in San Francisco, she just finished a masters in public health education and is a Web page producer for adam.com."

"After a wretched summer in Seattle (weather), we enjoyed an inspirational fall," writes JEFFREY LEMKIN. "This fall our daughter, Amy, started at the University of Washington, where she is in a dorm with 700 others and a class with 200!! I have enjoyed working on an Internet venture with GARBY LEON '69 recently, while keeping my day gig. It's been great fun."

**'72**

MEG KELSEY WRIGHT is on the faculty and teaching piano for two schools: Englebrook and Williston. She's also "doing some private teaching at my home studio and co-directing a summer chamber music program for teens at the Northampton Community Music Center. I played three concerts this winter and spring. Our three children are into sports and music and are age 15, 9 and 6. Jonathan and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary this winter!"

**'73**

ELLIOT H. GERTEL writes, "After a year of being at the University of Michigan, I really love Ann Arbor. (Actually, it was love at first sight!) It's a great university and town. I have the honor and privilege of holding the university library's first endowed position as the Irving M. Hermelin Curator of Judaica. I really enjoy my position working with the

students and my colleagues on the faculty. After five years in southern California followed by three years in south Florida, I'm still really loving the seasons. It's so great to be in a place where seasons change, and I even love the snow!"

ALICE GROSSMAN is living in Somerville, Massachusetts, and teaches photography at the Pingree School.

JAMES S. LOWE writes, "Everything seems to come around. I am now the chairman of the Blanche Moyse New England Bach Festival and Louis Moyse is now living and teaching in Montpelier. As a critic, I have reviewed ROSEMARY ZAMORE '73 (in chorus) several times!"

**'74**

JOHN and ELEANOR MASSEY '76 COX write, "Our 16-year-old daughter is starting to think about college. She was looking at an index that listed which colleges had different majors available. When she looked under Folklore, there, on a short list, was Marlboro."

PETER GOLDSMITH writes, "I just finished my first year as dean of students at Oberlin. There appear to be many Marlboro-Oberlin connections—I think we could form a Marlboro Club of Oberlin, Ohio!"

MOLLIE RIDOUT has been working for the last five years as garden historian at a 300-year-old town site near Annapolis, Maryland. She writes, "Husband Steve Brown and I are building a new house on a corner of the family farm. Daughter Anna is 11 years old and horse crazy this year."

**'75**

DIANE A. JUNG writes "Anchored down in Anchorage for over six years. June 2000 marks my 25th year with the National Park Service. Recent work on a national distance learning project has been rejuvenating. My household now consists of two dogs and two cats."

MICHAEL F. MAGISTRALI was elected probate judge for Torrington/Goshen, Connecticut, in November 1998. He moved his law practice from Winsted to Torrington; now "Michael F. Magistrali and Associates." He is happily married to Robin and has four daughters.

CHIP WOODS is enjoying a second round at fatherhood. His daughter, Morgan Faith, turned three in February.

## '76

MELISSA METTLER ABRAMS writes, "My daughters are now 4 and 6 so I have a little more time for myself. I am volunteering at the Fort Collins Convention and Visitor's Bureau and hope to make it a fulltime job once they are both in school five days a week. Fort Collins is great. Come visit!"

OSMAN MORAD and wife, Nuzhat, have moved to the state of Bahrain in the Arabian Gulf (from Dubai). He writes, "I am a bank manager here and have responsibility for the country operations. Our daughter Dina is going to be a junior at Mt. Holyoke next year."

KATHLEEN A. SMITH is "working in Boston, living on the ocean (Rockport/Gloucester), two magnificent granddaughters (11 and 3), Vickie and husband are great, my mother is 86 and we all live together in a 'Big Shoe'—four generations."

## '77

HANNAH ELISABETH (FROST), who reignited her performing career a few years back, recently released her debut CD *The Sixties Show* in December 1999. The CD, based on her live show of the same name, features 1960s pop music, ranging from James Bond themes to Elvis to a medley from the musical *Hair*. Hannah recently moved from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, where she is marketing her live show. "Life overall is a LOT easier than in SoCal," she writes, "Nothing is more than 20 minutes away and there is no traffic to speak of by SoCal standards!!! It took me almost three weeks to go through ONE tank of gas, can you believe it?" However, due to the necessity of 24-hour air conditioning, she says the money saved on gasoline since the move will go toward her "undoubtedly frightening electric bills." Those interested can get more information on *The Sixties Show* or purchase her CD at [www.hannahsings.com](http://www.hannahsings.com).

CHRISTOPHER ROWE writes, "I have abandoned (temporarily) the classroom and the East Coast for a job in Los Angeles to work as a story development executive at Samuel Goldwyn Films. The

weather is great—the traffic isn't. I can be reached at [chrisrow@mindspring.com](mailto:chrisrow@mindspring.com)."

"Wow!" exclaimed DEBORAH SCOTT, "Marlboro sure sounds ready for the next millennium. I'm trying to pioneer a new paradigm of community service through the Family Resource Center, where I work as their early childhood educator. Also, I'm continuing as artistic director of Asheville Playback Theater, improvisational theater based on the retelling of personal stories. Life is great in North Carolina!"

## '78

LINDA KAUFMANN was promoted to associate librarian and tenured as of September 2000 at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams, Massachusetts.

"I continue to read Heidegger essays that I find at the university here," DAVID NEUBAUER writes from Eugene, Oregon, "All from a tutorial I took a long time ago."

CHRISTOPHER NOTH says to look for him in the independent film *Searching for Paradise*. He just finished another season of HBO's *Sex and the City* and also finished an indie film called *Texas Funeral*.

PAULA J. STYLOS writes, "I have given Marlboro my greatest gift: my firstborn child. Jessamyn is a junior at Marlboro, and the old saying still holds; the more things change, the more they stay the same."

DINA WOOD will be returning to the United States in August 2000, after three years in Bulgaria. "I taught English as a Second Language to Bulgarian minorities (Roma and Slavic Muslims) for the first two years and to Kosovar Albanians this past year at the American University in Bulgaria. I became good friends with a fellow Marlborite (albeit several years behind me!) here—HUTCH BROWN '93—the proverbial small world. My oldest daughter is 10 and Maggie will soon be 6. Hoping to see ALISON TOWNSEND '75 and JOSIE AVERY '77 on my trip back to Colorado." Dina will be living in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

## '79

TED LEVINE appeared in the short-lived but critically acclaimed new ABC series, *Wonderland*.

ED MCMULLEN writes, "Nearly done with my log house in the endless mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania. A book of verse, a jug of wine... ah wilderness. Looking for career #21, a nice girl and a good dog. Hello to all!"

## '80

"We've moved!" writes MARY AKELEY. "My son, Peter, and I have moved to Durham, North Carolina. I am now teaching at the Duke School for Children Middle School, a very exciting and dynamic private school, and fifth grade is both wonderful and interesting! Durham is a wonderful city—lots of 'goings-on' between the community in general and the colleges and universities. I've even expanded my musical style repertoire: I'm singing with a gospel choir! My son, Peter, is a constant source of amazement and joy. He has a kind and generous heart, and is also a polite, funny, and loving young gentleman."

CARY BARNEY writes, "Still teaching English, writing, and drama at Saint Louis University, Madrid, Spain, campus. One of my students put me back in touch with KIMBERLY CLOUTIER '78, who it turns out is her godmother! Our son, Sam, is three and bilingual. The ex-pat life looks more and more permanent with the passing year. Hi to all."

ROSE CROWLEY CHRISTIAN completed a two-year fellowship in Women's Health at the Mayo Clinic in September 1999 and was invited, in October of 1999, to give a lecture on the subject of menopause to an international conference in Yokohama, Japan. She is currently at Mayo doing clinical research in coronary calcification and heart disease in women. She is also lecturing on women's health at the medical school and elsewhere, and directing a monthly women's health journal club. "Other than that," she says, "my two kids, two dogs and three cats keep me busy, too."

CARTER SIO was highlighted in the February 1999 issue of *Fine Woodworking* magazine as only the fourth teacher of George School's 104-year-old woodworking department. He upholds the school's tradition of long-staying teachers who are supportive and enthusiastic.

TIM TIBBITTS is working as a "research specialist" for Northern Arizona University, and as research and endangered species coordinator for Organ Pipe Cactus Monument.

## '81

CHARLIE CHIARA has two sons, Julian and Lucas, and was expecting his third child in May 2000.

"Lonnie and I are having a wonderful studio built for me!" writes PATRICIA LOWREY LIPPERT. "I'm painting more wildlife/nature. I'm real happy. Life is going well up in the mountains."

REGINA TOUHEY SERKIN is still living in Manhattan with her four children. "Karina graduated from law school in Denver last spring and I graduated from Pacific College of Oriental Medicine in April after five long years," says Regina.

## '82

ABBY JACOBSON writes from Putney, Vermont, "Hi to all my fellow classmates and college mates. Write or call when you're in the area—I'm still here! Would love to hear from you!"

KATE JUDD writes "I seem to have an alarming tendency to end up teaching at places where I was once a student. I am now the voice teacher at the Putney School—a very unlikely turn of affairs!"

From SAM NORTHSHIELD: "My wife and I were living in Minneapolis for a few years but are now back at SUNY-Plattsburgh where we are both professors in the math department—thus finally solving the 'two-body' problem!"

DANIEL PICKER writes, "since the autumn of 1996, I've been teaching English in three Philadelphia-area colleges, teaching eight classes in the autumn of 1999. Recently, my poems have appeared in *The Dudley Review* at Harvard, *Accelerated News*, *The Bucks County Writer*, *Bridges* and *Folio*. Greetings to all!" Daniel submitted the following poem in honor of the late Corky Kramer '50:

### OF THOSE HEROIC AND HIS SHINING SHIELD IN MEMORY OF CORKY KRAMER

You spoke of those  
Heroic, of the Greek  
Epics of Homer, those  
Achilles battled to seek

His glory; but quietly  
We learned of his  
Shining shield, brightly  
Blinding armor this

Fury wore. And a shepherd  
As the spring swollen  
Streams rushed down  
Beside heard the roar.

With cool dialectic  
A cryptic question seemed  
Akin to Socrates  
In an exchange with

Plato. But like forlorn  
Odysseus you were exiled  
To a land formerly fat  
With sheep ripe for

Sacrifice. You braved  
Fierce and contentious  
Winds carving the granite  
Craggy to shame us

From slothful ease, to fight  
Through Poseidon's great  
Storm, that contrary tempest  
Raging distant from this

Green slope of peace, this shore  
A home for a time tempted  
With immortality  
But still not home.

—Daniel Picker '82

"In July of 1999," writes LAHLY POORE-ERICSON, "I got married to Mark Ericson at our home in Cerrillos, New Mexico. Mark teaches in a community-based education program at the Santa Fe Indian School. I've spent a lot of the year in South Carolina working on the Revolutionary epic, *The Patriot*. However, I plan to spend the spring in New Mexico. Call if you're in the Southwest!"

"Still in Cali, Colombia," writes TIM PRATT, "where I've been living for seven years, first working in translation and teaching, then getting into my true love—writing, especially journalism (first in Spanish, for papers and magazines here, and during the last three-plus years, in English). But we're trying to get out, as my Colombian wife, Johanna, and I aren't keen on continuing to raise our 3-year-old son Jesse in the dangerous country. Obtaining J's visa includes me getting work in U.S. Anybody out there know who needs a bilingual writer (or translator) with work published in the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Economist*, *Miami Herald*, plus 30 others, including science and tech journals?" Would love to hear from anybody: [v.comunicaciones@cgjar.org](mailto:v.comunicaciones@cgjar.org).

DAVID SKEELE edited an anthology titled *Pericles: Critical Essays*. One of the anthology's contributors was Marlboro theater professor Paul Nelsen, who wrote an essay on the BBC-TV show, *Pericles*. David and his wife are the parents of a daughter, Lena, and a new son, Dominic. According to fellow alum, DEREK DEJOY '85, David is the incoming chairman of the theater department at Slippery Rock University, where David and his wife currently teach.

LEIGH SMILEY-GRACE writes, "I have a one-year-old daughter, Margaret Emma Smiley-Grace. Still teaching and coaching professional actors and acting."

JAMES M. WADE is continuing work on the Indian Deeds of New Jersey and had a good Archeology Field Schools this past year. He is doing presentations on New Jersey Indians of the past at a local historical society. He is also working on a book of regional New Jersey Indians.

**'83**

LISA IHDA COSTA's third child, Lael Shelton Costa, was born on November 4, 1997. Her husband, RANDALL COSTA '84 is now Citibank's chief counsel for Italy.

DOUGLAS NOYES and Carter Simpson were married on June 17, 2000, at their home in North Guilford, Connecticut. Marlboro alumni in attendance were sister of the bride LUCY SIMPSON TELL '82, sister of the groom DIANNA NOYES '80, MATT TELL '81, LANSE FELKER '81, WILL KAMISHLIAN '92, EVA WEISBROD '93 and BEN GEERTZ '96. The wedding ceremony was performed by Carter's father in Douglas' orchard under sunny skies (a rarity this June). Despite the efforts of certain family members, no pink flamingos were in attendance.

**'84**

MOLLY CONOLE is currently living in Orlando, Florida. She and Nancy Waldman ([www.dreamsisters.com](http://www.dreamsisters.com)) recently announced the birth of their latest gold-award-winning album entitled *Moonfinder*. "A sleepytime journey for all ages," the album was recognized by the National Parenting Publications Awards and described by the *Los Angeles Times* as "...musical balm for restless souls." Their first album titled *Beautiful Dreamer* was a recipient of the Parent's Choice Award. "Things are so busy, but fun, creative and exciting," writes Molly, "our second album's winning a NAPPA award has been icing on the cake. Parenthood is the greatest pleasure and my source of inspiration. Amelia is 5 and Penelope almost 2. It's more fun every day!"

DEBORAH McCUTCHEN says "Hello to anyone I know out there. My half-kiwi daughter says 'urglebup!' I think my traveling days are over, but my New Zealand hubbie says, 'Not till I get home!'"

ELLY WETTEMAN and JOHN MAJONEN '87 write that John continues to work at Newsbank as a Web programmer, and Elly continues to operate Keets Brook Child Care in their home. She also works at Timson Hill Preschool in Williamsville and Amandola Farm Preschool in Putney. Their children, Emma (9) and Megan (6), are loving the Vermont winter.

FOSTER REEVE married Valerie Kremel

in 1994. They have two daughters: Bridget, age 5, and Laura, age 2. He works designing and installing tinted plaster and cement wall finishes.

**'85**

SHARON BROWN and JIM VALE are back in Seattle after several years in San Francisco. Sharon writes, "the weather in Seattle is as gloomy as ever. But it's great to be near family, especially now that we have yet another little girl, Kelly, born last July. Just before leaving San Francisco, I recognized BRIAN RICHARD '86 on the elevator at work. Small world . . . but not small enough since Vermont is so far away!"

RICK BURT writes, "We've all enjoyed a long Indian Summer on the plains. What a difference from our Octobers and Novembers in Vermont. Colin turns two soon and continues to amaze us every day with his capacity for genuine love. Hey, Kansas City has Internet access!! So email us at [burts@swbell.net](mailto:burts@swbell.net)."

In the process of tracking down DAVID SKEELE '82, DEREK DEJOY spoke with several other old classmates. ANDREW CLARKE '84 recently had a play produced in the Boston Theatre Marathon. JOHN RUBLE '86 is the NYC construction estimator and seems to be enjoying dining on regular meals of delivered sushi. (Don't call him at dinner time.)

KENDALL PORTER LARSON applied to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Associate in Ministry (AiM) program. She writes, "I have been working full-time as a lay minister to high school and junior high youth for the past year and a half, having a blast. The AiM program consists of 20+ seminary credits and a supervised internship. We moved out to Michigan for my husband to go to law school (Go State!), and now are within a couple of months of moving back to Montana. We were surprised to find we have another baby on the way—number three. Now I'm planning to be home with baby taking AiM classes through the Montana synod of our church for the next couple of years. I well remember Marlboro in the spring, apple blossoms in the moonlight. Enjoy it for me!"

"Hello all!" says MONIKA MAC LEAN LYMAN. "It's been an eventful year. I got married last year. Training for the Boston-

NY AIDS Ride keeps me busy. Would love to hear from any old pals. Email [mjlyman@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mjlyman@ix.netcom.com). It may take a while, but I will get back to you!"

**'86**

"I quit the film business and embraced technology," writes CHRISTOPHER LAING, "joining a computer company in Los Angeles, PC Mall, way back in '94. I've become a 'phone monkey,' selling and shipping computer hardware to corporate America... everything from a RAM chip to an entire Internet Data Center. My wife, Sasha, and I celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary with our 2-year-old daughter, Mira, recently on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. It was the most breathtaking scenery I've ever been so fortunate to experience, flying over locations used in *Jurassic Park*, *Seven Days, Six Nights* and walking on the same beaches we all saw in *South Pacific*. Kauai really is pretty close to paradise. I still miss the beauty of Marlboro and everything the college represents. I will always be grateful to the faculty for showing me the benefits of taking risks and really being passionate about your work. I shifted my dreams from making movies to riding the Internet revolution wave. I don't strike the mother lode riches that we all keep reading about in this modern day gold rush, but I do get a kick out of selling people the gear they'll need to go out 'prospecting.'"

PAUL PEDREIRA is an assistant director on television sitcoms and feature films, including ABC's *Talk to Me*. He recently left *Spin City* and is on a two-month hiatus to find support for his own project.

ELIZABETH "BOO" STEARNS is now at the Northern Wyoming Community College District as director of advising, assessment and remediation.

"My wife, Nancy, and I bought a log home on eight acres in the Los Angeles foothills to the Sierra Nevada range," writes RICHARD STROHL. "We are near Nevada City, a historic gold-mining town. Great skiing and mountain biking are close at hand. My cat, Moksha, born 15 years ago in the woods near Marlboro, is healthy and loving getting back to her roots!"

CHARLOTTE WATTS and husband CHRIS CARBONE '88 visited campus in August 1999 with their children Dylan

(age 2) and Jake (age 4 months), showing the kids where mom and dad met. They now reside in London. Chris was the lead author of a November 18 *Nature* article, "Energetic constraints on the diet of terrestrial carnivores."

**'87**

After seven and a half years being employed by Marlboro College, WILL BROOKE-DEBOCK flew the coop. He has taken a job at Kaplan (the folks who do standardized test preparation and tutoring), as executive producer of a new division they call KaplanCollege.com, a subsidiary of the Washington Post Company. KCC is based in Belmont, Massachusetts, and New York City and is in the business of providing distance education for working professionals. Marlboro will still be home, at least for the time being, for Will, his wife, Carol, and their three sons, with Will making the round-trip commute to Boston about three times a week.

"After working in mental health for five years and as a cartographer for four years, I have finally found a career I really enjoy: working as a producer for a computer game company," writes GREG SHEPPARD. "To all my friends: Identify a career that will make you happy and go after it. Once you have your foot in the door, the rest will come easily!"

SKYLER WIND and her husband, Michael, had their second child, Oriah Shea Joyous Wind, on October 16, 1999. As of June, she writes, "She's an avid crawler, climber and furniture cruiser. It took a while for my son, Ari, to adjust to his new role as big brother after eight years in the pilot seat, but li'l sis has a way with smiles that finally won him over. Michael has finally taken the plunge into self-employment as an independent contractor. Finally, he's getting a chance to take time at home for the Honey Dew and Sensuous lists (that's 'Honey, would ya do this' and 'since you was here, could ya do...'). This means our home is getting more of the much needed continued renovations it needs. Someday we'll have a finished house! I've got my business online now, so now I say I'm a full-fledged WAHM (Work At Home Mom). Check both my sites at: [www.shaklee.net/skywind](http://www.shaklee.net/skywind) and [www.facethefuture.com](http://www.facethefuture.com). Hope to see

some familiar faces at the next Alumni Weekend!"

**'88**

KATHRYN WRIGHT APENES is living in Santa Barbara, California. "It's a beautiful town," she writes, "but it never snows here. I miss seasons. I am busy and happy. I spend my time chasing two one-year-old twin boys and working as a graphic designer."

Jaspar Thomas Carmichael was born on September 22, 1999, to GRETTA KRAUTKRAMER CARMICHAEL.

ANDREW KOSCIESZA writes, "By the time you read this, Melinda will have defended her dissertation at Temple University. I am finishing my Ph.D. coursework at Rutgers, and I am looking at possible dissertation topics. I'm also teaching music history at the local college. Hello Stan and Luis!!"

PIETER VAN LOON is a Stewardship Forester for Vermont Land Trust for the entire state. "It's extremely overwhelming but very exciting," he writes.

MEGAN WILLIAMS is still living in the Fingerlakes region of New York and working in a small animal practice in Syracuse. "We are enjoying our son, Calvin," writes Megan, "who turned one in February 2000. Being a mom is fun now that I'm getting a little sleep!"

**'89**

"So are you going to have a leash law for those peacocks?" SUE CRIMMINS asked. "I wonder if there are still as many dogs on campus as cows in Vermont. I am working at a native plant nursery called Bitterroot Restoration in Montana as a sales consultant for large-scale ecological restorations, Superfund sites, coal mines, watersheds of California, Montana, Colorado and Idaho. I received an M.A. in Land Use Planning and Design at the Conway School in Massachusetts. I'm in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana and loving it."

**'90**

KIM MCGALLIARD is "living in New York City, working for an Internet game company. BRIAN MOONEY works here too!"

CLEA BOONE married Alistair Neil in June 1999, and they are currently living in Aberdeen, Scotland. "I finally managed to finish my first novel, and am working on the second one. One thing they never tell you is that writing the book is far easier than trying to sell it! With any luck, I'll be agented and on the way to being published by the time this sees print!"

PEGGY SUE GRIFFIN was married to Jack Dale "J.D." Stahr July 29, 1999. They live in Austin, Texas.

"So, I'm here in Boston working for John Hancock," writes REMY ST. PIERRE. "Believe it or not, I now write manuals and conduct software training."

ERIC WALLACE-SENFT and BRETT STANCIU have a daughter born February 3, 1999—Molly Blume Stanciu. They report, "Parenthood is terrific! Hi to everyone at Marlboro."

**'91**

C.J. CHURCHILL reports, "This May, I received my Ph.D. in sociology from Brandeis University. My dissertation was 'The Calling: Bureaucracy, Technology and Ideology in the Telefundraising Industry.' Jerry Levy was on my dissertation committee, served as my outside reader and was at my defense in April 2000. DAVID SIMONETTI was also at my Brandeis graduation. This fall I will be visiting assistant professor of sociology at the Williams College Department of Anthropology and Sociology, where I'll be teaching three courses: Community and Identity, Literature and Society, and Self and Society."

"I just joined a cooperative pottery studio in February," writes DIANE ECHLIN. "I'm making functional stoneware pieces and doing a little raku work. Had my first studio sale last weekend and did pretty well. Next step is approaching galleries to sell my work!"

ROBERTA HAHN works for Kaposia, Inc. in St. Paul, Minnesota. She helps individuals with disabilities to find work. "It is rewarding work," Bobbi writes, "and it's interesting to be a part of a new way of thinking about people who have various disabilities and help them to tap into the many opportunities that now exist."

In California news, *Variety* announced that CHRISTIAN MOERK was recently promoted to film editor. Christian adds, "Still in Hollywood, watching the clock strike on my seventh year out here as I struggle to defeat the stereotype. If you have to ask which one, then bless your heart. I spent five years in the movie business working at Warner Brothers as an executive, and have returned to journalism in cyber-form: SPY magazine co-founder Kurt Andersen and erstwhile SPIN editor Michael Hirschorn have started INSIDE.COM, which is a sort of Web-based CNN for the movie, TV and media industries. They've recruited writers and editors from traditional media. Should be interesting commentary, analysis, and—of course—hard news, real-time, all the time. I hear from JOHN SURFACE '90 from time to time in his self-imposed exile in Gdansk, Poland, where he runs a boy's school. TED BLANCHARD has moved to the Bay Area and is also operating somewhere in the cyber-business. Would love to hear from JULIE SERRES, DAVE SIMONETTI and STEVE PLYMIRE '93. My phone is (323) 634-8593." Email is cmoerk@inside.com.

ELIZABETH RESCH is living in the Boston area and teaching at the Carroll School. She teaches environmental education and outdoor adventure classes to students who have dyslexia or other learning disabilities.

TYRA SORENSEN writes, "It would be great to track down some of my old friends.... I received my master's in architecture from the University of Michigan and have been living and working in Seattle since. My office is large for architecture—170 people. We just moved down the waterfront on a pier not far from the ferry terminal. It is gorgeous! Greetings to all."

BRIAN WHITEHOUSE is teaching World Languages at Turner Falls High School in Montague, Massachusetts. He says, "I love being back in New England, especially so near to Marlboro. Even though it is less familiar to me now that I'm not a student, I still enjoy the peace that comes to me when I'm on campus."

## '92

CHRISTIAN BROWN writes, "I'm doing well and playing live games in southern California. Drop me a line!"

JANNA CORDEIRO and SEBASTIAN TOOMEY '93 relocated to San Francisco in May. Writes Janna, "We are still together! Almost 10 years! In fact, there was a *USA Today* article about us—and our long-term unmarried relationship status on April 18th..."

Until May 2000, MIKE CRANE was working in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget in Utah. He went from a river ranger for the BLM to a suit-and-tie job, which drew a lot on his natural resource expertise, but just as much, if not more, on political and cultural savvy and sensitivity. He credits Marlboro for his ability to articulate his thoughts to the different political constituents involved in his work, including property-rights organizations who are usually opposed to his work. Although he wouldn't have minded being a river ranger again, he felt like he was effecting major change in his role in the governor's office. Then, in mid-May, he moved back to Vermont, where he is currently living in Burlington, employed as the new executive director of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission. Said Mike in a March email, "Soon I'll be thrown into the thick of some very controversial issues: sprawl, affordable housing, the circumferential highway, et cetera.... Is it masochistic to think that I am looking forward to it? We are all very happy to be moving to Vermont, however."

LAURA FRANK has been working as one of David Bowie's lighting designers. She made her first trip to England with him to do the Glastonbury festival.

ERICA KENT writes, "I recently ran into BAR CLARKE '89 and JENNIFER CHANDLER-WARD. Currently, I am finishing a master's in education, and I'm teaching high school English in Portland, Maine. (Acting is taking the form of being an adult.) I may tie the proverbial knot soon."

HEATHER KUPCHUNOS was married to Jon Berntsen on May 20, 2000, in Stowe, Vermont. Heather received her teaching certification and has been teaching middle school science at Hazen Union High School in Hardwick, Vermont, since September 1999. They are currently living in Hyde Park, Vermont.

JOE MEEHAN is living in Los Angeles still working in film. He writes, "I recently finished a screenplay, *My First and Last Day in L.A.*, an adventure comedy about a young guy from Vermont who spends one crazy day in Los Angeles." He still has about 50 hours of film from 1990 to 1992 at Marlboro, including Town Meetings, Cabaret '90, Fall Rites '90, Spring Rites '92.

ERIC STEWART writes, "In December, I opened a big, beautiful yoga studio with my brother Jeff and another partner. I just bought a house in Oberlin up the street from my mom's. I have lots of siblings and other family living nearby. Looks like I'll be here awhile."

MICHELLE SZABO is now in Russia on a Fulbright.

## '93

"I'm a year behind," writes TRACIE BARNES. "We had a little boy added to our family on June 2, 1999. His name is Tyler Harrison. He has started a wonderful new chapter in our lives. Hi to everyone!"

CLAUDE BLAZEJ writes, "after studying political science/ sociology and finishing in 1993, I have established a moderately successful business building custom cabinets and furniture. I am happy to say I built my first piece of furniture at Marlboro in the Perrine Building, April of 1990."

As of this writing, ALICIA BRELSFORD is preparing to ride a hand-cycle across the country to raise money for spinal cord injury research and therapy in cooperation with the Ride to Provide fund-raising campaign. Alicia and three other cyclists plan to leave from Seattle on August 16, 2000, for a ten-week trip across the country, ending the trip in Maine.

SEAN COLE is working as a news producer for WBUR, an NPR affiliate in Boston, and is currently doing production for Rhode Island Public Radio. He lives in Somerville, Massachusetts.

PAMELA WITTE COLEMAN and her husband, Richard Coleman, would like to announce the arrival of their daughter, Melissa Ann Coleman. She was born on May 25, 2000, in Atlanta, Georgia. Everyone is doing fine, and Pam writes that she and Richard are adjusting to the role of parents (in other words, no sleep for a few months!)

"I have been blessed with a wonderful husband, job, and family," writes MADELAINE DANIEL, who was married in Scotland in 1999 and has a son named Ambrose. She is successfully self-employed as a videographer and photographer and also manages several properties in Barnard, Vermont.

JUDD HARDY writes that "It's been a big year. I got married in May and started doing adventure races this last summer. Lots of fun! Sadly, I had to stop because of surgery for cancer. All is better now and I'm just working on getting back to where I was before the surgery."

RANDY GEORGE opened the Red Hen Bakery (on Route 100 in Waterbury, Vermont) with MATT DOBSON '92. "Come visit us if you're traveling in northern Vermont," he writes.

Jim Tober saw ANAS MALIK at the International Studies Association meeting in Los Angeles in March. Jim reports that Anas is wrapping up a Ph.D. at Indiana State University in political science where he also held a teaching position, completed an M.A. in economics (applied econometrics), spent a year in Jordan studying Arabic on an SSRC Fellowship, and held a one-semester position at Hanover College. He's on the job market for the fall with a couple of irons in the fire.

CATE MARVIN married Shawn Sturgeon in March 1999.

MAUREEN O'REILLY is working for Credit Suisse in Zurich, setting up internships in the United States for its employees, and plans to be there at least until December 2000.

SEBASTIAN W. TOOMEY graduated from Georgia Tech in the spring of 2000 with a master's in industrial design. He writes, "Janna and I moved to San Francisco! Now I'm working in the heart of Silicon Valley as a user interface designer. Who would have guessed?"

"I am actually writing to inform *Potash Hill* that I have recently been engaged!" reports SCOTT WILLIAMS. "I know this will come as a shock to most of those who knew me and my commitment to nonmonogamy. As I have at times argued on behalf of my clients at sentencing hearings, 'even the incorrigible can be

redeemed.' Linda Cohen is the person I intend to spend my life with (what's left of it, I'm not as young as I used to be). I'm still in Philadelphia. I was recently a panel member at a symposium on crime, race and justice, speaking on the cumulative effect of passive racism and culture on the death penalty. As sad as this sounds, I have come to 'burn out' on death penalty issues; it is such a hopeless cause, and most of the overt injustices have been glossed over, so it is very difficult to get people to care. We are actively seeking to return to New England (first choice is Burlington, Vermont), with a goal of a September-October moving date. Health is fine (though I recently tore my ACL graft again. No more surgery. I am going to stay with a brace from here on out.)"

## '94

TIMALYNE FRAZIER and her husband, Paul, expect their first child on September 26, 2000 (their second wedding anniversary).

ANDREW GATES writes that he's working as a project manager for a production homebuilder in Austin. "I started a literacy program to teach non-English-speaking carpenters from Latin America to read blueprints, both as a job skill for them and as a quality assurance for my houses."

KRISTA HAIMOVITCH moved to New York in July 1999. This past year she has worked on two feature films (*Blood Rites* in Brattleboro area; *Soldier Boy* in Deerfield, Massachusetts) with Marlboro student Geoff Eads. She has just finished a short documentary for Human Rights Watch, and the Eleanor Roosevelt documentary for PBS' American Experience Series, which aired January 2000.

TODD CHRISTOPHER LYLES is continuing his artwork and is to be married on September 16, 2000.

MATTHEW '95 and JESSICA O'PRAY report that all is well and that their daughter, Claire, will be two in April. Jessica will be earning her M.L.I.S. from UCLA in June 2000, and Matthew is now in admissions with the School of Engineering at USC.

CASSANDRA PHOENIX-PEARSON and Jason Haas were married November 1,

1999, in a Unitarian ceremony in Savannah, Georgia. Cassie's attendants included her sister, Erin Anglely, and JODI CLARK '95. JENNY KARSTAD '97 was also at the wedding, and Cassie is planning a trip to Marlboro to be in Jodi and Jenn's wedding in August. "I'd been told that the first year of marriage is the most difficult, but I'm fairly sure that the level of personal challenge I've experienced since I got married is not typical of newlywed couples. At least, I hope not!" The wedding was "the last really good time Jason and I have had for a while. On November 16, Jason's mother (my brand-new mother-in-law) died of leukemia, which was terribly sad and difficult for the both of us.... Time passed, with us having to balance the giddiness of being newlyweds and the sadness of mourning such a great loss." Then, on March 10, 2000, Cassie was visiting friends in Boston, including CAROLYN '95 and EDWARD '96 ROSS and their two wonderful daughters, when a drunk driver in Savannah hit Jason while he was stopped at a red light. Jason was severely injured and spent 10 days in ICU, six weeks total in the hospital. Says Cassie, "Given how demolished the car was, it is miraculous that he came out so well." The prognosis now looks good for full recovery from the brain and eye injuries he sustained in the accident. Cassie has since been waitlisted by the University of Wisconsin in Jason's hometown of Madison, where they'll be moving in the spring. She adds, "I'd like it if the Imp of the Perverse would go and bother someone else for a while. Jason's and my fondest wish right now is to be boring."

KEELY SAVOIE writes, "I came back from San Francisco, California, to go to Boston University to finish my master's in biology. (Am I allowed to say that it was a deplorable institution?) I managed to fit in a trek to Bhutan, which was exquisitely unspoiled and beautiful. Now I am back in New York City, working at NYU toward a master's (my last, I promise) in science journalism. I am happy to say TIMALYNE FRAZIER has also moved back East again with her husband, Paul. Now we all wait for KEVIN CLARK to come to his senses."

## '95

"Things have a way of working out for me," says WENDY E. BLAIR. "I am now working for the county (Pasco

County, Florida) as an assistant attorney. My position was created with me in mind. Instead of doing the typical attorney one level work, which is primarily code enforcement, I am the county's land use attorney! I'm doing much of the work associated with zoning appeals, and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding permitting and rezoning applications. Also, I'll be working on developing environmental and wildlife, wetland protection and wetland criteria for our comprehensive land use and future land use plans. I'll be assisting another attorney on water law issues pertaining to the regional water agreement. I'm delighted."

"Greetings to you all!" writes JODI CLARK. "Sandglass Theater is a wonderful place to be, and I became their administrator a year ago. I've also been teaching fencing at Marlboro, and this year finds me once again in the thick of a Renaissance faire. I have had the great fortune of connecting with two business partners/founders to start up the Vermont Renaissance Festival, a full-scale professional faire, which premiered June 3, 4, 10 and 11 of this year at Fort Dummer in Brattleboro. I am the artistic director. A whole Marlboro crew of current students and alumni have joined me in the cast of the faire: MEADOW OSMUN '99, CHRIS BARNEY '99, TODD AGRO '01, LINK HUGHES '01, GILLIAN PAGE '01, SKARRN RYVNINE '94 and BRENNNA FARMER '98. We have had a wonderful time working on this. Be on the lookout for next year's festival dates on our [www.vtrenfest.com](http://www.vtrenfest.com). In other news, JENNY KARSTAD '97 and I had our ceremony for our civil union on August 19 in the gardens of Geri and Luis Batlle's 'manor.' What great timing for such a remarkable law! I love this state!"

DEIDRE CLEERE is living in Seattle and working at Microsoft as a program manager for [www.microsoft.com/worldwide](http://www.microsoft.com/worldwide), and she is very happy. "I love hearing from Marlboro folks, so drop me a line at [d.cleere@hotmail.com](mailto:d.cleere@hotmail.com)," she writes.

REBECCA LYNCH is still teaching art and Spanish at McKinley Tech High School in Boston.

ERIC PEARSON writes, "After a year of grad work in fine arts at Brandeis University, I worked as a 3D graphic artist

on a Sony PlayStation game, Supercross 2000. Check it out! It was a great experience. Also, I've been building Web sites for a few years now. Presently, I'm moving from beautiful Blue Hill, Maine, to Berkeley, California, where I've just landed a job as a Web developer/consultant for a large pre-IPO dot.com."

"I think two years have gone by since I've written in my news, and a lot has happened in that time," writes MARYA PLOTKIN. "Most notably, I received my master's in Public Health in December 1998 from the University of North Carolina and got married twice (to the same man). Let me explain...my longtime boyfriend (met the month after graduation) and I were married on February 27, 1999, in a very small civil ceremony in North Carolina, by the magistrate, right outside the Hillsboro County jail. In attendance were AMY HEARD '96 and CORIN CUMMINGS. Corin and Amy are highly recommended car-decorators and champagne poppers. (Some of you probably knew that...) Medzio and I were married again three months later in Ethiopia in a religious ceremony with all the parents in attendance. We had wanted to get married in Africa, but Medzio wasn't able to travel out of the country because of his visa, so by getting legally married first, we could get married in Africa. Medzio's parents came up from Tanzania (he is half Polish, half Tanzanian) and mine were already in Ethiopia. It was a beautiful wedding. All of the pigmented challenged got sunburns. Since then, we have been living in D.C. I've been working as a research and evaluation specialist in reproductive health in developing countries, but in August we will be leaving for Tanzania for two years. I got a fellowship through the University of Michigan to work with an African NGO called AMREF. They do exciting development work and research, mainly focusing on reproductive health. We will be based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Any visiting Marlboro-ites are welcome. Bob and John, the next biology field trip? Would love to hear from CHARLOTTE TWINE '94 and DEIDRE CLEERE—I know where the rest of you are!!!"

EDWARD '96 and CAROLYN ROSS report, "All is well here. The girls are growing quickly. We see Marlboro folk regularly. Most recently we saw SKARRN RYVNINE '94 and his new wife;

BECKY FURMAN '94; CRYSTAL FIELDING; IAN KOZAK '97; HEATHER HUBBARD '97; KEVIN CLARK '94; SCOTT JACOVES '94; LAURA ROBERTS '93 and ERIN PETERS '96. I hope we will see them all again in 2000... and maybe make a trip to Vermont."

"My degree has led me to edit half-nude images of women for *Stuff Magazine*," writes LOREN TALBOT. "I'm living in New York City. I have an intern, a great apartment and a cat named Fancy. I'm making art, doing yoga and traveling when I can."

MAYA R. ZELKIN writes that she is currently building a pottery studio in Marlboro and taking care of her son, Manolo, who turned 2 in December 2000.

## '96

RICHARD BOULET is finishing school in Library Science at McGill in Montreal, and will be looking for a job as a librarian during Spring 2000. His hope is to find something in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont or New York. His son Joseph Kennebec Boulet turned 2 in October 2000.

J. BRIAN DOUGHERTY reports, "For Halloween ERIK OLSON '94, my partner, Brian, and I put together a 20s party. ED LUTJENS '95 came down from Portland, and we all did the Charleston together!"

ROBIN GAY writes, "I just returned from traveling in Italy and am now in graduate school at the New School studying psychology. I am really looking forward to being a student again!!! And so far I am enjoying life in New York. I look forward to hearing from fellow classmates. Also if other students/faculty/staff are interested in contacting me they can use my e-mail address at [bluenova7@yahoo.com](mailto:bluenova7@yahoo.com). I send warm wishes to everyone at the college!!"

HEIDI SCOTT is "living in Oregon, working toward a nursing degree and missing the snow in Vermont."

## '97

"Life is so bizarre!" writes JUSTIN BULLARD, "A discovery process... I moved to Shelburne, Vermont, at the end of August of last year after being in the

Brattleboro cave far too long. My abode there was a little cabin on Lake Champlain till it broke in the middle of January. I moved into Burlington after being in sub-zero temperatures for a week. (Thank God/dess for 30-below sleeping bags and cats that sleep around your neck!) I enrolled in the postbaccalaureate pre-medical program at UVM and was working at Borders Books and Music till August of 1999. Working full-time and going to school was extremely trying. I also hooked up with this wonderful fellow from New York state. The second week of my stay in the little cabin I was notified that I had been accepted into the Master of Science in ethnobotany program at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England. Because of lack of funds, I had to defer that adventure in the realm of academia until September '99, where I'll be till October of 2000... trying to save money to get back to Nepal to do fieldwork for my dissertation. For now... I can't wait to get back to Nepal! Gina, Susie, Anna S., Jodi, Erin, Jenny, Gen., Skaarn, John, the Smiths... I hope you're all well. Much love!"

HEATHER HUBBARD has been promoted to associate project editor in the editorial production softside group at Houghton Mifflin.

JENNY KARSTAD writes, "I just moved to the Grassy Brook Valley! Peg Eves and Nancy Price are great landladies!"

ELIZA S. LAWRENCE and Mark Miley were married on May 13, 2000. She writes, "Mark and I will be starting a position of 'Friends in Residence' (caretaking for the Friends Meeting) in Westport, Massachusetts, in June/July. And I miss everyone at Marlboro!"

ARIEL ZEVEON and BEN POWELL are living in Culver City, California. Ariel writes, "I am still acting. I recently got a role as a series regular on an MTV pilot for a new series called *Hell House*. Making the pilot was great. Unfortunately, MTV didn't pick up the series. There is a chance it will be picked up by FOX. In the meantime, I'm in two theater companies (one, a women's company called Toxic Shock Stage, has a production up right now—we all wrote, directed and are acting in it). I'm also starting into rehearsals with a wonderful actor I met at Peterborough in summer stock, Miguel Perez, for *Oleanna*. Ben is writing scripts.

He just got a job rewriting scripts for a film company and he's doing well. He works with Marlboro graduate TRAVIS STEVENS '96, who is in development with the same company (and actually got Ben his job). My mom just wrote a script with MARCUS GAUTESEN '95."

## '98

SARAH ADELMAN enrolled in the Museum Education program at Bank Street College in New York City.

NORA DANIEL has resumed studies at the Art Students League with her teacher, Nelson Shanks. She is painting portraits of people and pets. Recently, her rolling coaster show opened in New York City.

JOSHUA FARBER writes, "A two-time alum now that I have completed my master's of Arts in Teaching with Internet Technologies at Marlboro College's new Graduate Center, I'm working in my field—which comes as a complete surprise, given that my field didn't exist when I designed my Plan. I'm in my second year as resident (yes, in dorm) faculty at Northfield Mount Hermon, a prep school just over the border in Massachusetts. My responsibilities as media specialist and educational technology coordinator include curricular design, teacher training, and teaching courses in media literacy, video as art, and Web design. My wife and I recently celebrated our third anniversary with our new Jack Russell Terrier puppy. After a successful summer project a few years ago with HARLAN ROLLINS '99 and DAN RESTIVO '99, Darcie is taking the year off from her own teaching to try her hand at mask-making for a living. DANIEL J. LEFEBVRE also received his MAT from the Marlboro Graduate Center!"

MATT KEMP is working at an early Bronze Age archeological site in Tralee, Ireland, where he is the official on-site photographer. Many of his photographs are on display in area museums.

TOMAS KING has a new travel Website called [nepaltour.com](http://nepaltour.com), offering rafting, treks, and accommodations. He recently spent a number of months in Nepal and Thailand.

"I am in a master's of education program at University of Vermont," writes TROY McALLISTER. "Things are great! After



Juniper Mott-White '99 and Dove Norouzi '00 at graduation

Photo by Kate Merrill

one more year I will have my master's and a license to teach high school social studies."

LINDA MOSS writes, "I'm living in a studio apartment/cottage by the edge of the woods in West Canaan, New Hampshire, and enjoying looking for low-cost ways to decorate. I am taking a ceramics class and trying to find more time for art. I work as an Engineering Test Rep at GDT (a business geographics company in Lebanon) and am enjoying learning GIS."

"I'm traveling in Southeast Asia with an Irish acquaintance from my semester abroad," writes NOELLE POLITIS. "I saved enough money to take time off and travel by working at a school in Washington, D.C. for a year after graduation. In Indonesia, we've met lots of like-minded traveling Europeans and Australians. On a trip into the jungle we encountered some indigenous people, but mostly we prefer the beaches of Malaysia and national parks with waterfalls and orangutans. We are in Borneo right now—just came back from climbing Mt. Kinabalu. I am having the best time of my life."

## '99

KHALISA HERMAN reports, "I have spent my first year out of college doing research on animal play for a psychiatrist out in California. This amazing experience has me thinking about doing further play research at the graduate school level,

and possibly going through medical school training. Just play, play, play!"

WAYLAND COLE and SARAH NORMANDIN worked in area junior and senior high schools while living in Blue Hill, Maine, and found time to hang out with KATIE CARR where she lives in Bar Harbor, before moving back to Vermont.

MORIA MILTON recently finished the Connecticut Fire Academy and has been hired as a firefighter-paramedic for the Manchester, Connecticut Fire Department.

"Funny, funny, funny," writes CRISS MOODY, "ELIZABETH STEARNS '86 and I found ourselves both working at Sheridan College (in Wyoming), the local community college. She's the director of advising, and I'm the director of the Writing Center. I once said that if I ever met a fellow Marlboro grad on my home turf, I'd faint. It was a close call!"

SELENA MOONEY has worked for "Launch," Digital Entertainment Network and now LemonPop.com.

DAVID POSES is working at the Maine Workshops in Rockport, Maine. KATHRYN QUIN-EASTER writes, "Erica and I are doing well. We've settled into Portland nicely and are busy, busy, busy. I am a part-time stage manager with the Children's Theatre of Maine and the full-time administrator's assistant in the admissions office at the Maine College of Art. As if I didn't have enough to do, I have been taking graduate classes at the American and New England Studies program at the University of Southern Maine and will be a fulltime grad student in September 2000. I'll study regionalism, the myths of New England and performance. I think that storytelling and the methodologies of collecting oral histories will make up the base of my thesis. It seems that everything I wrote about in my Plan has gone to a new level and now I'd like to look at it with a critical eye toward popular culture and New England regionalism. My partner, Erica, is currently a grad student at the ANES program and is heading to Bulgaria this summer (2000) to participate in an international Folk Festival and then heads into her thesis in September. In



Henry Wathen '99, Patrick Hahn '00 and Lynn Lundstedt at Commencement.

Photo by Kate Merrill

addition to schooling full time, she's the member director at the Maine Audubon Society. We're both busy and having a good time. The ocean is great. The city is fabulous. And life is progressing slowly."

JOSH RENZEMA has settled down in Denver, Colorado, and is working for a new dot.com company. He would like to extend an open door and a hearty meal to any recent graduates passing through the area.

*Following graduation, Potash Hill learned of immediate plans for a few members of the class of 2000:*

DAVID ALLEN is working for Outward Bound.

JOSH BAISINGER is working for a potter in Weston.

ERIC BROWN is working toward his master's degree at St. John's College in New Mexico.

ADAM HAMMICK is in the JET program in Japan.

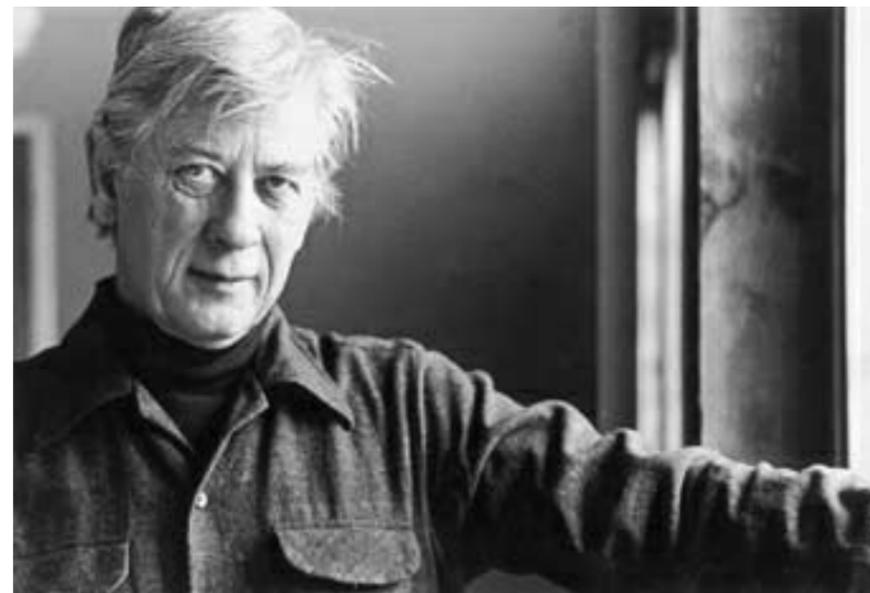
KRISTIN MISELIS has a job working in research at Dartmouth Medical School.

DOVE NOROUZI is in a one-year job with an environmental organization called Green Corps, in Boston. The organization helps environmental groups conduct grassroots organizing.

ANNE NOTTAGE was one of only three applicants accepted for graduate study at the Columbia University School of Theatre.

LISA SHAPIRO HECHT is teaching kids with special needs in Boston.

## IN MEMORIAM



### Clarence "Corky" Kramer '50

#### *A remembrance*

*Corky Kramer, one of Marlboro's few master's graduates and a longtime Marlboro professor of literature and philosophy, died in early March. Corky was born in Muskegon, Michigan, in 1921. He served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II and in 1949 graduated from St. John's College with a bachelor's degree in literature. At Marlboro he earned his master's degree in English literature and went on to teach at St. John's Annapolis campus. Corky's many credits include co-founder of the Key School—an alternative K-12 school in Maryland; founding dean of St. John's Santa Fe campus; and literature and philosophy professor at Marlboro from 1971 to 1987, including a stint as dean of faculty. The following is a remembrance written by Bob Engel.*

Kim Cloutier '78 doesn't call me very often, but last spring the phone rang, and there she was. "Corky's dead," she said. "I just wanted to tell you." The pancreatic cancer that he had beaten back with radical surgery a few years earlier had returned, aggressively. He was overwhelmed in a few short weeks. A day later, Corky's daughter Katie Kramer '75 also called. I said I knew, and we were silent for a while.

I first met Corky when I called the college in April of 1975 to arrange my interview. "Aw hell, Bob, don't come on Friday. We're pretty much a four-day college." He had just told me that he and most of his colleagues appreciated three-day weekends, and I had just met one of the most unpretentious people I have ever known.

Anyone who knew him understood that Clarence J. Kramer was a very complex man. He was at once caring and kind, irascible, intensely curious, profoundly opinionated, reclusive, involved, cautious and intemperate. He was also one of the most deeply intellectual people I have known, and perhaps more than anyone I have met, he showed me what a truly great educator should be.

After graduating from Marlboro, STEPHEN "VLADIMIR" HUNT '99 returned for a year to his Plan research on the molecular mechanisms of general anesthesia, at Washington University in St. Louis. He also spent the year applying to M.D./Ph.D. programs, and after interviewing with several schools, chose Stanford University. "The neurosciences Ph.D. program here is interdepartmental, which allows me a great deal of latitude in choosing my thesis project and laboratory. I have not settled in a lab yet, but the lab I will most likely start in studies the development of the mammalian cerebral cortex." After the personal autonomy granted him at Marlboro, Vlad says "I feel more comfortable with the responsibility expected of me." Vlad welcomes any Potashites in the Bay area: "I live in a vegetarian/vegan co-op (Synergy) on campus, known for environmental activism and nude dance parties. Definitely has a Marlboro-like quality to it. Love to all."



Corky was an important mentor for me during my tender years at Marlboro. We now have an official faculty mentor who tries to help new people adjust to the crucible in which we all function, but when I showed up, there was no one. “Just have some fun,” somebody said. Not very helpful. One of Corky’s great virtues was the extension of a protective wing to those temporarily without mooring. I needed a lot of help when I arrived, and he was always there. We actually “shared” a Plan student that first year, a guy who had had a falling-out with my predecessor in biology. The student wanted to read about Darwinism and had somehow found his way to Corky. And why not? Corky had read everything.

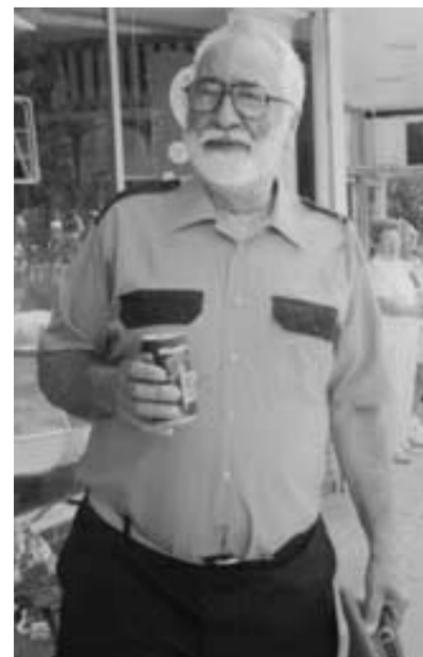
Marlboro has had many legendary teachers, but Corky taught many of us a great deal about how to manage students productively with only the lightest touch. One year when I was having trouble generating discussion in class (I still do), someone told me that after asking a question Corky could sit silently for minutes, one baleful eye peering out, with everyone squirming until somebody cracked and started the discussion. I have tried it for years, but I can’t keep quiet for more than a minute or so. In another case, one of his best seniors was having trouble bringing her project to closure. When he gave her back the draft, she eagerly fumbled to the last page: “Do something with the conclusion.” She did, and got high honors.

Recently, a number of us gathered at a memorial for him in Corinth, Vermont. Bob and Joanne Skeele had come all the way from the state of Washington. Doris Tennant, a close friend of Katie’s, had come up from Boston. The Corinth town clerk was there. After the proceedings, I chatted with Marj Wright ‘80, whose work had won the Whittemore Prize for the best Plan in the humanities that year. She told me that she would have studied nuclear physics if Corky had taught it. It would have been a helluva class.

There is no doubt that he was happiest when he was alone or nearly so at his beautiful farm in Corinth. He called it April Fools Farm; sometimes it was The Threshold Institute. He grew a garden there, had chickens, helped his bees make honey, studied nature and made and drank good wine and beer. Because it wasn’t winterized, he had to retreat back to Marlboro in the fall, but as soon as he could each spring, he was right back up there. He hosted me at the farm several times, always greeting me with a book in hand. One trip, sometime in the early 80s, he took me out to see a nice patch of showy orchis, a rarity in Vermont that wants more calcium than most of our soils have to offer. After a lot of begging, he allowed me to dig one up. (I still have it.) Then we continued wandering about the place, Corky talking mostly, me listening mostly. After dinner we sat outside, enrapt by the endless view. Gazing out he said, “I love it here, Bob. I don’t ever want to leave.”

You can stay as long as you like, Corky. And thanks...thanks for everything.

—Bob Engel has taught biology at Marlboro since 1975



## Rich Blazej, longtime project director

### *A remembrance*

*Rich Blazej, project director at Marlboro College from 1981 to 1999, died on February 2, 2000. He was 68. Born in Mount Kisco, New York, in 1931, Rich grew up in Chappaqua, New York. He studied architecture at Cooper Union College in New York City and became a peace activist and war resister, spending 16 months in jail for his opposition to the Korean War. He moved to Vermont in 1957, working as an independent contractor before joining Marlboro’s staff as project director. The following was written by Peg Eves.*

Rich was a zealous gardener, devoted family man and relentless community volunteer, but the reigning inspiration of Rich’s life was music. He started on the clarinet at age 10, playing in the Pleasantville, New York, Fire Department Marching Band. At the time of his death he was an active member of Brattleboro’s American Legion Band as well as several other bands, one of which made an appearance on Robert J. Lurtsema’s program on Vermont Public Radio. He also wrote music and published a collection of his songs. His co-workers can vouch

for his vocal talent, since on many a workday from our adjacent shops we enjoyed the deep, contented tones of his baritone voice as he accompanied *Morning Pro Musica* and sketched his meticulous building plans.

Because of his broad knowledge and experience he was an acknowledged expert in the building trades, yet he never exuded “authority.” There was little about his appearance to betray his competence, certainly not the T-shirts and red suspenders, the bike helmet, the size 13 Sorels, the American Legion uniform or the cardboard box he called his “brief” case. Rich’s “office,” smaller than most closets, was a suite compared to his original haunt in the driveway storage shed. (It was cozy in there during break with the whole maintenance outfit gathered around him, Rich sipping a V8 juice—or “Slant 6” as he called it.)

To see Rich the director you had to witness his negotiations with five or six vendors a week. They pulled up outside the shop; Rich in there tapping out one of his famous custom-bi-angled, fancy-fit workstation desks.

“Hey Dick! How you doing?”

“Oh, not too bad for an obsolete fella.” Then, after inquiring as to the welfare of various family members of this builder, floor finisher, plumber, architect or salesperson, “So, what can I do ya out of?” And so it went, “Click and Clack” or Schubert in the background, Rich calmly, casually offering up myriad details on the item at hand as it pertained to the prior item at hand and the four other links in the chain we called maintenance that day.

Rich was not only the boss of the workplace in the technical sense (which he denied), more essentially he was the center, the pool from which we drew stamina, patience, humor, insight. He was more conscientious than anyone I have ever met in his benevolent behavior toward people and in his refusal to criticize. He was a die-hard feminist and all-round warrior of good will.

In introducing to a concert audience of 300 a song he had written for Rich, Carl Christensen summed it up: “Rich Blazej was a magnificent man.”

—Peg Eves is a visual artist,  
musician and multi-award-winning songwriter.  
She has been a staff member at Marlboro since 1990.

### Barbara G. Keblish Packer '61

Barbara G. Keblish Packer died in November 1999, in New York. After graduating from Marlboro College, Barbara attended Rutgers University and taught at several private schools, including St. Margaret's School for Girls in Connecticut, the Northampton School for Girls in Massachusetts, the Winward School in New York, and Overlake Day School in Burlington, Vermont. Barbara also worked with her husband, Marc Packer, in their wholesale lighting supply business. She served Marlboro College loyally for many years as class agent, working to increase both the size and number of gifts to the Alumni Fund from her classmates.

Barbara's passion was literature. In December 1999, at the request of her husband, Marlboro College created in her memory a book fund for the purchase of important contemporary fiction as determined by the librarian. "Barbara will never pass into nothingness, because of her legacy of kindness and decency," said Marc. "She was, above all, a teacher in the best sense of the word, who gave unsparingly of herself, nurtured her students and helped them flourish and grow into decent human beings. Barbara will likely be remembered by her peers at Marlboro as the hardest working student ever, an overachiever who strove to be a 'Renaissance' person."

### Clayton S. Pratt '51

The Reverend Clayton S. Pratt died on January 5, 2000, at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. He was 74. Born in St. Albans, Vermont, Clayton became one of the true Marlboro pioneers. After receiving his B.A. from Marlboro, he continued his studies at Boston University School of Theology, graduating in 1954 with a master of divinity degree.

For five years he served in Methodist parishes, then began studies for the priesthood of the Episcopal Church in Albany, New York. He was ordained a deacon in 1961 and became a priest in 1962. Father Pratt retired in 1991 as Rector of St. Mary's in Lake Luzerne, New York, where he had served for 25 years. He was active in community affairs and was on the board of the Luzerne Music Center. He was Dean of the Southern Adirondack Deanery of the Albany Dioceses for a period of three years and was a member of the Confraternity of the blessed Sacrament and the Guild of All Souls. He belonged to the Society of Mary and was a priest associate of the Holy House of the Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham, Norfolk, England.

He is survived by several cousins and a close friend, Nicholas Burroughs.

### Reginald W. Cauchois, Jr. '53

Reginald W. Cauchois, Jr., died January 26, 2000. He was 72. Reginald was born in 1928 in the Bronx, New York. He attended the Kent School, St. Lawrence University and Columbia University before transferring to Marlboro in 1951. After graduating from Marlboro he served in the Navy, including a stint aboard the aircraft carrier *Tarawa*, before entering a career in the investment industry. He was a resident of Greenwich, Connecticut, and Quogue, New York.

### Samuel Block '68

Samuel T. Block died April 13, 2000, in Los Angeles. Born in Cleveland, Mississippi, in July, 1939, he attended Marlboro from 1964 to 1965.

Growing up black in Mississippi during the era of segregation, Sam developed in adolescence the sense of humor that bore him through his future struggles, as well the will to help himself and other African Americans. He was expelled from the Mississippi Vocational College for organizing an undercover branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He then joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which helped blacks register to vote in the face of esoteric examinations and physical intimidation.

Sam was jailed at least seven times and lost his right eye in a beating that he received from a police officer. In two years Sam emboldened 13,000 blacks to attempt to register to vote, 50 of whom succeeded.

He moved to Vermont in 1964 and studied theater and political science at Marlboro, before transferring to a college in his home state. Sam continued to support civil rights causes throughout his life, while also pursuing a career in business. He leaves his daughter Veronica Block; his brother, Oliver Block; his sisters, Margaret Block, Minnie Jane Bankhead and Olivia Block; and one granddaughter.

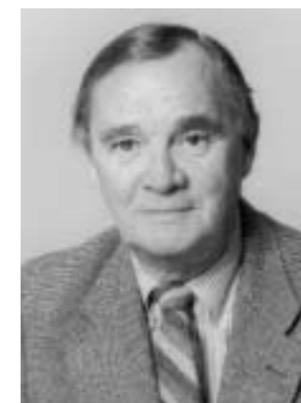
### Gloria A. Bower Brooks '54

Gloria A. Brooks died on Thursday, August 19, 1999, in Alexandria, Virginia. She was 67. Gloria grew up in Brattleboro, Vermont, and attended Marlboro in the early 1950s, studying music with Blanche Moyse and becoming an accomplished musician. While at Marlboro, she met and married Curtis Brooks '52 in 1951.

With Curtis and their young family, Gloria left Vermont, living in Washington, D.C., Italy, the West Indies and Hong Kong before settling in Alexandria in 1965. There, according to Curtis, she was busy as a "soccer mom" long before the

term was coined. She earned an associate's degree in fine arts at Virginia Community College in the early 1980s, worked as a volunteer with the Art League and was a staunch supporter of conservation programs and environmental groups.

She is survived by her husband, Curtis, children Shawn and Andrew, one granddaughter, four sisters and three brothers.



### William Blair, trustee

Bill Blair, a trustee of Marlboro College from 1984 to 1999, died on June 21, 2000. He was 82. Born and educated in Scotland, Bill earned a Commonwealth Fellowship to study economics at Princeton University, but he left graduate school during World War II, enlisted in the Canadian Army and served from 1943 to 1946.

He immigrated to the United States in 1950 and worked with his friend David Ogilvy at the Ogilvy and Mather advertising agency until 1957, when he became president of sales at Harper-Atlantic Publishing. He served as publisher of *Harper's Magazine* from 1968 until 1972. In 1973 he moved to Guilford, Vermont, to found *Blair and Ketchum's Country Journal* with Richard Ketchum. He worked as publisher until 1984.

In addition to his service at Marlboro, Bill was also a trustee of Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and the School for International Training.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; daughters Fiona and Sheila Blair; son, Colin Blair, and two grandchildren.



### Robert Hawthorne, Jr., former faculty member and trustee

Robert Hawthorne, Jr., a former faculty member and trustee, died September 1, 2000, at the age of 70. Bob taught chemistry and geology at Marlboro and served during his retirement as a trustee.

Born on November 1, 1929, in Akron, Ohio, Bob married Judith Parker in 1955 in New York City after serving three years in the Army. He graduated from Columbia University in 1956 and received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Rutgers University in 1963. He taught at Marlboro College from 1963 to 1968, when he left to teach at Purdue University. Bob and Judy retired to Marlboro in 1991.

Bob maintained an active retirement, among many other things contributing encyclopedia articles to the Salem Press and serving as trustee for Marlboro from 1994 to 1997. Also an accomplished amateur musician, he studied oboe and played bassoon, English horn, oboe d'amore and recorder, and sang with the Marlboro Music Festival. Bob leaves his parents, three sons, one daughter, three grandchildren and many friends and colleagues.

### Elizabeth F. Moore, friend of the college

Elizabeth F. "Betty" Moore, who with her husband, Hubert, ran Marlboro's Whetstone Inn for 30 years and was a longtime supporter of the college, died on August 15, 2000, in Brattleboro. She was 91.

Betty was born on November 9, 1908 in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up there while also summering on Cape Cod. She attended Concord Academy in Massachusetts and graduated from Vassar College in 1930. While teaching at the Putney School she met Hubert Moore of Sewickley, Pennsylvania. Her prowess at removing snow chains from her car so impressed him that he proposed to her on the spot, and they were married on June 24, 1939. They returned to Vermont from Pennsylvania six years later, and in 1947 bought a crumbling colonial era tavern in the town of Marlboro, which they restored as the Whetstone Inn. When the couple turned over the reins of the inn 30 years later, they retired to a home they had built on a back portion of the inn property. Betty lived there until recently moving to Brattleboro.

With her warmth and curiosity, Betty enriched the lives of generations of Marlboro College students, faculty, staff and guests of the college. She was committed to the town's community, and supported Marlboro College, the Marlboro Music Festival and the Marlboro Historical Society. Betty is survived by two sons, Ted Moore of Anchorage, Alaska, and Malcolm Moore of Marlboro; and four grandchildren.

## Parting Shot



Broomball

Photo by Rachel Portesi '98



MARLBORO COLLEGE

Marlboro, Vermont 05344