SPRING 2008

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Cover photo: Students in the Environmental Studies Senior Integrative Experience launched the Community Bike Program on April 2 in front of the Scandling Campus Center. Nearly 40 neon yellow bikes – donated by community members – are available at no charge. Students, faculty and staff can cut down on car transportation by taking a bike at any time, riding it to a campus destination, and then leaving it for others to use.

PHOTO BY KEVIN COLTON
Alexis E. Santi '99:

A Writer’s Life/Story

It sounds like the sketch for a fictional character: he’s a writer who speaks three languages (and can say “thank you” in a dozen others), he’s the son of Cuban immigrants, he has traveled the world, been a Peace Corps volunteer and the recipient of a prestigious Romanian literary grant and admits he has a weakness for a particular Michael Crichton memoir. But this is no fictional character. Instead, this is Alexis E. Santi ‘99 – writer, editor and fiction guru.

Santi is the founder and editor of Our Stories (www.ourstories.us) an innovative literary journal based in Ithaca, N.Y. “What’s unique about Our Stories is that we give feedback to every submission as well as the submissions to our annual contest. That’s unheard of for a literary journal,” explains Santi. Unusual as it may be, it’s catching on. “In our first year, Our Stories has already received a growing amount of submissions and positive feedback, even from writers whose work we’ve rejected.”

When he’s not busy improving others’ writing, and interviewing world-renowned novelists, Santi spends time with his own work. “I just handed off copies of a recently finished novel, The Song of the Midnight Rider, to friends of mine and sent it to agents,” says Santi. “Now, I’m mainly working on short stories and poetry as well as teaching local creative writing workshops.”

What inspired this writer’s atypical, feedback-based approach to publications? “For everything I learned as an M.F.A. student at George Mason, no one taught me the business side of my art; there were no courses on how to get your work published or how to get an agent,” says Santi.

“Fortunately, my time at HWS as a pre-law-turned-English major taught me not to just stare at problems but to find out what I could do about them. Hobart taught me that,” he emphasizes. “This life lesson is what inspired me to do my part for burgeoning writers by starting Our Stories and encouraging more of a dialogue to take place between the business side and the artists. Of which I’m happy to have a foot in both worlds.”

- Joshua Unikel ’07
Q: Describe your Peace Corps project.
A: The development of a community-wide clean-up campaign. I see myself as an organizer, motivator and educator for the Solid Waste project, which hopefully will be taken into the hands of community leaders after I leave. The long-term goals of the project are to start community-wide separation of trash among inorganic and organics (which will be used as compost), a site to properly dispose of solid waste, and to start a recycling program (where they can sell the recycled materials in a city).

Because my community has never been presented with such a project, the first step is to work on awareness and education of the solid waste problem.

Q: Did HWS prepare you for the Peace Corps?
A: One of the sayings that has remained with me from my time at HWS is that Life = Exploration. Not only was I allowed to explore many options academically and personally at HWS, I have been able to continue that exploration by becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer. I see my Peace Corps experience as part of my life-long journey of exploration, education, learning and serving others.

Q: Are the environmental challenges in Contumazá as great as the cultural differences you are experiencing?
A: Instead of calling my challenges here environmental or cultural, I’d say it is more of a mental challenge. My life here is like living in a fish bowl: eyes are on me every day; everyone knows where I am or what I’m doing. Every day I need to motivate others and myself, place setbacks in the past, and keep my moral up in public.

Every day I challenge myself—sometimes it’s just to get out of bed to teach English, sometimes it’s to step into a room of all males in a machismo culture and have my voice heard and respected, and sometimes it’s to clear my mind of a failed project or idea and start on a new one. My fellow PCVs tell me that the greatest challenge is being here day-in and day-out. We challenge ourselves in ways that we could never explain completely and others could never understand completely.

-Amy Jackson Sellers

Yahoo! for Young HWS Alums

Yahoo! is home to two recent HWS graduates: Jessica Larigan ’05 and Adam Chaput ’07, both in the impressive marketing department at Yahoo! Inc.

In 2005, Larigan was the first HWS student to have a one-on-one mentorship with Daniel Rosensweig ’83, then Chief Operating Officer of Yahoo! When the summer term came to a close, she received an invitation, which she readily accepted, to return to Yahoo! full time. Last fall Larigan transferred to the company’s European Marketing team based in London where she focuses almost exclusively on the young adult market.

After completing his summer mentorship with Rosensweig in 2006, Chaput returned to Yahoo! last fall as associate marketing manager on the Front Doors marketing team.

Since Larigan has transferred from the Sunnyvale, Calif., office, she and Chaput do not often cross paths, but, according to Chaput, “there is a certain bond among all HWS interns who have been at Yahoo!”

Both he and Larigan agree that HWS has prepared them well for the exciting challenges they face. “I think general curiosity is something I may have had from the beginning,” Larigan says. “But I learned to rely on it at HWS. The internship I had was incredibly useful because I could finally say to myself, ‘This is how I’m going to apply my education.’”

“At HWS,” Chaput says, “they emphasize an interdisciplinary educational experience, which pushes students to put themselves in situations where they are out of their comfort zone.” By taking required classes and being involved in many extracurricular activities, Chaput says he was given, “the ability to learn and listen and feel comfortable when 99 percent of people would be uncomfortable.”

Unsurprisingly, when asked about their favorite web sites, both Larigan and Chaput say they click on Yahoo! and its affiliates most often. “I don’t think that enough people know about Yahoo!’s photo-sharing option, Flickr,” says Larigan. “They’ve built a community around photography, and it’s really cool and unique.”

Chaput, on the other hand, follows the top search trends on Yahoo! Search and Yahoo! Pulse. “They act as the barometer of what is going on in the world right now.”

-Amy Jackson Sellers
Ashley Sferro ’00:
A Passion for Production

She might not be a household name, but if you own a television, you’ve probably seen her work. Ashley Sferro ’00 has an instantly recognizable portfolio that includes “Got Milk?” ads and award-winning material for Comcast and Hewlett-Packard. As an advertising producer for Goodby, Silverstein & Partners in San Francisco, Sferro is able to stretch the creative boundaries of advertising. What is surprising is that it happened by accident.

“I didn’t set out to have an advertising career,” Sferro says. “It happened by accident. I had the best friend, Stacey Higgins, was a producer. Stacey helped me get my foot in the door.” Sferro explains. “I landed an internship, worked post-production, got a full-time job, and worked my way up.”

Sferro is currently an advertising producer for Goodby, Silverstein & Partners in San Francisco where her sister’s (Lyndsey Sferro ’94) best friend, Stacey Higgins, was a producer. “Stacey landed an internship, worked post-production, got a full-time job, and worked her way up.”

Today she says she is, “constantly inspired, working for one of the most innovative advertising agencies.” It’s a place where Sferro’s natural talents and dedication to the craft have paid off. Her HP commercial won awards from the Association for Independent Commercial Producers and her campaigns for Saturn and other top companies have been similarly honored.

Sferro is most proud of the 2006 HP Hands commercial made with Pharrell Williams, Mark Burnett, Mark Cuban, and the directors of Little Miss Sunshine. “We created a 3D animation technique that was visually stunning and became a signature.”

Sferro has also lent her skills to worthy causes, producing pro-bono commercials for Youth Speaks, a non-profit program aimed at inner-city kids and an anti-drunk driving campaign.

Her journey began as an English major at the Colleges, where Sferro credits her “confidence and desire to achieve” to former Professor of Sociology Manisha Desai and to former Professor of Sociology Manisha Desai and to her experience studying abroad, where she interned at the Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom in Switzerland.

Still an avid traveler, Sferro has made a point of seeing Southeast Asia, Thailand, New Zealand, Australia, Europe and the Galapagos Islands since graduation. Yet no matter how far she goes, Sferro still looks forward to coming back to work. “I’m fortunate to have found my passion,” she says.

— Cara-Leigh Battaglia and Dominic Moore ’05

Christina DeLeon ’05:
Life at the Met

As curatorial assistant for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Christina DeLeon ’05 spends most of her time performing research, processing loans and assisting her bosses as they purchase artwork and organize big events, such as the opening of a wing that had been under construction for three years. It’s a lot of work, but it still leaves time for some rather peculiar moments in the museum.

“I sometimes deal with the most bizarre phone calls from people who have ‘treasures,’” says DeLeon. “I’ve had people just show up at the museum with their object and ask to have a meeting with a curator. I also had the wife of an artist call and ask how she could get a show for her husband, because she thought the Met would be a great place to showcase his work.”

Despite fielding these strange requests, the job seems a perfect fit for this international relations major with an art minor, but it took a bit of luck for DeLeon to land such a great position. Her senior year, DeLeon was late to a William Smith Founder’s Day dinner but was able to find an open seat at the speakers’ table. One of those speakers was Dianne Doctor ’78, who at the time was a vice president of CBS News, the network that handles all television press for the Met. Doctor and DeLeon kept in touch, and later that year, Doctor hand-delivered DeLeon’s resume to the Met. “Within the week,” says DeLeon, “I got the phone call. Instead of going on vacation for Spring Break, I went to interview with the Met. It was my first interview, and I got it.”

DeLeon’s initial assignment was with the Cloisters, a branch of the Met devoted to the art and architecture of medieval Europe. Her focus there was on education, and thanks to inspiration and encouragement from HWS Assistant Professor of Spanish and Hispanic Studies Alejandra Molina, she helped start a family program in Spanish with the museum, which she still assists with on the weekends. DeLeon was at the Cloisters for almost two years before moving to her current position as a curatorial assistant this past June.

DeLeon is thrilled to be back in her hometown of New York City, and is happy to share her recommendations for art venues in the city. Beyond the Met, DeLeon suggests that visitors check out the MoMA and El Museo del Barrio, which is the only museum in NYC dedicated to Latin American art. Just don’t bring your Great Aunt’s umbrella stand along for an appraisal.

— Amy Jackson Sellers

Brian Schubmehl ’07:
Funding the Arts

For Brian Schubmehl ’07, the post-graduation job search, while stressful, ultimately yielded amazing results. After applying to various jobs, Schubmehl came across postings online at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), Boston. He sent in his résumé and was interviewed for several positions.

When he finally received the offer he’d been waiting for, Schubmehl was overjoyed to escape the post-collegiate frying pan. “When Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts contacted me, I accepted within the hour,” he laughs.

Schubmehl jumped right into the fire, joining the museum’s development team toward the end of a $500 million capital campaign, a fundraising effort to enhance the Museum’s endowment for programs and positions, and to secure operating support.

“The job is amazing,” he says. “The Chronicle of Philanthropy recently ranked the Museum as the fourth highest recipient of private donations among U.S. arts organizations. The Lincoln Center led by Hobart alum Reynold Levy ’66 was first. This is a very exciting time to be at the MFA.”

As the development assistant of stewardship, heavily involved with the Museum’s donors, Schubmehl is excited to work with people who have contributed to the museum in a variety of ways. “Donors of all kinds are part of the community of the museum, and making sure the community has access to our amazing collections is the most rewarding part of my job.” — Andrew Wickenden ’09
Chevon Stewart '04:

**Performer and Educator is On Point**

Chevon Stewart '04 can stir up nostalgia for the fourth grade—and not because she applauds the return of leggings and the side ponytail. No, Chevon Stewart gives new gusto to grade school by the way she speaks about being a dance teacher.

Fourth grade—even under the best circumstances—tends to be a time filled with stressed out teachers and high-stakes testing. Enter Stewart. She takes a group of potentially self-conscious and over-schooled kids and helps them create, express and imagine themselves through dance. “I remind the kids that everyone moves differently and that we need to respect each individual’s movement,” says Stewart. “Different movements feel comfortable for different bodies.”

Stewart, an accomplished dancer in her own right—she currently performs with INSPIRIT, a dance company in New York—gushes about the originality that ensues when students start to groove.

It was around that time in her own life when Stewart officially began training as a dancer—a pursuit she followed through high school, her years at HHS, and into her current career. Just what is it that draws her to use and share her artistic gifts in this particular medium? “Dance helps me tell a story and give voice to movement, to use a tool of expression for what can’t be said in other ways,” she explains. Stewart brings her storyteller’s magic to the stage in her own modern dance performances, and she brings it with her to the classroom, where schoolchildren chime in with their unique kinesthetic voices.

— Amy Jackson Sellers

Henry Heckman ‘06:

**From Geneva to Hong Kong—by way of California?**

Most HWS alums agree that their education has taken them a long way. For Henry Heckman ‘06, however, a B.A. in media and society has sent him all the way to Hong Kong.

In September 2006, Heckman was hired by DFS Galleria, one of the world’s largest luxury retailers specializing in duty-free products for international travelers, and sent to their San Francisco office for a year of training.

“I was interested in DFS because it is an entrepreneurial company that has a great deal of potential for internal growth,” says Heckman. “That potential is what got me on board with DFS, no matter where in the world it takes me.”

While in San Francisco, Heckman took on several roles, including working for the financial planning team for Hermés, managing two stores in Hong Kong and developing new stores in Asia as part of the store development team.

“After taking on so many responsibilities during my year in California, I feel prepared to leave for Hong Kong to work for their Wine and Tobacco Department,” explains Heckman, who leaves soon. “I’ll be merchandising for the department, collaborating with established wineries in France and developing wineries in New Zealand.”

In his position at DFS, Heckman has found that HWS has given him a certain advantage. “Many of my co-workers have studied merchandising at fashion institutes,” he explains. “However, I’m confident that my degree in media and society has given me an innovative approach to retail and lets me improve DFS in my own, specialized way.”

— Erinn Cain ’08 and Joshua Unikel ’07

Katie Bush ’06:

**Following the Flow**

For some graduating seniors, flowing into the real world is fraught with pitfalls. For Katie Bush ’06, however, the transition was... well... fluid.

Following her academic interest in all things water related, Bush found herself in Denmark after graduation as a Fulbright scholar. “Denmark was a natural choice for my research—the country is surrounded by water,” Bush explains. “But it’s not just the geography that attracted me. In Denmark, I was able to study biological and chemical toxins in the Roskilde Forde alongside an international research team.”

While abroad, Bush worked with Copenhagen’s Department of Marine Ecology’s National Environmental Research Institute and studied as a special student at Roskilde University.

After getting her feet wet in Denmark, Bush returned to the states for a Ph.D. program at the University of Michigan. “Right now I’m collecting and analyzing water from Ann Arbor’s Huron River as the basis of my current research.” She divides her time between the classroom, the lab and living her everyday life as an eco-minded adult. “My research isn’t where helping the environment ends. I really try to set a healthy environmental example as much as I can for others,” she explains. “I’m always working on simple but effective at-home projects, like teaching my roommate the importance of recycling and things of that sort.”

— Erinn Cain ’08 and Joshua Unikel ’07
Colby Feane '06:

Playing the Market

Colby Feane '06 always wanted to be a professional athlete. At Hobart, he earned multiple basketball and football honors. But the economics major credits professors, career counselors and coaches with funnealing his interest and connecting him with the right people at the right time. Now, instead of facing off on the gridiron, Feane is playing the market in the Big Apple.

Feane says Associate Professor of Economics Jo Beth Mertens had a big impact on his career. Just before an interview for a coveted and prestigious JP Morgan internship, she gave him advice and the confidence needed to win. “She challenged me to be the best while instilling the confidence I needed to succeed on Wall Street, and it didn’t hurt that she’s a big sports fan!”

Feane got the internship and parlayed it into a position as a foreign exchange sales analyst. He now provides institutional, corporate and high net-worth clients with foreign exchange services and risk management products on the dealing room playing field. “It’s constantly new and fresh; going in every day and reacting keeps it interesting.”

The game isn’t always what he expected: a 12 hour day is the norm. “I used to think an 8:35 a.m. class was bad,” he says ruefully. “Now I’m up at 4:30.”

At the end of the day, Feane relates his job to sports. “Work is like basketball – you have to think on your feet,” he explains. “No matter how much you’ve practiced, what happens in the game comes at you pretty quick. A client calls and you’re not expecting it – you have to make the most of it. If the market does something unexpected, you have to react. Preparation for a large deal at work is practice, and a game is pitching a deal to a client.”

Feane’s success correlates to the work ethic, focus and competitive drive developed in Hobart sports and academics. “I’ve been fortunate to develop strong relationships with friends, teammates, coaches and professors who played an important role in getting me where I am today,” he says. “Now the ball’s in my court in terms of where I can go.”

– Cara-Leigh Battaglia

Elizabeth Jefferies de Villegas ’98:

From New York to New Delhi...

Where do you go with a degree in art history? If you’re Elizabeth Jefferies de Villegas ’98, you go from New York to New Delhi.

De Villegas pursued a public relations career with fashion houses, modeling agencies and magazines, working with Victoria’s Secret, Town & Country, Esquire and Redbook magazines, financial corporations and ultimately as events manager for The Museum of Modern Art.

But her boyfriend, Arnoud, had fallen in love with both Lizz and India. Arnoud proposed, and they headed to New Delhi in 2005, a surreal year of dual weddings in Rhode Island and Marrakech, Morocco and cultural and language adjustments.

There, she founded Kalysta Impex Pvt. Ltd. As director/chief designer, she exports to retailers and buyers, working with a tailor in her home and outsourcing as needed. Her favorite design, a beach cover-up, became her best seller. She makes clothes that “reflect everyday life and the need for comfort and style.” Her clothes and accessories retain a Western feel but feature Indian color, distinctive patterns and antique borders. “India is visually over-stimulating,” de Villegas explains. “I buy materials in Nehru Place, the Fashion District of New Delhi or wherever I travel. An idea will come to me once I see a fabric. India is influential in the colors and fabrics you see everyday, whether modeled on a woman you drive past in the slums or on the pages of Vogue.”

With their first baby due and her fledgling business on hold, she’s developing a foundation with her father-in-law to fund, build and maintain schools in Anopura, Rajasthan and surrounding villages. “People in these small villages are still living like they did centuries ago,” she says. “It’s incredible. This is the India that I love, these people who have nothing, completely live off the land and are content. But their children should have an opportunity to get an education.”

Dedicated and modest, she lives each day to the fullest. Moving to India without a job in sight was risky, as was starting a design business. But, as she explains, “There’s no harm in risk-taking. I’ve done it in baby steps. My advice is to try to fulfill a dream or take a risk without jumping into the deep end. Just wade in and see if it’s for you. If not, there’s a whole world out there waiting to be conquered. I’m constantly trying to adjust to life and figure out what I’m ‘meant’ to do,” she notes. “I like that life has only just begun. Now my goal is to give back to the country which has taken me in. I need to do something to make a difference, no matter what size, while living in India.”

– Cara-Leigh Battaglia
I was January 1999, a typical blistering cold winter afternoon in Geneva, New York. I was bundled up to the nines and walking extremely slowly to survive a treacherous series of strong winds and heavy snow down South Main Street on my way to Houghton House. Out of nowhere, a white blob of a vehicle appeared beside me. As the car got closer, the passenger window lowered down and a voice asked, “Would you like a ride?”

This was how Jonas Wood and I met. I was an eager sophomore interested in familiarizing myself with my fellow Studio Art peers, their work, and its connections with my work. Wood took me under his wing and introduced me to all that he was creating and connected me with his fellow classmates, a strong group of senior painters, each developing their own visual identities.

I was taken with Wood’s work, which at that time included black and white portraits of family members and colorful landscapes. An influential figure for Wood was Associate Professor of Art Nicholas H. Ruth. A painter himself, Ruth understood Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared these ideas with me. These conversations that Wood and I shared inspired my painting.

Wood went on to finish his senior year successfully building a body of work that made him an ideal candidate for an MFA. While Wood was at the University of Washington in Seattle, I started a path into the business side of the art world, working for galleries in New York City, Boston and now San Francisco. But in my years working with and promoting artists, no other artist’s work has sparked such an exorbitant degree of creative inspiration and curiosity about traditional painting as Wood.

Several years after graduating, Wood and I re-connected at Art Basel Miami Beach and very much like our tumultuous blizzard meeting several years prior, Wood opened his world to me again and a benevolent convergence formed between us as painter and art-historian.

Since reconnecting, I’ve learned how Wood closely examines all of the steps it takes to build his paintings and works on paper; paying close attention to detail. He begins his creative process with preliminary drawings and photographic references to present exciting and thought provoking perspectives. Wood is a cultural explorer who looks at his everyday encounters for answers to the complex dichotomies and scenarios within his compositions. Wood’s paintings manipulate the obvious and distort perceptions to present exciting and thought provoking perspectives. Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process. Wood shared Wood’s ideas and pushed him to focus on drawing and process.

Laura Currier ’05:

Serenity

Laura Currier ’05 wasn’t expecting to walk out of her first appointment at the Salisbury Center for Career Services with an internship opportunity, but serendipity had other things in mind. “Director Bob Murphy remembered a conversation he'd recently had with Nick Hurd ’64 about an internship opportunity at Russell Reynolds Associates, and it sounded like something I might be interested in,” says Currier. Within weeks, Currier was on her way to Boston to interview for an internship at Russell Reynolds Associates, one of the preeminent recruiting firms in the world. The interviews went so well that the firm decided to hire Currier. But they wanted more than just an intern. “I knew more than just an interview was at stake after the interview, they offered me a full-time opportunity,” Currier explains. “I was quick to accept, realizing the significance of the opportunity.”

“This was an extraordinary accomplishment,” says Murphy. “Russell Reynolds is known for its experience and track record, and the company relies heavily on employing people who have been in the workforce for years. Hiring a graduate straight out of college is virtually unheard of there, yet Laura pulled it off.”

With barely enough time to frame her diploma, Currier found herself in Boston. And though she doesn’t possess the experience of a typical Russell Reynolds hire, she has the enthusiasm and curiosity to learn anything. — Shannen Fish ’09
Following the Green Path

Eryn Yates '04 career path has been anything but traditional. Armed with a major in environmental studies, minors in computer science and sociology, and a desire to try something new, her first job post-graduation was a ten-month AmeriCorps internship that landed her in Florida tarping roofs of hurricane-ravaged homes, in Oregon restoring a YWCA camp, in Utah planting community gardens, and in Arizona thinning out a national forest to reduce the threat of a major fire.

After returning to Buffalo, she took a job with an environmental consulting firm as an analyst writing due diligence reports for banks and lending institutions.

Fourteen months later, wanting to learn about geographic information systems (GIS), Yates began a nine-month Student Conservation Association internship at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. There, she helped collect field data crucial to maintaining optimal habitat for some of the state's 80-100 endangered panthers. Certified in wildland firefighting, Yates also fought uncontrolled forest fires on and off the refuge.

Today, she's designing Web sites for small businesses and non-profits.

"I really enjoyed helping people and the feeling that I was doing something worthwhile during my first internship," she says. "Saving money while I had the environmental job allowed me to take a pay cut and get the GIS experience I wanted. Now, I'm combining my love of photography and Web site design in a creative position where I am constantly learning something new. These jobs have all been ways for me to explore my many interests.

Yates says that making money hasn't been her focus. "If it means getting paid less for doing something I'm passionate about, then that's fine," she says. "I want to be able to say I'm not just floating by in life, but doing something meaningful and giving back while I'm making a living."

– Brenda Pittman

It's a Bird, It's a Plane ... It's Dropping III Beats

By day, Ryan-O'Neil Edwards '06 is a mild-mannered teacher-type. He spends his mornings teaching nursery school and his afternoons and weekends coaching junior high basketball and high school track. "I love working with kids. They're funny and very interesting," says Edwards, who majored in music. "I definitely see a future for myself working with children, but that doesn't mean I want to make teaching a full-time career."

You see, by night, Edwards goes by another name. When the lights are lowered and the mic is switched on, Edwards becomes The One Hand Bandit, a classically-trained singer turned rapper and musical storyteller.

"I want to be in the genre of ill musicians," writes Edwards on his Web site, www.theonehandbandit.com. "I want to be good enough to be talked about in the same sentences as good song writers."

Edwards is well on his way. His 2007 album with producer-partner 100dBs, "The Adventures of the One Hand Bandit and the Slum Computer Wizard," received critical acclaim from music bloggers and earned the pair a feature in the November 2007 issue of Scheme, an online magazine for the hip hop community.

"I'm currently writing new songs and talking with producers about beats I may want to use," says Edwards. "There's definitely a second album coming. When I'm not sure, but it's in the works."

In the meantime, Edwards' rock-star-side is getting plenty of stage time. His promotional company, Theory Events, puts on a monthly party in the East Village, providing Edwards with an opportunity to connect with old and new fans. "I make music because it's in me," says Edwards. "Knowing that I've touched someone with my music is the most rewarding thing about being a musician."

– Melissa Sue Sorrells '05

Procedure

In this experiment, we combine one scientifically-minded young man (Max Macaluso '06) with support from a generous Gates-Cambridge Scholarship, then introduce the resulting compound to a prestigious foreign university (Cambridge University).

After waiting approximately 20 months while the ingredients combine, we take preliminary readings.

Results and Discussion

Preliminary results clearly show that Macaluso is thriving in a challenging and foreign environment.

"I'm living the life of a humble researcher, working day-by-day to unravel small problems in my research," says Macaluso, whose work at the Unilever Centre of Molecular Science Informatics includes creating computational designs of ACE inhibitor drugs that may someday treat hypertension.

His research is at the interface of biology, chemistry and computer science, and through collaboration with other research groups, his designs are synthesized and tested on human heart tissue. If he's successful, Macaluso's work may open a whole new class of hypertension medication and elucidate work being done with HIV, diabetes and obesity.

Macaluso's life in England isn't all work, though. Despite spending long hours in the lab, the Ph.D. candidate finds the time to compete with the Darwin College Chess Team and volunteer with local primary school children.

"I love science," says Macaluso, but I've tried to couple my graduate experience with a great personal experience. It's important for me to live my life as honestly and happily as I can as I try to absorb new life lessons." — Melissa Sue Sorrells '05

Max Macaluso '06:
Laboratory Report

At HWS, Macaluso was well known for his research on computational studies of cancer drugs. His undergraduate years were studded with honors and awards, including an opportunity to work in the lab of Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffmann at Cornell University.

Despite his successes, it was another student that motivated Macaluso to apply for the Gates-Cambridge Scholarship. "I probably would never have applied had Julia James '04 not paved the way with her inspiring Rhodes win," he explains. "I also had a great advisor in Professor Carol Parish. She encouraged me to apply for the scholarship."

You see, by night, Edwards goes by another name. When the lights are lowered and the mic is switched on, Edwards becomes The One Hand Bandit, a classically-trained singer turned rapper and musical storyteller.

"I want to be in the genre of ill musicians," writes Edwards on his Web site, www.theonehandbandit.com. "I want to be good enough to be talked about in the same sentences as good song writers."

Edwards is well on his way. His 2007 album with producer-partner 100dBs, "The Adventures of the One Hand Bandit and the Slum Computer Wizard," received critical acclaim from music bloggers and earned the pair a feature in the November 2007 issue of Scheme, an online magazine for the hip hop community.

"I'm currently writing new songs and talking with producers about beats I may want to use," says Edwards. "There's definitely a second album coming. When I'm not sure, but it's in the works."

In the meantime, Edwards' rock-star-side is getting plenty of stage time. His promotional company, Theory Events, puts on a monthly party in the East Village, providing Edwards with an opportunity to connect with old and new fans. "I make music because it's in me," says Edwards. "Knowing that I've touched someone with my music is the most rewarding thing about being a musician."

– Melissa Sue Sorrells '05
Suzanne Smith '02:

Where in the World is Suzanne Smith ’02?

Utica, NY; 2002: After graduating from HWS, I spent a year working as a Nurse Technician. I learned so much about what it is like to be in medicine.

Boston, MA; 2003: I decided to pursue a Masters in Education from Tufts University but didn’t want to lose touch with medicine, so I worked in the Neonatal ICU at Massachusetts General Hospital during breaks and weekends.

Framingham, MA; 2004: I loved working as a science teacher—you learn so much from your students. One of my classes was part of a project with the Discovery Channel to develop a documentary about our planet.

Pantalal Region, Brazil; 2005: I received a fellowship to travel to Brazil through the Earth Watch Institute. It was a perfect fit because many of my American students were Brazilian. The trip was amazing: I got to visit Brazilian schools and children, and I was there for Carnival.

Portsmouth, Dominica; 2007: I love to travel, so I decided to apply to several universities outside of the country. It’s been a unique experience so far.

Miami, Florida; 2008: I’m just beginning the clinical phase of the medical program, and I’m really looking forward to it. I hope to specialize in pediatric intensive care. As a former teacher, I understand that sick children have lives outside of the hospital; there’s more to them than illness.

??; ??: I would love to do my residency and eventually plant roots in Boston, but I’ll continue to travel whenever I can. Travel will always be in my life, and medicine will always be in my life. I hope to combine my two passions, maybe through work with Operation Smile.

– Melissa Sue Sorrells ’05

Kelly Burke '05:

Get up close and personal with alumna actor Kelly Burke ’05 as we go Inside the Alum Actors Studio. Now studying acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, Burke is preparing at one of the most prestigious acting schools in the world, the same one that counts Alan Rickman, Kenneth Branagh, Imelda Staunton, Anthony Hopkins, Richard Attenborough, and our very own Christopher McDonald ’77, as alumni. The usually private actor gives an intimate glimpse at her career, from her experiences as Zelda Fitzgerald to her future aspirations.

PSS: What made you decide to become an actor?
KB: When I was 12, I saw a touring production of the musical Sunset Boulevard and was moved very deeply. I decided if I could do “that,” I’d be doing something useful with my life. It seemed simple and obvious at the time.

PSS: At HWS, you completed Honors by writing and performing a play about the life of Zelda Fitzgerald. What was it like to become someone else, so completely?
KB: I always felt a little presumptuous imagining what her experiences must have been like, but at the same time I wanted to celebrate her for her couragelessness. I missed her when the run was over.

PSS: After graduation, you performed Zelda abroad in Edinburgh, Scotland. What was it like to bring such a personal production to a foreign country?
KB: I was touched that people were so receptive to the play. Incredibly, Zelda’s great-granddaughter came to see the show in its last week.

PSS: What has been your most challenging project?
KB: Zelda was pretty overwhelming. I learned an awful lot about acting, about concentration, about where my boundaries are as an actor and a person. Currently I’m working on Jocasta in Oedipus the King, and that’s its own kind of challenge—extremely physical, extremely emotional. And there’s no furniture to hide behind.

PSS: What have you been working on since Zelda closed?
KB: I’m studying and performing at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. It’s been wonderfully demanding, but I’m grateful for the chance to train at such a rigorous place.

PSS: What’s next for you?
KB: I have another year left at RADA— and then, I guess, you start praying someone employs you!

– Melissa Sue Sorrells ’05

Inside the Alum Actors Studio

Get up close and personal with alumna actor Kelly Burke ’05 as we go Inside the Alum Actors Studio. Now studying acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, Burke is preparing at one of the most prestigious acting schools in the world, the same one that counts Alan Rickman, Kenneth Branagh, Imelda Staunton, Anthony Hopkins, Richard Attenborough, and our very own Christopher McDonald ’77, as alumni. The usually private actor gives an intimate glimpse at her career, from her experiences as Zelda Fitzgerald to her future aspirations.

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– Melissa Sue Sorrells ’05
Peter Beaulieu ’04: Marine Corps and Medicine

In the four years since he graduated from HWS, Peter Beaulieu ’04 has been exploring the world and pursuing his personal mission to help those in need.

“There was a time during sophomore year when I spent a lot of time walking around campus in self-reflection,” he says. “I tried to rationalize why it was I have the privileges and opportunities I have and why someone else doesn’t.”

All that thinking led to enlisting in the Marine Corps during his sophomore year. “I knew the Marines would provide me with the greatest challenge and experience to make myself the best person I could be,” he explains.

In Dec. 2004, Beaulieu was deployed to Africa with Operation Enduring Freedom, where he was a machine gunner. He also functioned as a French translator.

“The most important thing I took away was the idea that we’re all in this together, wherever we’re from, Africa, Manhattan, or wherever,” he says. “We’re all intertwined. Everything we do here in America impacts other people elsewhere and vice versa—I live constantly with that everyday.”

After returning to the States, in 2007 Beaulieu co-founded ‘Wheels for Change,’ a non-profit organization that fights to end nutritional deficiencies and poverty in Nicaragua. The idea for the organization was inspired by his friend, Garth Cummings, who spent time in the country as well as Tracy Kidder’s book Mountains Beyond Mountains: Healing the World; The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer.

“It inspired me to make more of myself, to do something extraordinary,” he says. “It was like a dare-to-be-great-situation.”

Focusing on public health, Beaulieu is chiefly concerned with educating civilians on how to maintain proper diets as well as publicizing the organization. Last year, this included participating in a cross-country bike trip from Ocean Park, Maine to Seattle, Wash., which took 42 days and raised $5,500 for the organization.

Beaulieu travelled to Nicaragua in March to ensure that the organization’s goals are being fulfilled. He’s also currently pursuing a master’s in public health at Dartmouth College, after which he plans to pursue a career in medicine.

“HWS is a really fun place, but also a really easy place to go because there are so many people on your side, and they believe you can do anything,” he says. “My time at HWS was really important because it taught me new ways to look at the world.” —Erinn Cain ’08

Erinn McNamara ’02 (left)

Majors: Public Policy and French

Best Friend: Kelly Heekin ’02

First Job: Worked in the Middle East for a contractor to USAID

Next? Moving to Luxembourg in August with her fiancé

Kelly Heekin ’02 (right)

Majors: Public Policy and French

Best Friend: Erin McNamara ’02

First Job: Worked in D.C., and San Francisco for an environmental health non-profit

Next? Living in San Francisco and plotting her next big adventure

What they Did: Vacated their apartments, sold their belongings and headed out for a year-long adventure through Latin America. For twelve months Kelly and Erinn learned and practiced Spanish, interacted with locals, and thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Americas together, from Honduras to the bottom tip of South America and back up again. They made friends from all over the world while hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, boating through the Amazon, wildlife-watching in the Galapagos, dancing all night in Buenos Aires, hitch-hiking through Patagonia, and climbing snowy mountains at the bottom of the world to catch a glimpse of glaciers. In all, they traveled to 14 countries for the trip of a lifetime.

Joshua Warr ’05: A Triple Threat

The way Joshua Warr ’05 figures it, if he wanted he could be making a comfortable living teaching French. Instead, the former French and Francophone studies major who minored in dance quips that he’s a “legitimate starving artist” literally working day and night in pursuit of his passion of becoming a Broadway performer.

“You have to find your dream early on in life and not stop until it comes true,” Warr asserts.

So far, he’s been building a respectable resume in the Big Apple as a dancer, having performed with the award-winning Shadow Box Theatre, the off-Broadway Etéches Dance Theatre and the Sudden Enlightenment Theatre.

Not content to stop there, he’s in the second year of an actor’s training program at a private conservatory.

“A Broadway leading man must be able to dance, act and sing,” Warr explains. “At the end of the year I’ll be a trained triple threat... strong enough, technique wise, to conquer the Broadway stage.”

When he’s not in class, rehearsing or cleaning the conservatory studio at night in exchange for his tuition, Warr works full time, five days a week at a trendy, luxury boutique frequented by the rich and famous.

And when time allows, he’s working on an autobiographical musical comedy titled “It’s All About Me” that chronicles the ups and downs of the lean, difficult years on his journey to, Warr hopes, stardom.

The story line features such vignettes as Warr’s first Broadway audition and his role as a dinner host on TLC’s ‘Dinner Takes All’ reality show. “I made a complete jerk of myself on national television,” Warr laugh.

“Essentially, I’d like people to have greater respect for the arts,” Warr muses. “There was an era when artists didn’t have to work a full time job in another field; being an artist was a career, not a hobby. When you go to open calls with 400 people, it’s daunting and intimidating. I work 350 days a year. All my money goes to pay the bills. It takes time to make it. You have to be 110 percent passionate about your dream, otherwise you will find a loophole and get out of it.” —Brenda Pitman
Lisa DeLucia ’04:
Word of Mouth

When Lisa DeLucia ’04 left Geneva after graduation, she knew that her service as a future dentist couldn’t end at the door of a practice.

“The professors, administrators and staff encouraged me to become an active part of the progress being made to better the Colleges, Geneva and the world,” explains DeLucia, who is currently a dental student in her fourth year at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine.

So for the past four years, DeLucia has used her dental know-how to help those in need in the U.S. and abroad.

“From my first semester in dental school, I’ve been volunteering for the Special Olympics, and I’ve also participated in a service trip to Guatemala through the University at Buffalo group called BOCA: Buffalo Outreach and Community Assistance,” DeLucia says. “With the Special Olympics, I’ve helped athletes with everything from oral health screenings to oral hygiene instruction.”

In Guatemala, she served the general population, children as well as adults, performing both extractions and restorations. “Because of the difference in care in Guatemala, typically our visits are the only dental care our patients receive so I’ve been happy to help,” she says. “In both Guatemala and in the Special Olympics, I’ve been able to develop relationships with my patients over the years, which has been very rewarding.”

DeLucia has also been able to develop a new relationship with the Colleges. “In my first year in dental school, I became a contact for HWS students interested in getting more information about dental school. Initially, I was asked to help a Hobart first year who has since been accepted as a dental student at the University at Buffalo. I’ve also returned to Geneva as a panelist during the Dinners with Doctors event hosted by the Pre-Health Professions Club.”

When it comes to helping future alumni or those abroad who are in need, this future dentist passes along the same word-of-mouth advice to her fellow alumni: “Stay connected to the Colleges, see what you can do to help and stay involved in your community!”

Her philosophy has paid off; DeLucia was recently accepted into the post-doctorate program at Harvard University’s Pediatric Dentistry Department.
– Joshua Unikel ’07

Josh Horowitz ’98:
Incriminating Photos

MTV and Charlie Rose aren’t exactly comfortable bedfellows. The former’s a 20-something hipster icon and the latter’s a brainy talk-show for the middle-age insomnia.

But if you’re Josh Horowitz ’98, there’s no contradiction between thoughtful political debate, artisanal social commentary and the joy of unbridled entertainment – it’s all just another day at the office.

After receiving a degree in English from Hobart, Horowitz called Charlie Rose, whom he had previously interned with, and got a job as a producer for the sports, media and entertainment segments of his nationally acclaimed PBS talk show. Horowitz spent the next four years there.

He went on to write for a number of magazines like Entertainment Weekly, Filmmaker, Interview and US Weekly, and to produce a string of national talk-shows before his career took another hard-right turn. Incorporating his enthusiasm for filmmaking and interviewing, Horowitz began picking the creative minds of 20 of today’s most popular filmmakers including Kevin Smith, Trey Parker and Jon Favreau.

A year later, Horowitz’s first book, The Mind of the Modern Moviemaker, was being sold in bookstores throughout America.

“Hobart provided me with access to various media interests. I became an addict of The Herald and WEOS Radio, and these opportunities led to a growth of knowledge, sensibility and an interest in a lot of different things,” says Horowitz. “My career path has been versatile. I started out in television, but I never pigeonholed myself in one medium.”

Today, Horowitz works for the revolutionary sovereign of pop culture, MTV. As managing editor for MTV Movie Digital, he regulates and coordinates how the network covers movies. The job lends itself to both personal fulfillment and incredible perks. “It’s not difficult to remain motivated when your day job involves interviewing Keira Knightley and Cameron Diaz,” he says laughing.

When asked how he scored such amazing gigs, Horowitz jokes, “Incriminating photos.” But the truth is that only hard work and tenacity could earn Horowitz the accolades he has received. Interviewing Spielberg, Lucas and Letterman are at the top of his to-do list, although Horowitz is unsure of what the future holds. But one thing is for certain, with a laundry list of credits, a published book and a résumé of jobs that most would only dream of, we can continue to expect big things.
– Shannen Fish ’09 and Dominic Moore ’05

Savas Abadsidis ’96:
SUPERHUMAN Sense of Chic

If you’ve ever flipped through the pages of a revealing Abercrombie glossy, passed someone on the street in a Zoo York hoodie or found superheroes in the movies or TV you watch, then you’ve seen the work of conceptual artist Savas Abadsidis ’96.

He served as the editor-in-chief of the original A&F Quarterly, Abercrombie’s mag, from inception to discontinuation, and recently consulted on the re-launch of the publication’s U.K. version. He also used his superhero sense of chic to bring designer Mark Ecko to iconic status, serving as executive editor of Ecko’s lifestyle mag Complex in addition to working on brand development for Zoo York.

Recently, Abadsidis turned his attention to all things superhero. “I’ve always been a comic book fan, now I also happen to be the West Coast Editor for Wizard Entertainment,” Abadsidis explains of his new professional home, which just happens to be the cultural crux of the pop culture and comic book magazines Wizard, Anime Insider, Toyfare and the related wizarduniverse.com.

“I’m primarily the liaison between movie studios and our publications and events, locking in exclusive artwork and stories for Wizard magazine and our convention circuit, The Wizard World Tour,” explains Abadsidis. “I’m also heavily involved and interested in revamping Wizard’s conventions into lifestyle events.”

But that’s not where Abadsidis’ SUPERPOWER ends. “Right now I’m writing a short oral history of the comic book-driven movie phenomenon of the past eight years, beginning with director and producer Bryan Singer’s ‘X-Men’ trilogy,” he explains. “The history will be published in the special, re-boot of Wizard magazine, ‘issue 200.’ However, this isn’t where the story ends. ’I’m turning the 2,000 word article into a full-length history for an upcoming book to be published by Wizard.”

So who exactly is the man behind this mask? “Essentially, I’m a 12-year-old with a big vocabulary. All my work has been about my love and knowledge of youth culture,” says Abadsidis. “Also, I’m a bit hyperactive and ADD, so my projects and endeavors are constantly fresh and different. Everyday and every project at Wizard is something new with a beginning and an end that let’s me move on to something else.”

What cultural beacon he will leave his mark on next, only time will tell. Yet rest assured that wherever he’s working, whatever he’s doing, you’re going to hear, see and talk about it.
– Joshua Unikel ’07
Wristen Paschich '04:
The Halls We Walk Through

The Blueprint
“We inhabit architecture every minute of everyday in the homes and dorms we sleep in, the offices where we work — it fills all the halls we walk through,” explains Wristen Paschich '04. “Most of us simply don’t notice the architecture of our every day lives.” In his own life, Paschich’s steps to becoming an award-winning young architect are reflected in the buildings he’s passed through.

The Paschich Home, Corrales, New Mexico
“Ever since I can remember, I've been taking things apart and rebuilding them,” Paschich recalls. “My Dad taught me that by working with confidence, I can accomplish anything. Growing up in the house he built, I learned that there is a sensible way to build almost any thing I can imagine.”

Houghton House, Geneva, New York
By the time he was a high school senior, Paschich was looking for an independent, liberal arts college that would allow him to explore his love of architecture and the arts. “What sold me on Hobart was his love of architecture and the arts. What sold me on Hobart was that would allow him to explore an independent, liberal arts college,” Paschich says. “There seems to be an ever-growing interest in modern homes in the Albuquerque area, which fits nicely with my interests as an architect.”

“I'm still investigating my personal style and have a lot to learn about the business and construction elements of architecture,” Paschich says. “Wristen’s design shows a sophisticated synthesis of influences, using modern geometries, forms and spaces while effectively modernizing the traditional pueblo characteristic of the region,” says Mathews. “The home is very modern because of how environmentally responsible it is, using many green-friendly materials.”

The home, which quickly sold, received high critical praise, winning the Gold Award for overall design, Best Kitchen Award and Best Bath Award from the 2006 Parade of Homes competition in Albuquerque. “In his first attempt at house design, Wristen beat out many seasoned architects and builders in the area,” Mathews says. In 2007, another of Paschich’s home, won the Buyer’s Choice Award and placed third overall. “I'm still investigating my personal style and have a lot to learn about the business and construction elements of architecture,” Paschich says. “There seems to be an ever-growing interest in modern homes in the Albuquerque area, which fits nicely with my interests as an architect.”

The Blueprint

The Blueprint

Pathways to Careers
Designed specifically to meet the needs of Hobart and William Smith students, the Pathways program at the Salisbury Center for Career Services unfolds students’ interests, values and skills, matching them with professions. Through internships, information sessions, workshops, interviews, mentorships and one-on-one sessions, students are able to test a variety of career options. In the past year alone, there has been a 48 percent growth in the number of sophomore students making appointments with Career Services and starting their own exploration of options. During the past four years, the total number of appointments students have made with Career Services has quadrupled. All of this results in outcomes that include hundreds of internships each year in every imaginable field across the country and the world. In a survey of seniors in 2006 and 2007, 95 percent found their experience with the Salisbury Center for Career Services more than satisfactory in helping them launch career goals. To learn more about the Salisbury Center for Career Services or to find out how you can mentor a HWS student, contact Bob Murphy at murphy@hws.edu or via phone at 315-781-3514.

Jessica Teicher '04:
The Big-Small World
Her journey began – as few journeys do – in Uzbekistan. “I was visiting my sister while she was in the Peace Corps in West Africa, and I was so impacted by the service I could do in the Peace Corps that I knew I had to go,” explains Jessica Teicher '04, who spent the first five months of 2005 teaching English in Uzbekistan with the Peace Corps before political crisis in the country changed her journey’s course.

After a little re-charting, Teicher rounded out her two years of volunteering in a small, Russian-speaking Ukrainian city with a population of 40,000. “Every day was a different cultural experience,” Teicher says. “For me, it was important not only to learn from the rich Ukrainian culture but also to teach those I met about the diversity of American culture and how eclectic life can be in the States.”

When she returned to the U.S., Teicher measured the globe a bit differently. “After my time in the Peace Corps, I began to realize how big and small the world is at the same time,” she says. “People have similar expectation of how their lives should be no matter where they live.”

Teicher has navigated her way into a master’s in human rights and Eurasian studies at Columbia University where she’s studying the development of political and civil rights in the former Soviet Union.

— Joshua Unikel '07 and Cara-Leigh Battaglia
Honoring an Editor

by Joshua Unikel ’07

Since 1997, the Colleges’ national literary journal, Seneca Review, has been exploring the poetics of the lyric essay and creative non-fiction. When the journal lost its long-time editor, Professor of English and John Milton Potter Chair of Humanities Deborah Tall, to cancer last year, the journal’s editorial staff decided to commemorate her work with a special Fall 2007 issue – “On the Lyric Essay.”

The issue honors Tall, herself a poet and nonfiction writer, by examining a writing form she and her former student and co-editor, John D’Agata ’95, championed, which combines the meditative quality of the essay with the intensity and formal structure of lyric poetry. Tall edited the journal from 1982 until Oct. 2006.

“On the Lyric Essay” pays tribute to Tall and celebrates this subgenre by featuring past Seneca Review contributors and lyric essayists, such as authors Joe Wenderoth, David Shields and Stephen Kuusisto ’78, who contributed essays on the form and in memory of their friend and editor. These theoretic and lyric essays are complemented by photographs that “display a way of thinking that resembles an essay’s thinking,” explains Tall’s husband and the current Seneca Review Editor and Professor of English David Weiss.

Together, “On the Lyric Essay” is a meditation as well as a memorial. “In this special issue, we stayed true to Deborah’s vision,” explains Weiss. “The essays are by writers she encouraged and published and are all pieces that she would have admired.”

The Fall 2007 issue of the Seneca Review was released at a symposium on the lyric essay held on Nov. 15. Discussing the genre and honoring Tall were four writers and practitioners of the genre: Fisher Center Speaker Wayne Koestenbaum, Kuusisto, who read with Tall at the President’s Forum in September 2006, Jenny Boully and D’Agata.

“The symposium and special issue both mirror and honor Deborah’s acclaimed work as the editor of the review,” says Provost Teresa Amott.

During her editorship, Tall received a citation from the Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines for “excellence of editorial vision” and was described as “a superlative editor who deserves much praise and admiration, as does her editorial staff” by Chuck Rybak in the Spring 2005 issue of Literary Magazine Review.

What’s next for the Seneca Review? “A continuation of its editorial vision,” says Weiss. “Building on Deborah’s strong foundation, we plan to bring the journal into the digital age with a more modern layout for future issues, a more extensive integration of art work, an updated Web site and even a brand-new online magazine component of the Seneca Review.”
Faculty Ink

- Lara C.W. Blanchard, the Henry Luce Associate Professor of East Asian Art, is the author of an article in the most recent issue of “NAN NU: Men, Women and Gender in China.” Her article is titled “A Scholar in the Company of Female Entertainers: Changing Notions of Integrity in Song to Ming Dynasty Painting.”
- Associate Professor of Political Science Cedric Johnson is the author of a book, “Revisionaries to Race Leaders: Black Power and the Making of African American Politics,” recently published by the University of Minnesota Press. The book has been chosen for the 2008 W.E.B. Du Bois Outstanding Book Award by the National Conference of Black Political Scientists.
- Associate Professor of Art Stanley Mathews’ book “From Agit-Prop to Free Space: The Architecture of Cedric Price,” was recently listed among “The Best of 2007: Architecture,” by the Financial Times, in London. He is one of only two non-British contributors to make the list.
- “Pathways to a Hydrogen Future” by Associate Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies Thomas Drennen and Jennifer E. Rosthal ’03 was published in October by Elsevier Science.

Tenure Appointments

Nine faculty members were granted tenure by the Hobart and William Smith Board of Trustees at their recent meeting. Those advancing to associate professor include Lara Blanchard of art, Melanie Conroy-Goldman of English, Tara Curtin of geoscience, Kanate Dahouda of French and Francophone studies, Mark Deutschlander of biology, DeWayne Lucas of political science, Jim MaKinster of education, and Michael Tinkler of art. Lester Friedman, professor of Media and Society, was granted tenure as well.

Faculty Ink

- Professor of Sociology Jack Harris was featured in a story describing his research about Vietnam in the Thanh Nien News, one of Vietnam’s leading newspapers.
- Professor of Political Science David Ost, one of the leading experts on the domestic politics and international relations of Poland, headlined in an October issue of Newsweek magazine’s Polish language edition. Just Newsweek days before the Polish parliamentary elections, articles by Ost were published in the two main Polish dailies, Gazeta Wyborcza and Dziennik.
- Associate Professor of English Eric Patterson’s book “On Brokeback Mountain: Meditation and Masculinity, Fear, and Love in the Story and the Film” was published by Lexington Books.
- Research by Professor of Sociology H. Wesley Perkins into Canadian college students’ addictive behaviors was featured in a November article on NewsRx. The Scotsman, a Scottish daily newspaper, and BBC Radio Scotland interviewed Perkins, who spoke to a group at the Scottish Parliament and was cited in Scotland’s Parliamentary debate about strategies to promote health.
- Professor of Public Policy Studies Craig A. Rimmerman’s latest book “The Lesbian and Gay Movements: Assimilation or Liberation?” was recently published by Westview Press.

President’s Forum and President’s Medal

Rounding out the fall segment of the President’s Forum was national expert on school reform Wendy Puriefoy ’71. Puriefoy is president of the Public Education Network, the nation’s largest network of community-based school reform organization. Puriefoy was surprised during her visit when she received the President’s Medal – the highest award conferred by the president.

Former Poet Laureate of the United States Billy Collins kicked off the spring 2008 President’s Forum Series with a poetry reading, a question and answer session, and a book signing. The varied and exciting list of spring speakers also includes First Lady of New York Silda Wall Spitzer, the National Political Correspondent for the New York Times Adam Nagourney, the Co-Director of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment Dr. Anthony Cortese, and the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and founder of The Green Belt Movement Dr. Wangari Maathai Sc.D.’94, P ’94, P ’96.

Senate Confirms Gearan

The U.S. Senate confirmed President Bush’s nomination of Mark D. Gearan as a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service. His term extends through Dec. 1, 2010.

Three Buildings Win Design Awards

The Katherine D. Elliott Studio Arts Center was awarded the Central New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects’ highest honor, the “Design Award.” The Center was designed by QPK Design, a Syracuse-based architectural firm, and was made possible through the generosity of Trustee Katherine D. Elliott ’66. Caird and...
de Cordova and halls have received the Connecticut American Institute of Architects 2007 Award. The buildings were designed by Herbert S. Newman and Partners and were made possible through the generosity of Arthur de Cordova ’56, L.H.D. ’05 and James ’56 and Cynthia Caird.

Public Affairs Journal Unveiled
The second edition of the Public Affairs Journal was published in the fall and includes pieces on child welfare, health care, the environment, Iraq’s High Court, and pornography. With an introduction by Thomas Tighe, president and CEO of Direct Relief International, the journal’s contributors include students, faculty, alumni, alumnae and community members. David Grome ’07 served as senior production manager and Katy Goodrich ’08 was editor-in-chief. This edition, like the first, was made possible through the generosity of former Trustee Horace Havemeyer III ’64, founder and publisher of Metropolis magazine.

Women Voicing the Dream
In celebration of Martin Luther King Jr., the Colleges held a week-long series of programs and events including a lecture by activist, vocalist and motivational speaker Arlette Miller Smith; a performance by AKOMA, a Rochester-based African American gospel choir; and a program titled “Writing to Remember,” in which HWS and Geneva High School students met with local people to write their memories of the civil rights movement. More than 600 members of the Colleges’ community turned out for a Listening Forum in the Melly Academic Center atrium where participants engaged in conversations about diversity.

Web Awards
For the second time this academic year, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) has honored HWS. The William Smith Centennial Web site recently received a 2008 Silver Award in the special purpose website category. CASE also awarded a Gold Medal to the “Campaign for the Colleges” video, which was premiered in September 2006 at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City, to launch the capital campaign.

Super Tuesday
A rowdy crowd of die-hard political junkies gathered in the Cellar Pub for the Super Tuesday Primary Night Party. Sharing insight were Professor of Political Science Iva E. Deutchman, Associate Professor of Political Science DeWayne Lucas, and Political Science Instructor Andrew Milstein. Geneva Mayor Stu Einstein, a Democrat; and Phil Beckley, his Republican opponent in the November 2007 elections, also spoke.

Vote Smart
The Geneva League of Women Voters and HWS partnered to host the Project Vote Smart bus informing voters of the voting records, campaign contributions, public statements, biographical data, and evaluations of thousands of political candidates.

Vogue Magazine Event Sponsors HWS Scholarship
Actress Lauren Holly, daughter of Professor of English Grant Holly, recently co-hosted a Vogue Magazine’s Evenings in Vogue event at the Avalon Hotel in Beverly Hills to benefit The A’ Fund Scholarship in memory of Alexander Holly. The A’ Fund was started in 1992 by the Holly family, friends and colleagues to create a lasting tribute to Alexander, Grant Holly’s son. The A’ Fund gives aid to HWS students entering their third year who are majoring in architecture or archeology.

Career Events
Alumni, alumnae, friends and parents came out in full force to meet with students over winter break in Washington, D.C., New York City and Boston. At the annual Day on the Hill program, students spent two days with specialists from a number of fields. Those interested in the arts, law and Wall Street headed to NYC for guided museum excursions, Stock Exchange tours, networking events and symposia. More than 45 students and alums attended an event hosted by the Classes of 1982 at Lehman Brothers. In Boston, alums and parents gathered to offer advice to students interested in careers in business.