Rising to the Occasion: The Colleges’ Climate Commitment

President Gearan Charges Student-Powered Change

by Joshua Unikel '07

In front of a crowd of students, faculty, staff and community members gathered on Stern Hall Green for the 2007 Convocation Ceremony, President Mark D. Gearan announced that he would sign the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment [ACUPCC], making Hobart and William Smith a charter member of an effort to reduce emissions of gases responsible for global warming. Gearan said: “...we join with other colleges and universities deeply concerned about the unprecedented scale and speed of global warming and its potential for large-scale, adverse health, social, economic and ecological effects.”

The announcement was met with a standing ovation.

The ACUPCC contains more than 400 colleges and universities leading the way to reduce climate change. Those who sign the Commitment pledge to fulfill a three-step constitution that includes initiating a comprehensive plan for climate neutrality, taking tangible action to reduce greenhouse gases, and publicizing the action plan, inventory and progress.

Gearan signed the commitment on Sept. 14 surrounded by a task force of faculty, students and staff formed to map a plan for a greener campus. The task force is co-chaired by Associate Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies Tom Drennen, a specialist on energy use and climate change, and Vice President of Finance Peter Polinak.

“By signing the Climate Commitment, the Colleges are formalizing our commitment and unifying our energies toward one common goal: becoming a greener place to study and live.” – Associate Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies Tom Drennen

“There’s a long history of student-driven environmental efforts at the Colleges,” says Drennen. “By signing the Climate Commitment, the Colleges are formalizing our commitment and unifying our energies toward one common goal: becoming a greener place to study and live.”

“During just one semester, we have seen a truly outstanding effort on the part of our students,” Gearan adds. “The recommendations and additional efforts that they have mapped for the Colleges give us a plan, which we, as a task force, can now act upon. When asked to come forward based on our recently signed Climate Commitment, the students as well as the faculty and staff at Hobart and William Smith have truly risen to the occasion.”

Recent eco-initiatives include:

• A Carbon Inventory: Clancy Brown ’09, Mike Thompson ’08 and Mark Clayton ’08 gave the task force an inventory of campus carbon usage to discover how HWS can cut back on excessive energy use. The group is now meeting with Buildings and Grounds to implement their suggestions.

• Buying Green: John Catillaz ’09, Rob Martinez ’08 and Greg Davidson ’08 have been working with Finance and Buildings and Grounds to jumpstart green purchasing policies. As a result, the Colleges are now using cleaning supplies that have Green Seal approval. The group is working with the College Store on other ideas to reduce waste.

• Getting Around Geneva: Seniors Elise Jones, Jenn Kirst, Amory Bliss and Joe Sullivan have envisioned a new transportation system that includes vans that would circuit the campus and Geneva area. They have already received donations of 30+ bicycles that they refurbished for an April launch. Both the shuttles and the bikes would cut down on emissions.

• A Blueprint for Construction: Nick Wallas ’08 and Samantha Wason ’08 have sketched a new blueprint for future HWS buildings by providing the president’s task force with green design ideas that meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design criteria. The Scandling Campus Center construction, for example, uses green construction materials and techniques.

• Green Room: Catillaz spent last summer working for the Summer Science Program with Drennen to design the first-ever “Green Dorm Room” on campus. “This room is as green-friendly as it gets right now,” Catillaz
students a discount on drinks in the Café, Cellar Pub, and deCordova. “By reusing these mugs we hope to minimize the trash on campus.” The mugs have been distributed by Vogelgesang to students who vow to contribute in the effort to improve sustainability. Mugs will also be given out to entering first-year students at the 2008 orientation.

• Eco-Ball: Another bright idea powered by students was this year’s Eco Ball. “The event was not only dancing and great student performances,” explains Chi Phi President and Eco Ball coordinator Jake Napier ’09. “There were displays by Campus Greens, Associate Professor Tom Drennen, Mark Vogelgesang ’08 and the HWS Bike Program. These displays helped to educate the attendees on how they can contribute to the green movement on campus.” The event raised $5,000 in support of HWS environmental efforts and provided the campus community an opportunity to learn about ways to help.

• Green Machine: Seniors Greg Dlubac and Nate Podkaminer have been working to reduce fuel emissions on campus. They have spent the fall semester turning a gas-guzzling truck into a clean and green vehicle. “We want to show the HWS and the Geneva community that they don’t have to rely on petroleum as an energy source for their cars,” says Dlubac. Podkaminer adds that, “An electric car is ideal in many ways for a rural area like Geneva, a college campus like Hobart and William Smith and college campuses in general.”

HWS at the UN

Hobart and William Smith students aren’t just trying to save Geneva’s environment—they’re trying to save the world! In fact, they’ve been taking the green debate from the HWS classroom to UN forums all over the world.

Last summer, Courtney Wilson ’08, Adam Goldstein ’08 and John Catilaz ’09 took advantage of an invitation Drennen received to attend the United Nations for ATHGO International’s 3rd Annual Global Forum: “Global Third Way: Becoming One with the Environment.” There, they joined more than 300 students from 100 universities and 80 countries for an intense program of speakers and panel discussions.

“The conference was motivational,” Wilson says. “It gave us all the opportunity to meet and speak with so many people drawing on diverse backgrounds and experiences.”

This global forum was just the beginning of Wilson’s experience with the UN. To empower her current honors project in environmental studies, Wilson spent a week in September at the “Vienna Climate Change Talks 2007” in Austria thanks to a grant from the Kloman Fellowship Fund in memory of E. Helm Kloman, a 1975 graduate of Hobart College. In Vienna, the environmental studies and public policy double major observed United Nations negotiations on climate change policy among several countries involved in the Kyoto Protocol, an environmental treaty forged to reduce greenhouse gases.

“One of my most valuable experiences in Vienna was speaking with Sudanese diplomat Bagis Elasha about the potential of Clean Development Mechanisms, a way for developed nations to help lesser developed nations reduce emissions,” says Wilson.

The Colleges supported a trip for Wilson in early December to the United Nation’s Climate Control Conference in Bali, Indonesia where former Vice President Al Gore spoke to the UN. “It was absolutely incredible,” Wilson says, “It was only through personal conversations with diplomats in Bali and in Vienna that I’ve begun to unravel the sentiments and intricacies within the collaborations on energy between developed and developing countries.”

Light bulb amnesty program “Smash the Past” let students toss their old, inefficient incandescent bulbs, smashing them in exchange for a compact fluorescent bulb.

Greg Dlubac ’08 (left) explains to Mark Vogelgesang ’08, Associate Professor of Economics Tom Drennen and Trustee Chip Carver ’81 the specifics of a project to convert a gas-based truck into a clean, electrically powered vehicle.
One magazine article may not be enough space to capture the personality of Trustee Stuart Piltch ’82, P’11. He’s a maverick family man, a probability junkie, an actuary with a frat-boy joy in the Red Sox. He’s fiercely protective of his privacy yet movingly open about the realities of his unpretentious background. He has a whirlwind, off-the-charts energy level that has earned him the office nickname ‘Stunami.’ He has a DNA-driven compulsion to succeed and a deep desire to help others.

Piltch and his wife Sari Feldman P’11 also recently committed $7.5 million to Hobart and William Smith Colleges. “It’s the first of many gifts to the Colleges,” he says. “This is just the beginning of what we want to do.”

The seventh of nine children, Piltch grew up in Boston where his father owned a small printing shop. “When we moved from a two-bedroom apartment to a small house in Brookline with one and a half baths, we thought we’d died and gone to heaven,” Piltch recalls, chuckling. “We had very little money, but as kids we never knew it. Not to be cliché, but we had each other and we’re close to this day.”

Piltch’s parents had high expectations for their children. “There were three basic rules,” Piltch recalls. “You work hard. You do the right thing by people. You leave things better than you found them. These rules still drive my actions every day, as they do my siblings. My parents’ lives were focused on making sure that all nine of us had a chance for a better life. It was absolutely clear that we would go to college. To do that we had to work.”

Piltch was washing dishes and cleaning hotel rooms by the time he was 13.

Despite the odds, all nine Piltch children ended up graduating from places like Babson, Clark, Harvard, Northeastern and Williams. Four came to Hobart and William Smith – Neal ’78, Stuart ’82, Deborah ’83 and Stan ’85.

Neal found Hobart through a high school guidance counselor and Stuart followed. “It was the only place I applied,” Piltch explains. “Neal got to know the late Director of Financial Aid Bob Freeman. I didn’t have a great high school record but Bob knew my family so he took a chance on me and got me the aid package I needed. But the truth is I wasn’t ready for college.”

The first two years at Hobart were rocky. “There were things I loved about it,” Piltch explains. “I made lifelong friendships with Bob Freeman and June W. Kuryla P’75, P’78, P’84, GP ’04, GP ’07, the former administrative assistant in the Department of Financial Aid. But I did horrible academically. I just hadn’t grown into myself yet.”

Hobart Dean Clarence Butler understood what Piltch needed. “Oh yeah,” Piltch laughs. “He kicked me out for a year. He said I needed to grow up and to become accountable. In retrospect, I did need to understand the chances I’d been given. I love the man for making me see that I’d wasted two years that others could have really used.”

Piltch spent his year off working in Washington, D.C. and at the Colleges in the Buildings & Grounds Department. “That year was just pivotal. I realized that people at the Colleges had gone out of their way for me.”

When he returned to the classroom, he was ready to succeed. “I didn’t want to embarrass myself and I didn’t want to embarrass the people who had taken a chance on me.” He worked three jobs, took extra classes and got straight A’s. “My second time around at Hobart, I learned that when you conduct yourself in a certain way for a certain amount
of time, people trust you. I learned how powerful and wonderful it was to have my word mean something. If it wasn’t for people like Bob Freeman, June Kuryla, Clarence Butler, Mike Hanna, Toni Flores, Frank O'Laughlin and Eric Patterson—people who made an effort to push me to excel and to face myself—I wouldn’t be where I am today.

Where he is today is seemingly a world away from the two-bedroom apartment in Cambridge. After working for the government, union organizations and Met Life, Piltch is now managing director and co-founder of Cambridge Advisory Group, an actuarial and benefits consulting firm based in Philadelphia whose clients include Coca-Cola, ConAgra Foods, Motorola, U.S. Airways, and the U.S. Department of Labor among many others. Cambridge is the company that big business and government turn to for help related to compensation and benefits.

“When I worked for the government, they told me I had an affinity for numbers,” Piltch says. “There’s an art to being an actuary. You have to be a critical thinker. I really believe that to be good in actuarial science, you’ve got to be a liberal arts major—you have to see the world from multiple perspectives. Some actuaries are statistical geniuses; others can interpret the statistics, make them speak English, make them practical, make them live, make them work for clients—that’s where I hope I am.”

Thanks to Piltch, Cambridge Advisory Group employs a number of HWS graduates and interns. In the ten years since its founding, it’s become one of the most successful firms of its kind. “It’s all about customer service,” Piltch explains. “All of our business is word of mouth.”

Word of mouth has resulted in a tremendous amount of success. “When my wife Sari and I were just starting out, my goal was to make as much as my age,” Piltch says. “When I was 27, I wanted to make $27,000 and so on. We never thought this would happen, that the business would take off like this.”

Piltch believes that his success can be traced back to the three rules set by his parents—work hard, treat people well and leave the world better than you found it. For the Piltches, leaving the world a better place means providing access to education. “When we had the resources to make a difference, we didn’t have to look too far to make an investment,” Piltch says.

When Dean Clarence Butler retired in 2006, he asked Piltch to speak at his going away party. Also on the program was President Mark Gearan. “I had prepared a speech about how relationships made Hobart what it was for me,” Piltch explains. “Mark stole my speech. Everything he said that day was exactly what I was thinking. And that was when I realized that there’s a soul to these Colleges. To find that soul 25 years later, not only intact but thriving, that was amazing.”

Piltch and Gearan struck up a friendship based on their shared admiration for the Colleges and their passion for the Red Sox. Gearan turned to Piltch for advice in formulating campaign priorities. “The way the campaign is structured makes sense,” Piltch says. “The Colleges didn’t ask us to donate. Sari and I came to the Colleges to make the first of many gifts from the heart.”

“Stuart’s love of Hobart and William Smith and his absolute faith in the future of the Colleges is inspiring,” says Gearan. “He has reached back over the arc of his life to make a transformative gift, one that will change the lives of students, faculty and administrators for generations to come.”

“I hope that my commitment to the Colleges will inspire others of my generation to think broadly about their own philanthropy with the Colleges,” Piltch says.

The Piltch gift has been earmarked for a number of projects. At the top of the list are scholarships. “Obviously, I wouldn’t be here today if it weren’t for financial support so it was important to me and my family that we create scholarships in honor of the people who made a difference in my life,” says Piltch.

The Geneva Scholarship Associates, a fund that supports academically and financially deserving students from Geneva or DeSales high schools to attend HWS, now exceeds $1 million thanks to a record contribution from the Piltch Family in honor of Freeman and Kuryla.

In addition, the Piltches have established The Dean Clarence E. Butler Endowed Scholarship Fund. The three scholarships were announced at a recent dinner of Trustees and members of the Geneva community involved in the work of the Geneva Partnership, an initiative designed to improve the lives of all who work and live in the region.

The Piltches gift will also support facilities improvements, including the renovation of 623 South Main Street to house administrative offices, various athletics improvements and the upcoming Performing Arts Initiative.

“We meshed the needs of the campaign with our family’s priorities,” Piltch explains. “The entire campaign is about competing in the marketplace. We need the right facilities and opportunities to continue to attract a gifted group of students and talented faculty. As a trustee, I can honestly say that we have the right combination. The Colleges are worth the investment.”

“The reason why his employees call him ‘Stunami’ is because he’s got this amazing combination of intellect and enthusiasm,” says Chairman of the Board of Trustees David Deming ’75. “The fact that he’s chosen to focus that intellect and enthusiasm on the Colleges is an honor that bodes well for the future.”

The Piltch legacy has now expanded to a new generation with Stuart’s and Sari’s eldest daughter, Alyson Feldman-Piltch ’11, a first year at William Smith. “I’m glad Aly chose William Smith,” Piltch says. “She’s getting the same kind of experience I had. At Hobart and William Smith, you aren’t a faceless kid sitting in a lecture hall. The faculty and administrators make an effort to connect with every student. They get to know each student, to push him or her to think expansively from multiple perspectives, to become creative-thinking adults. Everything I am today is a result of my parents’ hard work and the people at Hobart and William Smith who invested in me, who saw things in me that I didn’t. I want others to have the same opportunity. That’s why Sari and I give back.”
UNVEILED AND UNPARALLELED.
At HWS, housing is about a whole lot more than four walls and a floor. A student residence is a laboratory, a classroom, a library – a home away from home. We create spaces that motivate and inspire. These two newly renovated houses are a perfect example; they bridge the gap between learning and living.

Carr McGuire House

“W hen you walk into Carr McGuire House, you have such a sense of space and expanse; a space that is open for creative, intellectual and personal interaction,” Dean Debra DeMeis P’06 said during the October dedication of one of the latest student residence halls on campus.

“Terry McGuire ’78. “Terry and I hope that this house will promote the spirit of mutual respect and collaboration between Hobart and William Smith students that we experienced as students during our days at the Colleges and during the design process of this gorgeous residence,” says Carr McGuire. Carolyn and Terry met at HWS and went on to Dartmouth for master’s degrees in business and engineering, respectively. Terry then continued on to Harvard to earn his MBA. In looking at their collective college careers, it is HWS that they appreciate for providing them with challenging yet supportive educations. The gratitude they have for the Colleges was the impetus behind the renovation of 775 South Main Street, now home to 29 students.

“This was just the perfect project for us to work on together,” says Carr McGuire. “It is one that is equally meaningful for both of us, can provide value to the institution and will make a difference to the students. When the opportunity arose to do something with the residence that was important for hundreds of Sigma Chi alumni, we knew that this was the project we were looking for.”

The renovation provides extra space for students at a time when the Colleges are seeing record enrollment. It also maintains a special piece of the Hobart and William Smith Colleges footprint, and preserves the history of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

The Carr McGuire House is home to two theme houses under one roof – the Substance Free House and Pathways Program House. Substance Free is comprised of students who choose to live a drug- and alcohol-free lifestyle. Pathways, while also a declared substance-free group, is for students dedicated to developing their professional careers.

The house’s high ceilings, tall windows and expansive backyard and deck enable students to enjoy an amazing view of Seneca Lake. “Memories are already starting to take place for the residents of the house,” explained Shavonne Ward ’09, student trustee and resident assistant for Carr McGuire House, during her speech at the dedication. “It’s an amazing place.”

Students recently hosted a barbecue in the backyard for about 60 people from a variety of theme houses on campus. Many also gather for a “Grey’s Anatomy” night every Thursday and one student, an avid and talented baker, makes snacks in the newly renovated kitchen.

Something the McGuires specifically added during renovation to benefit all students on campus was a guest suite. Designed at Terry’s behest, the Sigma Chi Suite is based on Harvard’s model of having visiting scholars, lecturers and dignitaries live with the students and be part of the community. Fittingly, with the Pathways Program theme in the house, the suite will host visitors from the Professionals in Residence program of the Salisbury Center for Career Services.

“We are truly thankful for Carolyn and Terry’s gracious gift,” said President Mark D. Gearan at the dedication. “This house is and will be a symbol of great beginnings for generations to come.”
The Colleges now have a permanent, newly renovated home for Jewish culture in the Abbe Center for Jewish Life. Made possible by a gift from Trustee Richard Abbe '92 and his wife Merav, the renovations to 764 South Main Street change the way students of the Jewish faith and culture can experience the Colleges.

In the building known to many as Folwell House, the Abbe Center for Jewish Life was completely renovated during the summer of 2007. At Abbe's request, a plaque in the building commemorates the three Hobart alumni who died in the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001: Andrew Golkin '93, Michael Simon '83 and Scott Rohner '01.

"Prior to this year, the 'Jewish Culture House' housed five students, had a small kitchen and was outdated," explained Lorinda Weinstock, Hillel Program Professional at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Since the Jewish Culture House was also the site of Shabbat gatherings and other programs of Hillel, there was little opportunity for groups of more than five people to attend these events. "The Abbes' generosity has allowed us to acquire, renovate and maintain a newer building with a kosher kitchen which accommodates nine students."

Abbe wanted to donate money to the Colleges in a way that would combine his interests with institutional needs. "When I was a student, there were no formal Jewish programs. We went to the basement of Emerson for services," he recalls. "I liked the idea of doing something relative to Judaism but didn't want to alienate or segregate the Jewish community within the Colleges."

His generous donation funded the renovation of the house so it could become the Jewish cultural center but in such a way that it is inclusive and a welcoming part of the HWS community. One of the students who resides in the house, for example, is not Jewish but chose to apply to the house because she has been studying Judaism and often participates in Hillel events.

The new space accommodates nine students – one senior, three juniors and five sophomores with a variety of majors, minors and interests. Applications to live in the house doubled this year over last. The home's spacious dining room, living room, conference room and separate kosher-style and true kosher kitchens make it an ideal space for gatherings. It's also located across the street from Temple Beth-El.

"With the new kosher kitchen designed to handle service for 50 people and the larger social spaces, we hope to expand our programming, possibly even bringing in a chef certified in kosher cooking for some of the larger holiday meals," he says. "We are also looking to add programming during the week, instead of just on Fridays, and are cooking for Shabbat most of the time."

In addition to improved opportunities for events, residents enjoy day-to-day living in the Abbe Center. The house has a beautiful location among other historic homes on South Main Street and there's a view of the lake from its front porch. It is also across from Temple Beth-El. According to Brown, the proximity to Temple has strengthened the relationship between students and the congregation. The students have been over for dinner already this semester and there's more participation in services. Soon, they plan to host congregation members for dinner.

Even the furniture is something the students can feel good about, not only because it's brand new and members of Hillel had a say in choosing it, but because they requested that all furniture be environmentally friendly, "in keeping with the Jewish movement of being stewards of the Earth," explains Brown. All of the furniture in the home can be dismantled, recycled or repurposed.

"We've created a place for people to go and to feel comfortable," says Abbe. "It's also one more place we can point to on a college tour and show diversification at HWS."
William Smith College paid tribute to its philanthropic founder’s passion and advocacy with the Centennial Celebration of the Arts, Dec. 1-3. The weekend, which dovetailed with the annual Founder’s Day celebration, began with a ceremonial dinner and a performance of a play about Elizabeth Blackwell. Several dance classes, taught by alumnae, and the Centennial Celebration Dance Concert rounded out the festivities.

**A LADY ALONE**

The Colleges community was treated to a performance of “A Lady Alone,” a one-woman play that describes the many obstacles that Elizabeth Blackwell encountered and the extraordinary trails she blazed for women in medicine.

The author of “A Lady Alone,” pediatrician N. Lynn Eckhert P’99, was inspired by her own journey through the medical field, as well as her son’s graduation from Hobart College in 1999. “I was delighted to have the opportunity to showcase ‘A Lady Alone’ at Hobart and William Smith Colleges,” said Eckhert.

**DANCE CONCERT**

Alumni and alumnae returned to campus in droves for the William Smith Centennial Alumnae Dance Concert, held in Winn-Seeley Dance Theatre. The concert featured choreography and performances by Ellen Stokes Shadle ’91, Sharna Fabiano ’97, Olive Prince ’99, Amanda Herman ’03, Kristen DeBottis ’04, Emily Lutin ’05, Jeannie Schickler Compisi ’96, Susan Rainey ’02, Susanna Kim ’99 and Erin Law ’03.

**DANCE CLASS**

HWS community members got into the groove during Master Classes offered by alumnae Sharna Fabiano ’97, Elizabeth Figura ’05, Amanda Herman ’03, Ruth Hyde ’50, Erin Law ’03, Chevon Stewart ’04 and Colleen Wahl ’06. The classes, which ranged from modern to Romanian folk dance, were well attended by alums, current students and Colleges community members.

**Photos by Kevin Colton**
Gone Forever

by John Heavey ’09 and Andrew Wickenden ’09

In the past, Geneva newcomers may have been confused when, after receiving directions to the infamous Geneva watering hole, “Cosie’s,” on Tillman Street, they arrived at “Sam’s Bar & Grill.” Today, there is little room for confusion regarding the sign now tacked to the door of the place that generations of HWS students loved – “Cosie’s is closed forever.”

For 50 plus years, Cosmo Fospero has been the proprietor of the bar he bought from his brother-in-law, Sam. But after a recent hospital visit and on the advice of his physicians, Cosie decided to close.

“It’s the end of an era,” Cosie said recently. “The place is gone forever.”

Despite its absence, Cosie’s will linger in the hearts and minds of the patrons and passersby who had been frequented the bar for decades.

“During my senior year, I was there three or four nights a week,” recalls Trustee Dr. Richard Wasserman ’70. “For a lot of HWS students, Cosie’s was a home away from home.”

Wasserman, now a pediatric immunologist at DallasAllergy Immunology in Dallas, Texas, remembers the Cosie’s of his college years as a hotbed of discussion for students and young faculty in the social sciences and humanities. “Engaged discussions about politics, the Vietnam War, and the dramatic social changes that were sweeping the school and the nation poured over from the classrooms and Student Union to the Quad,” says Wasserman. “But in the evenings, Cosie, who never engaged in the polemics, was open to all and welcomed everyone, attracting a diverse group of people who enjoyed camaraderie while discussing those issues.”

“I remember my good friend Michael Nemser ’72 and I spent many, many nights there with Professors Joe DiGangi and Pat McGuire talking about what was going on in the world and on campus,” says former Trustee Paul Colarulli ’72, an attorney in Washington, D.C. “Cosie’s was a staging area for protests, a place where professors and students actually sat down and talked about important issues like the war in Vietnam and race relations on campus. I remember a professor so

affected by the impact the war was having on his students and on society that he was moved to tears sitting at Cosie’s.”

Cosie’s also evoked a simple sense of comfort, a place alumni and alumnae returned to on trips back to the Colleges. “For me, no visit to campus was complete without ending up at Cosie’s,” says Ellen Fridovich David ’71, an actress in New York City. “Cosie’s was the place where you could hang out with professors, locals and friends on an equal playing field. He always made us feel so welcome and special and I will always be grateful for that.”

Cosie launches a drink-stirrer at Sam’s Bar & Grill.

Do you want to share your favorite story of Cosie’s? Log on to www.hws.edu/cosie.

HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES
Athletics Wrap-Up

A
fter a phenomenal fall that saw the field hockey, football, and both soccer teams reach the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the same season, the Herons and Statesmen stayed hot through the winter with William Smith basketball and Hobart hockey earning NCAA bids.

On the hardwood, the Herons posted a 25-4 record, winning the Liberty League regular season championship and advancing to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. Guard Marisa Vespa '08 led the way, becoming just the third William Smith student-athlete to be named a WBCA All-American, joining two-time winner Jennifer Goodell '97 and Liz Brown '00. The 2008 Liberty League Player of the Year, Vespa averaged 12.5 points, 6.1 assists and 3.3 steals this season. She shot .458 from the floor, including a season-record .433 from three-point range. She also broke the record for assists in a season, dishing out 177.

Vespa had plenty of company in the all-star department as fellow starters Paula Foote '07, G'08, Stephanie Czajkowski '08, Latasha Coney '09, and Erin Cunningham '10 also received all-conference honors.

In just her third season, Head Coach Lindsay Drury was named the regional coach of the year by both the WBCA and D3hoops.com.

The William Smith squash team was led by first-year Head Coach George Dornberger, the golf team competed in four tournaments. Nickie Calandra '09

In other fall sports news, Ben Flanagan '10 won the SUNYIT Cross Country Invitational, while golfer Jeff Mayo '11 won the Muhlenberg Invitational. The rowing team collected five Boat of the Week awards, and celebrated its 25th anniversary with a third-place varsity eight finish at the Head of the Charles.

William Smith Athletics sent its soccer and field hockey teams to the NCAAs, after each won its respective Liberty League Championship.

The soccer team, which was ranked as high as fifth in the nation, posted a 17-1-1 record, tying the school mark for wins in a regular season. Forward Laura Burnett-Kurie '08 was named to the NSCAA All-America Third Team, while back Tracy Stankavage '08 and forward Brelynn Nasypany '11 earned Liberty League Player and Rookie of the Year accolades, respectively.

The field hockey team (16-5) advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the fourth straight season. The Herons have won five consecutive Liberty League regular season championships and four straight tournament titles. Britney Paye '08, Kaitlyn Hamilton '10, and Charlotte Styer '09 were named to the NFHCA All-America Teams, while Paye was also honored as the Liberty League Player of the Year.

The Heron harriers wrapped up another season of competition, highlighted by a first-place finish in the Hobart Invitational. Katie Pietrak '10 was the first Heron to cross the line in all 10 races she entered.

Led by first-year Head Coach George Dornberger, the golf team competed in four tournaments. Nickie Calandra '09

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Swing the Hobart Hockey Way
by Melissa Sue Sorrells ’05

Players scat across the ice in ragged time, a skis-kiting, thrashing call-and-response. They swing, create their own rhythm, improvise riff. Cracking, the puck skiddles-bops across the ice and slices, finally, into the net.

“It’s easy to make a connection from solid jazz to solid hockey,” explains Mark Taylor, head coach of the Hobart hockey team, which finished the season seventh in Division III by USCHO.com’s weekly poll.

“So much of jazz is about rhythm and soul, and those things are very important for us, too.”

Each year, Taylor selects a theme for his team, a unifying principal designed to focus his players and help them grow. Taylor was inspired to select jazz by an article he read in USA TODAY that featured management advice from nine-time Grammy winning trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

In that article, Marsalis advises managers to craft a workplace environment that keeps the creative juices flowing while maintaining a level discipline by encouraging profound dedication to teamwork, integrity and respect.

For Taylor – a man who lives, breathes and dreams about the ice – Marsalis’ commentary was clearly applicable to hockey. “I’ve never been a jazz fan; I’m more of a country guy,” says Taylor.

But after reading the article, I bought a couple of jazz CDs, and the music intrigued me.” Jazz has been the fuel for the team’s successful season. The team has listened to jazz on the bus, seen the word over and over on signs around their locker room and worn it on their team shirts.

“The idea is that they will feel the concept on the ice,” says Taylor. “They might think I’m going through a mid-life crisis or something, but when they think of jazz, it reminds them what we’re trying to focus on, and it’s helping them grow on and off the ice. The rallying point is clearly working well for this year’s team, currently experiencing unprecedented teamwork, camaraderie and wins. Their season-opening eight-game winning streak is the first in Statesmen history and ties the program record for most consecutive wins, a standard set in the 2005-2006 season.

“Rankings are not as important as the fact that we’re playing good hockey, and we’re focused,” says Taylor. “But, of course, we’ll take the wins.”

Man the Hobart Hockey Team’s successful season.

The Spice of Life
For some, variety is the spice of life. But for Jazz club owner Bob Masteller ’60, it’s the similarities that keep things zesty.

“What I’m really enjoying about life now is establishing correlations between different things I’ve done in my life,” explains Masteller. “I feel that my club, The Jazz Corner, is the culmination of all of my experiences.”

Masteller spent most of his adult life working in human resources before opening the jazz club in 1999, but he grew up on music thanks to his father, a prominent jazz violinist and composer. It seems natural that Masteller would see the connection between jazz and business.

“The same principles that guide jazz guide corporate life,” he says. “Jazz is at its best when people meld together to create synergy and chemistry. Similarly, the best corporate teams have great chemistry and a sense of synergy. I’m not surprised that it also works for hockey.”

These same principles have made an impression on the way he runs The Jazz Corner. “I try to operate The Jazz Corner the way I’d run a corporation,” he explains. “We place a high value on individual worth, but we try to emphasize that you’re only as strong as the person next to you.”

Masteller continues to make connections in his life by teaching jazz history at the University of South Carolina and giving back to the community. His non-profit, Junior Jazz, introduces high school students to jazz music. Next, he’ll draw parallels in Geneva, N.Y., returning to campus to take the stage during Reunion 2008.

“The success of my club and my ability to give back to the community is a source of tremendous satisfaction in my life,” he says. “And it’s all part of an interconnected series of events in my life.”

Want to hear more from Masteller? Check out his live recording, available for sale at www.thejazzcorner.com. Or see him live on stage during Reunion 2008!