Distinguished Faculty Awards

The Alumni Association of Hobart College and The Alumnae Association of William Smith College jointly awarded The Distinguished Faculty Awards for 2008 to the late William G. Hosking ’47, P’74, Professor of Economics; and the late Valerie C. Saiving, Professor of Religious Studies on Saturday, March 29.

The Distinguished Faculty Award was established to recognize the importance that graduates of these Colleges place on the contributions of the outstanding faculty members of the past. Hosking, a Geneva native and Hobart alumnus of 1947, earned his M.S and Ph.D. from Cornell University. He began teaching at HWS as an instructor in 1948, eventually becoming a professor of economics. He remained at the Colleges for nearly 25 years, serving as the chair of the department. He also served as president of the New York State Economics Association and as the mayor of the City of Geneva. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, he died in 1974.

President Allan Kuusisto wrote at the time of Hosking’s death: “Hobart and William Smith Colleges have lost one of their most respected senior faculty members... Bill was one of the most popular faculty members with students and alumni and alumnae and was a dedicated community leader as well.” His wife, Mary Hosking, former Director of William Smith Athletics and a founding member of the Heron Society, also served the Colleges – as a professor, coach, and administrator – for more than 20 years.

Saiving taught Religious Studies at the Colleges from 1959 to 1987. Her article, “The Human Situation,” published in 1960 in the “Journal of Religion,” is often listed as the single most important and influential piece of writing in the invention of feminist religion in the United States in the 20th Century. Also a member of Phi Beta Kappa, she received her B.A. in 1943 from Bates College and went on to earn her M.A. and Ph.D., the latter in 1966, from the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. She was a co-founder of the HWS Department of Religious Studies with Richard Heaton, also since deceased, and of the Women’s Studies program, which was one of the first in the nation; her influence continues in today’s programs at the Colleges.

Upcoming Events

April 22 – Buffalo, NY
Hobart Lacrosse at Canisius College and post-game gathering.

April 25 – Geneva, NY
Join us on campus as we celebrate University of Florida Athletic Director Jeremy Foley, whose outstanding accomplishments have brought honor and distinction to Hobart College.

May 1 – New York, NY
Join fellow young alums in New York City for an HWS Happy Hour.

June 6-8 – Geneva, NY
Reunion! Gather on the shore of Seneca Lake for a weekend of fond memories and great friends with special celebrations for HWS classes ending in ’3 and ’8.

For more information or to sign up for any of these events, visit www.hwsalumni.com or contact Alumni House at (315) 781-3700.

www.hwsalumni.com

Remember When ...

- **Classes were held on Saturdays?** Relive those weekend wakeups and take a class or two while you’re here! Reunion mini-college courses are offered on a wide variety of topics, including crime scene investigation and Vietnam.

- **Campus was made up of only 20 buildings?** This year, tour the new buildings, check out on-going construction and visit your tried-and-true haunts. HWS has changed so dramatically over the past several years you won’t believe your eyes!

- **Folkfest filled the Quad with music, dancing and daisy chains?** Kick off your shoes and get ready for some quality time on the Quad because Reunion brings some of the best bands to campus. There won’t be any face painting, but you’ll barely notice with all of the fireworks.

- **The Twin Oaks was the place to be, and Cosie serenaded you with his ukulele?** Fill your mug at The Oaks tent on the Quad and raise your glass to the taverns with your friends.

- **Hobart lads served elegantly dressed William Smith women dinner in Houghton House?** Well, you can’t get your eats there anymore, but you’ll definitely want to check out the Houghton grounds and student art work.

- **Being able to swim was mandatory for graduation?** No one will be around to test you this Reunion, so why not take a dip in Seneca Lake? The Bozzuto Boathouse is a great diving board, and there’s lots of fish to be caught, too.
Alums Honored for Achievement on the Battlefield and Playing Field

This spring, every alumna and alumnus was invited to return to their old stomping grounds for two very special ceremonies as the Hobart Alumni Association and the William Smith Alumnae Association honored two of their most accomplished alums with their highest honors.

The William Smith Alumnae Association presented its Alumna Achievement Award to Col. Kathy D. Platoni ’74, Psy.D., to honor her outstanding achievements and lifetime of service to others. The ceremony was held on Friday, Mar. 28.

In more than 28 years in the U.S. Army, she has been sent to Iraq and Guantanamo Bay and served in the first Gulf War. She has ventured “beyond the wire” and into the crucible of war to care for the soldiers who need it most.

An expert in treating post-traumatic stress disorder, Platoni was deployed to Ground Zero in 2001, to work with the New York Police Department in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

The Hobart Alumni Association will present the Medal of Excellence, its highest honor, to Jeremy Foley ’74, in ceremonies on Friday, Apr. 25.

Foley is being recognized for his outstanding achievements as Director of Athletics at the University of Florida, where in 2006, his athletic program earned national titles in men’s basketball and football in the same calendar year: the first to do so in collegiate athletics history. In March 2007 the men’s basketball team won the nationals again, becoming the first team in 15 years to win back-to-back titles.

For details on the Hobart Medal of Excellence, go to visit www.hwsalumni.com or call (315) 781-3700.

WHERE IN THE WORLD??????

Where in the world have you been?! What in the world have you been doing? Your HWS family wants to know, so send Alumni House a quick e-mail at Meiggs@hws.edu and by all means: keep in touch!

From first coaches to recent rowing grads, HWS rowers from throughout the years came back to Seneca Lake for the 25th Anniversary of HWS Crew held on Oct. 13 at the Colleges. The crew members photographed here are Nathan Kress ’07, Rob Reinheimer ’07, Frances Parson ’06, Rebecca Gunten ’06, Dan Gilbert ’06, Joe Jameson ’07, Michael Grenier ’07, J.M. Chadonic ’06, Gavin Johnstone-Butcher ’06, Tim Faxon ’06, Matt Monhauquette ’05, Founder and former Coach of Hobart and William Smith Crew Ford Weiskittel, Eric Andrews ’85, the first coxswain on HWS Crew, Hans Feige ’86, Natalie Streeter ’88, Jeff Gildorf ’86, Alison Rosen ’87, Tom Williamson 02, Wendy Traynor ’86, Assistant Men’s Rowing Coach Michael Hoepp ’05 and Gardner Loring ’06.
Connect with alums in your city by attending an HWS Club Event! Log on to www.hwsalumni.com for upcoming events.

New York City

Greg Cassella ’96, Eric Stoer ’96, Garry Mendoza ’96 and Ed Johnson, Jr. ’78 gathered for good times at PS 450 in NYC.

Carmen Bouser ’75, Joseph Rosta ’73 and Zachary Chakos ’75 chatted in front of the bar of PS 450.

Boston

Kendra Zydek ’05, Carla DeLucia ’05, Nicole Wilber ’04 and Shane Knowles ’02 caught up at the Holiday Party in Boston, Mass. at Vose Galleries.

Vose Galleries’ Owner Abbot “Bill” Williams Vose ’64 (center) graciously hosted this year’s Boston Holiday Party, opening all four floors of his gallery for alumns to explore and admire. Appearing here with Vose are Carla DeLucia ’05 and Mitzi Peterson Nolan ’94 (1 to r).

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Minneapolis

Minneapolis alumni, parents and students hung out at the Nicollet Island Inn on Jan. 15 for a Twin Cities Gathering.

Bob Parish ’65 chats with current student and award-winning sailor Dan Thompson ’08.

New Jersey

Alumni and staff gathered at the Buffalo Club for lunch with NHL Analyst Pierre McGuire ’83 and Hockey Head Coach Mark Taylor. Those discussing McGuire’s career and Hobart Hockey were Bob Childs ’70, Paul Tokasz ’68, P ’89, Brian Duffett ’90, Jim Kurysyk ’87, Bill Greer ’11, Head Hockey Coach Mark Taylor, Pat Plunkett ’81, John Franke ’91, Pierre McGuire ’83, Bob Shaddock ’75, P ’09, former Hockey Coach and now Major Gifts Officer Bill Greer, P ’11, Dan Plunkett ’85 and photographer Jared Weeden ’91, director of alumni relations.

Theta Delta Chi

Theta Delta Chi alumni met up at the Williams Club on Nov. 15, for their annual gathering in New York City. These Hobart Xi Chapter brothers and friends include Pete Buck ’81, Sam Coburn ’90, Dave Watkins ’81, Jim Ramirez ’81, Geoff Fitzgerald ‘87, Bob Loonie ’83, Hans Werner ’81, Joe Romano ’82, Matt Larson ’81, Cameron Lockhead ’82, Sean McCoy ’75, P ’08 Trustee Herbert J. McCoy ’76, P ’04, P ’09 Pete Musser ’77, Tom Connor ’81, Bruce Barber ’80 and Dale Tills ’82.

Phi Phi Reunion

Phi Phi alums gather at the former Phi Phi house on Hamilton Street during the Phi Phi Delta 105th Anniversary Gathering on October 12-14, 2007. The house has been restored and is now home to Associate Director of Admissions David Gage ’91 and his family.

Ken Withrow ’51 and Honorary Trustee Dick Rosenbaum ’52, P ’86 catch a Statesmen football game with other Phi Phi’s at Boswell Field.

Sharlene Schmidt Vichness ’66 (front row, second from right) hosted a Centennial Event at her home in Roseland, N.J., on Feb. 6. Lauren E. Strickler ’94, Cheryl Mercado Arnaudt ’85, Jane Salo McWilliams ’75, Mara O’Laughlin ’66, Dean of William Smith, Debra DeMeis P ’06, Rochelle Schaefer Forster ’80 (assistant VP WS Centennial Fund); (back row, l-r), Kathy Killius Regan (82 (director of alumnae relations), Anne Doyle ’86, Vichness and Alison Rosen ’87 (front row, l-r) gathered for the event.

Hockey Reunion

Alumni and staff gathered at the Buffalo Club for lunch with NHL Analyst Pierre McGuire ’83 and Hockey Head Coach Mark Taylor. Those discussing McGuire’s career and Hobart Hockey were Bob Childs ’70, Paul Tokasz ’68, P ’89, Brian Duffett ’90, Jim Kurysyk ’87, Will Greer ’11, Head Hockey Coach Mark Taylor, Pat Plunkett ’81, John Franke ’91, Pierre McGuire ’83, Bob Shaddock ’75, P ’09, former Hockey Coach and now Major Gifts Officer Bill Greer, P ’11, Dan Plunkett ’85 and photographer Jared Weeden ’91, director of alumni relations.
by Joshua Unikel '07

R enowned biographer and author Eric Lax '66 has been having what he calls "one of the longest conversations in Hollywood" with filmmaker Woody Allen. Spanning three decades, their discussion has resulted in a host of articles published in The New York Times Magazine, the Los Angeles Times, Vanity Fair and many others.

Lax has also written seven books, including critically acclaimed Allen-related titles such as Woody Allen: A Biography, On Being Funny: Woody Allen & Comedy and his most recent release, Conversations with Woody Allen: His Films, the Movies, and Moviemaking. The latest book lets readers listen in on the dialogue in a more direct and personal way.

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**PSS: How did Conversations come about?**
**EL:** The folks at Knopf wanted another conversation-based book like their earlier release Conversations with Wilder by Cameron Crowe, so they approached me about a "Conversations with Woody Allen" book, saying that they wanted all new material. I called Woody, and he said it sounded interesting. But I knew all along that I needed to include these new conversations along with parts of conversations we'd had throughout the past 35 years. The book couldn't be just a single snapshot; it needed to be a whole album.

**PSS: Besides being written in conversations, what did you do differently in this book?**
**EL:** With this book, I wanted to trace his evolution as a filmmaker. Each section is based on the seven major elements of movie-making, from "The Idea" to "Directing" to "Scoring," and covers conversations we've had throughout the past three decades. This setup lets the reader check in with the conversation at any time and at any place in the book. You can read any section you like and in any order, really, and still gain an understanding of Allen.

**PSS: Why Woody Allen?**
**EL:** You know, it really was—like life often is—a series of accidents. Six months after the New York Times Magazine killed the first article I wrote in 1971 about the then-35-year-old Allen, I was nearly run down by a car with a sign for Rollins and Joffe Productions in the window. It was a car from Allen's production company. I knew he was in town, so I contacted Joffe for another interview and ended up on the set of "Play It Again, Sam." Later, I ran into Allen on Fifth Avenue in New York. He said that he was about to go to Vegas, and I should stop by if I happened to be there. With an idea for a book on comedy with Woody as the focus, I took Woody up on his offer and went out to Vegas. We caught up for about ten minutes in the Caesars coffee shop, and he agreed to be interviewed for the book that became On Being Funny. And it just went from there; there was no real design at all.

**PSS: How did you become interested in comedy?**
**EL:** I just like to laugh and have always loved S. J. Perelman, the Marx Brothers and early Bob Hope. When I was at Hobart, I even wrote a humor column for The Herald.

**PSS: Are there any insights about Allen that you've gained from talking to him for more than 35 years?**
**EL:** Yeah, I think the biggest thing is that from knowing him as I do, I am able to separate the artist from the character. On-screen and in real life, he may speak, dress and behave the same way, but in person, Woody is completely unlike how he is on screen. Off-screen, Woody is just as funny, but he's also very determined and organized unlike his often frantic on-screen self.

In general, it's important for me to note that I don't claim to have the final word or even the best word on Woody Allen. I've simply been someone who has talked to him throughout the arc of his career, and I hope that my 35 year-long conversation with such an important filmmaker that has turned into thousands of pages in real time are useful to film scholars and film enthusiasts alike.

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Assistant Professor of Theatre Lisa Black taught and performed throughout North America, Europe and Brazil before finding a home at HWS. She specializes in actor training, performance creation and Stanislavski’s method of physical actions.

"The Wild Trees" by Richard Preston is on my nightstand. I've read it twice now and have no intention of moving it to the bookshelf. It's about the California coastal redwood trees, and it reads as swiftly as a novel.

Actor, comedian and writer Gary DeWitt Marshall '89 is currently working on an American adaptation of the hit British series "Life on Mars." He's also putting together a collection of poetry and short stories.

"I recently finished Black Titan, about Black American millionaire A.G. Gaston. Most people don't know about Gaston, but he was the man behind the financial scenes of the Civil Rights Movement."

Paul McCarthy '88 is a freelance writer, director and producer. He's created commercials for the New York Jets as well as documentaries about The Food Allergy Project and the green movement.

"My wife and I were watching Joe Dirt one evening, and she said, 'I think this is Candide.' So now I'm reading Voltaire's famous play, and sure enough, Candide and Joe Dirt have a lot in common!"

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What are you reading?