

Fall 2007

## Kenyon College Alumni Bulletin - Fall 2007

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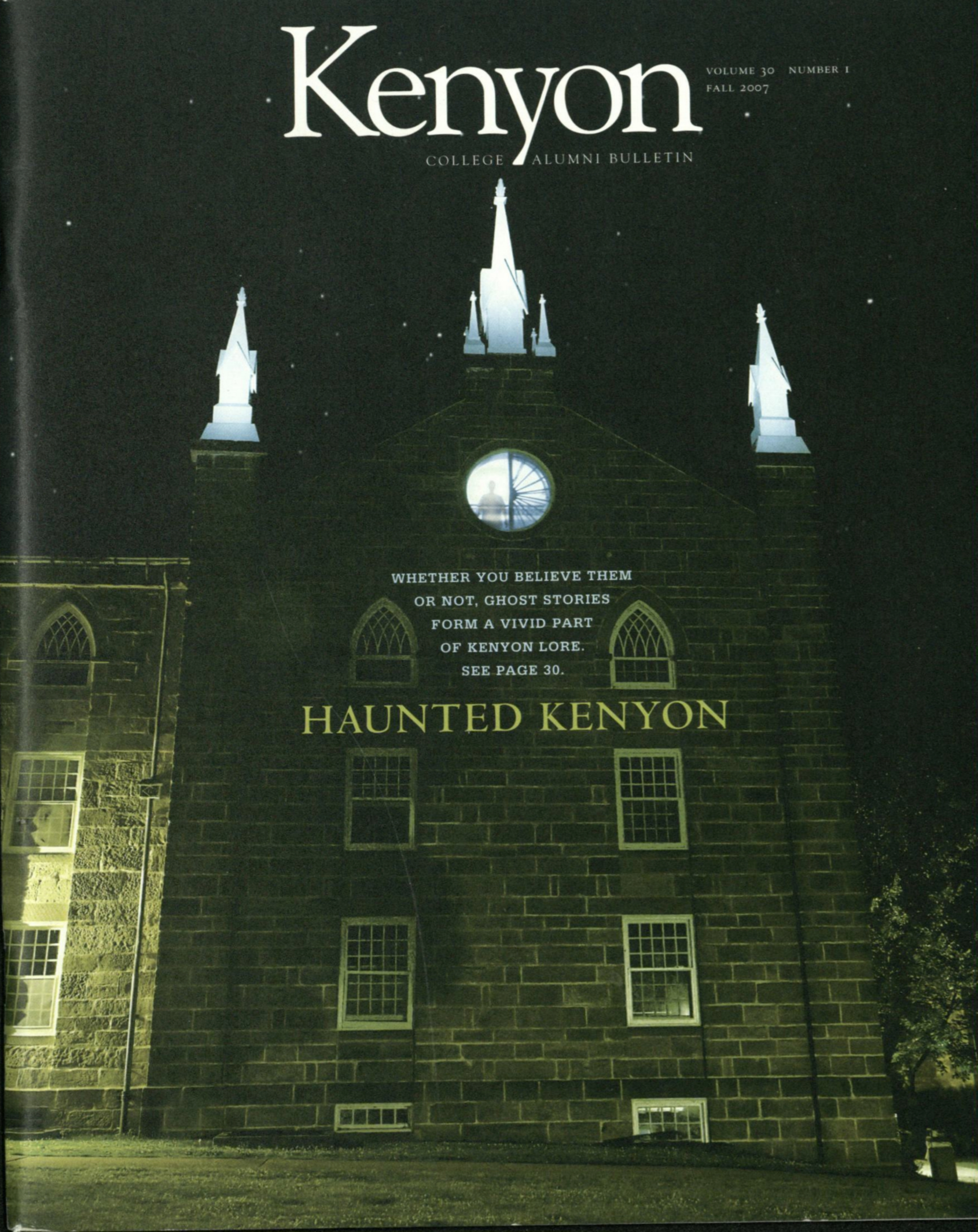
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# Kenyon

COLLEGE ALUMNI BULLETIN

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 1  
FALL 2007



WHETHER YOU BELIEVE THEM  
OR NOT, GHOST STORIES  
FORM A VIVID PART  
OF KENYON LORE.  
SEE PAGE 30.

## HAUNTED KENYON



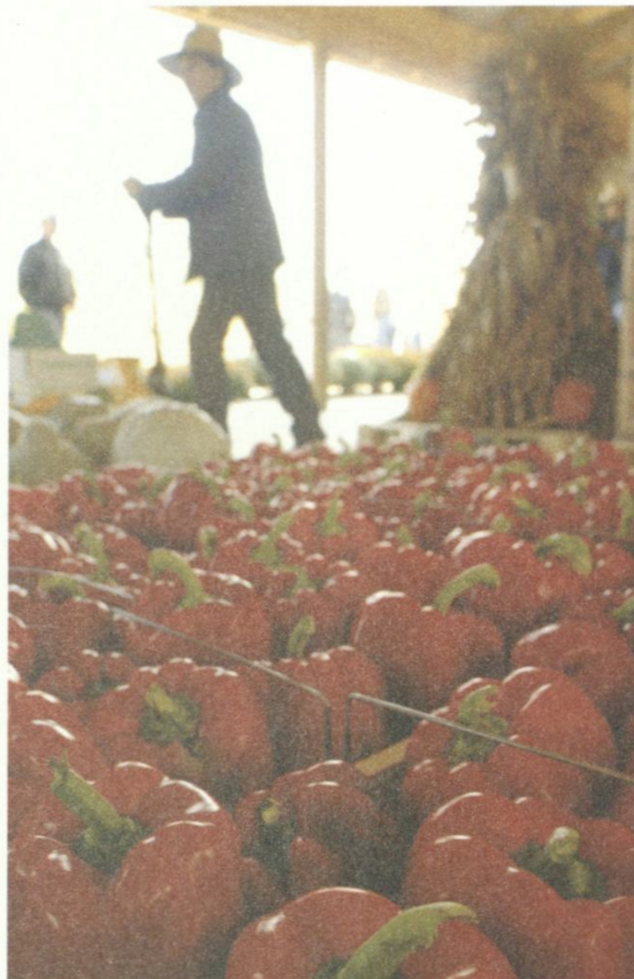
# Kenyon

COLLEGE ALUMNI BULLETIN

IO

Fulbright Fellowships  
will be taking new  
Kenyon graduates from  
Mexico to China.

On the cover:  
Flesh or spirit? An  
apparition in the  
bullseye window of  
Old Kenyon.  
Photograph by  
Emily Zeller '08.



Editor:  
Shawn Presley

Deputy editor:  
Dan Laskin

Associate editor:  
Amy Blumenthal

Designers:  
Aldrich Design  
Adam Gilson

Intern:  
Naomi Blaushild '10

Assistants:  
Patty Burns  
Mark Ellis  
Martin Fuller  
Rebecca Mazur  
Lori Porter  
Hays Stone '99

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During harvest season,  
Kenyon gets fresh produce  
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Charismatic but controversial, Leopoldo Lopez '93 emerges as a rising star of Venezuela's opposition movement.

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Critic William Empson (far right) dazzled and bemused students at the Kenyon School of English.



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Drama professor Thomas Turgeon wins student accolades—and Kenyon's teaching award—for virtuosity in the classroom.



## GARDEN YEAR

by Rebecca M. Mazur

It is September and I am in the kitchen, turning the crank.

Tomatoes are everywhere: big bowls of them on the counter, pots of juice on the stove, plates of seeds and skins on the table.

I am barefoot because the Squeeze drips, speckling the linoleum and turning new socks quickly into old ones. I drop tomato slices into the funnel and juice flows steadily into the quart pot below. My sister is waiting her turn at the crank, and she passes the time by stealing slices from the bowls as Mom cuts. Out in the garden Dad fills another bushel and my brother shuttles tomatoes into the garage.

Food, in the Mazur household, is a family thing.

We still sit down to eat together every evening. All five of us can and do cook. We all tend the trees, plants, and roots that supply our table. It's a full-time job, and each season brings something different. The whole year cycles through our garden.

September. The tomatoes I am currently squeezing will eventually be homemade pizza and pasta sauce. Outside, the cherry tomatoes hang in clusters on their vines, but they will soon join their bigger brothers in stock for vegetable soup and in salads.

While we have been busy with the tomatoes, our raspberries have come on with a vengeance. We pick them daily now, going out with a quart container to brave the thorns and big yellow-crossed garden spiders that love the berry rows.

Cooler weather sets in at the end of the month, and Mom shakes her head as she looks over our apples—the bugs have got to them again. So the five of us pile into the van and drive up to the orchard for two or three or four bushels. For a few days there may be some frantic peeling and chopping



and the smell of cooking apples coming from the big pot on the stove. Dad chooses five leftover apples, cores them and cooks them with cinnamon, our typical fall snack.

October. Potatoes don't like to be dug wet, but it has rained again and if we wait, the voles will be the ones doing the digging. My brother and my dad turn the dirt over; it sticks to the potatoes and has to be brushed off by hand. After a night on the porch and another bout of dirt-brushing, the yellows and reds go down to the basement while the sweets invade the family room for two weeks to cure. Two weeks of potatoes underfoot, dirt escaping onto the carpet, and one very confused dog.

December. Christmas sees only the chard still alive, just in time for wedding soup. I grate cheese for the rags and Mom and my sister clean the greens while Dad rolls hundreds of tiny meatballs.

Winter. We drool over pictures in seed catalogs and debate what to order. Fifty trees for the property line seems like a good idea. Maybe some white popcorn this year. Certainly we'll have room for a hundred sweet potato plants—won't we?

Early April, and the seed boxes have arrived. Dad plants the tiny specks with tweezers and defends the open bags of potting soil from curious cats. April also brings warm weather just long enough to confuse the trees, then a freeze. I bring eight or ten bales of straw home to cover the strawberries. Every basket, bucket, and blanket is drafted to shield flowers from the frost, and we're up well before dawn to wet down anything that couldn't be covered.

The freeze might wipe us out and it might not. If it doesn't, there will be strawberries and cherries just in time to conflict with outdoor planting. Corn, beans, and squash go into the ground outside, while Mom starts to fill the freezer with jam inside. My sister, brother, and I—all well into or past our teens—argue over who gets to lick the bowl.

We weed . . . and wait. By July, anyone still standing is complaining of a sore back. Thistles, sneaky little weeds, bite through gloves, and it is the lucky one of us who doesn't have at least one of their little stingers well embedded.

Then everything comes at once. Sweet corn, sticky and well buttered, becomes a dinner staple, and what we can't eat ends up blanched and frozen. Beans, peppers, cucumbers, peas, and any number of other mid-summer vegetables start piling up.

And tomatoes, tomatoes by the ton.

In a short while it's canning season again. Mom has forestalled any tomato-theft this year by presenting my sister with a whole one to eat. Dad and my brother bring in the parade of bushel-baskets.

It is September, and I am in the kitchen, turning the crank.

*Rebecca M. Mazur, the assistant director of new media at Kenyon, has finished juicing the tomatoes for the season. But she's still busy at home in Newark, Ohio, laying down newspaper in anticipation of the harvest from those hundred sweet potato plants.*



## LETTERS to the editor

**Captain of the Buckeye-beaters**

I was delighted to read in the latest *Bulletin* Robert Price's letter regarding the 1898 Kenyon football team (Spring/Summer 2007). Having missed the reference to this team in the trivia quiz, I was unaware that it had resurfaced here in the twenty-first century. Now prompted by Mr. Price, I write to add a bit more about this team.

My great uncle, Dayton A. Williams, Class of 1899, was the captain of that band of Buckeye-beaters. Enclosed here [below] you will find a copy of a picture of that 1898 team. Uncle Date is the rather large young guy seated fourth from the left in the second row.

Following his graduation from Kenyon, Uncle Date left his family's farm in Monroeville, Ohio, and found his way to the Pacific Northwest, settling in Tacoma, Washington. There he developed a road construction business that he managed until his retirement. Because he never traveled back east, I did not have the pleasure of meeting him. However, I came to know him through his letters. My mother struck up a correspondence with him in the 1940s. Upon her death in the late 1950s, my father (Edward '29) and older sister, Anne, carried on the exchange of letters.

All of Uncle Date's letters were kept neatly bound in a folder in our home. One of the last letters he wrote arrived in the fall of 1967, when I had arrived in Gambier as a freshman. In it he reminisced a bit: "... tell the young

man [Tom] that on the wooded hills about Gambier arbutus grows, a small shrub with pink and white blossoms, very fragrant. They would make a nice objective in the spring, if one had a young lady to entertain. If he thinks that would be a sissy occupation, tell him that the fellow who captained the last Kenyon football team to ever beat OSU (1898) did just that. And there was no young lady for a companion on the trip."

I took the hulking football player's advice, spending many happy and restful moments with the arbutus.

—Tom Southworth '71

**The other side of the pancake**

I was puzzled by more than a few points in Michael Kischner's letter concerning my classmate and friend, Cully Stimson (Spring/Summer 2007). Mr. Stimson most recently served as United States deputy assistant secretary of defense for detainee affairs.

Mr. Kischner maintains that Kenyon should be embarrassed to be associated with Mr. Stimson, due to comments he made concerning major law firms providing pro bono legal services to terrorism detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He openly questions the value of a "good liberal arts education" at Kenyon, if it could promulgate graduates like Mr. Stimson.

The hallmark of a Kenyon education is the learned ability to think and reason analytically. A good liberal arts education teaches the

wisdom of Vincent Bugliosi's oft-quoted statement that "no matter how thin you make the pancakes, there are always two sides." Without further examination to understand specifically what Mr. Stimson actually said (including support of pro bono legal representation, generally), Mr. Kischner renders himself a less than sterling example of the liberal arts

education which he rightfully lauds.

His assertion that there exists a "central obligation of all lawyers in our system ... to make sure that each person is equally represented before the law" is wrong. For criminal defendants there is only a constitutional guarantee of "effective assistance of counsel," not "equal representation." In no small irony, citing such an illusory obligation was an ignorant and, unfortunately, misplaced basis to criticize Mr. Stimson.

Cully Stimson is a dedicated public servant, with service as federal prosecutor, naval officer, judge advocate, and university professor. Beyond that, he is a wonderful family man—with his wife, Laura, he has adopted two children from Russia. His impassioned pleas for leniency as the federal prosecutor in the much-publicized case of Jonathan Magbie, a quadriplegic man sentenced to jail where he later died, reveal that he values the concepts of justice and fair play, and of sympathy and compassion for others.

Unfortunately, in his rush to judgment, Mr. Kischner never looked at that side of the pancake.

—George T. Perrett '86

**A salute to dog heaven**

"Loving Lincoln" (Spring/Summer 2007) was a treat to read by a fellow canine fan and owner. (In Spanish, the word for "pet" is *mascota*.) Indeed, every day has adventure and discovery with one's dog, growing side by side.

I remember my days at Kenyon from 1994 to 1997. I was both delighted and, at times, astonished by Gambier's dog world that seemed like dog heaven. Dogs seemed as if they had a life of their own with pampering and glee. "The living is easy!" they seemed to yelp, with gusto, in their long walks. In the early fall, a carpet of leaves cushioned their long walks along Middle Path. The family I met, Linda and Peter Michaels, led me to the world of boxers and canine love. Theirs was a life filled with

*continued on page 4*





continued from page 3

dogs. I contemplated my next life as that of a pampered dog in Gambier.

Now that I am a dog owner with my partner, Scott, I have a better understanding of a dog's life and world. We own three dogs: a Miniature Pinscher (Teotihuacán), chocolate Labrador Retriever (Manny), and yellow Labrador Retriever (Klaus). Every day we discover something about ourselves in their presence.

Thank you for featuring stories about the animal world ("Crusader Against Cruelty") and the need to act on the well-being and wellness of animals. I look forward to reading future articles.

—R. Joseph Rodríguez '97

#### A key player

I was deeply saddened to learn about the death of Robert (Bob) Charles Weidenkopf '61. But I must slightly disagree with Hutch Hodgon's comment that Bob "joined in the formation" of a Kenyon hockey club. Bob was one of my defensemen and was central to the team's formation.

The nascent club members were gathered together in South Leonard (Beta lounge) on one of those bleak, dateless Saturday nights, in the winter of '61, when Guy Prosser '40 arrived with an open checkbook to help finance our uniforms and ice fees. We paid for our own skates and pads.

Mr. Prosser without hesitation sought out Bob as the natural leader and gave him the check. The rest is history.

—John R. (Robby) Coughlan Jr. '63, the first goalie of the Kenyon Hockey Club

#### TO OUR LETTER WRITERS

The *Bulletin* welcomes letters of 300 or fewer words. Letters to the editor may be used for publication unless the author states the letter is not to be published. Letters may be edited for style, length, clarity, grammar, and relevance to Kenyon issues. Please address submission to: Editor, *Kenyon College Alumni Bulletin*, Office of Public Affairs, Gambier, Ohio 43022. Letters may also be submitted to [alumni@kenyon.edu](mailto:alumni@kenyon.edu).

## KEEN TO BE GREEN

Kenyon's turning green, and it's not with envy. Campus and community groups—the Environmental Campus Organization (ECO), People Endorsing Agrarian Sustainability (PEAS), and Kenergy, to name a few—as well as members of the College administration—are taking a turn toward environmental consciousness by improving energy efficiency, considering "green" building designs, expanding recycling and composting, and developing the local food program. Even the *Bulletin* you're holding in your hands was printed on recycled paper.

Here's a sampling of environmental groups and initiatives on campus:

- Kenergy, a group including Kenyon employees and community members and headed by professor Scott Cummings of the chemistry department, promotes energy efficiency and environmental responsibility both in homes and in the dorms.
- ECO promotes and organizes environmentally friendly initiatives and awareness on campus by sponsoring speakers, various activities, and energy-efficient initiatives.
- After showing the movie *Kilowatt Ours* last fall, Kenergy teamed up with ECO in the spring to promote an effort helping Kenyon community members switch from incandescent to compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Sponsored by ECO, the Week of Sustainability began on April 14 with "Step it Up: National Day of Climate Action," which was followed by



Jane Sanders

speaker Peggy Barlett of Emory University, panel discussions, local food sales, and a Saturday morning viewing of *Captain Planet* at the Crozier Center.

- The week culminated in the April 22 Earth Day celebration, featuring exhibits and a marathon.
- PEAS, founded in the fall of 2005 with the help of community member and Kenyon alumnus John Marsh, promotes awareness of where our food comes from and attempts to connect farmers in the community to students and professors at Kenyon.
- PEAS sponsors local food brunches, speakers, and farm tours, while Marsh works closely with AVI Foodsystems, Kenyon's food service, to buy local food for the dining halls.
- One of PEAS's goals is to expand the Brown Family Environmental Center to include more gardens where students can farm throughout the year. ☺

—Naomi Blaushild '10




## NEWMAN'S OWN COLLEGE

From Altoona to Walla Walla, from China to New Zealand, the \$10 million donation from actor and philanthropist Paul Newman '49 to the \$230 million comprehensive campaign, *We Are Kenyon: The Drive for Excellence*, attracted global media attention during the first week of June. Here's a partial list of where the story ran:

*The Advocate*, Stamford, Connecticut  
*Altoona Mirror*, Altoona, Pennsylvania  
*Antelope Valley Press*, Palmdale, California  
*The Boston Globe*, Boston, Massachusetts  
*The Brownsville Herald*, Brownsville, Texas  
*Business First*, Columbus, Ohio  
*Carroll County Times*, Westminster, Maryland

*The Centre Daily Times*, State College, Pennsylvania  
*Chicago Tribune*, Chicago, Illinois  
*The Columbian*, Vancouver, Washington  
*The Daily Ardmoreite*, Ardmore, Oklahoma  
*The Daily News*, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
*The Daily News Sunday*, Milford, Massachusetts  
*Deseret Morning News*, Salt Lake City, Utah  
*Detroit Free Press*, Detroit, Michigan  
*Durango Herald*, Durango, Colorado  
*The Evening Bulletin*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
*The Express-Times*, Easton, Pennsylvania  
*The Florida Times-Union*, Jacksonville, Florida  
*The Guardian*, London, England  
*Hollywood Reporter*, Los Angeles, California  
*The Journal News*, White Plains, New York  
*The Keene Sentinel*, Keene, New Hampshire  
*Napa Valley Register*, Napa, California  
*Newsday*, Long Island, New York  
*The News-Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tennessee  
*The News-Times*, Danbury, Connecticut

*The Palm Beach Post*, West Palm Beach, Florida  
*Peninsula Daily News*, Port Angeles, Washington  
*Post and Courier*, Charleston, South Carolina  
*The Press-Enterprise*, Riverside, California  
*The Quad-City Times*, Davenport, Iowa  
*The State News*, Dover, Delaware  
*The Staten Island Advance*, Staten Island, New York  
*Sunday Freeman*, Kingston, New York  
*The Sunday Gazette*, Schenectady, New York  
*The Sunday Telegram*, Worcester, Massachusetts  
*Tarankai Daily News*, Tarankai, New Zealand  
*The Tri-City Herald*, Pasco, Washington  
*USA Today*  
*The Washington Post*, Washington, D.C.  
*TV Guide*  
*Walla Walla Union-Bulletin*, Walla Walla, Washington.

Television stations that mentioned the Newman gift included ABC7, Chicago; CBS2, Los Angeles; and KDVR, Denver, Colorado. 

## Sound Bites

**"Don't take this** the wrong way, Gambier, but this is kind of a weird place. It's like entering the twilight zone."

—Stand-up comedian and *Daily Show* correspondent John Oliver, in an April 26 appearance at Kenyon

**"Always be yourself** ... unless you find that isn't working for you."

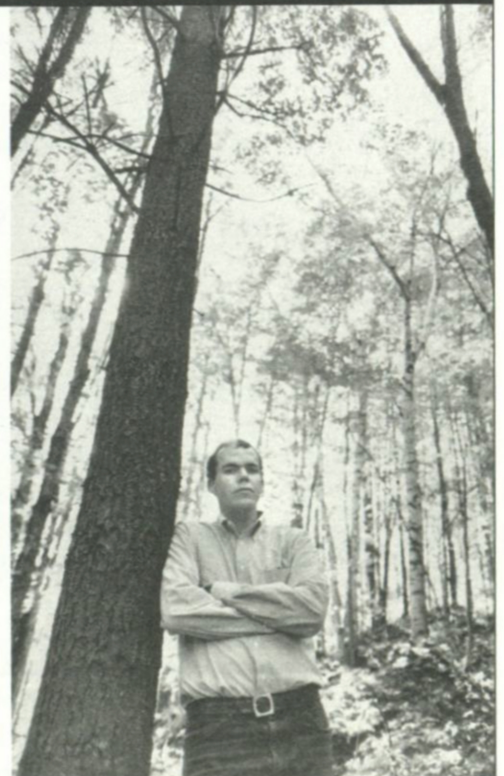
—NBC White House correspondent David Gregory, speaking to the graduating class at May's Commencement ceremony

**"OMG, you guys.** I have this theory, and this theory is that every time you walk down Middle Path you see someone you know!"

—A first-year student as quoted in the Facebook "Overheard at Kenyon" group. The statement was also printed on T-shirts and sold by the Archon Society.

**"The communities we need** to build in order to slow down global warming are the same kind of communities that are going to be resilient and durable enough to help adapt to that which we can't prevent. In the not very distant future, having neighbors is going to be more important than having belongings. Membership in a community is going to become important once again both psychologically and physically in the way that it's been for most of human history."

—Author and environmentalist Bill McKibben, who spoke at Kenyon in April, in an interview with *salon.com*. McKibben, who elaborated on these thoughts at Kenyon, is the author, most recently, of *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*.



Steven Liss/Getty Images



## FREELANCING THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

From juvenilia to juvenile author, junior Ann Pedtke builds up a record of publications

If there's one lesson writer Ann Pedtke has learned, it's this: "There's no failure in getting a rejection. The only failure is in not submitting your work."

At the tender age of nineteen, when many young writers have yet to screw up the courage to show any work to editors, Pedtke has experienced not only the disappointment of the rejection slip but also the elation of acceptances and the satisfaction of earning a paycheck for her poetry, fiction, and essays. More than a published author, already as a junior in college she's a professional. And her success began before ever arriving at Kenyon.

Recognition of Pedtke's literary gifts started early. She racked up a string of publications in *Stone Soup*, a literary magazine featuring the work of young writers aged eight to thirteen. As a home-schooled high-schooler, she began submitting her fiction and poetry to *Cricket* magazine, a high-quality publication with a readership of tweens and young teens; most of the magazine's contributors are adults with lengthy careers behind them. After several failed attempts, Pedtke eventually had a poem accepted for publication in the magazine—the first of a number of *Cricket* publications—and earnings followed.


"A Lunar Lament," a poem written in the voice of the moon and published by *Cricket* in 2004, recently appeared as a text in the 2007 New York State Grade 6 English Language Arts Test. Sixth graders were asked to answer questions about the lyric's stanzaic pattern, theme, language, and meaning.

Rewards have arrived from sources other than juvenile publishing. Just last year, Pedtke placed first among all college undergraduates and graduate students in the 2006 *Atlas Shrugged* Essay Contest sponsored by the Ayn Rand Institute. Her winning entry earned a hefty prize of five thousand dollars and was published on the Institute's website.

*Cricket* has been so impressed with Pedtke, now something of a regular contributor, that its parent company offered her a rare paid internship in its Chicago offices this past summer. "Even though the stipend was just enough to cover my housing and expenses, it's a feather in my cap and may lead to other opportunities down the road," says Pedtke, who intends someday to make a living as a freelance writer.

A junior majoring in English and classics, Pedtke is currently in England as a participant in the Kenyon-Exeter study-abroad program. Her absence is felt in Gambier, where she spent her

first two years as an active community member. Literary pursuits claim a portion of her extracurricular time—no surprise there. She's one of three student leaders of the Kenyon Poets Society as well as an editor of *Hika*. She also helped organize a classics scavenger hunt last year as a member of the classics advisory group. But her involvement in organizations goes beyond her academic interests. She plays soccer and was glimpsed last year in the pages of the *Bulletin* as a member of the Kenyon Jugglers. Pedtke also helped form the Book Explorers at the Gambier Community Center, a program to promote love of literature among local elementary-school students. She performed a stint helping with Katrina clean-up in New Orleans as an Ohio Action volunteer. A nature lover, she enjoys the Kokosing Gap Trail and is a fairly accomplished tree-climber.

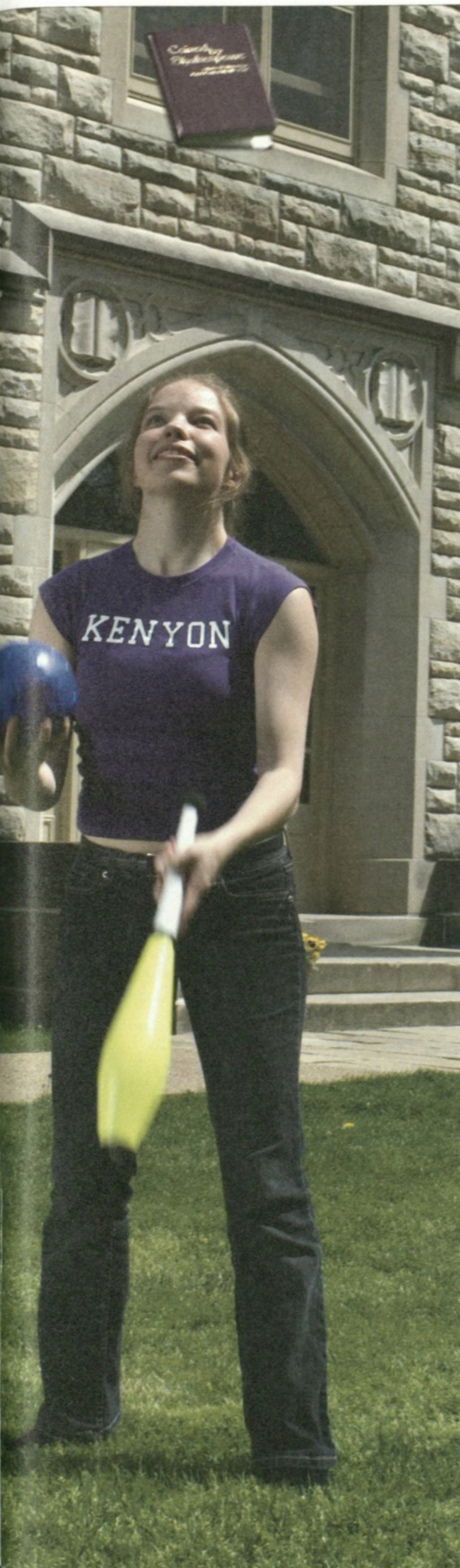
But no matter how busy these pursuits may keep her, she sets aside time for writing daily. "In 2000, to honor the millennium, I started a poetry journal. I've written a poem for every day since then," she says. With that much practice, discipline, and drive, she's well on her way to achieving her dream of the writing life. 

—Amy Blumenthal



Howard Korn





## Test Your KQ

WHAT'S YOUR KENYON QUOTIENT?  
TRY THIS QUESTION FROM THE  
WORLD OF KENYON TRIVIA.

Which Kenyon a cappella singing group came first?

- A. The Chasers
- B. The Kokosingers
- C. The Owl Creek Singers
- D. The Pealers

ANSWER: A. The Chasers  
Frank T. Lendrim, the  
College choir director,  
founded the Chasers in 1964.  
The group was noted for its  
high-spirited renditions of  
fraternity songs, barbershop  
numbers, and spirituals.  
Originally all-male, it became  
coed soon after female stu-  
dents arrived at Kenyon. The  
Kokosingers emerged just a  
year later, created by Pedro  
L. Arango '68, James S.  
Hecox '69, Lee P. Van Voris  
'67, and Thomas E. Ulrich '69;  
it remains an all-male group.  
The all-female Owl Creek  
Singers originated in 1974.  
The Pealers, of course, are  
not a singing group; they  
play the chapel bells.

## AMAZING CORN MAZE



Do you detect a familiar outline in this Kenyon corn maze just south of Route 229? English professor Sergei Lobanov-Rostovsky dreamed up the Old Kenyon labyrinth for the new preorientation Program in Writing and Thinking held during ten days in August. The maze was designed by math professor Judy Holdener and Ziyue Guo '10 and carved by farmer Tim Norris with the assistance of several students.



## KENYON IN THE NEWS

**The Chronicle of Higher Education**, in its May 11 edition, mentioned Kenyon's bond-rating upgrade. Moody's Investors Service moved Kenyon to A1 from A2. The rating applies to \$178 million in outstanding bonds. Reasons for the upgrade include a 50-percent increase in total financial resources, to \$330.9 million at the end of fiscal year 2006; financial flexibility, thanks to half of the College's resources being unrestricted; and a diversified and "well-managed" investment portfolio.

Kenyon was mentioned in several news reports in June following the decision by a majority of members of the Annapolis Group, an association of liberal arts colleges including Kenyon, to eschew participation in the U.S. News & World Report college-rankings reputational survey. **S. Georgia Nugent**, Kenyon's president, told the **Plain Dealer**, "As educators, many of us are concerned that this instrument and magazine report is not offering families meaningful material." The **New York Times** mentioned Kenyon as part of "a growing rebellion" against the rankings. The *Times* story was also published in the **International Herald Tribune**. Kenyon was mentioned in reporting on the story by the **Tampa Tribune**, Tampa Bay, Florida; in a favorable editorial

in the **Cincinnati Enquirer**, Cincinnati, Ohio; and in a critical column in the **Washington Post** by Robert J. Samuelson.

A \$2.25 million gift to the College's campaign from Kenyon trustee **Barry F. Schwartz '70**, executive vice president and general counsel at MacAndrews & Forbes Worldwide Corp., was reported in the June 8 edition of the **Wall Street Journal**. In the story, Schwartz credited Kenyon with "my ability to think critically and to connect with people who come from very different backgrounds."

The closing of Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, announced June 12, triggered a mention of Kenyon as a successful counterpoint to Antioch in a **Los Angeles Times** column by Meghan Daum in the June 30 edition. Kenyon was mentioned in the same vein in a column in the **Toledo Blade**, Toledo, Ohio, in a June 24 column by Peter Benesh, national correspondent for *Investor's Business Daily*. A June 30 editorial in the *Blade* mentioned Kenyon as part of the "proud history" of Ohio liberal arts colleges.

Kenyon swimmer **Blair Withington '10** of Hastings, New Zealand, was featured in a story in the June 25 edition of **Hawke's Bay Today** in New

Zealand about swimming rivals in his hometown. The story reported that Kenyon is "unrivaled academically" and Withington loves the College's "clean, green, flat 'mile-long campus.'"

The Kenyon College cemetery was included in the June 25 edition of the **Columbus Dispatch** in a story about active college cemeteries. The story noted that the College cemetery, which dates to the early 1800s, is still used for alumni, employees, and others, with the permission of the president.

**David Lynn '76**, professor of English and editor of the *Kenyon Review*, was quoted in the July 10 edition of the **News Journal** of Wilmington, Delaware, in a story about the character Harry Potter emerging into adulthood. "You know, the remarkable thing about Harry Potter is he is a believable character in an unbelievable setting, and his believability is what makes us believe the rest of it."

**John Elliot**, professor of political science, was quoted in the July 11 **New York Times** in the "White House Memo" column by Sheryl Gay Stolberg. Stolberg addressed the relationship of President George W. Bush with the media. "The president is struggling to assert himself as president and as a

powerful figure," Elliot said. "It's harder for him to make news. The American public isn't really listening to him."

The financial success of **Barrett Toan '69**, a Kenyon trustee, was reported in the July 19 edition of the **St. Louis Business Journal**. The story notes that Toan, the retired chairman of Express Scripts, has made donations to several charities and institutions, including a recent \$2 million gift to Kenyon.

The July 10 Cleveland **Plain Dealer** published an op-ed piece by **President S. Georgia Nugent** criticizing the U.S. News & World Report college rankings. Nugent called the "reputational" assessment that goes into the rankings "a meaningless exercise" and said that, in focusing so much on measures of institutional wealth, the overall survey neglected the impressive learning opportunities at small colleges like Kenyon. "Embarking on a college education is not like buying a car or a major appliance," wrote Nugent. "Yet the consumer-oriented production of rankings relies on that false analogy."



# THE HOT SHEET

FITTED JEANS, FORMAL FRIDAYS, FACEBOOK FOLLIES,  
AND SIX OTHER THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT KENYON

**Sombrero Fallout.** That's the name of the student group that won Kenyon's "Battle of the Bands" last spring and opened for De La Soul at Summer Sendoff, the all-campus party celebrating the end of the year. The group describes itself as "hipster-hop, Waldo rock, and wheelie-suitcase rap." Huh?

## Formal Fridays.

Corporate Americans aren't the only ones who are abandoning casual Fridays. Fifty-seven Kenyon students expressed interest in a social group called Formal Fridays, donning dressy attire for the end of the week. Sounds more like freaky Friday to us.



**Gambier Grillin'.** The *Collegian* created this popular weekly feature, in which two students and two faculty members are asked truly wacky questions. Correct answers receive points, and the paper keeps a running tally of which side possesses more useless knowledge. Do you know what animal always falls on its right side when intoxicated? Neither did our faculty or students. The correct answer: an ant.

**Jeans that Fit.** Kenyon men have abandoned the baggy jeans associated with hip-hop culture in favor of slimmer styles. It's about time.



**Croquet.** The lawn game is enjoying a recreational renaissance among students. Students participating in the Summer Science Scholars program played during the summer, and an English class organized an event where students arrived in period costume, although it wasn't clear which period.

## Facebook Follies.

Students used Facebook, the popular social networking website, to broadcast favorite one-liners "overheard at Kenyon." A gem: "Really, life is like playing the harp with your toes. In a snake pit." A professor reportedly uttered these words in a lecture, as the class furiously scribbled notes.

## Running Everywhere.

Steven Klise '08 is responsible for resurrecting Run Everywhere Day, an event begun by Jonathan Forney '06. The goal? Make every step of the day a gallop. Another day in the life of the young and the restless.

**David Gregory.** The chief White House correspondent for NBC News delivered the Commencement address on May 19 during the College's 179th ceremony on Samuel Mather Lawn.

## Brotherhood 2.0.

Students are following the Internet lives of John Green '00 and his brother, Hank, who jointly pledged to communicate exclusively via video blogs for an entire year. Their videos include challenges such as "eating five sheets of toilet paper while discussing the political situation in Nepal" and punishments like "chin waxing" for missing a day of blogging. Join the fun at [www.brotherhood2.com](http://www.brotherhood2.com).





## A NONET OF FELLOWS

With nine winners, Kenyon continues as a top producer of Fulbrights

For the past several years, the Fulbright program has recognized Kenyon as a top producer of Fulbright fellows among national liberal arts colleges. The trend continues. Nine graduates in the Class of 2007 have been awarded Fulbright fellowships for research or teaching around the globe next year.

The eight who have accepted the award will travel to as many countries, across Asia, the Middle East, Europe, North America, and South America, to conduct research or teach English as a second language. The fellowships fund a postgraduate year of travel and living expenses, and have been known to launch careers.

In addition to these awards, one senior was named a winner but declined the grant.



Rose Calnin, a double major in international studies and Spanish, will travel to Puebla, Mexico, to study the impact of intercultural hospitals on the Nahua and Totonaco peoples.



Lauren Ostberg, an English major, will take up a teaching post in Argentina to teach English as a second language.



Katharine Bente, a chemistry major, will teach English as a second language in Germany.



Rebecca Dash, a modern languages and literatures major, heads to Russia to teach English as a second language.



Anna Zimmermann, a biology major, will travel to Beijing, China, to continue her research on the role of public outreach in environmental sustainability.



Andres Millan, who triple-majored in English, history, and philosophy, has been assigned to Spain to teach English as a second language.



Kimberly Ziegler, a double major in modern languages and literatures and philosophy, will spend the year in Naples, Italy, to study culture as a revitalizing civic force.



Willow Belden will research primary education and understanding of history and identity in Jordan. Belden was an international studies major who studied abroad in Jordan during her junior year.



Charlotte Nugent, a double major in English and international studies, was awarded a grant to teach English in Indonesia, but has declined the offer.





Howard Korn

## INSPIRERS AND IGNITERS

Students sing the praises of Thomas Turgeon and Adam Serfass, winners of the 2007 Trustee Teaching Excellence Awards

Perhaps the best view of the winners of the Trustee Teaching Excellence Awards comes from inside the classroom. Students thrive on faculty commitment and creativity. So, when Professor of Drama Thomas S. Turgeon and Assistant Professor of Classics Adam C. Serfass received this year's teaching awards at the Honors Day convocation in April, the *Bulletin* asked some of their former students to reflect on what makes these professors so effective.

Turgeon, who won the senior award (for a professor who has been at Kenyon for at least ten years), teaches a wide range of courses in acting and theater history. A faculty member since 1972, he's also admired as a gifted director and actor, as well as a translator of Molière and other French playwrights.

Serfass, who won the junior award (for a professor in his first ten years at the College) has been a member of the faculty since 2002. He teaches courses in Greek, Latin, and ancient history.

On **Adam Serfass**, igniter of curiosity and creator of the "milli-helen":

"Professor Serfass epitomizes the best of what Kenyon offers: a rare combination of subject mastery, high expectations from students, and an enthusiasm that ignites dormant curiosity. He opens the door to abstruse concepts and dusty texts without losing our interest. In fact, I can say I have developed a new interest in classical rhetoric as a result of his class. Making Augustine interesting can't be easy, but Serfass, amazingly, succeeded."

—Hillel Ofek '07

"Professor Serfass has taken a highly uncompromising approach toward education. I have been struck by the breadth and depth of the insights and suggestions lining my papers, and by the professor's willingness to carry conversations beyond the classroom. He has done much to sustain my passion for the classics by leading me to recognize the irreducible worth in the knowledge of ancient things."

—Loren Bondurant '07

"Professor Serfass was one of the most memorable lecturers we had in IPHS [the Integrated Program in Humane Studies]. He would walk up to the podium with his pink bowties, looking sharp but unassuming, and would proceed to give the most witty, insightful lectures. He began his talk about the *Iliad* by saying, 'I like to measure things in milli-helens. If one Helen can launch a thousand ships, then one milli-helen should be able to launch one ship.' He later called students up to re-enact Trojan battle techniques."

—Willow Belden '07

"He was always energetic and genuinely excited about the material. He asked us to read the same passages of the *Aeneid* aloud twice in one class session, sincerely explaining, 'It's just so beautiful!' Professor Serfass was a challenging, encouraging, and dynamic instructor."

—Lauren Ostberg '07



On **Thomas Turgeon**, a consummate teacher with “street cred” as an actor:

“In typical Turgeon fashion, not only did he not let any of his students fall through the cracks, he also inspired us and made us feel important, no matter how small our parts were. I ended up throwing myself into creating a character for ‘chorus woman number six,’ and as I did so, everything they had been trying to teach me for a year in ‘Baby Drama’ [‘Introduction to the Theater’] suddenly sunk in. It was a huge jumping-off point in the development of my craft as an actor.”

—Elizabeth Rosengren '97

“My most memorable classroom moment at Kenyon was in a theater history class taught by Tom Turgeon. Tom was lecturing on the Commedia dell’arte and suddenly broke into the *lazzi* of the fly. A *lazzi* is a little piece of dramatic action, a comic bit. In mid-lecture, Tom started following an imaginary fly around the classroom with his eyes. It started as a small annoyance and climaxed with Tom chasing around the room, red in the face, utterly absorbed in trying to squash the bothersome fly. Besides sending all of us into hysterics, it was the kind of teaching moment when everything comes together—the word was made flesh. It was a . . . mesmerizing performance. Simple and silly as it was, it remains for me a pure example of what live theater can do. It also reminded all of us that the really bright guy up in front not only knew what he was talking about, he could also do it. His street cred jumped dramatically.”

—Robert Davis '81

“‘Turgeon’ should be the response one gets when you type ‘dramatist’ on Google. He allowed his plethora of theatrical knowledge to reveal itself with both pleasure and dexterity.”

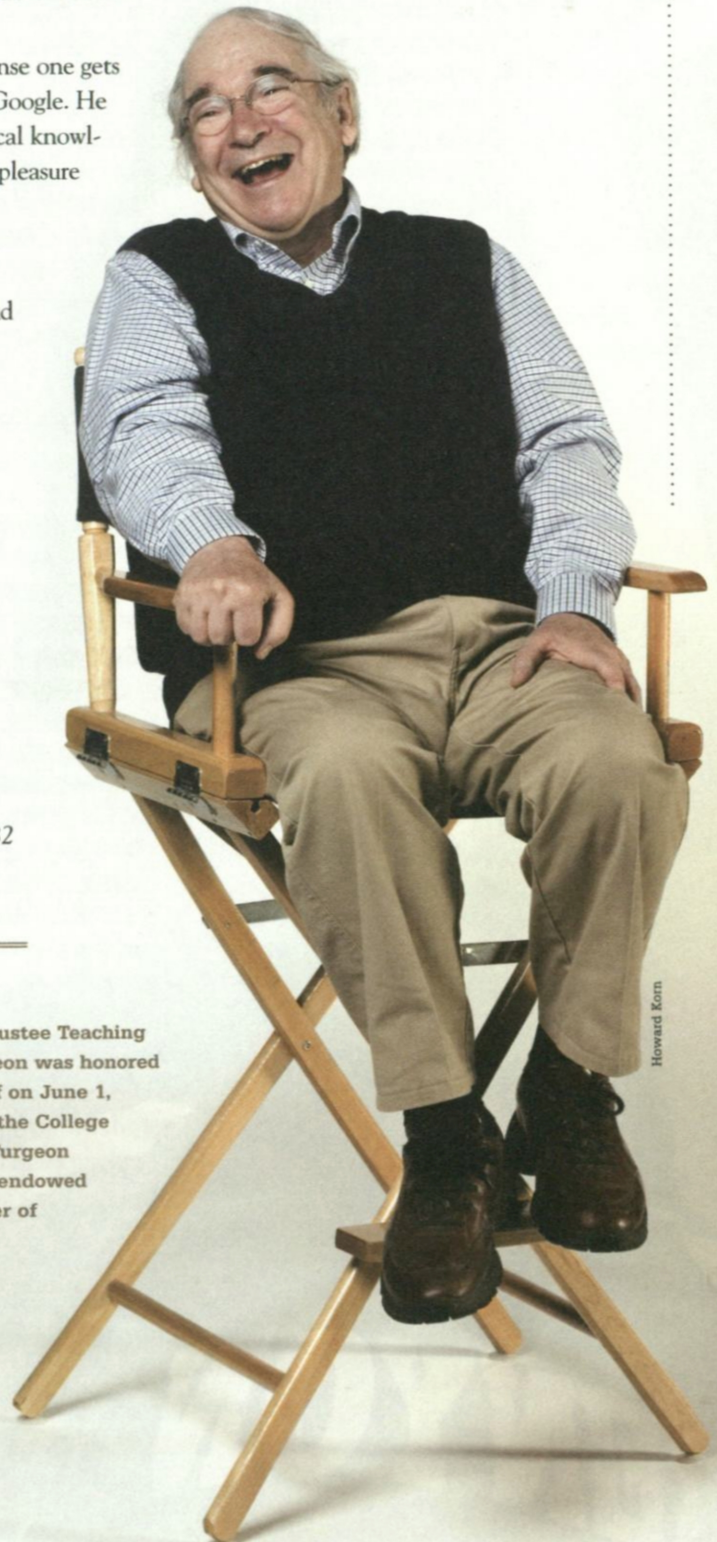
—Damian d’Entremont '99

“Pound-for-pound, the man had more energy in his little finger than I could ever hope to muster on a ‘good’ day. What an inspiration! He asked us to go beyond the superficial answer or approach and find the essential meaning of a characterization or statement, whether this was an acting class or theater history. Professor Turgeon’s classes were always like a big treasure hunt, going from clue to clue to find the ultimate prize.”

—Tameron Thornton Kugler '82

#### THE TURGEON CHAIR

In addition to winning the Trustee Teaching Excellence Award, Tom Turgeon was honored at Kenyon’s campaign kickoff on June 1, with the announcement that the College was creating the Thomas S. Turgeon Professorship in Drama. The endowed chair was funded by a number of Turgeon’s former students.



Howard Korn



# No Limits

Energy over illness, joy over hurt:  
Elly Deutch won't let setbacks slow her down

For most young athletes, overcoming adversity means getting past a sprained ankle or a losing season. Elly Deutch '08 of the Ladies soccer team has a more profound story, one in which serious illness and injury seem only to have deepened her reserves of grit and cheerfulness.

At the age of three, Deutch was taken to the doctor with a urinary tract infection. Testing, however, also revealed a rare kidney cancer, Wilms' tumor. Although she can't remember all the details, Deutch does recall chemotherapy, surgery to remove one of her kidneys, bottomless glasses of cranberry juice, an overload of stuffed animal get-well gifts, and never-ending loving care from her family.

The experience, which might have left her more fragile, transformed her in the other direction. Once sleepy and reticent, she became an antsy go-getter, excited about the start of every day, bursting with energy.

She blossomed in sports. Through grade school and high school, she ran cross country and played soccer, basketball, and volleyball. She tested every activity life threw her way, especially if it had anything to do with the outdoors.

There were countless follow-up visits to the doctor. And each one ended with the same note of caution: be careful, avoid contact sports.

"As I grew older, I didn't like that so much," Deutch says. "I didn't want to be told I wasn't like other kids, that I wasn't normal. I wanted to go out and tackle the world without limitations."

She never exactly ignored her doctor's advice. She simply used it as a gauge to remind her of what she could be missing. In addition to athletics, she dove into countless extracurricular projects—and eventually turned her attention to Kenyon, where even more possibilities became probabilities.

"I wanted to study studio art, and Carnegie Mellon accepted me, but Kenyon seemed like more my kind of people and it presented more opportunities," she explains. "My head said Carnegie Mellon, but I went with my heart and I have no regrets."

Following her first semester, and her first soccer season, serious illness struck again. Deutch's doctors discovered an

ovarian cyst. It was removed, leaving Deutch with another "cool mark," as she calls her scars.

She has contended with injuries as well. Sophomore season led to a pulled quadriceps muscle. Junior year produced hip flexor and iliotibial band injuries. All in all, she missed twenty soccer games.

"Through it all, I still considered myself part of the team," says Deutch. "Even if I didn't get to play, I used my energy for vocal support and also to let everyone know I was there."

With Deutch, there's no sitting still, no timeouts, and no room for boredom. She loves to be around and learn from people, so much so that she couldn't settle on just one major. In addition to studio art, she took on anthropology.

"She is one of the strongest voices of inspiration and positive energy on the team," head coach Kelly Bryan says. "Her passion for Kenyon women's soccer and her teammates is surpassed by none. She's kept pretty quiet about her health problems and has never used them as a crutch. When the team participated in the Relay for Life last year, some of her teammates found out about her cancer and got teary-eyed. They just love her. On or off the field, she is the pulse of this team."

Deutch, who calls Chicago home, just returned from a summer of study in Argentina, another experience on a résumé that all but shimmers with energy. Besides her double major and the soccer team, there are extracurriculars, camp counseling, and part-time jobs—and no space for brooding on what might have been.

As the fall begins, Deutch is enthusiastic about kicking off her final soccer season and wants to squeeze every last drop out of Kenyon. "I've had it rough, sure, but I'm betting my luck changes," Deutch says. "There's no sense in getting down about it. I enjoy who I am, and quite simply, I'd rather be a happy person than a sad one."

—Marty Fuller





## BASEBALL

**RECORD:** 19-15 overall,  
7-7 NCAC

**RECAP:** The Lords capped off their schedule by winning their final four games and recorded their third straight winning season. As in the prior two seasons, the team remained an offensive force and set several single-season team records, including on-base percentage (.427). Individually, senior **Blaise Milburn** set the single-season record for on-base percentage (.576) and graduated as the program's career leader in batting average (.394) and on-base percentage (.501). Junior **Chris Yorlano** earned All-Region honors after leading the team in batting average (.408) and hits (42).

## GOLF

**RECORD:** Finished eighth in NCAC standings

**RECAP:** The Kenyon golf squad improved its conference finish in 2007 under second-year head coach **Russ Geiger**. Sophomore **Daniel Drenfeld** (83.2) and senior **Will O'Keefe** (83.6) posted the Lords top scoring averages. The team turned in its best showing of the year at its own Kenyon College Invitational, finishing in fourth place.

## MEN'S LACROSSE

**RECORD:** 12-2 overall,  
3-2 NCAC

**RECAP:** The twelve wins recorded by the Lords marked the most victories for the program since 2000 and helped the

team earn a national ranking as high as number 18. On an individual basis, senior **Luke Larson** finished second in the NCAC in goals (41) and ended his career with the third most goals in Kenyon history (118). Larson garnered All-American honors and participated with classmate **Sean Wheeler** in the USILA North/South All-State Game.

## WOMEN'S LACROSSE

**RECORD:** 8-8 overall,  
3-3 NCAC

**RECAP:** First-year **Frankie de Lavis** guided Kenyon to its first winning regular season since 2004 and a berth in the NCAC tournament. During the season, de Lavis set single-season school records for points (94) and assists (34) and shattered single-game records for points (15) and assists (9). Her accomplishments were rewarded with All-Region and All-American appointments, in addition to being named the conference's Newcomer of the Year. Head coach **Jill Boffa** took home conference Coach of the Year honors.

## SOFTBALL

**RECORD:** 16-18 overall,  
7-7 NCAC

**RECAP:** Two graduating seniors used their final season with the Ladies to make sure their deeds on the diamond will be long remembered. **Annie Brobst** etched her name atop the record book for career hits (170) and career stolen bases (37), while ranking second all-time in batting average (.351). Brobst also set the

single-season record for steals (16) and was named to the All-Region team for the second consecutive season. **Ashley Morrison** finished with the career mark for doubles (35) and RBIs (77), while posting the record for on-base percentage in a season (.477).

## MEN'S TENNIS

**RECORD:** 17-7 overall,  
6-0 NCAC

**RECAP:** The Lords tennis team continued to make winning conference championships look routine after capturing the title for the fifth time in six seasons. Kenyon finished nationally ranked at number 23 and appeared in the NCAA Division III tournament for the tenth time before being ousted in the first round by Kalamazoo. Sophomore **Daniel Becker** garnered NCAC Player of the Year honors as he finished the season with a 20-5 singles mark.

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

**RECORD:** 16-6 overall,  
5-1 NCAC

**RECAP:** The Ladies made a strong bid to capture their sixteenth NCAC championship but were turned back by rival Denison in the final round of tournament play. Senior **Ashley Kriwinsky** led the team with a 23-7 singles mark and was invited for the second straight spring to play in the NCAA Division III singles championship, where she lost in the opening round. Kriwinsky posted a 51-12 career singles record, and her .810 winning percentage is third best all-time at Kenyon.

MEN'S  
TRACK & FIELD

**RECORD:** Placed ninth at NCAC Championship

**RECAP:** The Lords limped into the conference championship meet with a roster decimated by injuries, but benefited from sophomore **Jim Boston's** second-place finish in the 1500-meter run with a season-best time of 3:58.78. Boston also notched wins in the 1500-meter run at the Kenyon College Invitational and the 5,000-meter run at the Muskingum College Invitational. Freshman speedster **Dondrea Brown** set a new school record in the 100-meter dash with his third-place time of 10.94 at the All-Ohio Championship.

WOMEN'S  
TRACK & FIELD

**RECORD:** Placed ninth at NCAC Championship

**RECAP:** Kenyon may not have been a factor in the conference race, but senior **Jenna Rose** wrapped up her career with the Ladies as a model of consistency throughout the season. Rose tallied four top-five finishes in the 400-meter hurdles in five scored events. The Ladies also captured event wins from sophomore **Jessica Francois** in the 5,000-meter run at the Muskingum Invitational and from sophomore **Mary Bloom** in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the Kenyon Invitational.





# ALONG LOCAL ROADS





THE FOOD FOR THOUGHT PROGRAM HAS LED KENYON STUDENTS TO IDEAS, EXPERIENCES, AND RELATIONSHIPS THAT GO FAR BEYOND THE USE OF KNOX COUNTY PRODUCE IN THE DINING HALLS.

BY DAN LASKIN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY MEGAN NADOLSKI

**t**o understand how things came together for Liz Lewis at Kenyon, you have to appreciate the meaning and pleasure to be found in cleaning barns, giving eye drops to goats, and sitting in a farmhouse basement on a rainy day, talking and pondering with Kate Helt, the farm wife, while you sift popcorn kernels, shaking off the last of the cob dust.

Until the fall of her junior year, Lewis had felt that something was missing. It was more than the student sense of floating in abstractions. She didn't like being "transient, with no relevance to the place I'm in." She wanted to feel connected—to the land and farms surrounding Gambier, to people other than professors and students, to neighbors, tangible work, settled community.

So, that fall she added to her schedule a course called "Sustainable Agriculture," which took her out to Kate and Eric Helt's organic farm for five hours a week—ninety-two acres of pasture, pond, and gardens, a five-minute drive from campus but a world away in rhythm and chore. Reading the articles they gave her, she harvested a new set of questions, about industrial agriculture and federal farm policy and the fragile balance sheets of small farms, about land use and land loss, and above all about food and farming. But, mostly, she learned the work, and she worked and talked alongside Kate and Eric.

Working a farm whose mainstay was grass-fed beef and lamb, she redefined her stance as a vegetarian. "I call myself 'the flexible vegetarian' now," she says, smiling. The question of meat per se, she came to believe, is less important than where it's from, what went into it, and how the animals were treated: the connections. Also, if you're

invited to dinner by the people who have shared their livelihood with you, you partake: the meal isn't mere food, it's part of the relationship. The meat is a connection in that sense, too.

What Lewis liked best at the Helts' farm was the doing and the being. "I felt like I was really contributing, giving back," she says, "whether it was gathering wood or cleaning out a barn. Kate and Eric treated me like just another person who lives in the county. They showed me that I really could do something."

And she began doing something on campus. By the time she graduated last spring, Lewis had emerged as one of the leaders in a growing circle of Kenyon students who, along with professors from several fields, have taken up food, and the outward-rippling issues related to food, as a focal point for both study and activism.

The umbrella for many of these projects is Food for Thought, a College program which has gotten attention mainly for its efforts to bring locally grown and processed food into the dining halls. Kenyon has been recognized as a national leader in this trend, earning mention in the *New York Times* and elsewhere in the press.

But to Liz Lewis and the others, Gund Commons burgers made with Knox County beef are significant because they figure in a much larger menu, part intellectual, part social.

That menu includes students fanning out across Knox County as researchers. It includes faculty summer workshops that have yielded new perspectives in coursework. It also includes farm tours, films, and convivial local-food brunches, all organized by a student group that Liz Lewis joined, called PEAS, for People Endorsing Agrarian Sustainability.

More ambitiously, it includes a "community food assessment," in which students are gathering information on farms, processors, markets, and consumer attitudes. The ultimate goal is to create a sustainable "food system" in the region—a socioeconomic infrastructure of sorts that will provide fresher, healthier food for consumers while giving an economic boost to farmers, who will then have more incentive to keep their land green rather than sell out to developers.



As the local-food movement has surged across the country—"Forget Organic, Eat Local," proclaimed a *Time* magazine cover story last spring—the Kenyon initiatives have blossomed. On a campus that sometimes sees itself as isolated, food is leading outward along many roads.

**W**ith Food for Thought, all roads lead at some point through the ceaselessly creative, abundantly organized, cheerfully persistent mind of Howard Sacks. Sacks, who conceived the program, has been a faculty member since 1975 and is currently serving as senior advisor to the president. He describes himself as "a backyard sociologist," who cultivates the habit of working where he lives, finding large questions in local subjects.

That perspective led to the creation of "Fieldwork: Rural Life," a seminar in which he trains students in oral-history and documentary techniques, immerses them in county news, introduces them to his continually expanding pool of local contacts, and sends them out on projects. Since 1993-94, his students have translated their research into a series of booklets, newspaper articles, radio programs, and museum-quality exhibits, as a way of giving back to the community and stimulating public dialogue.

Given the county's rural character, it was natural that farming would emerge as a focus. Sacks and his students began interviewing local farmers and inviting them to campus. Over several years, their findings took shape as the "Family Farm Project," which produced an array of exhibits and booklets while winning statewide awards. The idea, Sacks says, was to "put the culture back in agriculture" by examining local farm life through history, social relationships, aesthetics, and spirituality.

Meanwhile, public officials in Knox County—and Kenyon officials as well—had been growing concerned by accelerating growth. Farmland and open space were giving way at an alarming rate to shopping centers and housing developments. The county faced a predicament: everybody wanted to preserve the countryside, but few had a taste for stricter land-use controls or for taxes to fund expensive propositions like the purchase of development rights.

The tenets underpinning Food for Thought are rooted in this confluence of academic interests and community concerns. Sacks articulates them in simplified form, as follows:

The rural character of Knox County depends on family farms. Farmers mostly want to keep farming; they stop because they can't make a living.

So one of the best ways to preserve open space and rural communities is to help farmers succeed. Create outlets for consumers to buy local. Make it worthwhile for farmers to grow foods for local consumption, not just corn and soybeans for a volatile global market. Open channels through which local artisans can sell "value-added" products like jams, breads, and canned goods.

Above all: understand that food is more than food. "With every food choice we make," says Sacks, "we're engaging in a civic act." Food that comes from up the road rather than across the continent is not only likely to be fresher, tastier, and healthier. It hasn't used up as much fossil fuel, or added as much to global warming, in making the trip to market. In buying it, you support local farmers—and you might even get to know them as people, and come to know more about what went into your dinner. And, supporting them, you keep money in the local economy. Food is about bonds. About relationships.

Following this philosophy, Kenyon began buying local foods for its dining halls in 2004. The College liked the idea of serving as a test case, hoping ultimately to convince other local institutions, like schools and nursing homes, to join in. Sacks formed a broadly representative Local Food Council to work toward the food system he envisioned. In the spring of 2005, Kenyon received a \$250,000 grant from the McGregor Fund of Detroit, Michigan, to support academic activities and public programs related to Food for Thought.

That June, the College took center stage in the emerging local-food movement as it hosted the second national "farm to cafeteria" conference. An air of celebration filled the sun-spangled campus. In the classrooms where the workshops were held, however, the mood was more sober. The logistics of making a local-food system work, even on a small scale, are daunting.

**d**awning, and complicated. If local food is about relationships, the logistics of buying it for a college dining service can feel like the stumbling entanglements of strangers at a barn dance. Nobody knows the steps, or everybody knows different steps, with the result that the fun and fellowship come with a few collisions.

Melody Monroe, the resident director for AVI Foodsystems, Kenyon's food service, is used to dancing with just a few predictable partners. The traditional way to do business is to pick meals, check off items on a sheet provided by a giant distribution company, and make a phone call. Invoices are processed through corporate headquarters. The food arrives, in familiar packages. The cooks prepare it, according to set recipes. The vats are set out in the servery line. The students wolf it down, and grumble.

The dance is getting more intricate.

Monroe smiles and sighs when she recalls the success that Kenyon finally achieved last winter in fashioning a network that brings local beef and pork to campus, after more than a year of uneven progress. "I've learned more about pigs and cows than I ever thought I'd want to," she says, chuckling.

She buys the beef, for example, from Fran and Bruce Conard, a farm couple in Martinsburg, about fifteen miles from Gambier. Careful managers who grow most of their own feed, the Conards "have a passion for the cattle," as Fran puts it. They raise a superior animal, with





Sociologist Howard Sacks, who conceived the Food for Thought program, is a part-time farmer himself. He and his wife, Judy, raise cheviot sheep.

## FERTILE GROUND

Food for Thought grew out of more than ten years of outreach and community engagement—Kenyon students forging ties with people throughout Knox County, learning about their lives, traditions, and values.

The key has been the seminar “Fieldwork: Rural Life,” first offered in 1993-94. That year, Howard Sacks and Ric Sheffield, associate professor of sociology and legal studies, guided students in a project on the county’s historic but neglected African-American community. The project, called “The Community Within,” established a model for future undertakings: a year of study involving intensive field research and culminating in a public project—an exhibit, for example—that addresses the needs and interests of the community.

From 1994 to 1997, the seminar produced the “Family Farm Project,” which generated an array of projects, some of which won awards from groups like the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and the Ohio Academy of History. One example: *Rural Delivery*, an audiotape and booklet featuring thirteen visits with central Ohio farm families. The audio programs were broadcast nationally as a series of five-minute radio shows. Topics included agricultural technology, women’s roles, farm aesthetics, organic farming, and spirituality.

In 1998, the College established the Rural Life Center to build on Sacks’s work. In 2000, the center published *Homegrown*, a guide to Knox County farmstands and local food products. The center also created *Foodways*, a newspaper series encompassing topics ranging from ritual foods to hunting. Included were essays, biographical sketches, photographs, and recipes.

This year, the Rural Life Center published a new edition of *Homegrown*. Meanwhile, the Mount Vernon Farmers’ Market—which Sacks helped to establish—completed its seventh summer.

To learn more about the Rural Life Center, go to its website: <http://rural-life.kenyon.edu>.



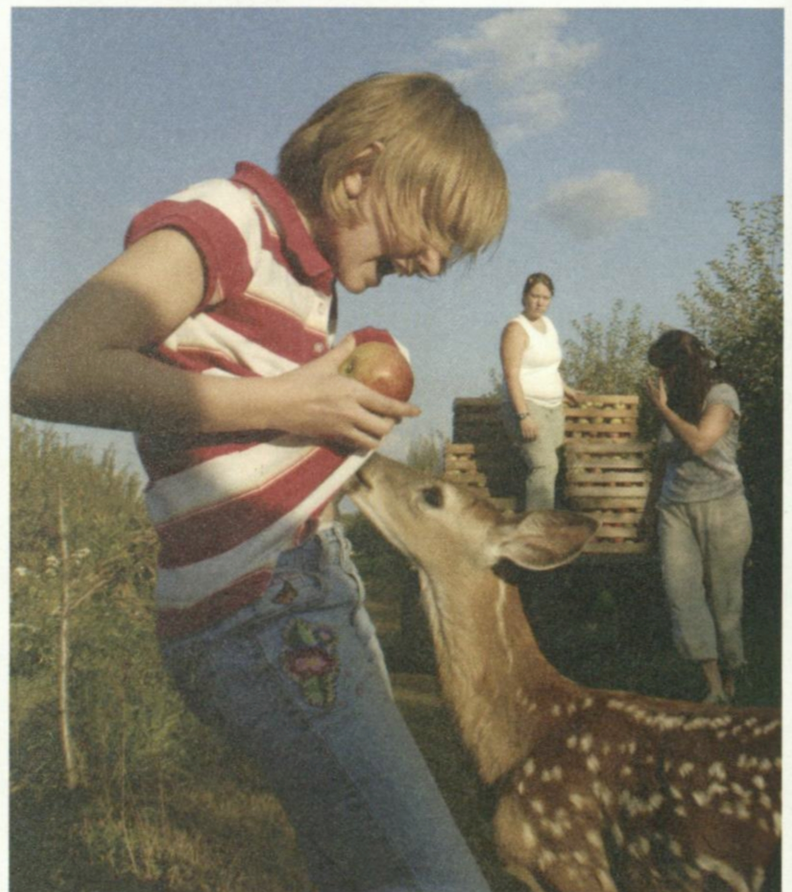


## MAKING A CONNECTION

"We would drive up in my old Ford Taurus, windows rolled down, sleepy with heat, jump out of the car, avoid the dogs, ring the bell, and hope for the best. But it often felt as though the farmers were speaking another language and each party was suspicious of the other.

"I am not sure I can put my finger on the day that something shifted. It may have been the day that we talked for an hour with an older man about his work, his garden .... Or it may have been with one of the Amish families we spoke with. We asked our questions of the mother, who was clearly uncomfortable talking to strangers. While we talked, her son peeked out from behind her skirts, looking at our faces, and at my feet, which were in flip-flops. Finally, he stuck his bare foot out from behind his mother and laid it on top of mine and grinned."

*From "Eggs 4 Sale: Understanding the Ingredients," by Liesel Schmidt '08. Schmidt (pictured above) and classmate Mariana Templin spent the summer of 2006 driving every road in Knox County, stopping at roadside stands and interviewing the growers, in order to document their significance in the local food system. Schmidt's essay was one in a series by Kenyon students published in Table Talk, the magazine of the Central Ohio Restaurant Association.*





well-marbled but not excessively fatty meat—"our cows are finished, but not over-finished," says Fran—and Kenyon pays them a premium over the going market price.

The arrangement involves buying not packages, but whole animals. So there's a slaughterhouse in the dance, E.R. Boliantz Packing Company in Ashland, Ohio.

And there's a processor, too, Carl Rittberger Sr., Inc., a family company in Zanesville. Andy Rittberger, the current president and the grandson of the founder, is in constant contact with Monroe about the College's needs and how many animals it will take to fill them. At the plant, set on a back road surrounded by the Rittberger family farms, quarters of the Conards' beef are brought into what Rittberger calls "the Kenyon room" and turned into chuck rolls, brisket, top and bottom rounds, hamburger patties, cubes for stew, strips for stir fry.

The process has forced AVI to make adjustments, from paying bills within days rather than weeks (as mandated with livestock sales) to learning new cooking procedures. Rittberger's plant, for instance, turns out hams that are better than typical commercial offerings because they're cured without injecting extra water. But the first time AVI cooked them, they dried out. "We called Andy," recalls Monroe, "and said, 'You need to come and help us. He showed us how to cook them at the best temperature and time.'"

Because AVI is buying whole cows, it has to figure out what to do with the higher-quality cuts—like boneless ribeye, strip loin, and filet mignon—that it doesn't normally serve in the dining hall. Rittberger can sometimes sell them to high-end meat shops, but the demand for those cuts is highest during "steak season" in the summer, just when the College's orders drop off. When the College is buying cows again (about four per week during the school year), steak season is over and it's harder to find buyers for the quality cuts.

The new process is time-consuming and expensive. But it's nothing compared to the logistical challenges of finding fresh local fruit and vegetables on the scale required by Kenyon. "When I talk about tomatoes, I'm talking about 200 pounds a day," says Monroe. "When I talk about lettuce, it's 120 heads *per meal*. Potatoes, 300 pounds per meal. When a farmer is growing a crop, he can't say, 'We'll do 200 pounds for this day.' They're talking about acres."

They're also making plans months in advance, worrying about far more than what Kenyon's future needs might be. The difficulty of ensuring a dependable supply of produce is complicated by fluctuations in the weather, in demand, and in prices, as well as by farmers' reluctance to commit to a new program. And then there's the inescapable fact that the harvest season overlaps only slightly with the academic year. How is Kenyon going to serve local green beans in February?

The man assigned to answer these questions is John Marsh, a gray-bearded jack of many trades who embraces problems with a mixture of confidence, self-effacing humor, and skepticism lightened by an irrepressibly sunny outlook. A member of the Kenyon Class of 1976,

Marsh dropped out at the end of his junior year "to figure out who I was and see the world." Several careers later, he returned to Gambier and bought a house with some acreage. He plunged into the local food initiative—and he finished his degree, graduating in 2006 (just a week before his original classmates returned for their thirtieth reunion).

Employed by the College through the McGregor Fund grant, Marsh works closely with most of the twenty central Ohio farmers and businesses supplying AVI and scouts relentlessly for new sources. He's a regular buyer for Kenyon at the Owl Creek Auction, a nearby outlet for many Amish farmers. He and his wife have also started a small organic operation themselves.

The main hope for solving the produce challenge, says Marsh, is "extending the season" by buying vegetables at harvest time and flash-freezing them. The new Peirce Hall complex will have a flash-freezing unit along with storage freezers for just this purpose. (See "Freeze it Fresh," page 23.) In addition, the College has signed a lease with New Hope Industries, a nonprofit organization that provides work for developmentally disabled adults in a spacious warehouse-like building in Mount Vernon. The building has a large commercial kitchen, and the plan is to buy equipment and make the facility into a regional center for freezing, canning, and storing local foods.

Conceivably, such a center could provide the capacity that both producers and institutional buyers need to support a viable local food system. Several other Ohio colleges have expressed interest in using the New Hope building together with Kenyon.

In the meantime, the farmers involved in Food for Thought say they enjoy working with the College. It's not that Kenyon's purchases account for a very large part of their income, but they can imagine the possibilities for growth. Moreover, they admire the commitment of people like John Marsh, Howard Sacks, and Melody Monroe.

Bruce and Fran Conard, who have shown students around their farm and come to campus for talks and picnics, like the contact. They take satisfaction in seeing students begin to grasp the complexities of a farm operation, and in changing the students' notion of what a feedlot must be. They're also proud to hear the praise they've gotten for their beef.

Bruce says: "This is a way of educating without being a teacher."

**b**ut is it a Kenyon education?  
How do local-food brunches and flash-frozen green beans fit with Shakespeare and thermodynamics?

One answer lies with the projects that students have conducted, and not just through Sacks's seminar. Last spring at the Helts' farm, for example, six students working with a small Kenyon grant, and under the guidance of chemical-labs director Dudley Thomas, learned how to convert waste cooking oil into biodiesel fuel—theory into practice. Now the Helts run a car, a furnace, and two tractors on waste oil from the Middle Ground Café, the Village Inn, and the Gambier Grill.

Over the summer, Liz Lewis and a group of other students stayed in Gambier, pursuing food-related projects. Two were doing research



under the guidance of Kenyon anthropologists. Three were working on organic farms (including two at John Marsh's place), earning certificates in ecological agriculture through the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association. One conducted a mini-farmer exercise, planting a garden at the Brown Family Environmental Center and selling the harvest at the farmers' market in downtown Mount Vernon. Another created a database to document precisely what local foods were being used in Kenyon's dining halls during the previous academic year.

Lewis herself took to the roads, interviewing a number of the producers supplying food to Kenyon. It was familiar territory, since she had been in Sacks's "Fieldwork" seminar during her senior year. Her task for the summer was to create dining-hall panels combining biographical information, a thematic angle, and, as she puts it, "a little bit of poetry," so that students consuming their meals would also get the context, the connections: food for thought.

While Lewis conducted interviews, an art major took photos for the panels. Another art major, meanwhile, roamed with all of the students, producing an experimental video documentary about this urge to connect through food.

The two anthropologists who directed summer research are Bruce Hardy and Kimmarré Murphy. Husband and wife, they take turns teaching a popular course called "Anthropology of Food," and they've often collaborated with students on research. One of their former students, Megan Maurer '07, studied consumer attitudes toward local food and presented her findings in a poster last March at the national conference of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Maurer went on to co-author a paper with the two professors.

"Food is a way to get at issues ranging from the environment, to the economic system, to questions of social justice," says Hardy. Because it's so fundamental and has such wide ramifications, food readily lends itself to the liberal-arts spirit of interdisciplinary inquiry.

Professors in American studies, art, chemistry, environmental studies, philosophy, and religion have incorporated food issues in various courses, thanks in part to the summer faculty workshops organized by Sacks. "This was an opportunity for true collegiality," says Associate Professor of Italian Patricia Richards, who loved the interchange with professors from other fields.

The workshops gave Richards fresh insights into her own scholarship (on Renaissance literature) and inspired her to create a new course, "Italian Cinema: Focus on Food." The culinary "lens," she says, revealed thematic subtleties that she had never fully appreciated before when teaching various films. (It was also great fun for the students to bond in a three-day cooking marathon in which they created the dish called *timpano* from the film *Big Night*.)

Sacks believes that Food for Thought promotes the liberal-arts ideal of educating the whole person because it fosters a sense of place, which he sees as a fundamental human need and source of emotional and

intellectual richness. "Sense of place is essential to live a fulfilled life," he says. "It's absolutely integral to the liberal-arts mission.

And you have to learn it, just as you have to learn to write and think critically."

Sacks admires an essay called "The Rootless Professors," in which writer Eric Zencey argues that academia ignores "a key aspect of an integrated life" by dismissing local concerns as narrow and parochial. Professors, Zencey writes, should "acquire a kind of dual citizenship—in the world of ideas and scholarship, yes, but also in the very real world of watersheds and growing seasons . . ."

It is this sense of citizenship, perhaps, that students have in mind when they talk about the life-changing experience of working on the Helts' farm, or on a similar farm run by Bruce and Lisa Rickard. At the Rickards' farm, students have seen the whole cycle: they've bottle-fed lambs, and they've gone along when lambs are taken to the live-stock auction.

"We're the feet-on-the-ground part," says Bruce, who embraced farming after a career in information technology. Lisa was an IT expert, too. The Helts are second-career farmers as well: Eric has a Ph.D. in economics and was a health administrator; Kate was a business executive.

Like the Helts, the Rickards talk a good deal with the students about economic and political issues. But it's also vital, Bruce feels, "to know what it's like to have dirty fingernails and to be dog-tired at the end of the day, to lean on a shovel in the hot sun."

"That perspective is important," says Lisa, "so you're not just in your air-conditioned car driving along and the farm is a pretty picture out the window. An abstraction."

Liz Lewis makes a similar point as she muses on the liberal-arts lessons of her own season on the farm. "You can't just apply theory, you need to have experience," she says. The disconnect between concepts in a book and reality on the ground can apply to everything from simplistic notions of what "organic" or "vegetarian" may mean to understandings of other cultures, to foreign policy.

The farm, and with it her other local-food activities, was a high point in Lewis's Kenyon education. It opened up ideas about sustainability, about being aware of surroundings, about the social implications of one's choices. It made her more comfortable speaking in public. It strengthened her resolve as a person who, when she sees a social problem, wants to act.

And it did something more, harder to articulate. What does farming have to do with her Kenyon education? Lewis pauses, thinking perhaps of the popcorn kernels and her conversations with Kate, that rhythm, that give and take.

Quietly but with conviction, she says: "It gives greater depth to life." ☪



# FREEZE IT FRESH

Kenyon's local-food effort will get a boost when Peirce Hall reopens in 2008. The renovated facility will have a flash-freezing unit and increased storage capacity, so that

the College can buy produce during the summer and early fall, then serve it throughout the academic year.

"This will take us to the next level," says Chief Business Officer David McConnell, noting that Food for Thought was a significant factor in the design of the new Peirce. Even the loading dock area was planned with local foods in mind. Farmers will be able to pull right up to the dock, and just inside there will be areas for washing the produce, slicing or chopping it if desired, and putting it in cold storage before it is used or frozen.

The Peirce and Dempsey complex will also support a composting system. "Now, food waste is run through a garbage disposal, ground up, and flushed into the sewer," says McConnell. In Peirce, new machinery will grind waste, extract moisture, and bag the material, which will be taken to a composting site on campus.

McConnell acknowledges the logistical challenges of increasing the use of local foods substantially. As the 2006-07 academic year came to an end, Kenyon was spending about 27 percent of its food dollars locally. Producers ranged from an orchard in Howard, five miles up the road, to a dairy in Wooster, fifty miles away.

But he is optimistic about the College forging new partnerships with farmers to ensure a dependable market for them and a predictable supply for the dining halls. "From the trustees to the students, we have embraced Food for Thought in the broadest scope possible—education, nutrition, improving the quality of life in the area, and economic benefit for producers. Kenyon is a pioneer."





A participant recalls  
the brilliant but eccentric  
cast of characters,  
penetrating literary insights,  
and unforgettable  
softball games of the 1950  
Kenyon School of English  
by Clifford Gordon

# LOOSE SUITS and

# DANGLING

# MODIFIERS



The brilliant faculty of 1950.  
Front row (left to right): Philip  
Blair Rice, William Empson, John  
Crowe Ransom, L.C. Knight, and  
Charles M. Coffin. Standing (left  
to right): Arthur Mizener, Robert  
T. S. Lowell, Kenneth Burke, and  
Delmore Schwartz.



**J**ust before the summer of 1950, something wonderful came my way. At the end of my junior year at Franklin and Marshall, I learned I had been accepted to attend the Kenyon School of English at Kenyon College in Ohio. My heart had been set on this: I felt certain that the KSE, or any other institution, would never again be able to assemble such a distinguished faculty as they were offering. The trouble was that I had

no money. My education was being financed by the G.I. Bill of Rights, and it was paying me about \$22 a month. That problem was solved by two generous women. My grandmother, Ma-Ma, loaned me \$100 (which went further in those days than it would today). Ma-Ma had lived with my family all my life, and her income came entirely from checks her two rich but none-too-generous sons occasionally sent to her, but she realized how important this seemed to me.

The other woman was Eudora Welty, whose recommendation probably got me accepted. I had become acquainted with her while a freshman at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. I had read very little of her work at the time, but I was brash enough to call her on the telephone (she lived not far from campus) and request that I might visit her. With her characteristic cordiality, she invited me to come over, and a friendship began that lasted for many years, until I left the South for good. Of course, I read everything by her available before that first visit; but it wouldn't have mattered anyway. We discussed her work very little, but I found her to be informal and charming and a teller of (real life) stories as funny and entertaining as any she ever published.

My first dilemma at Kenyon was trying to decide which two courses I should take. All the faculty members were writers, and I knew the work of most of them. I finally decided to take L.C. Knight's course on Shakespeare and Robert Lowell's course on modern poetry. I lasted only one day with Lowell. Learning what he planned to cover, I realized that I was already acquainted with most of it, and would continue to read it on my own. (After I got to know him better, I was sorry I didn't stay with him; I was later to learn how penetrating, original, and surprising his insights were.) I explained to him why I was dropping out, and he was very gracious. But my explanation was disingenuous. The real reason I dropped out was that he made me so nervous. I knew nothing then about his private life, but there was something strange about his presentation. He was tall and

strong-looking, but he was nervous and awkward. He paced the floor as he lectured; he spoke into the air and made erratic gestures, putting one finger to his forehead as he spoke, his hands making disconnected movements, and there was little fluency in his staccato comments; one succeeded another without a link. They were interesting but very hard to follow. (I should add that the students who took his course loved it.)

Instead, unfortunately, I chose to study with Kenneth Burke. Mr. Burke, outside of class in conversations, was fascinating; his interests ranged widely from the trivial to the profound. (He told me once that he was very interested in graphology, which I was exploring and practicing at the time. He was impressed by a man he knew who could not only detect the presence of cancer in a person through that person's handwriting; he could also determine which part of the body was affected.)

Burke's lectures were fascinating, too, and replete with strange analogies drawn from card games and gambling. More than any other lecturer I have ever heard, his lectures did not seem in any way to be prepared; he entered the classroom, began to think and to tell us what he was thinking, with few pauses. The lectures centered on particular texts but not on what they meant, more on their underlying, almost unconscious communication: Joyce intent on discovering how to become an artist (in *Portrait of an Artist*); Orwell (in 1984) struggling, in his metaphors, with his developing tuberculosis. I could never quite follow where his mind was going: it worked too fast for me. I wrote for him an eighteen-page (typed) paper on *Portrait*; he wrote me a five-page (typed) commentary on my paper.

I got off on a very bad footing with L.C. Knight. I was already familiar with his essays on Shakespeare and admired the current approach, following the subtext of imagery rather than the narrative. On the very first day, when he was discussing the sonnets, I raised my hand to ask about one line in *Sonnet 20*, in which Shakespeare, having described the superiority of the Young Man's beauty to the beauty of women, concludes "But since [Nature] prickt thee out for women's pleasure,/Mine be thy love, and thy love's use their treasure." I inquired about the usage of "prickt" and he looked at me in anger and snapped, "It's obscene, that's all!" He thought I was grandstanding, and I kept quiet in class for a while.





My first paper for him did not mend the fence. I wrote a paper on *Henry IV* which disagreed, though not explicitly or intentionally, with his published essay on that play, about the character and reputation of Henry, which he considered inflated. He gave me a grade of B++. Later we met one day on the patio outside the lunchroom and had a discussion about the metaphysical poets, especially about Abraham Cowley, on whom I had done a college paper. He had a bemused interest in Cowley, and we may have been the only two persons in the world having a casual conversation about Cowley that day, or even that year. Our relationship improved. On my other paper for him, about the deliquescent imagery in *Antony and Cleopatra*, he gave me an A triple-plus.

## Sonnets and Sports

The atmosphere at Kenyon was lively and cordial. Faculty and students dined together, mingled at lectures and readings. I particularly remember a session, lasting more than an hour, in which Robert Lowell read Robert Frost's poem "The Most of It" and offered some tentative interpretations comparing it, for example, to Baudelaire, followed by a long but indeterminate discussion. I offered some comments, and that's when I first met Elizabeth Hardwick, who had recently married Lowell. She came over to tell me that John Crowe Ransom had liked something I had said, but also because my accent (Mississippian)



intrigued her. (Hers was Kentuckian.) This began a friendship that has not survived, except for a few later encounters, with one of the best writers of prose in America. She was also, in her personal reminiscences, one of the wittiest and funniest tellers of tales I have ever known. She was especially entertaining in reminiscing about her friendship with Billie Holiday and how she had tried to help Billie dress for her mother's funeral, which Billie didn't make it to.

Sometimes we met at a local tavern. I remember one session with Lowell and Burke present, during which we wrote a "group sonnet." One person would write a line of iambic pentameter, fold the page so that the next writer could not read his line, but revealing the last word of it; then it was passed to the next person, who would write the next line, and so on until it was completed. Since it was not specified whether the sonnet was to be Shakespearan or Spenserian,

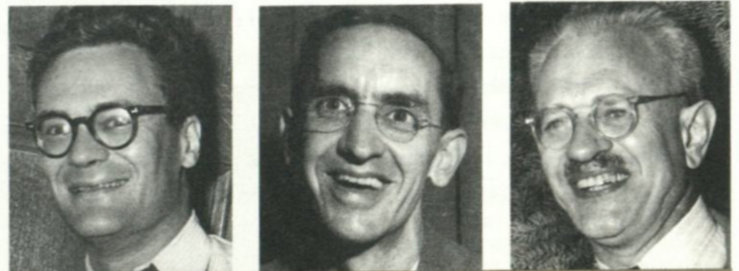


some odd rhyme schemes ensued. The result, of course, was bizarre; I wish I had kept it.

We also collaborated in sports. The basement of the student dormitory was set up for table-tennis, which occasionally attracted a professor. But our most active competition was in softball. We formed two teams, the Explorations (after the title of one of L.C. Knight's books of critical essays) and the Ambiguities (after the title of William Empson's most famous work, *Seven Types of Ambiguity*). The varieties of competence among the participants ensured that the two teams were evenly, that is to say, unevenly, matched. Not all of the intellectual students were athletes, nor were all of the faculty. The most bizarre of the players was Empson, who always participated with a faded ivory cigarette holder (without cigarette) in his lips, even when batting. He always played outfield, and when a ball headed his way, he would open his arms very wide, then slap his hands together when the ball got close. I don't know whether he ever caught one.

FACING PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT: William Empson (front row, third from right) and his students. Empson on the softball field.

THIS PAGE, BOTTOM: Robert Lowell (at right) swings a bat on the softball field.



Faculty members (left to right) Robert Lowell, L.C. Knight, and Kenneth Burke.





My greatest pleasures came when various people dropped in at the small house occupied by Elizabeth and Cal, as Lowell was always called, who often served cocktails in the afternoon. Elizabeth was at her most delightful with her reminiscences. At one time, she had written a newspaper advice column, à la Ann Landers. We inquired what kind of problems she addressed. She said that most of her questions came from adolescents with facial skin problems; and her standard advice was, "Wash your face several times a day."

Students were allowed to drop in on classes other than the ones they were enrolled in. I remember a class of Empson's in which he wrote his lecture on a blackboard as he delivered it, and by the time

he finished, his script filled all the boards running across the front of the room and around one side. I never learned whether this was his common practice. I know he did not do that when he lectured to the whole school on the word "honest" in Shakespeare's *Othello*, a lecture which later appeared in one of his critical collections. (Later, after I began teaching, that essay cropped up in an odd way. A brilliant student of mine handed in an essay on *Othello* which was lifted, almost verbatim, from the Empson essay. When I confronted the student about his plagiarism, amazed that he would do such a thing, especially since I already knew he was perfectly capable of brilliant essays, he explained that Empson's essay was so cogent, he saw no reason to compete with it. Later he became a policeman.)

A gathering of the School of English in Peirce Hall Lounge.







William Empson (perched on arm of chair) and others listen as Charles Coffin makes an amusing point. The author, Clifford Gordon, is seen at far right.

## The Remarkable Mr. Empson

Empson was, hands down, the star of that summer. He chose, for instance, to live in the student dormitory, so that we saw a lot of him. He was friendly and accessible. Even if one did not know who he was, one knew that he was the man with the yellowed cigarette holder in his lips, even when he was the captain of the Ambiguities playing softball, as I have said; or when walking around the campus reading a book as he walked—and I would swear I saw him dive into a swimming pool with it. Once when I asked if it wasn't difficult to read while he was walking, he replied, "It's much harder on a bicycle."

He was odd enough just to look at. He was of slight build, but sturdy and vigorous. His dark eyes were magnified by thick lenses. But one's attention was drawn immediately to a most unfortunate beard, which the writer and critic John Gross once described as "a straggling appendage which began below his jaw line and looked like a false beard that had slipped." He was extraordinarily nervous, and ran his fingers through it when speaking. (I remember an amusing conversation with Robert Lowell, comparing beards: Lowell had worn one during his time as a conscientious objector and complained that he had a hard time keeping it clean: ketchup, he said, was the worst.) But Empson's nervousness was that of a person who was over-energetic and preoccupied, not fidgeting.

He wore whitish suits, unkempt, discolored, loose. His belts did not run through the loops of his trousers but ran around the trousers below the loops. And, in addition to that yellowed cigarette holder, he sometimes smoked a gross yellow pipe.

As his clothes suggested, he was not tidy. At the Lowells' afternoons, he smoked, of course, incessantly, thumping the ashes on the floor. When he finished a cigarette, he absent-mindedly threw the extinguished butt toward a window, usually having it bounce back from the screen. After a moment of startled indecision, he seemed to contemplate whether he should pick it up, but turned his back instead.

To the swimming pool he wore a flowing Chinese robe with a dragon on the back. He would walk, silently, to the diving board, stand on it several minutes, clasping his hands behind his head like a bearded fakir doing penance on a mountain, then suddenly he would dash forward, give one brusque hop, dive into the water, swim to the end underwater, clamber out, repeat the whole procedure one more time, then leave the pool.

The Kenyon School of English was unique in my experience. No other academic sojourn (at Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia, or Oberlin) came close. The stimulation it provided was not limited to the remarkable staff but also was provided by the remarkable students and the atmosphere they created together. 13

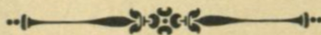
*Clifford Gordon was born in Liberty, Mississippi, but was educated in Northern climes, graduating from Franklin and Marshall College in 1951. He taught high school English for forty years in New Jersey and Pennsylvania before retiring to Hendersonville, North Carolina, in 2002. He is engaged in writing a family memoir, as the ninth of nine children, and an essay on the cats who have shared his life and provided inspiration.*






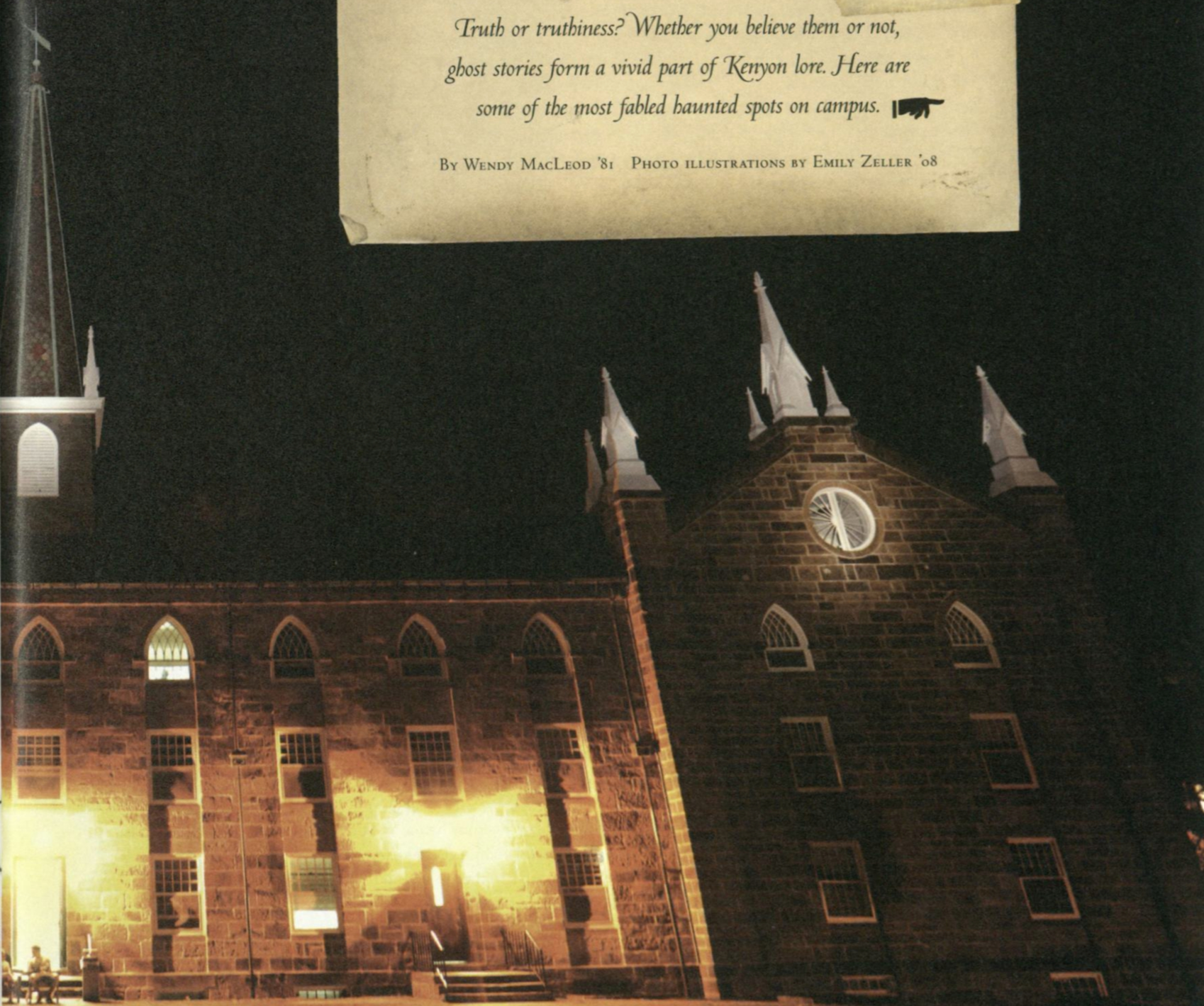


# THE HAUNTED KENYON TOUR



*Truth or truthiness? Whether you believe them or not,  
ghost stories form a vivid part of Kenyon lore. Here are  
some of the most fabled haunted spots on campus. *

BY WENDY MACLEOD '81 PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY EMILY ZELLER '08







oody Allen once said that tragedy plus time equals comedy. But tragedy plus time also equals ghost stories, at least at Kenyon, where tales of haunted hallways pass from generation to generation, a richly embroidered folklore on a campus that can sometimes feel, well, eerie.

Some Kenyon ghost stories grew out of actual events, like the Old Kenyon Fire, while others have shakier credentials. Reading through the "ghosts folder" in the College archives, I found the phrase "it is said" used a good deal. That can be a stand-in for "as if." *It is said* brokers a deal between the teller and the listener: *It's probably nonsense, but let's tell the story anyway. After all, dinner's over and who wants to go study?*

If you're hunting for Kenyon ghost stories, the first thing you discover is that the mother lode of paranormality can be found in the campus safety office, AKA security. Safety officers are in creepy old buildings late at night, and they patrol a ghost town in the summer, at least in between visits from barbershoppers, cheerleaders, and other summer groups. The officers will tell you everything as long as you ply them with margaritas. And they keep incident reports, which is kind of like Deep Throat providing receipts.

Theater people are also good sources, because they're practiced in "suspending their disbelief" and they're always building or rehearsing something in the wee hours of the morning. They subscribe to archaic superstitions, urge each other to break their legs, and never utter the name of the Scottish play (I can't even type it). They leave a light burning on-stage, which is either for the ghosts or to keep away the ghosts, nobody's entirely clear on that; and they do famous plays which are predicated upon somebody seeing a ghost that tells them to do stuff.

Hungry for bonding rituals, fraternities and sports teams also go in for the ghost stories. The DKE's consider Stuart Pierson, the notorious turn-of-the-century train fatality, a fraternity brother. On the anniversary of "Stewie's" death, they carry a coffin filled with stones down Middle Path and gather at the fateful trestle bridge, where fraternity officers wearing hooded cloaks read the coroner's report by torchlight. (In recent years, they've also read aloud passages from Fred Kluge's *Alma Mater*.)

Where, you ask, do they get the hooded cloaks? I forgot to ask. But I know the ceremony ends with the burning of a wooden DKE sign, which they extinguish in the river, leaving its ashes behind on the train tracks. (After that, I'm pretty sure they go party.)

And then there's the swimming team. Although they now compete in the airy, ultra-modern Kenyon Athletic Center, the swimmers still venture down the spiral stairs into the Shaffer boiler-room the night before they leave for nationals. By candlelight, one of the seniors tells the story of "The Greenhouse Ghost," the diver who broke his neck on the glass roof and drowned in Shaffer Pool.

The team members crouch to walk the perimeter of the old pool and end by counting off the number of their national titles, adding one, like a birthday-cake candle to grow on. Swimmer Michael Northcutt '08 says the ritual "is an awesome reminder of those that swam before us." Or perhaps, as former Dean Tom Edwards puts it, "That boiler-room would scare anybody" into team solidarity.

Kenyon's ghost stories function partly as cautionary tales—about fraternity hazing and the dangers of fire, as well as about bouncing too high on a diving board under a glass roof. As tales of premature death, they're also reminders to enjoy one's youth. And, in their telling and retelling, they forge links in the chain (*clank, clank*) of our shared history.

Do I believe these stories? Yes and no. Perhaps Professor of Humanities Tim Shutt, the tour guide of ghostly Kenyon, puts it best: "Many Kenyon students, past and present, claim to have encountered ghosts. And in the large majority of cases, I do believe in their belief."





## SHAFFER DANCE STUDIO



### *The Unsubstantiated Truth*

The dance studio used to be Shaffer Pool, which was nicknamed "The Greenhouse" because of its glass roof. The "Greenhouse Ghost" is said to be the ghost of a Kenyon student, or possibly an Air Force cadet during World War II, who died there in a diving accident, which led to the removal of the diving board. One version has him bouncing too high, shattering the roof, breaking his neck, and drowning.

During the war, Kenyon did in fact host cadets enrolled in the U.S. Army Air Force Meteorology Program. But there are no records of anybody dying in Shaffer pool. Former dean of students and swimming coach Tom Edwards removed the three-meter diving board in the 1950s, in his first month as coach, but it wasn't because of a fatal diving accident. It was because the deep end was only nine feet deep when it should have been twelve, and there was a dangerous ledge between the deep end and the shallow end. "Kids would come up from a dive, scraped up, with blood streaming down their faces," Edwards recalls.

### *The Tales*

Kenyon custodians and safety officers consider the Shaffer Dance Studio to be the "creepiest place on campus," as one puts it. One night in 1979, when it was still a pool, a student lifeguard locked up the building, turned out the lights, and started up the hill. When he looked back, he saw that the lights were back on and he heard the sound of splashing. When he went back, nobody was there.

Long after the pool had been converted to a dance studio, dancers rehearsing late at night would see wet footprints leading into the locker rooms. Safety officers Carol Brown and Dan Turner once heard the sound of a diving board bouncing, not just once, but three times. Months would go by without any paranormal experiences, and then unexpectedly when Turner crossed the dance floor to lock the far door, the hackles on his neck would go up. He'd hear the sound of someone walking behind him.

"I can't tell you why, but one night, on the way back from locking that door, I just turned around," he says. There on the floor—the floor he'd just traversed—was a newly formed puddle of water. It wasn't raining and hadn't rained for days. Dispensing with protocol, he got on the walkie-talkie and yelled: "Everybody get your ass down to the dance studio! Now!" He could hear the squeals of the tires coming from the north end. Turner stood outside, trembling, not even able to light his own cigarette. Only when he was joined by officer Todd Bell would he go back inside.

"We literally watched the puddle evaporate before our eyes."



## CAPLES RESIDENCE



### *The Truth*

The Caples ghost stories, which seem incongruous with a contemporary high-rise building, grew out of a real incident in 1979, when a student fell down the elevator shaft. He was last seen at 2:30 a.m., coming home from a party in the New Apartments. Another student, who took the stairs, saw him waiting in the lobby for the elevator. The elevator apparently got trapped between the seventh and eighth floors—some say he was on his way to his girlfriend's room—and it's believed he pried the doors open and tried to jump down to the floor below him, falling to

the bottom of the elevator shaft in the process. He was found unconscious the next morning by a security guard, and died in the hospital later that night.

### *The Tales*

As the resident ghost tour guide, Tim Shutt has heard many stories from women who once lived in Caples and who woke up to sense someone sitting on their bed or felt someone lying on top of them, immobilizing them, occasionally accompanied by the smell of alcohol.

But women are not the only ones who have had paranormal experiences in Caples. One of the best-documented incidents took place in the summer of 1995, after the students had left and before the summer conferences had started. It happened in the wee hours of the morning, several hours after the building had been checked and locked down for the night. It was eventually filed in the campus safety office as an "unexplained occurrence."

Safety Officer Dan Turner was working the north end that night. When he came on duty at 11:00 p.m., he was told by the afternoon shift to "keep an eye on Caples." Lights and showers had been unexpectedly coming on, despite the fact that security had thoroughly checked the building and found no one. Then, going on 5:00 a.m., Dan Turner got an emergency call from the dispatcher: "All units to Caples!"

The switchboard operator, Jolynn Bryant, had gotten three phone calls in rapid succession from rooms 511, 611, and 711, and each time she heard a woman scream and hang up. The sound was not mechanical, like the screeching of a fax machine, but decidedly human.

Turner was the first officer to arrive and, having been told to wait for the others, he positioned himself where he could watch both entrances. He saw nobody go in or go out. When the three other officers arrived, Troy Steinmetz stayed in the lobby while Turner, Galen Neibarger, and Ryan Pentz went through every room in the building. They even checked the trap door to the roof, which was padlocked. Yet a shower was running on the fifth floor and steam was billowing into the hallway. In the corner rooms on the upper floors, where the calls had originated, the lights were on and every phone was unplugged. They turned off the lights, plugged in the phones, and prepared to leave.



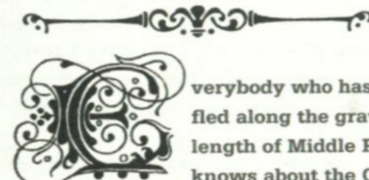




Then another call came in, another scream, from Room 811. When Turner returned to the room, the light was back on. Letting himself in the locked door, he saw that the phone was again unplugged. As he stood there, he heard the whirl of the elevator going down. But the Caples elevator stays on the floor it last visited, until someone calls for it. By walkie-talkie, he checked with the other officers. Nobody had pressed the button.

Who was going down in the elevator? They raced down the stairs to the first floor, where they found Officer Steinmetz waiting outside, peering in through the glass at the lobby. He said: "I wasn't about to wait for that elevator door to open!"

## THE GATES OF HELL



verybody who has shuffled along the gravelly length of Middle Path knows about the Gates of Hell. But nobody seems to know how the stone pillars at the entrance to the south campus got the name.

The story I've heard falls into the undocumented "it is said" category. It is said that writer Anthony Burgess, who spoke on campus during the late seventies, later appeared on the *Phil Donahue Show* and told a national audience that Kenyon College was home to the Gates of Hell and the most intense evil energy that he had ever experienced. Hearing about this, the College requested a videotape of the show, but when it arrived there was no mention of evil at Kenyon, or of any hellish gates. Some cite this "excision" as eerily suggestive in itself. Others scoff, raising the obvious question of whether Burgess ever said any such thing at all.

There are other tales. According to one, it was a psychic who identified Gambier as home to the Gates of Hell. Another insists that the evil portal is actually the old gated entrance to the Bishop's House, in the densely wooded lower reaches of Brooklyn Street.

Whatever the case, superstitions have grown up around the gates. Some say that you shouldn't walk between the gates when the bells in the Church of the Holy Spirit are chiming midnight, or you might be transported to Hell itself. Others warn that you shouldn't look into the trees shading Middle Path there. Because of their shape, they're considered "pitchfork trees."

—W.M.



IMPRESARIO OF THE UNCANNY



he star attraction of the Kenyon College ghost tour still walks the earth.

Ghosts, after all, can be found anywhere. But at Kenyon, the spirited retelling of the tales has taken on a life of its own. Timothy B. Shutt, professor of humanities, takes pride in his polished role as guide, raconteur, and cultural observer. His tours have become a rite of passage for first-year students, a winsome send-off for seniors, and a sentimental journey for returning alumni.

"I'm puzzled to some extent as to why people like it so much," he said, and then solved his own riddle: "It's the ghosts and it's the theatricality."

With expertise embroidered by imagination, Shutt has led dozens of tours for hundreds of people since 1990. His performance samples a bit of John Belushi, smacks of mock solemnity, and suggests the host for overnight guests at a haunted mansion. "It's a little over the top," he conceded.

The history of the tour, Shutt said, is rooted not so much in the many ghost stories generated by the College but in the lingering guests at Reunion Weekend receptions. "The president had parties and sometimes people wouldn't leave, so they needed a distraction.

"Nobody had done a tour, but there had been talk about it for a good, long time."

Shutt has learned to tailor presentations to his audience. For alumni tours, he adds student actors as ghostly stand-ins; for student tours, he throws in spicy details.

The costume he once donned, turn-of-the-last-century gentleman's garb with tails and spats, is long gone, a victim of Shutt's corporeal expansion. The outfit brought to mind veteran ghost Stuart Lathrop Pierson, the 1905 victim of a fraternity ritual gone awry on the railroad trestle.

The story of Pierson's demise and his anniversary appearance as a ghost in Old Kenyon is a cornerstone of Shutt's tour. The stop at Old Kenyon also includes Shutt's version of what has been seen of, and heard from, the apparitions of nine students lost to fire in 1949. His account of the students' ghostly feet "hanging like stalactites" through the ceiling includes a sly reference to the Peeps, who furnished him with the story. Shutt intones, with exaggerated precision: "And this was told to me by the Peeps, and, as we all know, the Peeps are incapable of falsehood of any kind."

When the tour reaches Caples Residence, the wit grows more muted. Shutt became more sensitive to the 1979 elevator-shaft death of a student, believed by some to now appear as a ghost, after the student's classmates joined a tour and explained the emotions they experienced.

That helps explain why his favorite parts of the tour are those that come with a heavy dose of fantasy, including a fictional account of a student accidentally beheaded at Shaffer Pool, now the Shaffer Dance Studio.

The tour opens at the College gates, known to many as the Gates of Hell. There Shutt describes the geology-defying depth of the central stone plinth and, for some audiences, its phallic nature.



Nearby stands the Church of the Holy Spirit, which some say forms a hellish pentacle with other old Knox County churches when seen from above. That may be true, but Shutt has a more realistic take on the trapdoor to temptation: "The gates of Hell are wherever you happen to be."

Although admired by his audiences, Shutt is actually ambivalent about his role as Mr. Ghost. "This is not what I want my title to be," said the popular and skilled classroom lecturer. "Better if it were just Mr. Actor or Mr. Performer, because that's really what it is."

But a love of Kenyon lore, and perhaps an irresistible fascination with the supernatural, keep his tour in demand. Shutt has come to appreciate the fact that many people have some belief in spirits. Also, he says, people seem to be hard-wired to enjoy a good scare.

—Mark Ellis





## HILL THEATER



### *The Truth?*

It is said that the ghosts of two people killed in a car accident, a driver and his passenger, haunt the Hill Theater. The accident supposedly took place before the theater was built in 1937, but, according to old maps, there was never a road on that spot.

### *The Tales*

Fred Drogula '92 always heard that thirty or forty years before his time at Kenyon, the cleaning crew was on the Hill stage one summer day, when two students walked in and asked an odd question: "What year is this?" (Some versions have them asking the day or the month.) The custodians answered and then, realizing that the students weren't supposed to be in the building, one custodian followed them into the lobby to make sure they were leaving. Nobody was there.

When Fred was a drama student, he was once working in the theater at 3:00 a.m. The student lighting designer stood on the stage below while he and another crew member stood on ladders, checking the lights hanging from the grid. As they came to the next instrument, the designer would ask them to "flag the light"—to pass their hand between the lens and the grate that covered the lighting instruments, so that she might see the shadow and figure out where each light was focused.

Fred, finishing up for the night, climbed down the ladder and began to clean up. When the designer called up a final "Flag the light," she and Fred both saw the shadow of a hand pass over the light. Then the other crew member walked in from the wings. He was already down from the grid. Who had flagged the light?

Campus safety officers routinely find the "ghost light" unscrewed on the Hill stage, and then, although they turn it back on and lock the building on their way out, they find it unscrewed again on their next pass through. In the early hours of the morning, long after the student rehearsals are over, they find the stage curtains open, and then, the next time through, closed. Professor of Drama Tom Turgeon suggests the closed curtains and extinguished lights might have more to do with "carnal experiences than ghostly ones."

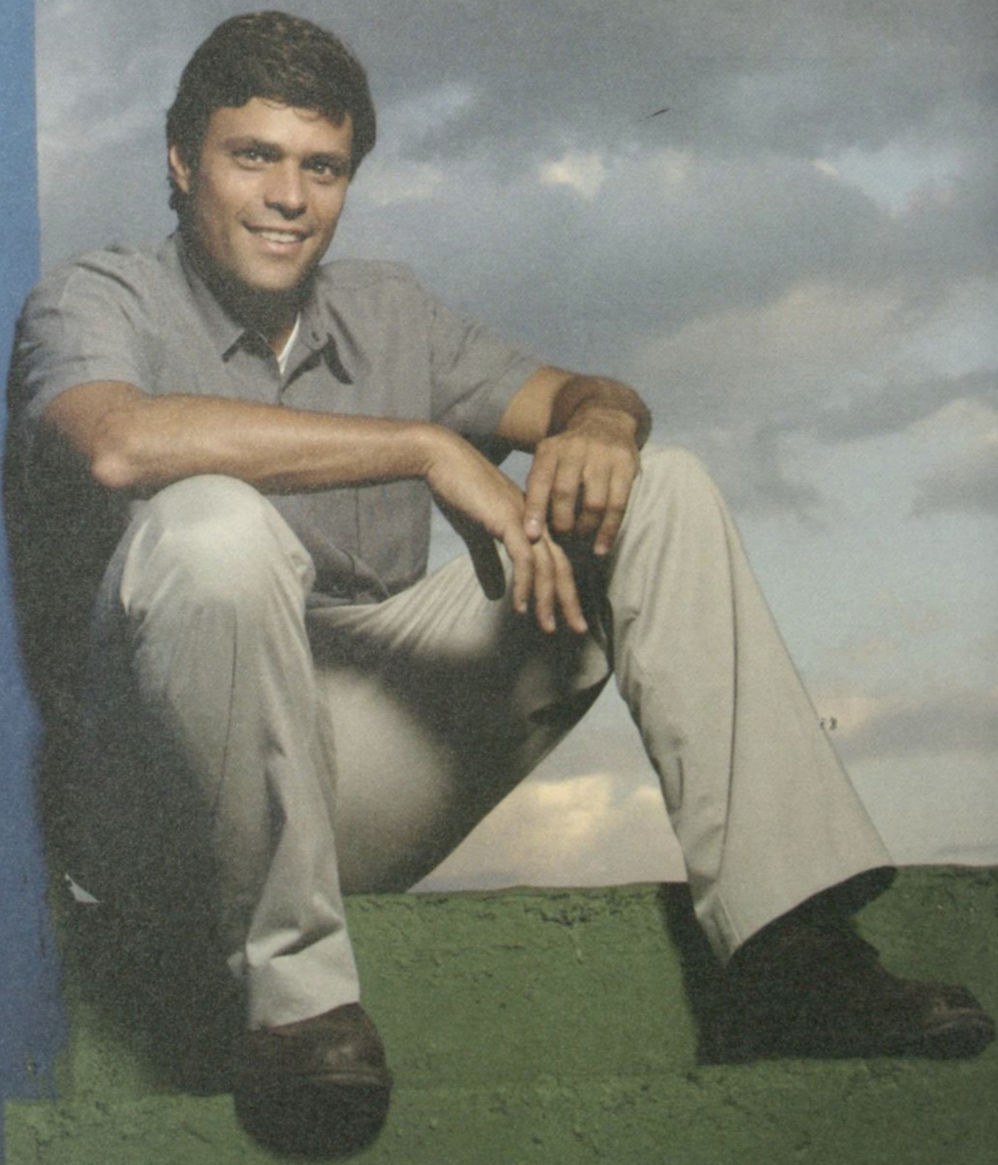




# Lightning Rod for Tumult

BY RUTH MORRIS

PHOTOS BY RICARDO PEREZ





## Charismatic and controversial, Leopoldo Lopez '93 emerges as a rising star of Venezuela's opposition movement

About ten years ago—before mayoral elections, a short-lived coup, street clashes, and three assassination attempts—Leopoldo Lopez took a few weeks and traveled to Peru.

There he embarked on a three-week expedition that culminated in an ascent of Alpamayo mountain. He passed through four camps on the way, stopping to adjust to the thin air, and then hiked on.

"When I was going up I was thinking, 'This is cold. I'm not having a good time. My muscles hurt,'" recalled Lopez, tossing a hacky sack between his hands as he sat in his spacious office in Venezuela's bustling capital city of Caracas. He reached Alpamayo's icy pinnacle, at 19,511 feet, around dawn—a mammoth task, to step onto a summit that is barely three feet wide.

"It's not about the summit," said Lopez, reciting a common refrain among climbers. "It's about having hard times, and getting there."

As a rising star of Venezuela's opposition movement, Lopez has reason to hope that his embrace of treacherous conditions may serve him well. His country's firebrand leader, socialist President Hugo Chávez, won a landslide re-election victory in December, securing a six-year term. Venezuela's controller general, meanwhile, has banned Lopez from running for office for nine years after ruling he mismanaged funds and accepted improper donations—charges Lopez says are politically contrived.

Perhaps the steepest challenge of all: Lopez's broader political future, analysts say, will depend on overcoming a preconception that as a son of privilege, he belongs to the same political class that ignored Venezuela's poor for decades, even as the country's oil wealth ran thick and sweet.

"I cannot negate where I come from," said Lopez, thirty-six, who graduated from Kenyon in 1993 and returned this spring to receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at the Honors Day Convocation. "I was born with a lot of privilege in a country with a lot of inequality." On the opposition's struggle to chip away at Chávez's broad and devoted support base, he added, "We cannot promote an alternative that doesn't face, eye-to-eye, the exclusion, poverty, and inequality in Venezuela."

Hardworking and unpretentious, Lopez has movie-star good looks and a gentle way with people that has made him extremely popular in Chacao, the most affluent of Caracas's five municipalities, where he is serving his second term as mayor. He won re-election in 2004 with 81 percent of the vote.

But the jury is still out on whether Lopez and other opposition leaders can find support outside well-heeled communities like Chacao. In the cinderblock barrios that spill down the hillsides outside Caracas, for example, Chávez loyalists dominate. And while the city center brings slick whiskey ads and American-style malls, most Venezuelans live in, or close to, poverty, playing baseball on potholed streets.

Lopez contends that the portrayal of Venezuela's political conflicts as a struggle between social classes is part of Chávez's "propaganda machine," and he believes that the best way to dispel doubts about the opposition is to show the results of good governance, even if it means spending money from the municipal budget on state-run institutions. He points out that in 2006, Chacao was ranked as the most "transparent" municipality in the country by the Venezuelan branch of Transparency International, a group that combats government corruption worldwide.



On a recent morning, he arrived at the state's Libertador grade school, where his office had helped expand and modernize a cafeteria. He arrived on foot, emerging from a crosswalk like a parent about to pick up a child. Girls and boys in ribbons and pressed pants performed a traditional dance, and when they'd finished, Lopez leaned down to speak to them, putting his arm around the neck of the shortest and chubbiest boy in the group. As he toured the school, other students swarmed around and reached for his hands.

Later, a small band of musicians played *joropos*, the folksy, harp-laden music of Venezuela's prairies and cattle farms. Under Chávez, radio stations must insert folk music into all their music programs. Lopez is more of a hip-hop fan.

The young mayor gave a short speech promoting a level playing field for all children, regardless of whether they attended private or public schools, then mingled with more students and teachers and strolled back to the street. There he climbed onto a motorcycle brought for him by a bodyguard. Lopez is a motorcycle fanatic; he once crossed the United States on a bike. Friends from Kenyon remember he also drove it down the hallway of his freshman dorm. More recently, he entered a weekend motocross race on a lark—a twelve-hour endurance contest—and won.

"That was like a teenager fantasy," he said.

Some 150,000 people reside in Chacao, a municipality that houses the city's financial district along with sunny plazas. When Lopez became mayor in 2001, it was already well managed and prosperous. He added free health clinics, legal aid offices, and several sports complexes where children enroll for gym and karate classes, also free. These projects have won him praise at all levels.

"Leopoldo Lopez is a good kid. With time he could be a good president," said Antonio Munoz, fifty-eight, an ice-cream vendor in worn shoes. Munoz said he voted for Chávez in his first election in 1998, but not in last year's race, when Chávez ran against Manuel Rosales of the New Era party. Lopez defected from his own conservative Justice First party, which he helped found, to join New Era.

"I changed my opinion, because the country has gone backwards," Munoz said of his decision to flip his vote. "It's less safe, there's less work, less housing." If Lopez were to run for president, he added, "I'd vote for him."

One of Venezuela's youngest politicians, Lopez has also become a lightning rod for the country's political tumult. He's survived three attacks by armed gunmen, including an assault that killed one of his bodyguards. Last year, hooded thugs burst into a university auditorium where he was speaking and held him hostage for several hours.

For Lopez's supporters, the attacks, along with twenty-nine criminal cases pending against him in state courts, are proof positive that Chávez hardliners see him as a threat. Chávez and his allies control the national assembly and the Supreme Court, as well as the state-owned oil company. In August, Chávez introduced constitutional amendments—including one that would allow him to be re-elected indefinitely—that critics said would tighten his grip on power and undermine democracy.

"The government sees us as enemies, not as political adversaries," Lopez said. The Chávez government, he added, "practices rule by decree" and tries to "criminalize the opposition."

For critics, Lopez is marked by his involvement in the street protests that led up to a short-lived coup against Chávez in April 2002. Chávez returned to power forty-eight hours later and now charges that the opposition colluded with the CIA to depose him. Referring to his political enemies as oligarchs and "squalid ones," the president points to the episode as an example of how opposition leaders were prepared to throw out a democratically elected leader to get their way.

Some observers see Lopez in just this light. "Here's someone who wants to promote himself as having democratic credentials, when in fact he supported undemocratic actions," said Miguel Tinker Salas, a political science professor from Venezuela and professor of Latin American history at Pomona College.

Salas also doubted whether the opposition was truly interested in helping Venezuela's poor, given the country's deep economic and racial divides. "I think that's part of the rhetoric," he said. "They understand to beat Chávez they have to go to his terms."

Lopez says he didn't participate in the coup against Chávez, and he insists the protests leading up to the overthrow were peaceful and lawful. Of the opposition in general, he acknowledges that it had made mistakes. "I believe the premise today is that we are not a majority," he said. "So we need to build a majority, and we need to incorporate many people. It's not about taking Chávez out of office, it's about what you do the next day."

**N**ewly married, Lopez lives with his wife, a former kite-surf champion named Lilian Tintori, in a quirky one-bedroom apartment converted from an attic. The ceiling of the dining area is so low that visitors must duck into it. Ducking out the other side, onto a broad terrace, Tintori pointed out Chacao's tallest building, which she once rappelled down as the host of a television show on extreme sports. The apartment is uncluttered apart from a large skateboard that pokes out of a basket, an eight-month-old Labrador, and a shelf full of running shoes. Tintori and Lopez have completed six marathons each. An avid athlete, Lopez also leads police cadets on weekly six-mile runs through the neighborhoods they will later patrol.

Shortly before she got married to Lopez in the spring, Tintori had a tattoo inked on the inside of her left wrist. In sloping cursive, it reads: "Venezuela."

"My friends say I'm paying a penance," she said with a smirk. Many of Venezuela's wealthier families chose to leave the country, taking their assets with them, rather than live under Chávez's tightening grip on government. "But I say, 'No, it's my country.'"

Lopez views his work in a context that goes beyond Chacao. One of his initiatives as mayor is a "beautification" campaign inspired by





## He's survived three attacks by armed gunmen, including an assault that killed one of his bodyguards.

similar projects in Bogotá, Colombia. He widened sidewalks, added street lamps, planted trees, and dotted the roads with trash cans. His office put in handicapped ramps and built barriers to stop people dashing in front of traffic.

Detractors shrug off the improvements as easy wins in an upscale community like Chacao. But Lopez notes Venezuela is wealthy too, swimming in petrodollars as one of the world's largest crude suppliers.

"We are not more wealthy than the central government," he said. "What we're doing here could be done all over Venezuela."

What most impresses many residents, though, is Chacao's low crime rate. "There's a saying here. If you're going to crash your car, crash in Chacao," a photographer, Fernando Llano, said. "The police come. They are efficient. They are pleasant."

He motioned to the clogged traffic and city hustle outside. "Chacao is a micro-climate."

Lopez's allies say his unbuttoned-down style could help him outside this micro-climate, navigating Venezuela's highly polarized political landscape. For one thing, they note that his youthful, open manner sets him apart from a traditional political class that voters rejected by electing, and re-electing, Chávez.

Carmen Elisa Hernandez, a party official at New Era, described the old guard as an exclusive men's club, where political deals were cut in the back of restaurants, "over a bottle of whiskey."

"When you contrast this with a young guy who does motocross, and he's also a workhorse, it's pretty interesting," she said. "Chávez is a phenomenon that came about because people felt abandoned. Chávez connected with people. Maybe he doesn't solve their problem today, but he looks them in the eye and says, 'I'm with you.'" She added, "I think the person in the opposition who most makes this kind of connection is Leopoldo Lopez."



**L**opez made his political debut in another uphill battle, when he ran for student body president at the Hun School of Princeton in Princeton, New Jersey. He had arrived from Caracas just a few months earlier, half way through junior year, and he didn't know too many people or even speak English very well.

For his campaign poster, he turned to Bob Marley's *Uprising* album, poking his head through a volcano of dreadlocks. At the time, he held a minimum wage job washing dishes with Colombian immigrants. He became known as the dishwasher who was running for president, and was elected.

At Kenyon, Lopez landed on academic probation his freshman year, then emerged as an intense and engaging student who graduated with honors in sociology. He won the George Herbert Mead Award in that discipline, as well as the Richard F. Hettlinger Award for excellence in the Integrated Program in Humane Studies. His professors remember him as a free spirit with a huge appetite for political and economic theory and a knack for carrying debate into pragmatic concerns.

"He began to choose courses very carefully, systematically. He knew what he wanted," said Professor of Sociology George McCarthy, who was Lopez's faculty advisor. McCarthy, whose teaching focuses on European social and political theory, said he was pleased to see Lopez taking classes with conservative and liberal professors alike. "He wanted to learn the full range of views out there and I was impressed with that," he said.

McCarthy also remembered that Lopez "just talked a lot . . . he didn't shrink from responding, but he never condescended or was phony." He added: "I thought he'd go into politics."

Lopez says that his Kenyon courses instilled in him an abiding interest in the tension between social justice and individual rights. During his college years, he also became a big believer in the power of protest. He was one of the founders of Activist Students Helping Earth Survive, known as ASHES, and organized a protest of the U.S. invasion of Kuwait by pulling all the school's fire alarms simultaneously at 1:50 a.m., the hour the invasion began. A friend accidentally left his ID card at one alarm, and ASHES was sanctioned. Lopez was suspended for two weeks.

"It was quite a striking protest," he said.

At Kenyon, Lopez also started a crew team, driving up to Canada with friends to buy a four-man boat, which they strapped to Lopez's van.

"He was a little bit of a hippie," said Claire Tisne '93, a college friend who now works as an executive and editor at Random House, where one of her projects was the American edition of a critical biography of Hugo Chávez. Having visited Lopez in Caracas, she acknowledged some Venezuelans might see him as "a preppy ex-pat" with U.S. credentials. "Obviously he's not a hippie in a t-shirt with a van anymore," she said, "but I think he very much does still have his eye on those on the lower rungs."

From Kenyon, Lopez went on to the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where he earned a master in public policy degree in 1996. Returning to Venezuela, he worked for *Petróleos de Venezuela*, the state-owned oil company, for three years. He also

taught at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, a Jesuit university. He won his first term as mayor of Chacao in 2000. His re-election in 2004 keeps him in office until 2008.

His prospects beyond that depend in part on the fate of the Venezuelan opposition nationally. President Chávez's decision earlier this year to close Radio Caracas Television (RCTV), a popular private channel, seems to have given the opposition movement an adrenaline boost. Chávez refused to renew the station's license in May, arguing it was pumping capitalist and consumerist poison into Venezuela's veins.

The station had joined others in actively supporting rallies against Chávez in 2002, and again during a 2004 referendum, and the shutdown was seen as a political reckoning. International rights groups condemned the move as a violation of press freedom. But, more to the point, said pollster and political scientist John Magdeleno, six out of ten Chávez supporters also disagreed with closing the channel.

"I think it's time for Venezuela to confront myths," said Magdeleno, who has worked as a consultant for Lopez. Where Chávez portrays two Venezuelas, the haves and the have-nots, Magdeleno insists that a third group—of swing voters—hovers in the middle.

"I see Lopez as very dedicated to this third way," he said.

Just a few days before RCTV went off the air, the channel's supporters sat beneath shade trees in the Altamira Plaza, waiting for a march to begin. Loudspeakers blared salsa tunes from the back of a pick-up truck nearby, and a couple unfurled a banner reading: "My life for my children's freedom."

Television personalities from the station's soap operas and game shows began to arrive. A few blocks up the road, a stout Ali Arias stopped his sputtering moped on the corner, overloaded with sacks of t-shirts to sell. He said he'd voted for Chávez but that he didn't agree with the decision to close RCTV.

"I understand he wants programs for the people. But it would be better to stand back and pause," said Arias. Soon after RCTV went off the air, state programmers played the national anthem, followed by a documentary on independence hero Simon Bolívar. "It's like a household where we are all fighting," Arias said. "We want a pause."

Asked about the odds he might one day play a bigger role in his country's political future, Lopez recalled his first mayoral campaign in 2000, when he entered the race as a virtual unknown. One pollster calculated his chances for success at "mathematically impossible."

"He said, 'I would not invest one Bolívar in your campaign,'" recalled Lopez, referring to the Venezuelan currency. It takes more than 2,000 Bolivares to make a dollar. Lopez won with 51 percent of the vote.

"Rationally, you'd say it's impossible to be about change," he said of Venezuela's current political climate. "The government has all the money, and hegemony in different areas."

He added: "I believe you have to be irrational about where you want to go, and you have to be rational about how you get there." ■

*A journalist who has worked extensively in South America, Ruth Morris currently reports on immigration issues for the South Florida Sun-Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale.*



## IMBIBING WITH THE UNINITIATED

Lettie Teague leads a friend, and the rest of us, into the mysteries of wine

Of all the wine books sloshing around the world, Lettie Teague's *Educating Peter* (Scribner, 2007) has got to be the most fun. It's not that Teague, a 1983-vintage Kenyon graduate, isn't serious. For nearly a decade she has been the wine editor at *Food & Wine* magazine; her knowledge—of wines and the wine trade—runs deep.

But above all, she's a buoyantly entertaining writer, who wields her considerable expertise without pretentiousness or far-fetched metaphors. If you're interested in learning about wine, you'll find her an enlightening and amusing companion.

And you should read the word "companion" literally. In her book, Teague introduces the uninitiated into the mysteries of wine by taking one of her friends under her wing. The subtitle explains: "How I Taught a Famous Movie Critic the Difference Between Cabernet and Merlot."

The friend in question was Peter Travers, the film critic for *Rolling Stone* and a perfect pupil in that, while largely ignorant about wine, he was curious, eager to learn, and no stranger to the habit of forming opinions. "I'd often wondered what it would be like," Teague writes, "to teach someone enough about wine that he or she would be able to read a restaurant wine list without fear, approach a wine merchant with confidence, and perhaps even score a few points off a wine-snob friend."

From the reader's point of view, Peter



Mallory Samson '77

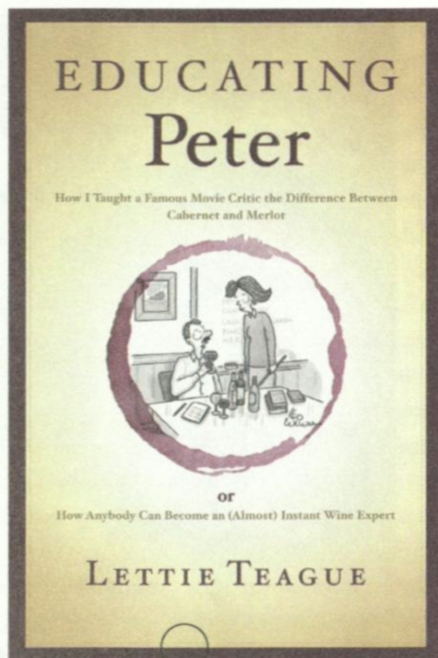


also turns out to be a good pupil because he has personality. Part of the fun in the book comes from his witty observations and his ability to grasp wine concepts by drawing on cinema lore.

The fun makes the impressive quantity of information go down easy. Teague covers grape varieties, winemaking, and the importance of age and temperature. She introduces a tasting vocabulary. And she leads Peter on a quick tour of the world's wine regions, including an actual road trip to the Napa Valley.

The excerpt here is from another road trip, to a veritable temple of Bordeaux . . . in Scarsdale, New York. The locale is Zachys wineshop, presided over by the noted wine merchant—and Teague's Kenyon classmate—Jeff Zacharia. ❸

—Dan Laskin



## EXCERPT

Peter seemed so hostile to the wines of Bordeaux that I decided an intervention was in order. Perhaps he needed to talk to someone, sort through his anger at the wines. In short, he needed to talk to someone who truly, deeply loved Bordeaux. I thought of my friend Jeff Zacharia, the owner of Zachys wineshop in Scarsdale, who had been obsessed with Bordeaux for at least twenty years and had built Zachys into a veritable temple to its wines. Maybe Jeff, in his Bordeaux-fueled passion, could convince Peter of its many virtues.

...

Jeff asked Peter a few warm-up questions to get a sense of his knowledge of Bordeaux. Did Peter know that Bordeaux was divided by the Gironde estuary into two banks, left and right? He did. I'd told Peter to "think of the two banks as the same of Paris, except reversed. The old guard is on the Left Bank and the upstarts, the Bohemians, are on the Right." Jeff looked puzzled by the idea but continued his lecture, undeterred. "On the Left Bank," said Jeff, "you'll find the Cabernet-dominated wines—Lafite, Latour—and all the other major châteaux, while on the Right Bank are the

Merlot and Cabernet Franc blended wines. There aren't any impressive châteaux on the Right Bank like there are on the Left, but there are still many legendary wines made there—like Cheval Blanc, Pétrus, and Ausone."

...

"Although there are a lot of great wines in Bordeaux, I get excited when I can still make discoveries," said Jeff, who travels to Bordeaux "at least" two times a year. "Like I was when I rediscovered a lot of the wines from the 1996 vintage were overlooked because the 1995 wines were so good."

Peter nodded. He understood the point that Jeff was trying to make, in cinematic terms. "That's like the movie *Network*," Peter replied. "When it first came out, everyone ignored it or said it was too exaggerated. Then ten years later, everything happened that the movie said would, and people decided it was genius filmmaking."

*Excerpted from Educating Peter, by Lettie Teague. Copyright 2007 by Lettie Teague. Reprinted by permission from Scribner, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc.*



## reviews

## DAHLIA'S GONE

By Katie Estill '75  
St. Martin's Press

"The world is always evolving beneath the surface of things," sheriff's deputy Patti Callahan muses midway through Katie Estill's second novel. Patti might well be talking about the book she anchors along with two other vividly rendered female protagonists. Sand Williams, a former World Health Organization correspondent, has returned to the Ozarks after more than a decade away. She lives in her dead father's cabin, next door to born-again Christian Norah Everston and her family. Against the richly detailed backdrop of a Missouri summer, Norah asks Sand to check in on her son Timothy and stepdaughter Dahlia while the Everstons are in Myrtle Beach. The

night of a cataclysmic storm, Sand discovers that Dahlia has been murdered in her own bedroom, stabbed repeatedly, drained, and posed bloodlessly in her bed.

A fine, taut follow-up to Estill's *Evening Would Find Me*, this novel distinguishes itself most through the subtle way it traces the effects of Dahlia's murder upon Norah, Sand, and Patti. At every turn, Estill shows us how these women's worlds evolve under the plot's surface elements. Norah's relationship with her unreligious husband Lyman crumbles under the strain of the murder investigation. Sand grapples with unresolved emotions toward the father who trained her to photograph horrific scenes fearlessly and left her feeling perpetually unable to please him. As the only female deputy in her county, Patti has revolutionized her police force's treatment of sexual assault cases but, years after a failed marriage, dreams of building a more fulfilling domestic life.

In the end, who killed Dahlia is almost beside the point. This novel's most gripping



developments and haunting revelations lie in the complicated terrain of Dahlia's survivors' lives and the rural landscape that shapes and connects them.

For more on *Dahlia's Gone*, see [www.katieestill.com](http://www.katieestill.com).

—Sarah J. Heidt '97, assistant professor of English

## INCONVENIENT STORIES: PORTRAITS AND INTERVIEWS WITH VIETNAM VETERANS

By Jeffrey Wolin '72  
Umbrage Editions

What do we expect to see in the faces of men who have survived war, psychological trauma, and a sense of abandonment by the nation they served? This collection of portraits by Jeffrey Wolin, the Ruth N. Halls Professor of Photography at Indiana University, confronts us with that question on every page by offering three distinct views of the persistence of the Vietnam War in the lives of men who served there.

Wolin's photographs show us middle-aged veterans who exhibit few visible scars of their wartime experience, but the brief interviews that accompany these portraits reveal that the real scars left by combat are hidden from the eye. Few have escaped their war without a sense of shame or betrayal, and many suffer from the lingering effects of post-traumatic stress disorder. Wolin's portraits are made more haunting by the third element: fading Polaroids showing the men





books

as young soldiers, posing with their buddies at jungle firebases or in front of helicopters. Some stand before flags in their dress uniforms, gazing at the camera with the disciplined eyes of men who take pride in their service.

The book is timely: several of its subjects note a growing sense of despair as they watch a new generation of soldiers share their experience. Others speak of their renewed belief in the values of honor, patriotism, and service. But regardless of one's political convictions, the human cost of our nation's military engagements may be seen in these moving portraits of men who have been irrevocably shaped by the experience of war.

—Sergei Lobanov-Rostovsky, professor of English

**ALLERTON BYWATER:  
A YORKSHIRE BOYHOOD**

By Bruce Haywood  
XOXOX Press

Bruce Haywood taught German at Kenyon from 1954 to 1980, and for the final fourteen years of that career he also served as provost. (Full disclosure here: Haywood hired me to teach at Kenyon.) In 2005 he published *The Essential College*, recalling his Kenyon career as a way of exploring the nobility of the idea of a liberal education. This new book, despite occasional proleptic glances at his post-World War II life, is what filmdom might call an oblique prequel: a set of reflections on the Yorkshire upbringing that served, in the 1930s, as father to the man who, more than any other figure, shaped Kenyon during the decades of the 1960s and 1970s.

Those who knew Haywood will find much of interest in this book. Did you know that his youthful nickname was "Juice"? That he was an occasional church organist, a sax player, and a javelin thrower? These bits of homey information (and many others) emerge from his detailings of family and village life, of friends and rivals, of ambitions and constraints.



And it is these latter two themes that make the book worthy of a wider audience, for Haywood recovers a world that most present-day Americans can scarcely imagine—the coal-mining town of Allerton Bywater, defined by the dominant polarities of English life in the era: male versus female, church versus chapel, working class versus middle class, stubborn individualism versus proud communalism. He describes a world of clannish loyalties and their fortifying rituals, a world of us-versus-them.

The most important tension in the volume is the one that Haywood himself felt, for this work is above all a study of the shaping of his identity. Now proudly and happily American, he sounds almost Jeffersonian in decrying the blighting of civic life in Britain under the weight of monarchism and class exclusiveness. And yet he loves his native Yorkshire—its topography and climate, its foods and customs, its games and gestures. And above all, its language.

For it was his love of language that allowed Haywood to escape from the confinements of Allerton Bywater. His mother started him reading at a very early age. Always a good student, he had an instinctive love of the spoken word. (He transcribes passages of Yorkshire dialect to illustrate the monosyllabic power of the tongue.) He began his formal study of German in grammar school. And it was this

ability to speak the language of the enemy that spared him service with the West Yorkshire Infantry Platoon, a unit that bore an astonishing casualty rate of 90 percent on D-Day.

*Allerton Bywater* is by turns funny and serious, analytic and nostalgic—a fine read. Those who are curious about the history of Kenyon will come away from this humane volume with a heightened appreciation for the man who kept the Chalmers legacy alive.  
—Reed Browning, professor emeritus of history

**WRITE FOR LIFE: HEALING  
BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT  
THROUGH JOURNAL WRITING**

By Sheppard Kominars '53  
Cleveland Clinic Press

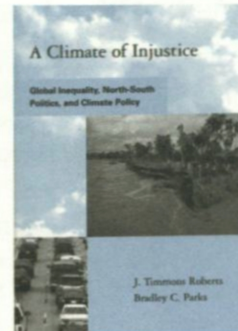
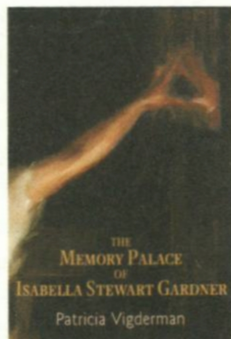
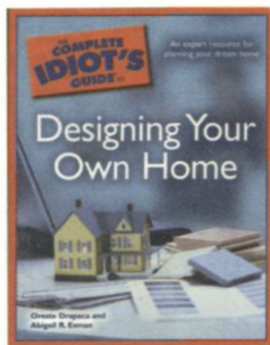
Years ago, when Sheppard Kominars found himself held hostage to crippling migraines, he turned to the page for escape. At the suggestion of his family doctor, he began keeping a journal.

At first, Kominars didn't see the point. "In my imagination," he writes, "I saw adolescent girls writing 'Dear Diary' in their notebooks. *That's just not me! I thought. I can't do that!*" As his writing sessions continued, however, he found that journal writing helped him "launch the day from a better place in myself." At last, he came to a realization that "I was not a migraine; I was merely having a migraine . . . In some mysterious way, journal writing helped me find my way not only through health issues but through [other] obstacles as well."

In *Write for Life*, Kominars maps out that mysterious way. Journaling, he writes, can be an act of confession, therapy, testimony, and self-discovery. Most remarkably, medical studies have found that keeping a journal can aid people struggling with illness, anxiety, or depression. Writing about trauma leads to improved immune function, lower blood pressure, and a more optimistic outlook.

*Write for Life* offers a wealth of journaling activities, designed to give readers permission





to express themselves and find their way to health, whether physical, mental, or spiritual. "Beginning today," Kominars writes, "you can begin to care about what has already happened—not as a source of worry, but as a basis for loving your life in a new way."

Readers may learn more about the book online at [www.writeforlifeccp.com](http://www.writeforlifeccp.com).

—Traci Vogel

## NEXT TO GODLINESS: FINDING THE SACRED IN HOUSEKEEPING

Edited by Alice Peck 1979  
Skylight Paths Publishing

What's the real dirt on housekeeping? We all do it, but how many of us consider its entwinement with our inner lives as well as our outer ones?

In *Next to Godliness*, Alice Peck brings together writings that illuminate the everyday practices of sweeping, washing dishes, and doing laundry. Less an anthology than a "commonplace book," dipping in and out of texts, *Next to Godliness* excerpts wisdom from such figures as Pablo Neruda, James Baldwin, Gwendolyn Brooks, the Dalai Lama, and Mahatma Gandhi.

Housekeeping, Peck's selections reveal, can be discipline, meditation, prayer, ritual. It is a way of shoring ourselves against death, and of finding meaning. There are some

## OF INTEREST

### NONFICTION

**Abigail R. Esman '82 and Oreste Drapaca**, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Designing Your Own Home* (Alpha Books). An expert resource for planning your dream home, from "bubble diagrams" to floor finishes.

**Peter Bloomfield '73, Mark Motl, and Vilma Barr**, *A Face for Radio: Radio Station Planning and Design* (Focal Press). A complete, well illustrated guide to designing or renovating radio broadcast facilities, by top architects in the field.

**Patricia Vigderman**, *The Memory Palace of Isabella Stewart Gardner* (Sarabande Books). Biography, memoir, philosophical meditation, detective story—all blend in this exploration of Gardner's famous Boston museum. Vigderman is a member of the English faculty.

**James C. Livingston '52**, *Religious Thought in the Victorian Age: Challenges and Reconceptions* (T. & T. Clark Publishers). An emeritus professor of religion at the College of William and Mary,

Livingston offers an account of crucial intellectual challenges that decisively shaped British theology.

**J. Timmons Roberts '83 and Bradley C. Parks**, *A Climate of Injustice: Global Inequality, North-South Politics, and Climate Policy* (MIT Press). A professor of sociology at the College of William and Mary, Roberts and his coauthor analyze the role of inequality between rich and poor nations in the negotiation of global climate agreements.

**Carla Birnberg '91**, *The Whole Megillah: Mitzvahs, Matzo Balls and Everything in Between* (Bluegrass Publishing). Original poems on Jewish themes, geared to making cards, scrapbook pages, and other crafts.

### FICTION

**Doug Wilhelm '74**, *Falling* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). A new novel for young people by the highly regarded author of *Raising the Shades* and *The Revelers*. Look for more on Wilhelm in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.



books

surprises: journalist Louise Rafkin documents an American's astonishment at Japanese cleanliness, and at its contradictory side, the ability to buy dirty underpants from streetside vending machines. And there are nuggets of gold: Mother Teresa advises, "Take a broom and clean someone's house. That says enough."

—T.V.

THE NEW RULES OF MARKETING AND PR: HOW TO USE NEWS RELEASES, BLOGS, PODCASTING, VIRAL MARKETING AND ONLINE MEDIA TO REACH BUYERS DIRECTLY

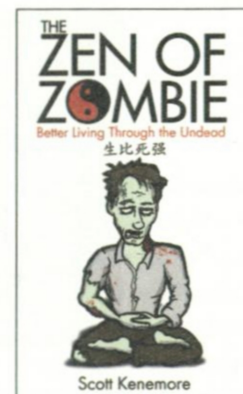
By David Meerman Scott '83  
John Wiley & Sons

Technology has changed advertising. Consumers Tivo their commercials, read the Internet instead of newspapers, and get recommendations through social networking websites.

Far from being bad news for marketers, however, the tech revolution can charge up cheap, targeted, and powerful ads. That's the argument David Meerman Scott makes in his latest book, *The New Rules of Marketing and PR*. Under the old rules, says Scott, advertising had to appeal to the masses and rely on interrupting people to get their attention. Communication was only one-way. New marketing and PR means creating a conversation with the consumer via blogs, useful website content, and a concentration on niche needs. "Nontargeted, broadcast pitches are spam," Scott writes, whereas focused content "helps buyers see that you and your organization 'get it.' Content drives action."

Full of compelling case studies such as the Mentos/Diet Coke geyser Internet phenomenon and the Sony BMG CD copy protection software fiasco, *The New Rules* explains the use of tools like podcasting, social media tags, and viral marketing in a clear, humorous style.

—T.V.



THE ZEN OF ZOMBIE: BETTER LIVING THROUGH THE UNDEAD

By Scott Kenemore '00  
Skyhorse Publishing

Zombies get a bad rap, but "few people stop to consider how much humans have to learn from zombies," writes Scott Kenemore. "What about all the good things zombies do?"

OK, maybe *The Zen of Zombie* is a little tongue-in-cheek, but it's brainy fun (ooh, brains). Broken down into two handy parts (ooh, parts), "The 24 Habits of Highly Effective Zombies" and "Your Guide to Complete Zombification in 90 Days," Kenemore's book mocks self-help and motivational tomes while forcing the reader to think about the advice they offer in new and creative ways. Maybe you feel beaten down by routine. Model yourself after the zombie: "Giving things power over it is not something a zombie does." Instead, the zombie takes for granted its power to change its world. Feeling old? Age means nothing to a zombie. Things getting complicated? "Simplicity is key to the free-wheeling essence of a zombie. The more things you can eliminate from your routine (like personal hygiene, clothing, and complete sentences) the better."

Me like. *Zen of Zombie* hilarious, thought-provoking. Turns out, zombies have a taste for the funny bone, too.

—T.V.

YOUNG ALUMNA WINS LITERARY PRIZE

Isankya Kodithuwakku '05 has been awarded the 2006 Gratiaen Prize for her collection of short stories, *The Banana Tree Crisis* (Vijitha Yapa Publications). The prize is given annually to the best work of literary writing in English by a resident of Sri Lanka. It was established in 1993 by Michael Ondaatje, using the prize money he'd won the year before with the Booker Prize for *The English Patient*.

The judges who selected the book described its seven stories as "unpretentious yet poetic, and, very simply, compelling and beautiful." Kodithuwakku's unadorned style accentuates the emotional intensity of her subject matter, which ranges from the devastation of the 2004 tsunami to the toll taken by civil strife. In "The House In Jaffna," for example, an expatriate Sri Lankan decides to return from England to his hometown after twenty years of war between the government and the separatist Tamil Tigers. He finds that his house been gutted, and so have the souls of his former neighbors. "Mildew could be taken from ceilings, but never from hearts and minds."

But the characters in these stories are also resilient, rising from turmoil to take on the unknown future. Kodithuwakku, who is currently studying for her M.F.A. in creative writing at Columbia University, gives voice to the nightmares and the dreams.



## BURNING QUESTION

Microsoft CEO Bill Gates recently said the death of paper-based books is imminent. A survey done in 2004 by the National Endowment for the Arts reported literary reading is in dramatic decline, with fewer than half of American adults now reading literature. What does this mean for the future of print publications? We asked David Lynn '76, editor of the *Kenyon Review*.

## Q: IS THE PRINTED BOOK DEAD?

A: Earlier this year I drove down to Columbus with some friends to hear the noted author (and Kenyon parent) Anna Quindlen read from her new book. We had a lovely evening, not least because of Ms. Quindlen's virtuoso performance. In the middle of a long, grueling book tour, she was able to bring a freshness and immediacy both to her personal remarks and to the reading itself. She spoke rapturously about her childhood, about Saturdays when she would curl up in an over-stuffed chair and read a book for hours, despite her mother's pleas to go outside and play.

It's a delicious image, evocative to many of us of about the same age. But I also remember sitting in a chair listening to the Beatles and Brahms on vinyl long-play recordings. Sadly, I'm pretty certain that books printed on paper will soon go the way of LPs—rare, arcane *objets*, targeted to a particular niche of nostalgic consumers.

For we are now within hailing distance of electronic devices that will be cheap enough, durable enough, and with screens easy enough to read, that the texts of books will be downloaded from websites en masse, the way music now is to MP3 players. In Gatwick Airport recently, I spied a stylish not-so-young man manipulating the Sony Reader, an early version of these devices, with others no doubt soon to follow.

The economics of this arrangement are obvious: almost all the soaring costs of production will disappear, especially the cost of paper. Distribution will be easy and instantaneous. The dire significance for bookstores is

easy to imagine. It will be very rare in five or ten years, I believe, to find stores that stock printed books on their shelves.

Will this leave many old fogies like me frustrated and dissatisfied? Of course. But not enough to compete with the vast market forces that are sweeping this change, and us with it, along.

What will be lost? Among other things, the physical pleasures accruing in the thinginess of an individual book—the heft, the smell, the immediacy of ink and paper. The book is a material artifact of careful design, editing, and production, a collaboration beyond the work of an individual author. That thinginess conveys a kind of enduring reality that will be sustained on library shelves and bedside tables. Treasured books can be savored, saved, shared. Even books we think of merely as ideal beach reads can be passed along by hand.

The e-book, however, will only accelerate, I suspect, a culture in which books are produced like fast-food burgers—transitory tastes, satisfying in a certain way, but consumed and forgotten. So much for *ars longa*.

Yet, truth is, we'll all adjust. Two years ago, the *Kenyon Review* began accepting submissions only on the Internet. At first, when I received longer pieces to consider for publication, I tended to print them out. No longer. Most of the time now, I sit at my desk and read comfortably enough on the computer screen. It's not ideal, but I've learned to live with it.

You can imagine that, as editor of a venerable, printed literary journal, I find that all



of this makes me a bit queasy. For thirteen years I've promised that, as long as I'm editor, there would be a printed version of the *Kenyon Review*. I confess I'm no longer so sanguine about that promise. Five years? Yes, I think so . . .

The world of literary publishing is changing almost by the day. Over and over again I find myself remarking to my students that they are living at an incredibly exciting moment. They're riding the curl of dramatic change, change that will, I believe, reach deep into our culture. But it's a scary process, too, at least to me, because I'm not at all certain whether that wave will safely expire on a beach, or smack up against a great but still-invisible rock of a reality we didn't correctly anticipate.

If some of what I've written sounds dire, I do always believe in the capacity of human creativity. Much will be lost, yes—of that I have no doubt. But as with every other great transformation in human communication, from oral recitations of the epics that carried memory of tribes and peoples with them, to the evolution of written texts, and then, half a millennium ago, the Gutenberg revolution, and now to the blossoming paradigms of electronic media, much is gained as well. My students and their students, and their students in turn, will surely find and create new modes and new media for literary expression. ☞

*David Lynn teaches workshops in fiction writing as well as literature courses.*



## SABBATICALS ARE IN THE BOOKS

Sabbaticals over the last year have carried Kenyon professors to artists' colonies, the cities of Europe, and seclusion in home offices. Research has been refined, material presented at conferences, and books pummeled into shape, some even finished.

Seventeen tenured faculty members completed academic-year sabbaticals, crafted reports on their work to Provost Gregory P. Spaid '68, and turned their attention once again to the classroom.

Sabbaticals keep the faculty engaged in their discipline, Spaid said. Sometimes faculty actually use it as a way of striking out in new directions. It can be innovative for them. They develop expertise, an understanding of the world they didn't have before.

It adds to what they can bring to the classroom. Ultimately, it's all about the students.

Here are some sabbatical snapshots:

**Melissa Dabakis**, professor of art history.

**Project:** The founding director of the Kenyon in Rome and Florence Program tackled the first draft of a book on American women sculptors who worked in Rome in the mid-nineteenth century. The main body of it is written, she said. That's the hardest part.

**Approach:** "I write every day. It's the only way it gets done. It takes a lot of effort—total concentration and work on it every day."

**Lewis Hyde**, Richard L. Thomas Professor of Creative Writing.

**Project:** The poet and author continued work on a book assembling a modern and American model of the cultural commons—the treasure of ideas, inventions, and art without ownership. Hyde charts the boundary between commonwealth and private wealth. The book needs another draft, he said.

**Getaway:** Hyde spent a month at the MacDowell Colony, a retreat center for artists in New Hampshire. "You get a cabin in the woods, and there are twenty-five people in residence. You hang out in the evening with painters, filmmakers, and poets. It's a perfect combination of solitude and conviviality."

**Jesse Matz**, associate professor of English.

**Project:** The specialist in modernist literature and narrative theory continued work on a book about the ways that narrative improves the understanding of time. Progress on the book led to development of an article version of the introductory chapter. Matz presented his work at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Indiana University in Bloomington; Ohio State University in Columbus; and Stanford University in Palo Alto, California.

**Back in the saddle:** "I'm actually pretty eager to get back in the classroom. You can get a little too detached from the main thing about this profession."





## WHAT'S NEW IN THE CLASSROOM?

**Janet McAdams**, Robert P. Hubbard Professor of Poetry.  
**Project:** The poet, whose work is informed by American Indian creative writing, used much of her sabbatical to revise a novel. She also wrote an essay on modern Indian identity in the southeastern United States; tracked publication of *Feral*, her new book of poetry; and edited *Earthworks*, a book series featuring American Indian writers.  
**Getaway:** McAdams spent seven weeks in a woodland studio at the Hambridge Center, an artists' colony in Rabun Gap, Georgia. "I love being in the woods. I love to be writing and being able to go for a long walk," she said. "You walk and you walk, and you don't see anybody. And then you have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other writers."

**Clara Román-Odio**, professor of Spanish.  
**Project:** The main focus for this specialist in Mexican literature was investigating a group of Chicana writers and visual artists who explored gender and cultural identity in the 1970s. Her work included in-depth interviews with four writers. Part of her year was spent co-editing the summer volume of the Hispanic feminist journal *Letras Femeninas*. "The value of

a sabbatical year is incommensurable," she said. "A key aspect was the opportunity to recover a broad-based perspective of my overall scholarly activity."  
**Back in the saddle:** "I feel I have gained a renewed sense of internal balance and a fresh and vigorous impetus to resume my place in the classroom and the active life of the College."

**Linda Smolak**, Samuel L. Cummings Professor of Psychology.  
**Project:** The expert on body image and eating problems spent much of her time assembling a second edition of *Body Image, Eating Disorders and Obesity in Youth: Assessment, Prevention, and Treatment*, a book she co-edited and had published in 2001. Demand remains high for the book, which deals with a range of interrelated problems in children and adolescents. Smolak also wrote chapters on body-image problems for other books, helped examine data at the Center for Balanced Living in Worthington, Ohio, and worked as associate editor of the journal *Body Image*.  
**Back in the saddle:** "The students are very, very bright and well-motivated. They're fun to work with and interesting to work with. That's the greatest thing," she said. "I can't say I missed the grading."

Kenyon's grounding in the liberal arts means that the curriculum evolves but doesn't radically change. From year to year, students can count on finding courses where they'll learn about Aristotle or the *Analects*, ions or Ionesco. But each semester, faculty members supplement the tried-and-true with new offerings that reflect current trends in scholarship, novel approaches to timeless themes, issues in the headlines, and their own research. Here are a few of the new courses for 2007-08.

**"Biological Scaling: Why Size Matters."** How does size determine the form, function, pace, and complexity of life? Taught by Assistant Professor of Biology Andrew J. Kerkhoff

**"What Makes a Chinese Hero?"** Chinese identity draws on stories about valiant warriors, loyal bandits, and socialist martyrs, and those stories reflect cultural changes through history. Taught by Assistant Professor of Chinese Jie Zhang

**"Gravitation."** Two seminars, one for first-year students and one more advanced, look at the physics of nature's most familiar, most mysterious force. Taught by Professor of Physics Benjamin W. Schumacher

**"Bear Stories: Humanness and the Wild."** Bear stories, both actual and figurative, function as archetypal tales. Think Faulkner's "The Bear," the Brothers Grimm, and *Beauty and the Beast* (Jean Cocteau, not Disney). Taught by Janet E. McAdams, associate professor of English and the Robert P. Hubbard Professor in Poetry

**"Random Structures."** The course will explore the theory, structure, applications, and interesting consequences when probability is introduced to mathematical objects. Taught by Assistant Professor of Mathematics Brian D. Jones

**"Mind, Perception, and Film."** Film has its own temporal and spatial structure, yet people easily understand and are moved by film. What does film teach us about who we are? Taught by Associate Professor of Philosophy Joel F. Richeimer

**"Immigration, Citizenship, and National Identity."** In both North America and Europe, recent waves of immigration pose profound questions for national identity. Issues range from the character of citizenship to strategies for assimilation. Team-taught by Associate Professor of Political Science Pamela G. Camerra-Rowe and Professor of Political Science Joseph L. Klesner



OFFICE HOURS

## ON BEING WRONG

Physics professor Benjamin W. Schumacher celebrates an underrated condition

My friend Mike is a mathematician at another college and a collaborator of mine on quantum physics research. A college administrator once asked him why scientists were so much easier to deal with than other faculty. Mike replied, "Because we're more used to being wrong." In science, you see, ideas can be rigorously disproved. If that happens to one of your own pet ideas, there is nothing to do but change your mind. This frequent

experience, Mike argued, makes a scientist more reasonable and less obstinate.

I don't necessarily endorse this theory of faculty politics. We scientists seem to be endowed with at least our fair share of folly and mulishness. But I laughed when Mike told me the story. I knew that he was really talking about our Game.

Mike and I spend months or years struggling with really hard problems in mathematical physics, and the Game helps us keep going. It works like skeet shooting. One of us tosses out a "clay pigeon," an idea or mathematical relation that might get us nearer to our goal. Once the clay pigeon is launched, both of us do our best to shoot it down using examples, calculations, and logical arguments.


Almost all of our ideas, in fact, turn out to be wrong. The fun and the profit lie in demolishing them as quickly as possible. By now we are pretty good at shooting clay pigeons. Some are easy and take us only a few minutes. On a good day, we might kill a dozen or more. Other ideas take hours or days to reveal their fatal flaws. Once in a while, though, even our best efforts are not enough. When that happens, the idea just might be correct.

Or it might not. We might be fooled for a long while. One time we invented a way of describing the correlations among quantum systems with simple diagrams of dots and lines. Hard mathematics was reduced to counting which lines went where. It was elegant! Since we could not actually prove that the method was right, we never published it. Yet we could never quite prove it wrong, either. Eventually we began to use the dot-and-line diagrams as our own private tool for thinking about quantum correlations. We drew hundreds of them, using the diagrams to formulate conjectures and

understand other mathematical calculations we did. A couple of years later, however, some clever colleagues showed us a situation that no dot-and-line diagram could possibly describe. Our graphical "technique" shattered like the clay pigeon it always was.

Were we disappointed? We did hate to see those pretty diagrams go away. But our main reaction was *elation*. We grinned at the news. We had been wrong because the quantum world turned out to be stranger and more marvelous than we had first supposed. Only the most pinched imagination could possibly be disappointed by that.

On occasion, some idea of ours turns out to be right, and then we've made a discovery. These occasions are wonderful and gratifying, of course. They are also rare, because most new ideas are wrong. The trick is to be verifiably wrong most of the time. If our ideas are verifiably wrong, then we can eventually get rid of them, like those pretty pictures of dots and lines. And if our ideas are wrong only *most* of the time, then every so often one of them is right. That's enough.

When I was in grad school, my research advisor used to tell his students, "Make as many mistakes as possible, as quickly as possible." At the time this seemed like cockeyed advice. Who wants to make mistakes? Now I understand that he was on to something. Launching and shooting clay pigeons keeps the imagination alive and the wits sharp. Every error, once discovered, is a step closer to the goal. Being wrong a lot is just the price that must be paid for occasionally, improbably, astonishingly being right. 

*Professor of Physics Benjamin W. Schumacher is a recipient of the Quantum Communication Award, the premier honor in the field of quantum information theory.*

*"The most important tool of a theoretical physicist is his wastebasket."* —ALBERT EINSTEIN





## SOUVENIRS RETROUVÉS

Professor Karen Snouffer commemorates her father's WWII service in art

When art professor Karen Snouffer's father, John E. Fry, passed away in 2000, she found herself drawn to the things he'd left behind: the World War II army uniform he'd worn as an MP serving under General George S. Patton, several boxes of wartime letters Fry had written to his wife from France and Germany, and tape recordings of war stories he'd made during the last five years of his life. "I wanted to see the places he'd seen and touch the things he had touched," says Snouffer. "I wanted to see how objects and place and memory come together."

These thoughts gave birth, over the course of seven years, to an extensive body of work Snouffer calls "Souvenir," from the French

verb meaning "to remember" but also signifying an aid to memory. The lengthy process from conception and extensive research through creation and exhibition eventually produced a moving tribute to her father's wartime experience.

"Souvenir" is composed of thirty-two canvases of varying dimensions, each combining paint and photography into a photo collage. As spectators view the canvases, they simultaneously hear her father's tape recordings and her mother's voice reading from Fry's letters.

The photo collages evoke such well-known sites as Normandy and Buchenwald (where her father appeared in a photograph taken by Margaret Bourke-White during the liberation of the camp that was published in *Life* magazine). But Snouffer eventually focused her travel and attention on the small French town of Epemay, in the Champagne country of the Marne, where her father was stationed for a short period in 1944. The citizens of occupied Epemay welcomed the Allies and the hope of liberation they brought. "His time there was a respite for him," says Snouffer. "I wanted to get to know this place better, and to meet people who had experienced the war there."


Snouffer made several visits to Epemay, for

which she prepared by enrolling in Kenyon's first-year French language course with professor Mort Guiney. "It was a humbling experience to sit side by side with students, some of whom I had taught," Snouffer recalls. "As a professor, you're used to being the one who knows, and suddenly I knew as little as they did. But it was inspiring to observe Mort's tricks for keeping the class energized and engaged. Being his student taught me a lot about teaching."

In Epemay, Snouffer was shown important war sites by the former head of the French police who had been a member of the Resistance. They visited the school where Fry had been billeted and where, he had recalled, a young girl would visit the American soldiers every day, bringing them a bottle of champagne in token of the town's gratitude. Other survivors came forward, including a ninety-year-old woman who had fought in the Resistance and eventually survived the concentration camp in Ravensbruck.

To thank the people of Epemay for their care of her father in 1944 and their generosity during her three visits, Snouffer offered to exhibit her work there. In May 2007, she traveled back for the opening of "Souvenirs Retrouvés" ("memories rediscovered") at the town's cultural arts center. One visitor to the show afterwards mailed Snouffer a copy of a poem she had written in August 1944, as a girl of eleven, to celebrate the liberation of her hometown.

Snouffer's art has inspired other writing closer to home. During a winter 2007 exhibition in Kenyon's Olin Gallery, students in visiting art history instructor Denise Hinnant's class analyzed the photo collages. Creative writing student Lucia Pizzo '09 composed a poem inspired by one of the canvases.

As it happens, the connections among Kenyon, Snouffer's family, and paint date back many years. In his postwar life, Fry sold commercial paint in central Ohio and numbered Kenyon among his accounts. "It all comes around," says Snouffer with a laugh. "When I got a job teaching at Kenyon, it made my father very happy." 

—Amy Blumenthal



Marcella Hackbart



# 1930s

'31 **Kenyon College**  
Office of Public Affairs  
College Relations Center  
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

'32 **Kenyon College**  
Office of Public Affairs  
College Relations Center  
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

'33 **Kenyon College**  
Office of Public Affairs  
College Relations Center  
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

'34 **Kenyon College**  
Office of Public Affairs  
College Relations Center  
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

'35 **Kenyon College**  
Office of Public Affairs  
College Relations Center  
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

'36 **Kenyon College**  
Office of Public Affairs  
College Relations Center  
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

'37 **Kenyon College**  
Office of Public Affairs  
College Relations Center  
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

'38 **Jay C. Ehle**  
8945 Random Road  
Fort Worth, Texas 76179  
jcehle@charter.net

'39 **Kenyon College**  
Office of Public Affairs  
College Relations Center  
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

# 1940s

'40 **Kenyon College**  
Office of Public Affairs  
College Relations Center  
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

'41 **Richard H. Stevens**  
812 Clifton Hills Terrace  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220  
rhstev@fuse.net  
CO-AGENT: George T. Lytle

**Lewis F. Treleaven**, Mount  
Vernon, Ohio, informs us that he  
is "still alive and kicking!"

'42 **Kenyon College**  
Office of Public Affairs  
College Relations Center  
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

'43 **Phillip T. Doughten**  
204 Gooding Avenue, Northwest  
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663  
philmoll@tusco.net

'44 **Kenyon College**  
Office of Public Affairs  
College Relations Center  
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

'45 **H. Noyes Spelman**  
1630 Post Road E., Unit 202  
Westport, Connecticut 06880  
gaybowers@hotmail.com

'46 **Kenyon College**  
Office of Public Affairs  
College Relations Center  
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

'47 **Samuel P. Todd Jr.**  
670 Riesling Knoll  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

**Rev. George P. Timberlake**,  
Germantown, Maryland, reports  
that he continues full-time as  
an associate rector at Saint

Columba's Episcopal Church in  
Washington, D.C. He is a pastoral  
visitor, working as a team with  
two lay persons.

'48 **60th Reunion 2008**  
**Jack L. Hart**  
6090 North Harrison Avenue  
Fresno, California 93711  
jackhart48@sbcglobal.net  
CO-AGENT: John L. McKenney

'49 **Theodore K. Thomas**  
21305 Ann's Choice Way  
Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974  
tedthomas@earthlink.net

**Richard A. Stadler**, Pittsburgh,  
Pennsylvania, writes that he and  
his wife, Mimi, enjoyed their fif-  
teenth season in Naples, Florida,  
and would certainly welcome  
another alumni get-together,  
hopefully during the January to  
March season. "It's been a while,"  
he says.

# 1950s

'50 **Louis S. Whitaker**  
Wheeling, West Virginia  
stife41@aol.com

**Paul G. Russell**, Bangkok,  
Thailand, informs us that he  
continues to be actively involved  
with Pacific Legal Group, the  
Thai international law firm that  
he founded in Bangkok fifteen  
years ago. "The construction of  
my 'Lanna' style Thai house in  
Chiangmai, the northern capital  
of Thailand, was completed early  
this year," he writes. "My home  
base remains Bangkok, but I visit  
Chiangmai as often as possible.  
Thailand is a great tourist destina-  
tion, and I hope that members of  
the class of '50 will come to visit  
us." **William E. Strasser**, Atlanta,  
Georgia, tells us that he lives "in  
the sunny south now," near one  
of his children. He celebrated  
his eightieth birthday last year.

**Charles L. Thomas Jr.**, Cincin-  
nati, Ohio, writes that he and  
wife, Joan, continue to split their  
time between Cincinnati; Stuart,  
Florida; and Little Cumberland  
Island, Georgia. "Hope to get  
back for our sixtieth," he states.

'51 **Douglas W. Downey**  
Northbrook, Illinois  
d-downey@sbcglobal.net

**Robert V. Vallera**, La Jolla,  
California, tells us that he  
recently discovered that his past  
is catching up with him. He  
is mentioned several times in  
Michael Connelly's *The Mortar-  
men* (Trafford, 2005), the story of  
his World War II unit, the U.S.  
Army's 87th Chemical Mortar  
Battalion. Also, he appears in his  
role as administrative manager in  
George Dyson's *Project Orion: The  
True Story of the Atomic Space Ship*  
(Henry Holt, 2002), dealing with  
an attempt by the U.S. govern-  
ment during the 1950s to develop  
a propulsion system using atomic  
blasts.

'52 **Richard D. Sawyer**  
Newburg, New Hampshire  
mlgsawyer@aol.com

**Robert S. Stein**, Manassas, Vir-  
ginia, reports that he is enjoying  
retirement. **Charles P. Tranfield**,  
Keene, New Hampshire, writes  
that except for a tendency to  
give local surgeons employment  
carving on his front side, he is  
well. He travels, takes classes  
at a local college with his wife,  
Pat, and plays tennis and bridge.  
He is also active with the local  
Lions Club and does lights for the  
annual winter show. **William W.  
Wenner**, Brunswick, Maryland,  
informs us that he attended his  
post-fiftieth reunion in April.



**'53 55th Reunion 2008****Ronald R. Ryan**

Jupiter, Florida  
migron617@aol.com

**Arthur W. Sprague Jr.**

La Grange, Illinois  
awsprague@sbcglobal.net

**Richard L. Tallman**, Idaho Falls, Idaho, writes, "I note incorrect language and science in the media, even from the educated; progress may be possible." **Donald B. Thomas**, Grants Pass, Oregon, informs us that he is feeling well since his heart surgery in 1992. He wasn't supposed to survive, so when he wakes in the morning, he says, "Thank you, Lord, for another GOOD day." Donald was recently named president of the Gospel Rescue Mission, which he tells us is a full-time job, but definitely rewarding.

**'54 Richard R. Tryon**

Frankfort, Michigan  
keepontryon32@aol.com

**'55 B. Allen McCormick**

Indianapolis, Indiana  
bamccormick@indy.rr.com

**John L. Hammond**, Portland, Oregon, tells us that after years of amateur astronomy, he has decided to report on his studies in a newsletter, *Starry Messenger*. He continues to take part in a philosophy and religion discussion group that has met monthly for fifteen years. **Arthur L. Johnson**, Potsdam, New York, writes that he is still teaching a course in Canadian history at SUNY-Potsdam and lecturing aboard the vessels of the American Canadian Caribbean Line. He and his wife, Anne, volunteer at local nursing homes, and he played Officer Brophy in the Grasse River Players production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. "My theater career began at Kenyon with *St. Joan* in 1953, in which I played a steward and an English soldier," he says.

**Cameron H. Sanders**, Washington, D.C., reports that after ten years as president of the Washington Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, he has stepped down and begun to do some retrenching. He still serves on a few boards and committees, is active in two book clubs, and has taken up golf. He and his wife, Betsy, are keeping an eye on developments in Baghdad, their first foreign service post (1963-65), where their daughter Helen was born. **David R. Sexsmith**, Cadiz, Spain, writes, "After fifteen years in England, the last four dealing with the loss of my wife, I have packed up and moved to Spain. I can see Morocco from my rooftop terrace, and the beautiful, wide Atlantic beaches are only a five-minute walk away. I have been here a year now and really enjoy the ambiance and the friendly Spanish people. It is a beautiful part of the world."

**William C. Wendt**, Fernandina Beach, Florida, writes that after thirteen years on Saint Croix, Virgin Islands, he and his wife, Linda, have moved back to the States. Their new home is on Amelia Island in Florida.

**'56 Christian Schoenle**

Phoenix, Arizona  
chris@cfchefs.com

**R. Michael Sly**, Germantown, Maryland, writes that he continues full-time practice as head of the Section of Allergy and Immunology of the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Ann, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in June.

**'57 Donald A. Fischman**

New York, New York  
fisch@med.cornell.edu

**Henry J. Steck**

Homer, New York  
steckh@kortland.edu

**Ronald E. Kendrick**, Columbus, Ohio, reports that he and his wife, Suzanne, have lived in the Columbus area for thirty-eight years and are "true Buckeyes." Early last year, Ronald retired from active practice in orthopaedic surgery. "We celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary on December 28, 2006. Our first home was a small apartment in an older house behind the bank in Gambier. We have three daughters, and our six grandchildren in the area keep us young and on the go," he says. **Paul Todtfeld**, Savannah, Georgia, informs us that he is enjoying retirement in Savannah and in the Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts.

**'58 50th Reunion 2008****Adolph Faller III**

Olmsted Falls, Ohio  
afaller@sbcglobal.net

**Roger M. Smyth**, Lyndhurst, Ohio, tells us that he has now been playing the bagpipes for the Pipes and Drums of the Cleveland Police Department for almost twenty years. **George A. F. Weida**, Rancho Santa Fe, California, reports he is semi-retired and visits his four sons in the Los Angeles area on a regular basis.

**'59 William Harley Henry**

Atlantic Beach, Florida  
harleyhen@bellsouth.net  
**Donald Bomann Jr.**  
Stamford, Connecticut  
realty3@aol.com

**Michael W. Glueck**, Nantucket, Massachusetts, relates that he has now published two books: *A Memoir: Living Among the Swiss*, and *What I Learned at University*, a collection of essays in literary criticism and poems written at Kenyon and Columbia University, including a master's thesis on seasonal archetypes in *Moby Dick* and a postgraduate paper on Jonathan Swift. Brigadier Gen-

eral **Roger C. Smith**, Moneta, Virginia, reports that since settling near Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia, he and his wife, Sybil, have increasingly made antique and classic boating their focus. "I do some speaking locally about my Air Force experiences, but my real love is antique boats. Sybil and I now have seven grandchildren, and we're lucky to have them visit the lake often."

## 1960s

**'60 Robert G. Heasley**

Gambier, Ohio  
bpheas@ecr.net

**'61 David C. Brown**

Louisville, Kentucky  
dbrown@stites.com

**R. Hutchins Hodgson Jr.**

Cumming, Georgia  
hhodgson@hotmail.com

**Frederick "Jerry" Taylor**, Cambridge, Massachusetts, tells us that he underwent surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy in 2006 for treatment of bile duct cancer, a rare form of the disease. He has now resumed singing in the Concord Chorus, playing tennis, and serving as volunteer writing coach in public schools. Jerry retired in 2001 after thirty-nine years with the *Boston Globe*.

**'62 Jonathan S. Katz**

Newton, Massachusetts  
j.katz@ngc.com

**William P. Russell**

St. Charles, Illinois  
bigo2060@comcast.net

**Charles E. Albers** informs us that after retiring from OppenheimerFunds in 2003, he has sold his house in New Jersey and purchased a "nice condo in sunny Sarasota, Florida." **Paul C. Heintz**, Haverford, Pennsylvania, tells us that he was elected to the Board of Regents of the Ameri-



can College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) on March 8, 2007. ACTEC is a national association of more than twenty-five hundred lawyers who have made outstanding contributions to the field of trust and estate law. Paul is a senior partner in the firm Obermayer Redmann Maxwell and Hippel LLP. **Richard A. Rubin**, San Francisco, California, writes that he, a lifelong Democrat, was appointed to the California Workforce Investment Board by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. **Joseph B. Wharton**, Mount Vernon, Ohio, reports he still loves the farm. He says he has slowed down a lot, but the cows have not. "Spring is the best of times, with lots of new calves, and the eternal promise," he writes.

#### '63 45th Reunion 2008

**Neal M. Mayer**  
Millsboro, Delaware  
nmayer@mindspring.com  
**Calvin S. Frost**  
Lake Forest, Illinois  
cfrost@channeledresources.com

#### '64 Joel D. Kellman

Huntington Woods, Michigan  
jkellman@dykema.com  
**David A. Schmid**  
Norwell, Massachusetts  
davidschmid\_dds@hotmail.com

#### '65 Frederick J. McGavran

Cincinnati, Ohio  
fmcgavran@fuse.net  
**James L. Miller**  
North Baltimore, Ohio  
millers45872@peoplepc.com

#### '66 David W. Foote

Wilmette, Illinois  
dwfoote@sbcglobal.net  
**Thomas A. Mason**  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
thomas.a.mason@comcast.net

**Gordon L. Todd**, Omaha, Nebraska, informs us that he was promoted to professor in the Department of Genetics, Cell Biology, and Anatomy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He also received the Faculty Senate

Outstanding Teaching Award for 2006 and became president of the Faculty Senate in June.

#### '67 Alan T. Radnor

Bexley, Ohio  
atradnor@vssp.com

**Jeremiah S. Miller**, Ridgefield, Connecticut, writes that Kenyon had a double victory in road racing at Lime Rock Park in the northwestern hills of Connecticut. His wife, Carol, principal of CPM Motorsports, celebrated after her driver's win in the Improved Touring A Class at the Sports Car Club of America sponsored race. Celebrating with her was **Paul L. Newman '49**, who drove his Corvette to a Grand Touring One Class win.

#### '68 40th Reunion 2008

**Howard B. Edelstein**  
Shaker Heights, Ohio  
hbe@edelsteinfinancial.com

**Frank Svec**, Metairie, Louisiana, reports that the last year has been spent rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina. His family's house suffered major damage but has now been repaired. "The medical school [at Louisiana State University] is still limited by lack of clinics, hospital beds, and offices, but is coming back gradually," he says.

#### '69 Christopher H. Marty

Medina, Ohio  
kitmarty@zoominternet.net

**Frederick H. Bump**, Brattleboro, Vermont, tells us that he is still in Vermont, taking care of his mother, who is over ninety-two years old and has Alzheimer's.

## 1970s

#### '70 Stephen T. Scott

Willis, Texas  
steve725@hotmail.com

**G. Christopher Blauvelt**, Amherst, Massachusetts, write that his eldest daughter, Meghaan,

graduated with an M.B.A. this spring from the Tepper School of Management and has a job with Del Monte Foods as an assistant product manager in pet foods. His eldest son, Christopher, graduated from the University of Michigan with a master's degree in education and has a job with Middlesex in the fall teaching math and coaching tennis. His second daughter, **Heather C. Blauvelt '10**, has completed her first year at Kenyon and was head of her pledges for the sorority Zeta Alpha Phi. Chris's youngest son, William, is enjoying being a ten-year-old. **Robert C. Boruchowitz**, Seattle, Washington, tells us that he is now a visiting clinical professor at Seattle University School of Law. In January, he left his position as director of The Defender Association after twenty-eight years as director and thirty-three years in the office. He continues to consult with The Defender and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. He remains active with state bar association committees aiming to improve public defender programs and recently wrote an article for the state bar journal on Defender issues. **Randolph Giarraputo**, Casablanca, Morocco, reports that he is still working as a college counselor while traveling extensively, even by camel. Last summer he had the chance to catch up with **Eric B. Herr. John K. Morrell** tells us that in mid-August, he left Canada to join his wife in Doha, State of Qatar, on the Arabian Gulf. John's wife, Kathleen, has been a professor at the College of The North Atlantic-Qatar since November of 2005. John is currently a history and geography teacher at the Qatar International School and serves regularly at the Church of the Epiphany in Doha. **James E. Nininger**, Yorktown Heights, New York, informs us that he recently encountered **Barry F. Schwartz** and **Murray L. Horowitz** at a Kenyon campaign kickoff fund-raiser in New York City. He says that the atmosphere was

upbeat and optimistic. **Roger Novak**, Bethesda, Maryland, reports that he is still active in the Novak Biddle Venture Partners fund, but is also doing advisory work for the Department of Homeland Security and was recently appointed to serve on the Department of Defense-sponsored Defense Venture Capitalist Initiative project. He was also elected to serve on the National Venture Capital Association's board, where he joins fellow Kenyon graduate **Charles P. Waite '77**. **Donald B. Hebb '64** has also previously served. Roger's first son, Ned, graduated from Wake Forest in December, and his younger son, Alex (seventeen), has completed his sophomore year in high school. Roger and his wife, Kathy, will be celebrating their thirty-fifth anniversary in June. **William F. Paraska**, Marietta, Georgia, tells us that he and his wife, Susan, successfully summited Mount Kilimanjaro on December 26, 2006. They spent two years preparing, using **Steve Carmichael '67's** seminal book on pre-trip preparation as their "guiding light." **Andrew D. Stewart**, Basking Ridge, New Jersey, writes that he has retired from Johnson & Johnson after almost thirty years of work in medical-device marketing and sales executive leadership. He transitioned into his next stage of life with several leadership roles in nonprofit organizations, including chairman of the board for Somerset Medical Center in New Jersey, the Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, and the Visiting Nurse Association. Andy has also joined a start-up company called EyeTect as CEO. He and his wife, Carolyn, have two grandchildren. **Thomas C. Swiss**, Baltimore, Maryland, informs us that he is still active as an insurance defense attorney trying mesothelioma cases in Maryland and Virginia. "My last child graduates from Maryland in December 2007," he says, "but I'll be paying for college education for years to come. No retirement in sight." **Arthur K. Vedder**, Santa Cruz, California, reports that



he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro earlier this year and found the snows there to still be plentiful. "The experience was sublime," he writes. Art has since returned to the reality of his thirtieth year of medical practice.

—  
**'71 W. Peter Holloway Jr.**  
Wheeling, West Virginia  
wp.holloway@comcast.net

**Mark K. Straley**, Tampa, Florida, tells us that after many years of practice in a large statewide law firm, he recently opened his own law practice in Tampa under the name of Straley & Robin. Mark, his wife, Sarah, and their two daughters, Rebecca (fifteen) and Catherine (twelve), enjoyed a visit to Gambier last fall for the *Collegian* reunion.

—  
**'72 Douglas G. Holbrook**  
New York, New York  
dholbrook2@nyc.rr.com

**Timothy P. Kelley**, Ridgewood, New Jersey, writes: "Before we all die, I'd like to reach out to **William D. Correll** and **William S. Cline**. Coming to you live from Venice Beach, California. What a place!"

**'73 35th Reunion 2008**  
**R. Benton Gray**  
Avon Lake, Ohio  
rbgraylaw@sbcglobal.net  
**Shelley A. Hainer**  
New York, New York  
sah10025@rcn.com

**Jeffrey L. Bennett**, Midland, Michigan, tells us that he is still teaching at Northwood University and started writing his fourth textbook for the university. Jeffrey writes, "I am planning to attend our thirty-fifth reunion next year." **Peter Bloomfield**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, informs us that he co-authored a new book on broadcast facility design. The book, *A Face for Radio: Radio Station Planning and Design*, includes guidelines to follow for flexible programs that apply to radio stations of all sizes.

**Edward J. Otten**, Cincinnati, Ohio, reports that he decided to retire from clinical practice and devote his time to teaching, research, and community service. He writes, "Both of my sons are about to finish graduate school, so I might have a little income to buy books and, if there is any left over, to buy food and clothes." **Susan E. Schroeter-Stokes**, Seattle, Washington, writes that she and her husband, **Robert Stokes Jr. '75**, are delighted that their son, Reed, will be attending Kenyon this fall.

—  
**'74 Kenyon College**  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

**Barbara Avellone McKay**, North Ferrisburg, Vermont, writes that this spring marks the high school graduation of her younger son, Willy, who will join his brother, Robbie, at Middlebury College this fall. Barbara would love to hear from old friends. **Jacob S. Spiegler** and **Diane Skowron Spiegler '76**, Cleveland, Ohio, are happy to announce that their daughter Sarah graduated from Kenyon in May of 2006, and their daughter Laura began her Kenyon career in August of the same year. Both resided in McBride their freshman year, which is also where Diane spent her freshman year.

—  
**'75 Maria M. Muto-Porter**  
Phoenix, Arizona  
mutomgt@cox.net

**Barbara Christie Johnston**, Jacksonville, Florida, writes that she has left private practice as a partner at McGuire Woods to become general counsel at Florida Rock Industries, Inc. Barbara and her husband, Charles, have two sons, David, a junior at The College of Charleston, and Daniel (eighteen), a junior at Episcopal High School in Jacksonville. **Paul A. Silver**, Silver Spring, Maryland, informs us that his son, Aryeh, became a rabbi and is teaching in Philadelphia. Paul's older daughter, Sarah, is in school getting her master's in occupational therapy.

His younger daughter, Malka, has returned from Israel and is in New York for college. Paul is an associate professor of medicine at George Washington University and assistant director of general internal medicine. **Robert Stokes Jr.**, Seattle, Washington, reports that, after changing from law practice to business in 1997 and working for several years in mergers and acquisitions, he retired in 2005. He and his wife, **Susan E. Schroeter-Stokes '73**, are delighted that their son, Reed, will be attending Kenyon this coming fall. **Leslie W. Suleiman**, Cannon City, Colorado, tells us that she recently started representing a product called Body Balance. She says, "I look and feel twenty years younger now!"

—  
**'76 Michael Young**  
Carlsbad, California  
michael\_young@eisai.com

**Janet Heckman**, Weybridge, Surrey, United Kingdom, writes that she had the pleasure of celebrating New Year's Eve with **Michael J. Mattson** and his family in Surrey. They celebrated English-style, with fireworks in the garden at midnight. In January, **Mary Kay Karzas '75** and her husband, Warren Reiss, visited, and they drove to Calais through the Chunnel for lunch. **Diane Skowron Spiegler** and **Jacob S. Spiegler '74**, Cleveland, Ohio, are happy to announce that their daughter Sarah graduated from Kenyon in May of 2006 and their daughter Laura began her Kenyon career in August of the same year. Both resided in McBride their freshman year, which is also where Diane spent her freshman year. **Deborah E. Tepper** tells us that she and her husband, Stewart, are now living back in her hometown of Pound Ridge, New York. Deb has a new position as medical director at the New England Center for Headache, where her husband is a director. The Teppers have a son, Clinton (twenty-one), at Cornell and another son, Sam (nineteen), at Yale. "Time

flies," she says. **Bruce A. Weitz**, Westlake, Ohio, writes that after his daughter, Emily, met **Lisa Dowd Schott '80's** son, Steve, a student at the College of Wooster, and other prospective Wooster students, she chose to attend the College of Wooster.

—  
**'77 Laurence G. Bousquet**  
Syracuse, New York  
lgbousquet@earthlink.net  
**Denise Fink Giordano**  
West Hempstead, New York  
denese602@yahoo.com

**Linda Sofman Bullock** writes that she is still living in Columbus, Ohio, and is still married to **Thomas R. Bullock '74**. With their youngest daughter about to leave the nest, she wonders, "Where has the time gone?" **Richard B. Kurtz**, Santa Fe, New Mexico, informs us that he has two paintings/drawings included in the Clinton Foundation and exhibited at the Clinton Library in Little Rock, Arkansas, as of June 2007.

—  
**'78 30th Reunion 2008**  
**Daniel T. Plummer**  
Lake Charles, Louisiana  
dan.plummer@us.sasol.com

**William M. Carlson**, Hainesport, New Jersey, has accepted a new position in information technology for NFI Industries. Bill will be involved in project management. The Carlson family includes Bill's wife, Barbara, his son, Matthew (sixteen), and his daughter, Maya (eight). Rabbi **Michelle Werner**, Rochester, Minnesota, reports that since receiving rabbinic ordination in May of 2006, she has been serving as solo rabbi at B'nai Israel Synagogue and as the Jewish chaplain at the Mayo Clinic.

—  
**'79 Daniel A. Gulino**  
**Mary Ann Gulino**  
Athens, Ohio  
mgulino@nbia.org

**Chip Lamb**, Brooklyn, Connecticut, writes that he has been appointed chair of the arts depart-



## SEEKING THE INTELLECTUAL RETURN

A hedge-fund honcho reinvents himself as a film financier

Stephen Hays '83 comes from a family of entrepreneurs. One brother is a professional jazz pianist, another runs music festivals. His sister owns and operates a catering business and restaurant. As he says, "None have worked a



single day for 'the man.'"

So when Hays found himself co-managing a highly successful New York-based hedge fund in 2002, he felt a pang of discomfort. He wasn't just working for "the man." He was "the man."

Further, he says, his proximity to an establishment that was "peddling in deceit and waging war for oil" became too much for him. "Many people, in reaction to 9/11, sought to revisit their priorities; mine was a product of this country's response to that tragedy."

In 2004, the Kenyon history major with a master's degree in accounting and finance from the London School of Economics did something that many people fantasize about but very few actually undertake: he reinvented himself. Using the skills he'd honed in his eighteen years as a specialist in risk arbitrage and distressed investing, and as the co-founder of Seneca Capital, Hays created a company that lends money to independent film producers. He called it 120dB Films, 120 decibels being the sound pressure level at which humans begin to feel pain.

The company lends exclusively on a "last-in, first-out" basis, offering financing to moviemakers who find themselves strapped for funds. Hays's firm has financed pictures as diverse as the immigrant drama *Sweetland*, with Ned Beatty; the 2005 Sundance entry *Loggerheads*; the snowboard documentary *Snow Blind*; and David Mamet's *Edmond*, with William Macy and Mena Suvari.

Hays had always had an interest in film. He made "ridiculous" Super 8 shorts in junior high school, he says, and during his last two years at Kenyon he ran the photo department for *Reveille*, the yearbook, and for the *Collegian*. In the late 1990s, he added to his list of "unwatchable" short films and also invested some money (still last-in, first-out) in a couple

of "low-budget horror pictures—there seems to be an insatiable appetite for them."

But the jump from Wall Street to film did induce a little "culture shock," he says. Independent film producers are "a curious bunch," according to Hays. "Few seem to view themselves as fiduciaries, persons entrusted with other people's money, which they clearly are." As a result, he and his partner often find themselves acting not just as lenders but also as executive producers, dissecting a project's capital structure, helping to figure out other potential sources of funds, and assisting in the sales and marketing strategies.

It's gratifying work. Many worthwhile films go unmade for want of such expertise. "Films with messages that we most need to hear tend to be more challenging than others to raise money for, not to mention finding the distribution and releases they might deserve," says Hays. "A well-known example is Michael Moore and *Fahrenheit 9/11*. Disney didn't want to be associated with that project," and Moore was forced to find alternative ways to get the picture out.

Film is "an amazing vehicle for raising political and social consciousness," says Hays. Of course, he isn't simply giving his money away; he's looking for a compelling risk-adjusted rate of return on his investments. "We are, after all, financiers," he says. But he's seeking an intellectual and artistic return as well. "If there's something that maybe is a little less certain commercially but has a worthy message, will that influence me at the margin to lend them money? Yes."

Hays says that the willingness to take a "different" approach has served him well in the business world. Indeed, his own rebelliousness may have blazed the way for many mavericks, filmmakers among them. His 120dB Films has become so successful that it is branching out into other forms of film financing, including finishing funds, prints and advertising campaigns, and underwriting film and library acquisitions. As Hays told the publication *Screen Financing*, "We want to be seen as a one-stop firm for all of a producer's financing needs, streamlining the process and ultimately speeding up closings."

And the individualistic choices will continue. "We definitely have a positive bias toward projects that are insightful," says Hays, "but we also help finance zombie westerns, so go figure."

—Traci Vogel

ment and theater director at the Pomfret School. He and his wife, Susan, have two children, Evan (sixteen) and Avery (fourteen).

**Tracy Teweles**, Oak Park, Illinois, tells us that she went back to school part-time in January to become a docent for the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park. Tracy is also three years into her own company, doing focus groups and idea generation, and loving it. She even has one Kenyon alumna, **Christine Schrashun Gretchko '82**, as a client. **Christine E. Thomas**, Stow, Ohio, informs us that she is finishing her twenty-sixth year in education. Her daughter, Lauren McDonald, recently began her first year of college at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, and will be transferring to Ohio University next year.

## 1980s

'80 **Lisa Dowd Schott**, Mount Vernon, Ohio  
schottl@kenyon.edu

**Ted B. France**, Altag, Austria, informs us that he is living in the Alps with his family and currently directs a Montessori kindergarten. He adds, "Yes, 'the kids are okay.' Hello to all those who still remember . . . lo these many years ago."

**Philip P. Smith**, Houston, Texas, tells us that in June he finished his three-year fellowship in Houston, spent practicing voiding dysfunction and female urology. The Smiths are planning a move to Farmington, Connecticut, where Phil has accepted a faculty position at the University of Connecticut Health Center. He will be working with the Department of Urology and Ob/Gyn to establish a voiding dysfunction/female urology service, as well as pursuing his laboratory research into the neurophysiology of lower urinary tract dysfunction.

'81 **Kenyon College**  
bulletin@kenyon.edu

**Clarence "Bud" Grebey III**, Stamford, Connecticut, was



recently appointed the global corporate practice leader and senior vice president of Waggener Edstrom Worldwide, a New York City-based public relations agency.

—  
**'82 Brian K. Wilbert**  
Oberlin, Ohio  
bwilbert@oberlin.net

**Suzanne D. Morrill**, Eugene, Oregon, writes that her "three-ring circus" is filled with show dogs, endurance horses, and a five-year-old cowboy, Alexander. **Neil F. Trueblood**, Gwynedd Valley, Pennsylvania, informs us that, inspired by his seventeen-year-old daughter Kelsey's piano teacher, he has begun taking lessons himself and finds that "learning to read music and playing real tunes is wonderful and challenging and great fun." The Trueblood family business, based around residential real estate development, continues to grow.

—  
**'83 25th Reunion 2008**  
**Reid W. Click**  
Washington, D.C.  
rclick@gwu.edu  
**Gregg O. Courtad**  
Canton, Ohio  
courttago@muc.edu

**Nathaniel P. Griggs** married Meg Colin on June 24, 2006. The newlyweds honeymooned in Florence, Italy, and Nat calls it "one of the happiest days of my life." They reside in Westbrook, Connecticut. He also became a grandparent to Lily Spence on January 25, 2006. In his words: "Needless to say, it was a big year for the Griggs household."

—  
**'84 Pamela J. Bardonner**  
Richmond, Virginia  
pambuddysmom@aol.com  
**Beverly Sutley**  
Tyrone, Pennsylvania  
bxb35@psu.edu

—  
**'85 Laura A. Plummer**  
Bloomington, Indiana  
lplummer@indiana.edu

**Michael L. Cannizzaro**, Washington Depot, Connecticut, informs us that his daughter "replaces sleep, privacy, and any single independent notion." His family is trading in a barn on seven acres with a brook and pond in Litchfield County, Connecticut, for a quarter acre with an 1800s center-hall colonial in Oyster Bay, New York. "How do you spell culture shock again?" he asks. On the upside, the Cannizzaros have a "new feisty golden retriever puppy" and, because Michael must transform the former three-family home into a one-family dwelling, "at least I get to demolish stuff," he writes. **Elizabeth A. Cavano**, Somerville, Massachusetts, tells us that after four and a half years of working for the EPA at the Environmental Careers Organization, she now manages women's leadership development programs at Simmons School of Management in Boston. "It keeps me really busy," she says, "but it's great to be back in school." Her new e-mail address is [liz.cavano@simmons.edu](mailto:liz.cavano@simmons.edu). **Joseph A. Coates**, Fairborn, Ohio, informs us that he is doing twelve triathlons and duathlons this year to raise funds on behalf of the Kidney Foundation in honor of his father, James F. Coates, who has been on dialysis for some time. Between April and October 2007, Joe will be in Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and potentially Florida. He will total over three hundred miles of swimming, biking, and running in these races. He invites any alumni who would like to donate per mile to contact him by e-mail at [joecoates75@netscape.net](mailto:joecoates75@netscape.net). **Sarah M. Corvone** married Melanie Adem at Christ Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on November 13, 2004. Melanie is a clinical social worker with a master's degree from Simmons College, and Sarah has a "newish job" as the senior serial cataloger at the Baker Library of Harvard's Business School. The couple resides in Somerville, Massachusetts. **Jeffrey A. Decoster**, Pasadena, California, informs us that an

article about him, including a retrospective of his work and imagery he's created for *Rolling Stone*, the *New Yorker*, and *Time* magazine, is available in *Communication Arts Magazine*. He urges his Kenyon friends to "feel free to write me and say hello" and invites those who are interested in his work to visit [www.jeffreydecoster.com](http://www.jeffreydecoster.com).

**J. Scott Ford**, Breckville, Ohio, tells us that he accepted a new job in November 2006 as the human resources administrator at University Circle Incorporated, a non-profit advocacy, development, and service organization in Cleveland. Scott welcomes everyone to check them out at [www.universitycircle.org](http://www.universitycircle.org). He also continues to work for himself, resolving disputes as an arbitrator for hire. "Look out, Judge Wapner!" Scott warns.

**Kathleen Martin Janssen**, Riverside, Connecticut, finds it hard to believe that her twin daughters, Alyce and Kelly, are more than a year old. Their big brother, Austin, will soon be three years old. She and her husband, Eric, "finally moved out of the city" and enjoy the space and the "less hectic pace" of the Greenwich area. She has recently seen **Karen A. Mombello**, **Emily Resnik Conn**, **Janet Bendix Stoner**, and **Maria DiGiusto O'Neill**, and hopes that her children can play with those of her college roommate, **Gretchen Anderson Pickering**, at the next reunion. **Jennifer M. Minkenzo**, Oxford, Mississippi, tells us that she presented at a conference in Bratislava and managed to travel to her grandfather's home village of Dubovica and actually meet her "real-life Slovak relatives." She notes, "There was plenty of homemade goat cheese and vodka to go around." She's also been preparing to host the American College Dance Festival Association Southeastern Conference at "Ole Miss." During her fall sabbatical, she will be finishing her *Movement for the Actor* text and hopes to travel to Ireland and possibly China with **Scott M. Beggs**. **'89. J. Christopher Northrup**, Winchester, Virginia, notes, "Our

four boys have humbled me more than my Kenyon education. Life is good." **Gretchen Anderson Pickering** and her husband, Jim, announce the birth of a daughter, Jacqueline Anderson Pickering, on December 25, 2006. "It made for a very chaotic holiday," Gretchen says. "Luckily, my parents were visiting, so our son, Jimmy (four), had a somewhat normal Christmas!" The family, which resides in South Seaville, New Jersey, is "adjusting." **Jeffrey H. Schneider**, Atlanta, Georgia, writes that he continues to head his law firm's real estate litigation group and edit a monthly legal newsletter. He organized his eighteenth annual bike race from Atlanta to Savannah, held in April as a fundraiser for the Special Olympics Georgia. His family is doing well. **Mary Schwendener Holt**, Richmond, Indiana, tells us that her sabbatical from Earlham College began this summer and that she has been looking forward to "having the luxury of time to think and reflect." Her private counseling practice continues to grow. **Meghan Toth Strubel**, Oak Park, Illinois, writes, "The only news I have is that I completed the Chicago marathon in October 2006. Prompted by a mid-life crisis, I trained for five months with a fundraising group and finished in a near-record five hours and fifty-five minutes, right behind those Kenyans!" **Jennifer Luce Taylor** and **William W. Taylor**, Germantown, Tennessee, inform us that Bill was recently promoted to president of St. George's Independent School, which has three campuses and approximately twelve hundred students. Jennifer is director of admissions for St. George's elementary division. Their son, **Wilson L. Taylor '11**, is starting his first year at Kenyon, and their daughter, Allyson (fifteen), is getting quite involved in swimming at St. George's High School. "Our school is the only school in the state to have an Olympic-sized swimming pool, so she gets a lot of practice," Bill reports.



'86 **Lauren D. Cottle**  
Palo Alto, California  
loricott@yahoo.com  
**Frank S. Crane IV**  
Staten Island, New York  
fcrane@statenilandacademy.org

**James W. Caley** and his wife, Margoth, announce the birth of their son, Maxwell James Caley, on December 24, 2006. Jim, an attorney and judge advocate in the Navy Reserve, was recalled to active duty in August of last year and is currently serving at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. **Frank S. Crane IV** and **Caroline Stirn Crane** '87 announce the birth of their son, Charles Watkins Crane, on January 1, 2004. The Crane family, which also includes Claire (nine), resides in Staten Island, New York. **Eleanor Tytus Wallace**, Cincinnati, Ohio, informs us that she is still selling real estate, though she's been doing more investment and property management. She'd like to add some "tri-racing or bike time-trialing" to her workouts. Her husband, Jim, continues to run footraces, and their three-year-old son, Charlie, keeps them both busy.

'87 **Colleen R. Siders Eaton**  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
colleen.eaton@gmail.com

**Caroline Stirn Crane** and **Frank S. Crane IV** '86 announce the birth of their son, Charles Watkins Crane, on January 1, 2004. The Crane family, which also includes Claire (nine), resides in Staten Island, New York. **Beth Welty Dreyfuss**, Los Angeles, California, reports that she competes in an ocean swim race once a summer. She also frequently sees **Karen Agee-Lipman** '85, who lives in Calabasas, California, and whose husband played rugby with Beth's husband, Jim. Occasionally, **M. Rebecca Kilburn** will stay with the Dreyfusses when she comes back to Los Angeles for meetings at the Rand Corporation's Santa Monica office. **Robin Zapler Goldstein** informs us that she has returned

to Gambier as Kenyon College's newest ombudsperson. Robin lives in Bexley, Ohio, with her husband, Michael, and their two sons, Zack (thirteen) and Ethan (eleven). **Kelly E. Statham** writes that all is well. He is currently employed as vice president of Engineering at C.A.D./Astatic in Solon, Ohio. The Statham family, which includes Kelly's wife, Carol, and their son, Kenny (three), live in Cleveland. **Emily S. Wasserberg**, Bronx, New York, informs us that, after eight years of living and working in Israel, she's moved to the Riverdale section of the Bronx with her husband, Yaron Pechter, and their sons, Yoni (nine) and Noam (six). She works as a coordinator for a program that provides social work case management to mentally ill adults with a history of multiple hospitalizations. Emily states, "Life is good in the boogie-down Bronx."

'88 **20th Reunion 2008**  
**Patricia Rossman Skrha**  
Cleveland, Ohio  
pskrha@bw.edu

**Matthew J. Hicks III** and **Daniella Stollman Hicks** announce the birth of a daughter, Cate Hicks, on December 28, 2006. The Hicks family, which also includes son Jack (seven), resides in New York City. **John R. Huntley**, Los Lunas, New Mexico, informs us that he began work as an associate for his former immigration law professor, Sarah Reinhardt, as of February 2007. Previous career highlights include a leadership stint in Montana's Democratic Party, work as a prosecutor in Fallon County, Montana, and northeastern New Mexico, and a second-degree murder conviction he obtained based on a single hair. In his personal life, he's traveled from "virtually one end of South America to the other," married Cheng Hong Ang, and obtained his fixed-wing pilot's license. He says hello to old friends and encourages them to stop by or e-mail him at jhuntley304@yahoo.com. **Shelley Terry**, Mars Hill, North

Carolina, announces her marriage to Darien Ball in March 2007 in Maui, Hawaii.

'89 **Andrea L. Bucey-Tikkanen**  
Hudson, Ohio  
andrea.bucey@citizensbanking.com  
**Joan O'Hanlon Curry**  
Ossining, New York  
gijjoan9@aol.com

**Heather Morrow Egan**, Cincinnati, Ohio, informs us that she has been appointed development director of Crayons to Computers (C2C), an innovative store where teachers from low-income schools in the greater Cincinnati area can shop for free, donated supplies for their homerooms and students. **Walter J. Hajduk** writes that he and his wife, Sheryl, have moved to Moorestown, New Jersey, with their two boys, Sam (nine) and Max (six). Walt continues to work for the family manufacturing business but is also two-thirds of the way toward earning his master's degree in U.S. history at Rutgers University. **Amanda Foster Spahr**, Ardmore, Pennsylvania, reports that she's "acting a bit again—so cathartic!!" and that her sons, Callaway (twelve), Jackson (seven), and Griffin (six), are "all strapping, blonde, young Nordic gods." She often sees **Jerome A. McEntee II** when he returns to Pennsylvania for the holidays; Jerry is godfather to Amanda's son Callaway and introduced her to her husband, Terry. She also often sees **Lisa M. Clements**, her "summer-time buddy," and occasionally runs into **David A. Schwartz** around Philadelphia. **Anne C. Switzer**, Ann Arbor, Michigan, tells us that she has become a candidate in her Ph.D. program in science education at the University of Michigan. She hopes to be finishing up in the spring of 2008.

## 1990s

'90 **Jenny Ross Thurber**  
East Lansing, Michigan  
jenny.thurber@davenport.edu

**Gregory C. Aharonian** and his wife, Susan, announce the birth of a son, Nathaniel G. Aharonian, on February 22, 2007. The Aharonian family resides in Sherborn, Massachusetts. **Sally A. Jagelman** married Tony Shackelton on February 19, 2006. The couple resides in Lexington, Kentucky, where Sally works for AdvancMed, a medical education company. **Brian J. McFadden**, Lubbock, Texas, reports that he has been granted tenure and promoted to associate professor of English at Texas Tech University. **Adrienne Youngblood Sedgwick** and her husband, Bill, announce the birth of a son, Jackson Daniel Sedgwick, on December 15, 2006. The Sedgwick family, which includes fraternal three-year-old twins, Jordan (a girl) and Justin (a boy), and their older brother, J.T. (four), resides in Cincinnati, Ohio. "There's never a dull moment," Adrienne observes.

'91 **Angelique Tober Wentzel**  
Pewaukee, Wisconsin  
toberwentzel@yahoo.com  
**Phillip E. Wilson Jr.**  
Yardley, Pennsylvania  
phillip.wilson@dlapiper.com

**Alison J. Black**, Natick, Massachusetts, tells us that she completed the 111th Boston Marathon on April 16, 2007. "The Boston spectators were the best, despite the less-than-favorable weather conditions," she reports. She proudly wore a sign on the back of her shirt indicating her Kenyon alumna status, and received several comments about it. She would love to hear from Boston-area alumni at alison.black@alumni.kenyon.edu. **Meryl H. Brott**, Brighton, Massachusetts, informs us that she is managing the Graduate Green Living Program at the Harvard Green Campus Initiative. She would love to hear from "classmates and anyone interested



in living 'green.'" **Andrea Sigler Castro**, Seattle, Washington, informs us that on January 9, 2007, she and her husband, Paul Vick, flew to Guatemala to adopt Benjamin Conley Vick and Samuel Jorge Vick. The boys were born on May 3, 2006.

—  
'92 **Alise A. Shuart**  
Maywood, New Jersey  
Shuarta@yahoo.com

**Patrick J. McFadden**, Arlington, Tennessee, reports that he won a grant to deliver a paper on applying modern linguistics to Latin pedagogy at the Euroclassica Congress in Stockholm, Sweden, last October. He continues to teach at St. Mary's Episcopal School in Memphis. **Margaret J. Neff** married Jeff Nicklas (University of Virginia '86) on July 22, 2006. The couple resides in New York City, where Margaret oversees the Global Licensing Division of Michael Kors.

—  
'93 **15th Reunion 2008**

**Kevin Kropf**  
Conway, Arizona  
kevin.kropf@hotmail.com

**Katherine Patterson McNulty** and her husband, Colin, announce the birth of a son, Cameron Archer McNulty, on September 20, 2006. The McNulty family, which resides in Santa Barbara, California, also includes Cameron's older brother, Brendan Kerry McNulty (three). Katie reports that life is "fun and busy with two very active boys." She looks forward to "the big reunion" since there are lots of people she'd like to catch up with. **Rosemary Torrisi Turgeon**, Newburyport, Massachusetts, informs us that she recently enjoyed a visit to Richmond, Virginia, with **Sue Corral-Johnson** and her family. The mini-reunion also included **Nicole Lee Kroger** and **Maryann Powell Surrick**. **Kelley E. Wilder**, Berlin, Germany, writes that her institute just bought five of **Michael J. Marshall '93's** photographs to decorate the walls

and "make us think." Kelley says, "Even my neighbor here turns out to be an alum . . . It's a small world."

—  
'94 **Sarah E. Hall**  
Somerville, Massachusetts  
stretch.hall@gmail.com  
**Paul M. Penick III**  
San Francisco, California  
neil\_penick@yahoo.com  
**Chad J. Withers**  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
withers.cj@pg.com

**Joie Monteforte Einstein** and **Nicholas W. Einstein** announce the birth of a daughter, Audrey Elaine Einstein, on February 5, 2007. The Einstein family, which includes Alice (two), moved to Bedford, New York, in July of 2006. "We miss the Seattle crew terribly," Joie writes, but she finds some comfort in the fact that the family now lives about five minutes from **Paul D. Chadwick '93** and **Eleanor R. Fosnot '93** and their twin boys. **Brad L. Lapin** and his wife, Julie, announce the birth of a son, Nathan Eliot Lapin, on February 24, 2007. The Lapin family resides in Stamford, Connecticut. **Elizabeth Schacter** informs us that her first feature film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, which ran from April 25 until May 6 in New York City. Beth's film, *Normal Adolescent Behavior*, has been described as "a darkly comic look at precocious teens grappling with sex, excess, and alienation . . . a provocative take on teen romance in this modern promiscuous age." **Alison Z. Terwedow** married Alfred Haas, her "high school sweetheart," in July 2006. The couple resides in Waltham, Massachusetts. **Keely Price Wilczek** and **Eliot G. Wilczek '95** announce the birth of a daughter, Eleanor Jenna Wilczek, on October 26, 2006. The Wilczek family resides in Somerville, Massachusetts. Keely describes Eliot and herself as "proud, tired, overwhelmed, and delighted parents," and notes that Eleanor has already "met and been admired by" classmates **Katherine Larson**

**Farnham, Michael Patrick Rutter**, and **J. Justin Hall**.

—  
'95 **Edward B. Bierhaus**  
Golden, Colorado  
bierhaus@comcast.net

**Brian H. Groh**, Lawrenceburg, Indiana, informs us that Ecco/Harper Collins has published his debut novel, *Summer People*. To read about it, check the tour schedule, or order a book, visit [www.summerpeoplethenovel.com](http://www.summerpeoplethenovel.com). **Eliot G. Wilczek** and **Keely Price Wilczek '94** announce the birth of a daughter, Eleanor Jenna Wilczek, on October 26, 2006. The Wilczek family resides in Somerville, Massachusetts. Keely describes Eliot and herself as "proud, tired, overwhelmed, and delighted parents."

—  
'96 **Courtney A. Carlson**  
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania  
courtneyc@kubark.com

**Shannon P. Galvin**  
Chicago, Illinois  
galvin73@yahoo.com

**Delia A. Kloh**  
Northampton, Massachusetts  
dkloh@alumni.kenyon.edu  
**Sarah E. Michael**  
Santa Monica, California  
sarahemichael@gmail.com

**Lauren MacKay Caplan**, Newtonville, Massachusetts, informs us that she is living near Boston with her six-year-old daughter, Shoshana. Lauren coaches for Landmark Education and teaches yoga at two studios around Boston. **Delia J. Topping**, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, reports that she changed jobs in the fall of 2006 and is now a full-time German teacher at a local high school. "It's a blast! (**Freeman M. Yorde**, we could use you!)." —

'97 **Ed O'Malley**  
Mantoloking, New Jersey  
eco@ospreytc.com  
**Elizabeth A. Pannill**  
Houston, Texas  
epannill@houston.rr.com

**Wendy Haller Gilligan** and her husband, Gabriel, announce the birth of a son, William Landis Gilligan, on January 3, 2007. The Gilligan family resides in Pound Ridge, New York. **Frederick "Fritz" Hemker**, Los Angeles, California, married Patricia Ann Urrutia at the base of Yosemite Falls in Yosemite National Forest on May 5, 2007. Six years after entering the program, Fritz has begun work on his Ph.D. dissertation in political science at Claremont Graduate University. The topic has yet to be determined. **Megan McDonald Higgins** and her husband, Adrian, announce the birth of their second son, Hayden Emmett Higgins, on January 10, 2007. The Higgins family, which also includes Latham McDonald Higgins (three), resides in Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts. **Benjamin A. Kleinerman**, Okemos, Michigan, writes that he completed his one-year postdoctorate program at Harvard University in May 2007. He begins a tenure-track position at James Madison College at Michigan State University during the fall 2007 term. **Jeffrey D. Russell**, Boulder, Colorado, reports that he is "still loving the mountains!" **Kelli A. Stebel** married Todd G. Schrade on March 31, 2007, at the Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois. **Douglas A. Scheftner '95** served as an usher. The couple honeymooned in France, "drinking wine and eating great food along the way." Kelli and Todd live in Chicago. **Sarah Foran Stoklas** and **Patrick J. Stoklas '98** announce the birth of a son, Patrick Joseph Stoklas, on April 7, 2007. The Stoklas family, which also includes John Thomas Stoklas (two), resides in Chicago, Illinois.

—  
'98 **10th Reunion 2008**  
**Jonny Nicholson**  
Andover, Massachusetts  
Jonny.nicholson@gmail.com  
**Karen S. McDonald**  
South Euclid, Ohio  
karenbabb@hotmail.com



**Stella Urban Maris** writes that she has spent six years in South Florida and the Bahamas/Caribbean crewing on and repairing luxury yachts, earning her captain's license, and learning to be a marine electrician. She works a "side job" as a decorative interior painter, and her hobbies include jewelry- and quilt-making and garden fanaticism. "If you are in Fort Lauderdale, call me up for a boat ride through our canals," she offers. **Carrie Wiltshire McCutcheon**, Nashville, Tennessee, writes that she graduated from Vanderbilt Law School in 2005 and has been practicing in Nashville ever since. **Robert A. Milt** and his wife, Stephanie Loranger, announce the birth of a daughter, Maxine Ruth Loranger-Milt, on January 3, 2007. The Milt family lives in Washington, D.C. **Molly Preble** married Mike Topf (University of California-Davis) on November 10, 2006, at Tilden Park in Berkeley, California. **Sarah A. McGeorge** and **Lillian DiGiacomo** were in the bridal party. Molly is a high school English teacher and tennis coach, and Mike works as a finance director for Safeway grocery stores. The couple lives in Pleasanton, California, and can be reached at mptopf@mac.com. **Virginia Secor Shaw** and her husband, Harry, announce the birth of a daughter, Celia Phelps Shaw, on February 2, 2007. The Shaw family, which also includes Harry Alexander Shaw V (two), resides in Oyster Bay Cove, New York. **Patrick J. Stoklas** and **Sarah Foran Stoklas '97** announce the birth of a son, Patrick Joseph Stoklas, on April 7, 2007. The Stoklas family, which also includes John Thomas Stoklas (two), lives in Chicago, Illinois.

—  
**'99 Hilary A. Lowbridge**  
Delaware, Ohio  
lowbridgeh@alumni.kenyon.edu  
**Jesse A. Savage**  
Redwood City, California  
jsavage@alumni.kenyon.edu

**Andrew D. Lebkuecher** married **Alys L. Spensley '01** on

September 8, 2006, in Washington, D.C., with over twenty Kenyon friends present. Alys reports that while living in Kathmandu, Nepal, they enjoyed a visit by **Christopher I. Monson '01** on his "whirlwind tour of Asia." The couple lives in Dulles, Virginia. **Eric G. Smith**, Redondo Beach, California, tells us that he and his wife, Tamara, have recently closed on a home in Redondo Beach in Los Angeles County. Eric has completed his first year with Sony Pictures Television. **Jamie E. Smith**, Washington, D.C., informs us that she is wrapping up four years as the communications director for Madeline Albright and the Albright Group, LLC, and starting a new job as national press lead for Senator Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. **Gabrielle Luebke Stephenson** and Gregory G. Stephenson '00 announce the birth of a daughter, Anna Noelle Stephenson, on December 22, 2006. Gaby, Greg, and Anna Noelle live in Chicago, Illinois. **Mark C. Svenson** writes that he and his wife, Tammy, recently bought a new house in Kittery Point, Maine, just off the Piscataqua Back Channel. The Svensons hope that all is well with fellow classmates. **Shelby Van Voris-Schoenborn**, Richmond Hill, Georgia, writes that her husband, Captain Stephan Schoenborn, departed for Iraq in May on his second tour of duty. Her mother, **Michelle Merian Oelrich '73**, was there to support the couple. Shelby is busy working as a regional coordinator for a mental health treatment nonprofit organization in Georgia. **Christina LeStage White**, San Diego, California, informs us that she is currently employed at the Lodge at Torrey Pines in La Jolla, California, where she works in A.R. Valentien, the fine dining restaurant, as a cook.

## 2000s

**'00 Austin D. Barger**  
New Albany, Ohio  
barger.50@osu.edu  
**David W. Shearer**  
Nashville, Tennessee  
dwshearer@yahoo.com

**John M. Green**, New York, informs us that his new book, *An Abundance of Katherines*, received a Printz Honor, and his first book, *Looking for Alaska*, won the Printz Award in 2006. His website is [www.sparksflyup.com](http://www.sparksflyup.com). **Caroline Smitherman Henry**, Washington, D.C., writes that she has completed her fifth year teaching English as a second language in a public charter school and that she recently celebrated her first anniversary with her husband, Patrick. Last January, she came to Kenyon to visit her sister, **Eleanor Smitherman '09**. **Gregory G. Stephenson** and his wife, **Gabrielle Luebke Stephenson '99**, announce the birth of a daughter, Anna Noelle Stephenson, on December 22, 2006. The Stephensons live in Chicago, Illinois.

—  
**'01 Erin Shanahan**  
Chicago, Illinois  
shanahane@hotmail.com

**Andrew P. Grace** married **Tory L. Weber '02** on August 12, 2006, in Gambier at the Church of the Holy Spirit. Their reception was held in the front yard of professor **David H. Lynn '76's** home. Andy received a two-year Stegner Fellowship in poetry at Stanford University and began attending the workshop during the Fall 2006 semester. The couple resides in Berkeley, California. **Beth A. Harrod**, Washington, D.C., reports that, after being in a serious auto accident in January 2007, she is "on the mend" and training for the Rock and Roll Half-Marathon in Virginia Beach. **Alys L. Spensley** married **Andrew D. Lebkuecher '99** on September 8, 2006, in Washington, D.C., with more than twenty Kenyon friends present. While

living in Kathmandu, Nepal, they enjoyed a visit from **Christopher I. Monson** on his "whirlwind tour of Asia." The couple lives in Dulles, Virginia. **Katherine M. Suttle** married Nathan Weinert on October 7, 2006, in her hometown, Florence, Alabama. The Weinerts live in Birmingham, Alabama, where Katie practices law at Bradley Arant Rose and White LLP. **Sister Jeana M. Visel**, Louisville, Kentucky, reports that she is still getting her feet under her as a high school teacher. A Benedictine nun, she returns regularly to the Sisters of St. Benedict monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana, and works on their Social Responsibility Committee. She's also been getting into icon painting and coordinated an art show of monastery artists' work in the summer of 2007.

—  
**'02 Chris Van Nostrand**  
Chicago, Illinois  
Chris\_vannostrand@yahoo.com  
**Annis Kukulan Meyers**  
Oakland, California  
kukulana@alumni.kenyon.edu

**Michael G. Cole**, Charlotte, North Carolina, tells us that THRIFT Poetic Arts published *time lapse*, a chapbook of Michael's poetry. It can be purchased at [www.thriftpoeticarts.com](http://www.thriftpoeticarts.com). **A'Biel R. Hammonds**, Dallas, Texas, informs us that she completed her master of arts degree in teaching in December 2006, whereupon she left her hometown of Saint Louis, Missouri. "I'm enjoying the adventure!" she says. **Ellen E. Sherman**, Chicago, Illinois, writes that over the past five years she has worked her way up at Careerbuilder.com and has now been a sales manager for over a year. "We work only with staffing companies and . . . travel throughout the country meeting with our biggest customers," Elly says. "This past year has been a lot of twelve- or thirteen-hour days, but also a lot of fun!" **Stephanie L. Spaulding** married Matthew Hoffman on March 3, 2007, in Fort Myers, Florida. The pair



## FOR THE LOVE OF BONES

From mere fragments, Gina Sorrentino seeks larger stories

Paleontologists don't tend to find a fully-formed skeleton just waiting for them. They uncover a piece of an animal's tail here, a shoulder fragment from its prey over there. Excavations yield a challenge: reconstruct an individual story, and perhaps more, from incomplete evidence.

But the meagerness of the findings doesn't lead to despair. Instead, in the words of Gina Sorrentino '02, paleontologists "geek out" over the fragments they discover.

Sorrentino, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in anatomical sciences at Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center, part of the State University of New York, knows how to make the most of fragments. From a bit of bone, she can extrapolate the age, sex, and pathology of an animal.

And she may intuit small dramas. A dinosaur tail with a healed nodule in the place of a missing tip, for example, raises questions, and may suggest answers, about the predator who got the tip as well as about the healing process. "Throwing a baseball or riding a horse—these are things you do in everyday life that affect the physical part of you," Sorrentino notes. Daily life leaves its marks on the bones.

But when Sorrentino says that she's after "an image of the whole," she's talking about something larger than the individual animal. The picture she's seeking may, in fact, embrace an entire era.

Sorrentino spent last summer in the Mahajanga Basin of northwestern Madagascar, digging for fossils as part of a project that combined paleontological research with humanitarian work. Her colleagues from Stony Brook's medical school (where she teaches anatomy) provided dental care and medical

aid to local villagers. Sorrentino and her fellow researchers, meanwhile, under the guidance of lead scientist David Krause, looked for Late Cretaceous fossils, with an ultimate goal of sketching a new vision of the ancient earth.

In brief, the research challenges scientists' earlier notions about the plate tectonic breakup of the Cretaceous supercontinent known as Gondwana, which encompassed present-day Antarctica, South America, Africa, Australia, India, and Madagascar. It was generally thought that Africa, Madagascar, India, and South America broke off at the same time.

One of Krause's earlier expeditions uncovered fossils in Madagascar that scientists then compared to fossils of the same age in South America and Africa. They found that the Madagascar fossils more closely resembled those of South America. According to Sorrentino, the finding suggests that Africa broke off first, leaving Madagascar and South America connected via Antarctica for one to five million years. It is a small discovery that may reshape the way we envision the earth's distant past.

Sorrentino traces her "love of bones" to Kenyon, specifically to a course in human osteology with anthropologist J. Kenneth Smail and a geology course with Eric Holdener of the physics faculty. Holdener remembers her as "someone who loved the subject thoroughly and unabashedly." A biology major, Sorrentino wrote a senior exercise in paleobiology. Her advisor, biologist Christopher Gillen, says she had "that spark, a real inquisitiveness about looking into all of the questions" relating to her topic.

Sorrentino's career path after graduation took her from a conservation project in New Mexico, to a dig in Pompeii, to a biochemistry lab in Minnesota, all in the space of four years. Before starting at Stony Brook in 2006, she also worked as a researcher on a dinosaur dig in Montana sponsored by the Museum of the Rockies.

Her current doctoral research focuses on the relationship between individual development and evolution in several species—she wants to know why certain traits evolved and how change occurred on multiple levels, from gross morphological traits like fins and wings down to finer details involving the regulation of gene expression. The work takes place both in the lab and among fossil collections.

"So many scientists describe what they see, often in an extremely detailed way," says Sorrentino. "But there's so much to be done after that."

—Lauren C. Ostberg '07

bought a house in Fort Myers in 2005 and got a greyhound dog the same year. "Now we are fostering another retired racer," Stephanie writes. **Sarah C. Stella**, Washington, D.C., reports that she is currently interning with the Smithsonian and is working on a proposal for a traveling exhibit on the history of flight attendants. She is also designing a series of ads and the website for an independent shop in her neighborhood.

**Minna Lotta Thayer**, Vancouver, Washington, informs us that she is teaching math at an alternative high school and that she and her husband, Joe, have been fixing up their house and yard.

**Tory L. Weber** married **Andrew P. Grace '01** on August 12, 2006, in Gambier at the Church of the Holy Spirit. Their reception was in the front yard of professor **David H. Lynn '76's** home. The couple lives in Berkeley, California, where Tory works part-time at UC-Berkeley and Andrew is a Stegner Fellow at Stanford.

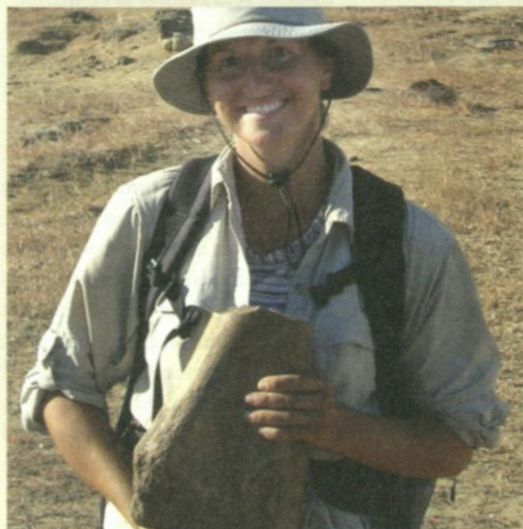
### '03 5th Reunion 2008

**Phillip E. Ross**

Anaheim, California

babyface1981@earthlink.net

**Jacob D. Howley** tells us, "It's been a wild three years." After two published articles, a European moot court competition in Ireland, and "so much homework," he graduated from Georgetown Law School this May. He will start work as an attorney in the corporate law division of the U.S. Postal Service in Washington, D.C. **Justin G. Karpinos** married **Ashley J. Rowatt** on March 24, 2007, in Louisville, Kentucky. Members of the wedding party included **Laura M. Wareck**, **Carlos M. Vega**, **Daniel C. Keipfer**, and **Andrew "Trey" Smith '04**. Twenty-eight current and former members of the Kenyon swimming extended family also attended the wedding. In May, Ashley graduated from Vanderbilt Medical School and recently started her residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the Vanderbilt





University Medical Center. Justin has taken a job as the dean of student life and head swimming coach at the University School of Nashville. They invite all Kenyon friends to visit them. The couple resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Madeline Podnar Stewart**, Columbia, Maryland, writes that she was recently asked to join the advisory board of the Mountain School of Milton Academy in Vershire, Vermont, and "had the pleasure of interviewing a student applying to Kenyon." **Carter A. Swope**, New York City, informs us that she is currently a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in middle school special education at Bank Street College of Education. **Sarah L. Wasserman**, Princeton, New Jersey, writes that she left Chicago in September 2006 to pursue her Ph.D. in English at Princeton University, where she focuses on contemporary American literature and pop culture. She spent the summer of 2007 living abroad in Paris, Morocco, and Senegal. "I'm looking forward to our reunion next year!" she adds. **Betsy J. Welch**, Vail, Colorado, informs us that she has finished her third year as a Spanish teacher at Vail Mountain School. She spent this past summer leading a group of high school students through Spain. **Ann E. Weinheimer**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, informs us that "after dreaming about it for twenty years," she earned her doctorate in veterinary medicine from Cornell University in May 2007. Her first year as a veterinarian will be spent as an intern at the University of Pennsylvania.

'04 **Cynthia A. Cunningham** Chillicothe, Ohio  
cynthia.cunningham@gmail.com  
**Jesse G. Spencer**  
Los Angeles, California  
jessegspencer@gmail.com

**Keely M. Kurtas** married Christopher Chapman in a ceremony at Liberty Presbyterian Church in Delaware, Ohio, on March

24, 2007. **Stephanie K. Skinner** was a bridesmaid, and professor **Jonathan E. Tazewell '84** sang and provided guitar accompaniment to the violinist. The couple resides in Columbus, Ohio, where Chris is an information technology professional with AEP and a professional photographer. Keely coordinates the billing department for Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease LLP and works with local theater companies. **Hillary R. Strong** married Jonathon Hurst (Dartmouth) on May 26, 2007, in Cincinnati, Ohio. **Sarah Steen Holcomb '01**, **Madeline Courtney-Brooks '02**, **Laura M. Wareck '03**, and **Kristin M. Landry** were members of the bridal party. The Hursts live in Cleveland, where Jonathon is a sports attorney and Hillary teaches in inner-city schools.

'05 **Alexandra M. B. Whitaker**  
Rockville, Maryland  
alexandrawhitaker@gmail.com

**Kelly A. Smallwood**, Vienna, Virginia, informs us that she's been living in the Northern Virginia/D.C. area for the past year and a half and works as the director of communications for a private academy in Alexandria, Virginia. Kelly notes, "Life is good," and says, "Look me up on facebook, if you want."

'06 **C. Hayes Wong**  
Atlanta, Georgia  
hayeswong128@gmail.com  
**Andrew J. Hass**  
Chevy Chase, Maryland  
andrew.hass@gmail.com

**Sarah E. Spiegler**, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, reports that she is living in a house with **Meredith R. Wylde** and **Justin N. Lacaille**. **Laura K. Wallace**, Seattle, Washington, tells us that she currently works at Borders Books and Music and "would be delighted to see any Kenyon folk who may be in the area."

## IN MEMORIAM

**L. Alan Seymour '37**, on April 15, 2007. The Evergreen, Colorado, resident was ninety-one.

Alan graduated with a degree in history. He entered World War II as a U.S. Navy intelligence officer, studying at the Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1942. He was a Japanese interpreter and translator for the Navy during and after the war. Alan continued to work for the federal government after leaving the Navy in 1949, including work as a scientific liaison to the Army attache at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, and with the Central Intelligence Agency and National Science Foundation, where he worked as a study director in the office of economic and manpower studies. Alan also performed manpower-development studies in underdeveloped countries while he worked for several years for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization based in Paris, France. After retirement in 1976, Alan became active in the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors and collected hundreds of clocks, which he wound in a weekly ritual.

Alan is survived by his wife, Carolyn; daughter, Susan Oesting; sons Fred and Larry; eight grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; brother, Bill; two nephews; and seven nieces.

**Jack E. Titus '38**, on June 22, 2007, after a lengthy illness. The League City, Texas, resident was ninety-one.

Jack studied economics at Kenyon and went on to a successful business career in Texas, but his roots ran deep in Gambier. The village native was the son of master cabinetmaker Arthur Titus, who worked for the College. Among other pieces, Arthur built conference tables in use for more than sixty years. Jack helped his father build a walnut trophy case that has stood in Peirce Hall, and

father taught son how to replace leaded-glass windows in campus buildings.

Jack grew up in a village that featured a grocery store on the site of the current Village Inn and a jail in the building now occupied by the Weather Vane dress shop.

"My years at Kenyon were during the lean years at the height of the Great Depression," Jack wrote in a letter to students joining the Class of 1993. "I was living at home and had a tuition-only scholarship, working afternoons and holidays at the College. There were no funds for fraternity activities, or time to participate in intramural sports."

Leaving Kenyon, Jack became a traveling salesman, earning \$18 a week while working ten-hour days, six days a week. Within a couple of years he doubled his salary as supervisor of a three-man sales crew. The U.S. Army beckoned with the outbreak of World War II, and Jack served in Europe in an armored division under the command of General George S. Patton.

After the war, Jack figured Houston, Texas, was ripe for growth, and he formed the J.E. Titus Company, an industrial and commercial paint contracting business that eventually came to be called JETCO. He also ventured into oil exploration.

In the 1990s, Jack became a member of the College Alumni Council and president of the Kenyon Association of Houston. He received the 1993-94 Anne J. Robinson Award for outstanding service as a regional association president.

He urged students to set goals and, once achieved, to aim higher. If success is not fulfilling, he said, be fearless in exploring new avenues. "Being armed with a Kenyon liberal-arts education, you have the tools to achieve, excel, and seize the opportunities to attain the goals," he wrote to students. "The tools I speak of are the arts of learning and communicating."

Jack was an avid supporter of the College, often organizing



Houston-area Kenyon activities, and he returned to Gambier many times. The College, he believed, is as strong as its alumni base. "The basic purpose of alumni is to guarantee financial stability for the College," he said in a 1992 interview.

An uncle of Margaret Gorsuch, a now retired secretary in the office of Alumni and Parent Programs, he became known as "Uncle Jack" to many in the college administration.

"He was driven to succeed," Gorsuch said. "My mother (Helen Titus Smith) said Jack was always selling something, even vegetables out of the garden. He left Gambier probably with not much money in his pockets. And he became quite successful. He was very devoted to Kenyon."

Jack is survived by his wife, Ann; son, Jack Jr.; stepdaughters Bea Davies and Laura Moeller; two grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

**Edwin W. Gerrish, '39 P '76**, on March 18, 2007. The Watertown, South Dakota, resident was eighty-eight.

Edwin was a member of Beta Theta Pi. He graduated with a degree in biology. Edwin graduated from the Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1943. After two years of surgical training at University Hospitals of Cleveland, he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, including duty in the Philippines. Edwin returned to University Hospitals for three more years of surgical training. He became an assistant professor of pediatric surgery at University Hospitals and was on staff as associate surgeon and surgeon in charge of the outpatient department. In 1958, Edwin moved to Mobridge, South Dakota, where he was the only surgeon within about one hundred miles. He was the American College Surgeons of South Dakota president in 1969 and practiced general surgery there until 1970. He moved

to Chicago in 1970 and became the director of the assembly department at the American College of Surgeons, retiring in 1990. He received the Distinguished Surgeon Award from the college of surgeons in 1988. Edwin moved to Watertown in 1990 and to Sun City, Arizona, in 1996. He returned to Watertown in 2005. Edwin mastered salmon fishing on Lake Michigan while living in Chicago. He also became proficient in needlework.

Edwin is survived by his wife, Ann; daughter, Betsy Johnson; sons Edwin, Lon, and Michael; and nine grandchildren.

**George B. Kopf, Jr., '40**, on March 29, 2007, of cancer. Kopf, of Laguna Niguel, California, was eighty-nine.

George was president of the Middle Kenyon Association and a member of Tau Kappa Alpha. He graduated with a degree in political science and then served as a U.S. Navy officer aboard the U.S.S. Edmonds, a destroyer escort, in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He later became president of Kopf Motor Sales, a family-owned General Motors dealership in Toledo, Ohio. George later joined Owens-Illinois, where he managed ground transportation for the Forest Products division. He became a consultant for the company after his retirement to California in 1979. George was a founding member of both St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church in Toledo and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in San Juan Capistrano, California.

George is survived by his wife, Roseanne; daughter, Elizabeth Gillespie; sons George and David; and five grandchildren.

A donation in George's name may be sent to the Sloan-Kettering Memorial Cancer Center, 1275 York Avenue, New York, New York, 10021.

**Roger T. Sherman '46**, on April 9, 2006. The Atlanta, Georgia, physician was eighty-two.

Roger graduated with a degree in biology and earned a medical degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1948. He then served in the U.S. Army at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He joined the faculty of the University of Tennessee at Memphis in 1959 and later established the state's first burn unit. In 1972, he became chairman of the department of surgery at the University of South Florida College of Medicine in Tampa, where he also created a burn unit. After ten years in Florida, he became professor of surgery at Emory University in Atlanta and chief of surgery and trauma at Grady Memorial Hospital. He was honored for his work in burn management by the American Trauma Society in 1988.

Roger's wife of fifty years, Ruth, died in 2002. He is survived by daughters Liz Anderson, Nina Johnston, Julie McKenna, and Nann Ricard; son, John; nine grandchildren; wife, Mary Ellen; Mary Ellen's four daughters and her stepdaughter; and sister, Nan Sussmann. Memorial donations may be sent to the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation at Callaway Gardens, 17800 U.S. Highway 27, Pine Mountain, Georgia, 31822.

**Richard H. Suehrstedt 1950**, on January 21, 2007. A resident of Berea, Ohio, he was seventy-eight.

Richard graduated with a degree in marine engineering from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1951, after two years at Kenyon. After serving in the U.S. Army, he became a naval architect and was president of Marine Consultants and Designers in Cleveland, Ohio. His design work is evident in many of the ships now operating on the Great Lakes.

Richard is survived by his wife, Arlene; sons Craig, Eric, and Richard; nine grandchildren; and sister, Ruth Hammonds. Memo-

rial contributions may be sent to the First Congregational United Church of Christ cornerstone fund, 33 Seminary Street, Berea, Ohio, 44017.

**David J. Bunnell '51**, on October 23, 2006. The seventy-seven-year-old physician lived in Santa Ana Orange, California.

David was a biology major and member of Phi Kappa Sigma, the choir, and the Rifle Club. In his application to the College, David noted that, after college, he hoped to "go to medical school, an ambition I have had for almost ten years." David earned his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1955.

David served as a major in the U.S. Air Force in 1958-63, and spent the following thirty years as a physician at Harbor Pediatrics in Newport Beach, California. He served as chairman of the pediatric department of Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach (1968-72) and as a member of the Cystic Fibrosis Medical Advisory Board (1970-82). He was a longtime associate clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of California at Irvine School of Medicine.

He is survived by children Beth, Bill, Sharon, and Tom Bunnell, and by six grandchildren.

**Henry A. Zeiger '52**, in 2006. The Hoboken, New Jersey, resident was sixty-six.

Henry graduated with a degree in English after transferring from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. He entered the U.S. Army in 1953 and served in Korea as a radio operator in 1954-55. Henry was an author, drama critic, magazine journalist, playwright, taxicab driver, and union activist. His books include *The Case Against Adolf Eichmann*; *Ian Fleming: The Spy Who Came in with the Gold*; *Lyndon B. Johnson: Man and President*; *The Seizing of the Santa Maria*; *Robert F. Kennedy, a Biography*; and *Inquest! Ted Kennedy-Mary Jo Kopechne*,



*Prosecution or Persecution?* His stories and reviews were published by *Harper's*, *New Leader*, the *New Republic*, and the *New York Times Magazine*. In the middle 1990s, Henry worked for the Association for Union Democracy, a pro-labor, nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of democratic trade unionism, based in Brooklyn, New York.

Henry died in his apartment. His body was found in October 2006 after inquiries by a friend.

**Samuel E. Turner '53**, on May 7, 2007. Samuel lived in Green Valley, Arizona, and died at seventy-nine.

Samuel earned a degree in political science. He was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma. Samuel joined Anchor-Hocking Glass as a salesman after leaving Kenyon and rose to the position of national sales manager, retiring after thirty-one years.

Samuel is survived by his wife, Mary; daughter, Patricia; son, Terry; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be sent to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73123.

**William Poe Yohe '53**, on April 21, 2007, after a short battle with lung cancer. Bill was a seventy-six-year-old resident of Durham, North Carolina.

Bill was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon, editor of the *Collegian*, and co-editor of the yearbook. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa in economics. He went on to earn a master's degree (1954) and doctorate (1959) in economics from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He taught economics at Duke University in Durham for more than forty years. He enjoyed singing in the church choir, communicating via amateur radio, and spending time with his birds, cats, and dogs.

Bill is survived by his former wife, Susan Hoggard Yohe, and children Kristine, Mary Jean, Peter, and William Yohe.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at ASPCA Member Support, 110 Fifth Avenue, 2nd floor, New York, New York, 10011, or the Music Memorial Fund, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 82 Kimberly Drive, Durham, North Carolina, 27707.

**Christian N. Bassick M '56**, on December 15, 2006. The Largo, Florida, resident was seventy-two.

Christian graduated from the University of Bridgeport in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in 1958, after transferring from Kenyon. He was a retired bank examiner for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The longtime resident of Fairfield, Connecticut, had moved to Largo in 1997.

He is survived by his wife, Judith; daughter, Rebecca Minichini; sons Christian Jr. and David; four grandchildren; and brother, David. Memorial donations may be sent to the American Heart Association, 1 Union Street, #301, Robbinsville, New Jersey, 08691.

**Robert W. Van Dyke '59**, on December 20, 2006. The Palm Bay, Florida, resident was sixty-nine.

Robert graduated with a degree in political science. At Kenyon, he played soccer and was a member of the International Relations Club, the Kenyon Choir, the Kenyon Christian Fellowship, the Kenyon Singers, the Law Club, and Phi Kappa Sigma. Robert was also a member of the United States Marine Corps Reserves. He became a contract manager at Martin Marietta Corporation, and also worked for the Harris Corporation, Wachovia Bank, and Bojan Enterprises.

Robert is survived by his wife, Janet; daughters Kimberly DeStefano, Rene Ehman, Michelle Perling, and Kathryn Savage; son, Michael Lockwood; ten grandchildren; brothers Loyal and William; and several nephews and nieces.

Donations in Robert's name may be made to the American

Heart Association, 2800 Aurora Road, Melbourne, Florida, 32904.

**John S. MacInnis '62**, on February 15, 2007. The Berkeley, California, resident was sixty-six.

John graduated cum laude with a degree in economics. He was a member of Sigma Pi, competed on the debate team, and worked for the Kenyon radio station. John attended Kenyon on a scholarship through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, and he later served in the U.S. Air Force as a systems analyst. John earned a master's degree in economics at Ohio State University in Columbus in 1963 and a law degree in 1972 at the University of California at Berkeley. In the 1970s, John worked as the director of economic development for the island of Yap in Micronesia, where he sometimes served as a U.S. consular officer. John later became a real estate developer in California, and he took pride in restoring residential and commercial buildings.

John is survived by his wife, Donna Heinle; sons Donovan and Kevin; and mother, Marion. Memorial donations may be sent to Magnificat (an early-classical Baroque performance group), 601 Van Ness Ave., E3-142, San Francisco, California, 94102, or to the Carmel Bach Festival, P.O. Box 575, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921.

**Philip M. Pittman '63**, on April 20, 2007. The resident of Cedarville, Michigan, was sixty-six.

Philip was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon. He graduated with a degree in English. He earned a master's degree, in 1964, and doctorate in English literature, in 1967, at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He was an assistant professor of English at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada, for the 1967-68 academic year, and then became an associate professor at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia,

where he worked from 1968-80. Philip retired from teaching and moved to Marquette Island in Cedarville, where he became an author, historian, and publisher and pursued his interest in salmon fishing. Among his books are *The Les Cheneaux Chronicles: Anatomy of a Community*; *Ripples from the Breezes: A Les Cheneaux Anthology*; *Don't Blame the Treaties: Native American Rights and the Michigan Indian Treaties*; and *North Shore Chinook: Lake Huron Salmon on Light Tackle*. Philip played an active role in his community, serving as president of the Les Cheneaux Historical Association and the Les Cheneaux Islands Association and working as a board member of the Little Traverse Conservancy.

Perry C. Lentz, Charles P. McIlvaine Professor of English, was a student colleague of Philip's at Kenyon and at Vanderbilt. Philip, Lentz said, showed brilliance as a student of literature. "He was very much a gentleman in the fullest sense of that word," Lentz said. "Not only did he know which fork to use, he was very generous and very gentle in his relations with others. He was very courteous." After retiring as an educator, Philip became "a figure of real consequence" in his Michigan community, Lentz added.

Philip is survived by his wife, Margaret Dearing Pittman; children, Mary Christine Stuart Pittman, Noel Pittman Davidson, and Philip Pittman II; four grandchildren; siblings John Pittman and Sally Wright; stepchildren Deborah Ellington, Debora McGuiness, and Drucilla Wrasse; three step-grandchildren; and several nephews and nieces.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Little Traverse Conservancy, 3264 Powell Road, Harbor Springs, MI, 49740, or the Friends of the Les Cheneaux Community Library, P.O. Box 332, Hessel, Michigan, 49745.



**Edgar Robinson McGuire II '67**, the son of Edgar Robinson McGuire '49 and T.J. Polus, on April 1, 2007, after a lengthy illness. He was sixty-one and a longtime resident of Boulder, Colorado, who spent his last eight years in Richmond, Virginia.

A drama major, Edgar participated in many Kenyon College Dramatic Club (KCDC) productions. He had major roles in *The Old Glory* and *The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch* and directed *Agamemnon* as his Senior Exercise. During his senior year, he was president of KCDC and president and charter member of Alpha Sigma Chi. Edgar earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado. He designed software in Colorado for US West, Allied Signal, and California Casualty Insurance. In Richmond, he worked on projects for NASA Pre-Service Teacher Institutes, the Virginia Department of Education, Capital One, and Circuit City.

Edgar never lost his love of the theater. He spent ten years with Nomads Community Theater in Boulder, where he was an actor, director, and stage, lighting, and sound designer in 1977-88.

He is survived by children Eryn and Kristopher McGuire; wife, Kathy Nunemaker; sister, Katherine McGuire; and aunt, Annette Cravens.

**Claire M. Bass '79**, on March 3, 2007. The Nashville, Tennessee, resident was forty-nine.

Claire was active in the Kenyon College Dramatic Club and was directed by actor Paul Newman '49 in C.C. Pyle and the *Bunion Derby*. She also performed in productions of *When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?* and *The Crucible*, among others. Claire was an actress, comedienne, drama coach, playwright, public speaker, teacher, and writer. She graduated from the Second City Training Center in Chicago, Illinois, and earned an associate degree in

theater and performance at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles, California. She taught drama at the Pasadena Playhouse in Pasadena, California. She had several small roles in film and television comedies. After returning to Chicago, she taught French and English at the Chicago Academy of Dramatic Arts. She then moved to Nashville, where she was a substitute drama teacher at the Harpeth Hall School.

Breezy Salmon '79 of Nashville, Claire's longtime friend and former roommate, said Claire had "a special magic" with people and was a talented entertainer and skilled teacher. "She made so many people laugh," Breezy said. "Claire always had tons of friends everywhere she went. She could charm the socks off anybody."

Claire is survived by her parents Edith Bass and Jack Bass, Jr.; stepmother, Melinda Bass; brother, Jack Bass III; sisters Jean Bass, Leslie Bass, Lisa Foote, and Mary Nelson; and several nephews and nieces. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA, 22312; the Kenyon College Department of Dance and Drama, Office of Development, College Relations Building, Gambier, Ohio, 43022; or any charity.

**Stephen G. Breen '79**, on May 2, 2007. The resident of Portola Valley, California, was fifty-one.

Stephen graduated with a degree in philosophy and went on to earn a master's degree in business administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California, in 1985. He worked as a financial adviser for several firms before creating his own business, Financial Advocates, in Portola Valley, in 1990. Stephen competed in marathons and enjoyed swimming, including an annual swim in the San Francisco Bay from Alcatraz Island to Buena Vista in San Francisco.

Stephen is survived by his daughters Rose and Tenley; sons Kellen and Ryan; father, Joseph; brothers Joseph, Regis and Sean; sisters Christine and Deirdre; and several nephews and nieces.

**Pierce E. Cunningham, Jr., '81**, on May 4, 2007, after a heart attack. The resident of Okemas and Mackinac Island, Michigan, was forty-seven.

Pierce won the Paul Newman Trophy for his performance as Brian in *The Shadow Box* in 1981, and, among others roles at Kenyon, played Mr. Marshall in *The Little Foxes* in 1979. He was also editor of HIKA. After graduating with a degree in English, Pierce went on to a career in acting and freelance writing.

He married Margaret Musser '82 in 1997 on Mackinac Island, where Margaret's family owns the Grand Hotel. Pierce's sister-in-law, Robin Musser Agnew '82, said Pierce reflected fondly on the College. "He loved Kenyon," Agnew said.

Pierce is survived by his wife, Margaret; parents Pierce and Roberta Cunningham; brother, James; sisters Anna Bohlke and Ellen Cunningham; and several nephews and nieces. Contributions in Pierce's memory may be made to Kenyon College, Office of Development, College Relations Building, Gambier, Ohio, 43022.

**John D. St. Julian '93**, on April 27, 2007, of injuries suffered in a traffic accident. He was thirty-six and lived in Austin, Texas.

John was a co-captain and a four-year member of the Lords football team, playing linebacker and on the defensive line. He was also a member of Beta Theta Pi. He graduated cum laude with a degree in political science. John embarked on a career in Internet technology, starting as a systems engineer for Andersen Consulting in 1993. He moved to Software Technologies Corporation in 1997 as director of professional services,

and, in 1999, he became a management consultant in technology for Business Edge Solutions. John's twin, Joseph '93, was also a co-captain of the football team. "I have wonderful memories of my time at Kenyon, a journey greatly amplified by the fact that I got to experience it with my brother," Joseph said. "He was an unusual blend of kindness, intellect, innocence, determination, generosity, and loyalty. John will live on in the hearts of everyone he touched or nurtured, and I'll miss him always."

Jim Meyer, then head football coach at Kenyon and now assistant head coach at Ashland University, described John as a team leader. "He was a tough, hard-nosed kid," Meyer said. "He gave us four great years and was very productive for us. He got along great with the other kids."

The brothers coped with the death of their mother, Rosemary St. Julian, during the football season of their sophomore year. They carried on with the team, Meyer said. "It took a lot of courage to keep going," he said. "They were an inspiration for me."

John is survived by his wife, Kelly; father, James; brothers James and Joseph; sisters Heather, Jean, and Joan; two nephews; and three nieces. Memorial donations are welcome at the John St. Julian Football Memorial Fund or the John St. Julian Scholarship, both care of Central Catholic High School, 2550 Cherry St., Toledo, Ohio, 43608.



## KENYON CAREER NETWORK GOES ONLINE

The ability to network with Kenyon alumni and parents about careers and externships is now at your fingertips, quite literally. The Kenyon Career Network (KCN) is now online at [alumni.kenyon.edu](http://alumni.kenyon.edu) to facilitate greater availability to current students and alumni. Extern sponsor profiles are also included in the online network.

If you are a registered user of the Kenyon Alumni Association Online Directory, select the "Returning User" button and enter your username and password. If you have never registered, contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Programs at 740-427-5147 to request your identification number that is required for access.

Click on the Kenyon Career Network from the menu to look for career contacts, sign up to serve as a KCN volunteer, or sign up to serve as an extern sponsor. KCN online is easy to use, with the ability to search by occupational category, location, keyword, externships, and other criteria. Current volunteers may also update their home and business profiles, indicate contact preferences, and share their personal career histories and advice.

If you have questions about the KCN online or wish to serve as a KCN or extern volunteer, please contact the Career Development Center: [cdc@kenyon.edu](mailto:cdc@kenyon.edu) or 740-427-5165.

## Uniquely Kenyon



### GREAT (HALL) CELEBRATIONS

Peirce Great Hall has been the scene of countless dances, gatherings, wedding receptions, and other celebrations since its opening in 1929. In this scene from 1938, students and their guests dance to the sounds of Red Nichols on a dance weekend.

Although Peirce Hall is in the midst of a major renovation and expansion, the Great Hall will be little changed from its earliest years. To celebrate the opening of the renovated and enlarged

Peirce and Dempsey halls, the Office of Alumni and Parent Programs is asking you to **submit your photos of Great Hall celebrations** throughout the years. Selected photos will be displayed during the building's upcoming dedication ceremony. Post your photos at [alumni.kenyon.edu](http://alumni.kenyon.edu), or send them to us directly. **Contact Jill Shriver in the Office of Alumni and Parent Programs at [shriverj@kenyon.edu](mailto:shriverj@kenyon.edu).**



## POST-FIFTIETH ALUMNI GATHER IN GAMBIER

Fifty-seven alumni and their guests from the classes of 1952, 1947, 1942, and 1937 gathered for their post-fiftieth reunion in Gambier last April. Alumni spent an evening with President S. Georgia Nugent, attended classes, and met Kenyon students and faculty—and even spent a little time on McBride Field.

The reunion's honored alumnus was **John W. Bingham Jr. '37** (on the right, pictured with **Lloyd Derrickson '47**), who traveled from Foley, Alabama, to Gambier by car with his dog Pardy. To recognize Bingham's longtime loyalty, President Nugent offered him an all-expenses-paid trip for his next journey to Kenyon—if he promises to fly.



### Football Memories

Members of the 1947 football team re-enacted their gridiron glories during the post-fiftieth reunion, when they donned uniforms and gathered on McBride Field. The teammates, from left to right, were Kevin O'Donnell '47, Lane Roth '47, John Hartman '47, Lloyd Derrickson '47, and team manager Fred Arner '47.

*Photos by Emily Zeller '08*





## BECOMING GHOSTS

By Laura Hillenbrand '89

I lost Kenyon in a driving rainstorm in the spring of 1987. I was nineteen, seriously ill and frightened. That morning I signed the forms that officially withdrew me from school, hugged my boyfriend Borden and my best friend Lincoln goodbye, climbed into a battered Toyota, and pulled out, bound for hospitals and tests and suffering beyond comprehension. Borden and Linc stood in the rain until the car was out of sight.

I drove through campus, looking at Kenyon for the last time. A memory hung on every windowsill, every flight of steps, every lean of the road. I rode past the mot-tled tree where Linc and I shared our secrets. Past Caples, where a guy named John built a massive cardboard airplane, launched it off the roof, and cheered it on as it soared over the parking lot, then augured down inches short of someone's front window. Past the quad in front of Norton, where I broke my nose playing football with the guys from Lewis. Past the deli where I sucked down coffee, fretted over osteology, drowsed over Burke, and first saw Borden. Past the lawn where I first felt a body folded around mine, lips warm by my ear, a whispered I love you. Past the house where Megan, my English professor, wrote me the letter that made me a writer. Past the dorm where I first heard stories about the ghosts that haunt the campus. Past the bench where I sat and wondered why ghosts come here.

Nearly half a lifetime has passed. I never got well, and never came back. Borden became my husband. My friends moved on, graduated, scattered to the winds. John, builder of rogue cardboard planes, is dead. Linc is ushering his chil-

dren through the world. Some of my friends have vanished. The rest are tending mortgages and children, thinning hair, thickening waists. Life is better and worse, simpler and more complicated, and the people we used to be slip further and further away, becoming ethereal. Becoming ghosts.

Sometimes, in my imagination, I go back to Kenyon and live in my former self, nineteen and exquisitely, irretrievably alive. I draw my friends around me, just as they were, and drift through the places where my memories are gathered. I see others here,

animating their own lost selves. I glide down Middle Path with the other ghosts, understanding now why they come.

*Laura Hillenbrand is the author of Seabiscuit: An American Legend. She wrote the book while battling the debilitating exhaustion and crippling vertigo associated with chronic fatigue syndrome. The disease forced Hillenbrand to leave Kenyon after two years. She did eventually earn her degree: Kenyon bestowed an honorary bachelor's degree—and an honorary doctorate—on Hillenbrand in 2003.*





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For up-to-date information on events at the College, visit the Kenyon site on the World Wide Web at [www.kenyon.edu](http://www.kenyon.edu)

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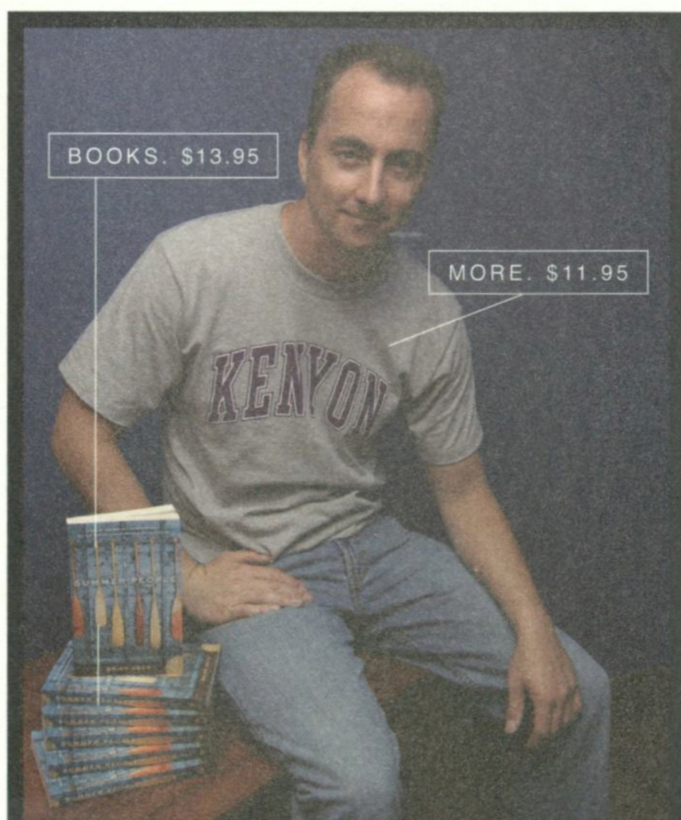
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