

OPINIONS & EXPRESSIONS

A Legacy of Leadership

The passing last fall of legendary professor S. Lane Faison '29 spurred thoughts on his remarkable impact on students as well as the influence of our faculty as a whole.

Those touched by Lane's presence at Williams, as so many of us were, will be happy to know that he was an active member of the community well into his 99th year—full of insight, sparkle and wit.

Since he arrived in Williamstown as a freshman in fall 1925, the man who would become the Amos Lawrence Professor of Art, emeritus, charmed generations of Williamsfolk—charmed *and* inspired, since his influence was profound. He was a respected scholar and widely read author on the art of his time, and he played a central role in the return to rightful owners of art plundered in World War II. But Lane's finest legacy is undoubtedly his students.

With Whit Stoddard '35, Bill Pierson and others in the department, Lane turned countless young people on to the beauty and challenges of art. A remarkable number of them went on to become leading administrators, curators, scholars, creators and supporters—the famous Williams Art Mafia. Many more were enriched by a lifelong engagement with art.

Lane personifies the Williams faculty in many ways, especially in the work of generating future leaders, which happens across the College. As examples, look at the majors of this year's Bicentennial Medalists, alumni cited by the College for remarkable achievement in any field:

Stanley O. Foster '55 (biology), a leader of the successful effort to eradicate smallpox; Eric Reeves '72 (philosophy), a noted citizen activist for human rights in Sudan; Anna L. Waring '78 (psychology), president

of Josephinum Academy in inner-city Chicago; Gregory M. Avis '80 (political economy), venture capitalist, philanthropist and community developer; Elizabeth A. Andersen '87 (history, Russian and Soviet studies), developer of legal systems in emerging democracies; and Cathy Salser '88 (studio art), artist and founder of a program that uses art to help victims of domestic violence.

You can learn more about these inspirational people and see the impressive list of all Bicentennial Medalists at www.williams.edu/alumni/news/awards/. To do so is to look at the legacy of the Williams faculty. Graduates of this small college have a disproportionate impact for good in the world as leaders in their fields and in their communities. And when you ask what influenced them, as I often do, the answer almost invariably includes homage to one or more professors at Williams.

Long known as a college that produces leaders, Williams in recent years has begun to study formally the phenomenon of leadership. Our leadership studies program (see www.williams.edu/leadership/) joins a movement within the academy to focus scholarly study on a subject of such importance to society.

That movement is itself inspired by the person widely regarded as its intellectual founder, James MacGregor Burns '39, Woodrow Wilson Professor of Government, emeritus, whose 1978 book *Leadership* established the field. Jim remains at 88 as engaged and productive as ever. It must be something in the water.

"The ultimate test of practical leadership," he wrote, "is the realization of intended, real change that meets people's enduring needs."

That's what so many Williams alumni over many generations have been contributing to society. Their leadership is a great legacy of the influence of the Williams faculty. And that influence is why the College has expanded the number of professors, so that the Faisons and Burnses of today—and indeed they do exist—can ever more deeply inspire, challenge and shape our students and, through them, the world. ■

—Morty Schapiro



Kevin Kennefick



I enjoyed reading Kevin Delany's '50 article "The Saigon I Left Behind" in the September 2006 *Alumni Review*. My two early encounters with the war were seeing my oldest brother enlist as a Marine in 1966 and getting my lottery number in Baxter

a memory of vietnam

Hall. (Luckily the war was winding down and at a stage where student deferments were still valid, and draftees were conscripted with lottery numbers well below mine.)

My brother survived 13 harrowing months fighting on the Demilitarized Zone (that's an oxymoron!) in all the major battles of the time (1968-69). The nightly news told us the Marines in Con Tien had been overrun by Viet Cong, only to learn the next day that the Marines had retaken the outpost. We didn't learn of my brother's fate until about six weeks later. (He survived physically unharmed.)

I visited Saigon last year for business and visited many of the same places described by Kevin. Most poignant was the museum of which he wrote, and the picture that stands out in my mind is of the camera with the bullet hole right next to the eyepiece; if it was in use at the time, the user couldn't possibly have survived.

I think many of today's generation don't understand what happened to the South Vietnamese after we pulled out—ingloriously, I think. I believe Mr. Delany understands, and I hope today's and future generations learn about the aftermath.

—Bruce K. Entwistle '76, Lower Gwynedd, Pa.

I am outraged by President Morty Schapiro's remarks in the September 2006 *Alumni Review* ("Faith in the Liberal Arts").

Neither Williams nor the world needs more organized religion. The

entire purpose of a liberal

arts education is eviscerated

religion vs. liberal arts

if ideas are to be taught through the distorted prisms of irrational beliefs. It is a tragic day when the president of a major institution of higher learning believes that a grab bag of contradictory tales and murky myths should be placed on equal footing with reason and scientific method.

—Michael Menard '70, Belfast, Maine

As the Field Memorial Professor of Astronomy, I was especially interested in "The Brothers Field," March

2006. The money for my professorship was given

field in the field

by David Dudley

Field, Class of

1825, in memory of his grandchild Harriet Louisa

Dudley Field. The professorship was established in 1865, and I am only the fifth Field Memorial Professor.

In the late 19th century, a Field Memorial Observatory was set up atop The Knolls (the street is still called Observatory Lane). I recently came across the 1901 membership certificate for the observatory from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

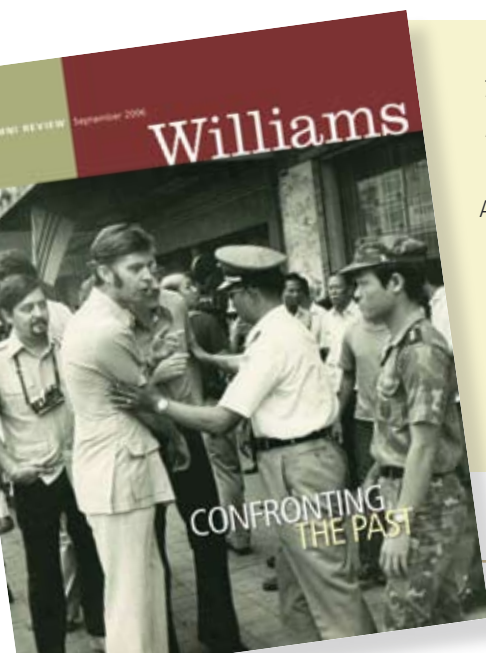
—Jay M. Pasachoff, Williamstown, Mass.

LETTERS

editor's note

In the September 2006 article "Leadership Study," the *Alumni Review* ran a list of Williams faculty who became college or university presidents. The list was compiled from recent memory, so, naturally, we heard from several alumni whose memories were better than ours. Thanks to Paul W. Hannan '71 and Bob Furey '64 for pointing out that we omitted English professor William Glasser, president of Southern Vermont College, and religion professor Robert Spivey, president of Randolph-Macon. Also, history professor Mark Curtis became president of Scripps College. If you know of any others, please let the editors know by contacting alumni.review@williams.edu.

The *Alumni Review* welcomes letters related to topics in the magazine. Send letters to: *Alumni Review*, P.O. Box 676, Williamstown, Mass., 01267-0676; fax: 413.597.4158; e-mail alumni.review@williams.edu. Letters may be edited for clarity and space.



OPINIONS & EXPRESSIONS

Looking at Art, Lane's Way

by Eugene "EJ" Johnson '59

Turn the slide on the left upside down, Steve," Lane Faison '29 said to his trusty projectionist, Steve McNichol, some time in the winter of 1957, when I was taking Art 1-2.

What? Turn the picture over? I was sure that Lane, a pixy grin on his face, was playing a joke on us, but he was serious as well as sly. Turning a painting upside down, Lane then explained, cancels out the interference of subject matter and gravity when one is trying to understand its purely visual qualities.

Sure enough, the brilliance of the composition came through, once the picture, now inverted, was freed of distractions visually illiterate students find all too tempting. In his lectures, Lane taught us little about subject matter and a lot about how to look at a painting for its abstract qualities. That lesson can last a lifetime.

What is more daunting to the neophyte than telling a Manet from a Monet from a Pissarro from a Renoir from a Sisley? Lane showed us how to distinguish the styles of these artists with an ease I still find breathtaking and memorable after almost 50 years.

I proved the value of Lane's technique again to myself this past summer on my first visit to the Ny Carlsberg Glyptothek. I walked into a gallery filled with Impressionist pictures I had never seen before and named their authors with an accuracy that amazed me and the people I was with. Monet always inserts a big form that stops your progression into the space. His shapes

are large in scale. Renoir's curvy brushstrokes are like no other's. Pissarro often looks like Monet, but his sense of scale is smaller, and he doesn't block entry into his pictorial space the way Monet does. Sisley generally makes his buildings and trees float above a flooded landscape. Manet doesn't look like any of the others.

Can you tell Picasso from Braque in the years 1910-12? Almost nothing to it, if you know the Faison method. (Lane did admit that here even he could sometimes be fooled.) Braque remained a classical painter, even when inventing cubism. His compositions almost invariably have a base, his forms almost always respond to gravity, his shapes are less jagged. Picasso levitates his figures; his forms have a nervousness of outline and a more broken, angular quality.

Lane didn't teach us that Picasso drew much better than Braque, however. I learned that for myself before a Picasso and a Braque in Stuttgart. Lane doubtless knew this perfectly well. I believe that he chose not to tell us, because by the time you are close enough to a picture to evaluate the quality of the drawing, you are close enough to read the label and cheat. Lane always made you respond to the forms themselves.

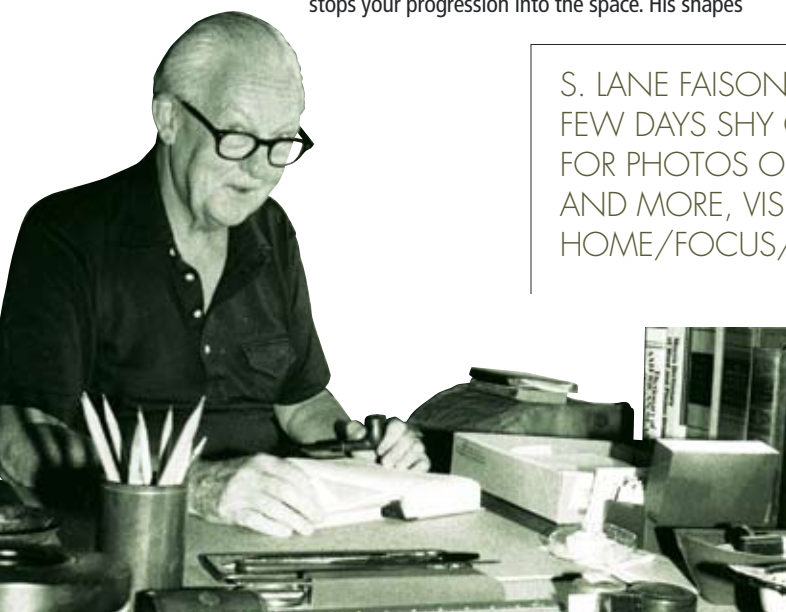
Lane went for the visual jugular. He was not necessarily a great speaker. Sometimes he mumbled a bit, and his voice was rather soft and soothing. But when it was time for the big, revelatory thrust, one word would erupt from his throat like a trumpet blast, cutting

through extraneous if fascinating detail to get to the essence of a work.

Early in my teaching career I was trying to explain to a class of art majors the complex workings of the overlap-

ping elements of the façade of Alberti's Sant'Andrea in Mantua, my dissertation topic. "It's the VERTICALS, the VER-TI-CALS," Lane called from the back of the room. It is, of course, the verticals. They unify the façade and make it one of the great moments in Renaissance architecture. Lane saw the TREEEE, while I was still in the woods. ■

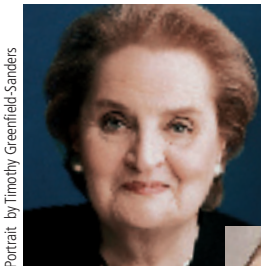
EJ Johnson '59 is the Williams Class of 1955 Memorial Professor of Art.



S. LANE FAISON DIED ON NOV. 11, A FEW DAYS SHY OF HIS 99TH BIRTHDAY. FOR PHOTOS OF FAISON, INTERVIEWS AND MORE, VISIT WWW.WILLIAMS.EDU/HOME/FOCUS/FAISON.

Kate (Leslie) Christianson '80

SCENE AND HERD



Portrait by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders



Clockwise from top: Madeleine Albright, Jonathan Kraft, Collette Chilton, Rachel Shalev

SYMPOSIUM DRAWS ALUMNI LEADERS

Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright was one of several notables participating in a weekend-long symposium last fall that gathered a diverse group of leaders from among the Williams family. Albright participated in a panel discussion about intergenerational leadership along with her daughter Alice P. Albright '83, VP and CFO of The Vaccine Fund, and Robert K. Kraft and his son Jonathan A. Kraft '86, both of the Kraft Group, which owns the New England Patriots. Other presentations at the symposium included leadership in higher education, in communities and during times of adversity.

MARSHALL SCHOLAR TO STUDY IN SCOTLAND

Rachel Shalev '07 was one of 43 students nationwide to receive a prestigious Marshall Scholarship for two years of study in the United Kingdom. The history major plans to pursue an M.Phil. in modern historiography at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland in preparation for a joint J.D./Ph.D.

CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER NAMED

The College has appointed Collette Chilton to the new post of chief investment officer (CIO), charged with overseeing Williams' \$1.6 billion endowment

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For more information on any of these stories, visit www.williams.edu and enter the topic into the search field.

They Said:

A collection of opinions and ideas expressed in Web blogs and in *The Williams Record*, which can be found online at www.williamsrecord.com

"She has brought about great changes to the experience of Williams students. ... Some of those have been highly visible ... but much of the work that she and her colleagues do is invisible to the public." —*Morty Schapiro*, president, on Nancy Roseman's announcement that she's ending her seven-year term as dean of the College in June to return to the biology faculty. All-campus e-mail, 11.9.06

"We ... look at the self-study as a very good opportunity [for improvement] and not simply as something that is mandated on us by the regional accrediting association." —*Roger Bolton*, William Brough Professor of Economics, emeritus, and self-study coordinator, on the College taking its first step in a once-per-decade accrediting process by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Record, 11.8.06

"Just because women are 52 percent of people on campus does not mean that their voices are heard equally all the time." —*Sara Ansell*, campus life coordinator, on efforts to create a Women's Center as an institution on campus. Record, 11.8.06

"The point of the fast was to get a sense of what it might be like to have less than what you have and, in doing so, be inclined to become more charitable and perhaps even recognize the priorities in [your] life." —*Uzaib Saya* '08, Muslim Student Union co-chair, on a Fast-a-Thon that raised \$3,500 to rebuild schools in Darfur. Record, 10.18.06

SCENE AND HERD

Climb far. THE WILLIAMS CAMPAIGN

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Williams' new residential system integrates sophomores, juniors and seniors in four campus neighborhoods—Currier, Dodd, Spencer and Wood—reinterpreting former President Jack Sawyer's post-fraternity "house plan" in ways most appropriate for the 21st century. (To learn more visit www.williams.edu/dean/campus_life/housingatwilliams.html.)

Funding Williams' new student life initiatives is a goal of The Williams Campaign. To learn more go to www.williams.edu/alumni/campaign/about/student/.



Wood	Spencer	Dodd	Currier	First-Year Housing
Agard	Brooks	Goodrich	East College	Armstrong*
Carter	Bryant	Hubbell	Fayerweather	Dennett*
Garfield	Mark Hopkins	Lehman	Fitch	Mills*
Gladden	Morgan	Parsons	Prospect	Pratt*
Perry	West College	Sewall		Sage
		Thompson		Williams
		Tyler		
		Tyler Annex		(*Mission Park)

continued from page 5

on a daily basis. She commutes to campus from her Boston office two days per week.

Chilton spent the last nine years as CIO of Lucent Asset Management Corp., managing a fund worth \$40 billion. Earlier, she was CIO of the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board and of the Massachusetts State Teachers' and Employees' Retirement Systems Trust. She has an M.B.A. from Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business.

JUNIOR HONORED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Kendell Newman '08 was one of two undergraduates nationwide to receive a Frank Newman Leadership Award for scholastic achievement and civic engagement from the national nonprofit Campus Compact. She received a \$5,000 grant from Campus Compact, matched by the College, for school-related expenses or

community service work, which includes an initiative to reduce hunger in the Northern Berkshires by 10 percent in the next four years.

BENEFACTORS BOOST RESEARCH

The College will double the number of humanities and social sciences students who receive grants to support their summer work with professors on professional-level research. A recent \$1 million gift from Walter Shipley '57 will help his class support the initiative as well as bolster the existing Class of 1957 Scholarship—all in celebration of the class's 50th reunion.

Meanwhile, assistant professors who show promise for distinction in their own scholarly research can now apply for Hellman Fellows Grants, thanks to a \$1 million commitment from Warren and Chris Hellman, parents of Tricia Hellman Gibbs '82. Their gift was made through the Hellman Family Foundation.

WESTON, FITNESS FACILITIES TO UNDERGO MAJOR UPGRADES

Development of a master plan for athletics/fitness facilities is under way, with two projects getting immediate attention: improvements to the fitness facilities and to Weston Field. A planning group is seeking the best location—possibly a temporary one—for expanded fitness facilities. At Weston, a \$12 million project could begin as early as the end of the fall 2007 sports season to address infrastructure problems with the football field and track, make the stands accessible and add locker rooms and bathrooms.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Please cast your vote for this year's alumni trustee and Tyng Bequest administrator! If you haven't already voted online, please return your paper ballot. For a list of candidates' biographies, please visit www.williams.edu/alumni/candidates/.

FOOTBALL COMPLETES 6TH PERFECT SEASON

For the sixth time in its 121-year history, Williams football finished the season undefeated.

The Ephs defeated all eight of their opponents last fall by at least a two-touchdown margin. Among the highlights, they topped Trinity 41-16, ending the Bantams' 31-game winning streak—at the time the longest current winning streak in all of college football. Williams also dominated Amherst 37-7 on the road, bringing the Ephs' overall record against the Lord Jeffs to 68-48-5.

Among the season's stars were quarterbacks Sean Gleeson '07 and Pat Lucey '08, the NESCAC Offensive Player of the Year, as well as senior receivers Jimmy O'Leary, Brendan Fulmer and Jon Drenckhahn. Fulmer caught a record 17 touchdown passes, tying the single-season mark (eight) held by Matt Sigrist '99. Drenckhahn became the Ephs' all-time leader in receptions (135).

The defense, led by Jordan O'Reilly '08 (with 24 solo tackles, 22 assists and 7.5 tackles for a loss), held opponents to a record 491 yards rushing on the year and 9.2 points per game. Lucey, Drenckhahn and Chris Kenney '07 were named to the Div. II-III All-New England team and First Team All-NESCAC. Kenney, a center, also was selected to play in the Aztec Bowl in December.

In his third year as head coach, Mike Whalen was named NESCAC Coach of the Year. He is the only Williams football coach besides Hall of Famer Dick Farley to reach the perfect-season milestone.



MEN'S SOCCER advanced to the Round of 16 in the NCAA Tournament before falling to eventual champion Messiah in penalty kicks. The Ephs amassed a 14-1-2 record and won the NESCAC title. Forward Pat Huffer '07 was named NESCAC Player of the Year and First Team Academic All-American by *ESPN The Magazine*. Dana Leary, Tommy Day and Brett Olsen, all '07, also earned conference honors. Huffer, Leary and Day were named First Team All-America. **MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY** won the NESCAC and ECAC championships. Conference Coach of the Year Pete Farwell '73 led Williams to a seventh-place finish at the NAAs. Connor Kamm '10 was named NESCAC Rookie of the Year. Stephen Wills '07, Mike Davitian '07, Colin Carroll '07 and Brendan Christian '09 earned First Team All-NESCAC honors. **WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY** finished eighth at

SPORTS WRAP

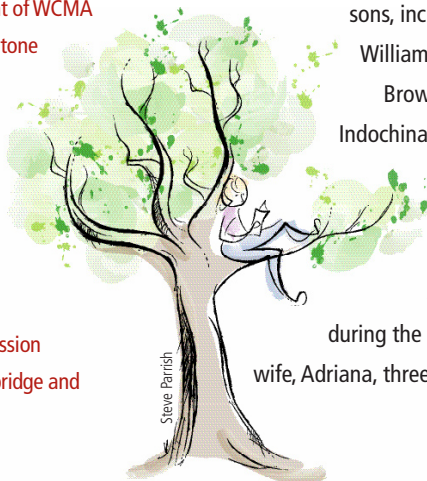
the NAAs, with Liz Gleason '08, Mallory Harlin '08 and Rachel Asher '09 on the all-conference list. **VOLLEYBALL** finished the season 25-7 and advanced to the championship game of the conference tournament. Setter Alexis Knepp '07 was named an AVCA All-Region selection for the fourth consecutive season. Melissa Pun '10 earned NESCAC Rookie of the Year honors, and Fran Vandermeer was selected as the NESCAC Coach of the Year. **FIELD HOCKEY** advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the seventh consecutive season. Meighan McGowan, NESCAC Player of the Year, and Jess Overlander, both '09, were All-America selections. **MEN'S GOLF** took a third-place finish in the NESCAC Tournament. Kevin Kellert '07, Tyler Zara '09 and Brendan Conley '08 were named First Team all-conference. **WOMEN'S SOCCER** went undefeated in September for a final 8-3-3 record. Goalie Sarah Ginsburg '07 was named First Team Academic All-District by *ESPN The Magazine*. She, Jessica Hing '07 and Gabrielle Woodson '09 earned NESCAC honors. **WOMEN'S GOLF** finished the fall ranked 22nd nationally and behind only Middlebury in the Northeast. As a group, the Eph first-year women are ranked sixth nationally, with an average score of 84.41. **WOMEN'S TENNIS** defeated Wellesley and Vassar and won three divisions at the New England Women's Intercollegiate Tennis Tournament. **MEN'S TENNIS'** Ted Haley '07 advanced to the singles' quarterfinals of the ITA Tournament, as did two groups in the doubles section.

SCENE AND HERD

the list CLIMB HIGH

Looking for a place to hang out next time you're on campus? Try a tree. Or several. Following are the best climbing trees on campus, according to students sharing their views at wso.williams.edu/wiki/index.php/Tree-climbing. More than 9,300 people have accessed the list since it was created in May 2005.

- Magnolia beside Thompson Chapel
- Sugar maple in front of the physics building
- Red maple in front of the chemistry/computer science building
- Sugar maple in front of West College
- American beech on path from Stetson to Mission (or from Bernhard to Dodd)
- American beech in Forest Garden (between Stetson and Center for Environmental Studies)
- Oak near Hopkins Gate
- Maple next to Cost bench
- Copper beech in front of WCMA
- Various trees in the Stone Hill pasture
- Maple just off path between Sawyer and Hopkins
- Huge maple in the Science Quad
- Maple on road to Mission
- Tree between Woodbridge and Droppers



IN MEMORIAM

Last summer and fall, the College marked the passings of the following faculty: Timothy E. Cook, former political science professor; S. Lane Faison Jr. '29, the Amos Lawrence Professor of Art, emeritus (see essays on pages 2 and 4); and MacAlister Brown, the Fairleigh S. Dickinson Jr. Professor of Political Science, emeritus.

Cook spent 20 years at Williams, beginning in 1981. He was an extensively published author whose books shed light on the changing role that communications media have played in how the country is governed. Prior to leaving the College for Louisiana State University in 2001, he also was a visiting professor of public policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He is survived by his partner, Jack Yeager.



Timothy E. Cook



MacAlister Brown

Faison joined the art faculty in 1936. By the time he retired in 1976, he had served as chairman of the art department and director of the Williams College Museum of Art, and he had influenced countless students who went on to head many of the country's leading art institutions. He was a widely published author and critic. Faison also was involved in interrogating Nazis about pieces of art that had been plundered by Hitler and with returning the artwork to its owners. An active Williams alumnus, he served as class secretary and treasurer for the past 18 years and received numerous College awards, including a Bicentennial Medal, the Rogerson Cup and the Joseph's Coat. He is survived by four sons, including Gordon L. Faison '60, seven grandchildren, including William A. Faison '05, and three great-grandchildren.



S. Lane Faison Jr.

Brown, a specialist in American foreign policy and communism in Indochina, served Williams from 1956 to 1994, during which time he was chairman of the political economy program and political science department and was director of the summer Program in American Studies for Executives. He also was an administrative assistant to Williams President John Sawyer during the College's transition to coeducation. Brown is survived by his wife, Adriana, three children and four granddaughters.



A retired lawyer
needlepoints his
way into
Westminster
Abbey and
Windsor Castle.

On Her Majesty's Service



BY DENISE DIFULCO

PHOTOS BY GABRIEL COONEY

When C. Gorham Phillips '43 retired in 1990 as chairman of the management committee of Dewey Ballantine LLP, he began to think about the footprints he would leave behind. He had a successful career as a merger and acquisitions lawyer, drafting one of the first "golden parachute" contracts for executives and helping to develop "poison pill," "white knight" and other defenses against hostile corporate takeovers.

But as he looked back over his achievements, he already could see his work fading into obscurity. Larger conglomerates had swallowed some of his biggest clients, including American Can Co., Beech-Nut Life Savers and Sinclair



Marty and Doc Phillips '43 are among the group putting in 1,250 hours and 295,100 stitches to complete a commission for kneelers and cushions for St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.



Oil. And merger and acquisitions procedures were changing so rapidly that his skills had become obsolete.

"I noticed that there is nothing permanent about this world," says the 85-year-old, who goes by "Doc." "I didn't want fame or anything, but I thought it would be nice to leave something on earth besides a tombstone."

A needlepoint enthusiast and self-professed Anglophile, Phillips got it into his head that he would undertake a needlepoint project for Westminster Abbey, the shrine of St. Edward the Confessor, King of England, and the site of every British coronation since 1066.

"I knew that the life of something like that could be several generations," he says. "Short of a revolution, it might last for 500 years."

Getting Westminster Abbey to commission a needlepoint project is no easy task. While Phillips was a serious hobbyist, he certainly wasn't among the well-known ecclesiastical artists in the field. He started working with fibers as a boy when his grandfather set him up with a "Knitting Nancy," a cylindrical device that creates

knitted tubes that are then fashioned into trivets or appliques. "Grandfather didn't think there was anything sissy about weaving and stitching," Phillips recalls.

He didn't begin needlepointing until much later in life. One night in 1972, while watching TV with his wife, Marty, to whom he's been married for 64 years, he leaned over the canvas she was working on and asked, "Do you think I could learn that?"

She bought him the pattern for a coaster, not exactly taking him seriously, but it turned out that he had a gift for the precise hand that needlepoint requires. "I like fussy work," he says. "I might have been a happy librarian."

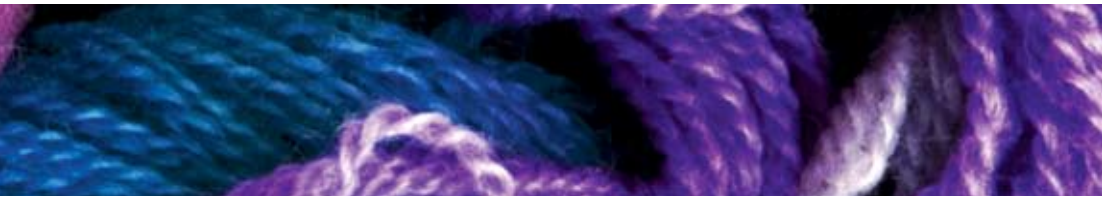
At the time, needlepoint proved to be the perfect antidote to Phillips' stressful job and Type-Double-A personality. But one thing got in the way of his complete mastery of his newfound hobby: He couldn't see colors accurately. Phillips is so color-blind, in fact, that when he was in the Army Air Corps Weather Service he was sent up 10,000 feet in a plane to test whether he could see through camouflage. He couldn't.

Even though his wife had to choose and lay out his yarns for him, Phillips

became such a good stitcher that he exhibited his needlepoint at shows. At one New York City exhibition, a child's chair he completed was displayed next to a wall hanging by Henry Fonda and a cushion by Van Johnson.

But getting Westminster Abbey to take notice required more than just a fine stitch. A great deal of persistence and a bit of serendipity certainly had a hand in his eventual success. After three years of unreturned phone calls, he managed to get an appointment with Westminster Abbey's verger—an assistant to the abbey's dean and the person responsible for all of the "textiles," to use the church's word. At a meeting that took place during a trip to London in 2002, the verger inspected the fronts and backs of Phillips' canvases (the quality of the back, where mistakes become obvious, is considered especially important) and reviewed a portfolio of his work. She then commissioned him to create three cushions, each 19-by-13 inches, for the abbey's main altar.

While Phillips could stitch, he couldn't design. So he asked Trubey Walker, a friend and the founder of a needlepoint shop in his hometown of Vero Beach,



Fla., to help him. It just so happened that Walker had been doing ecclesiastical designs for churches across the U.S. for nearly four decades. “He didn’t know I had done any church work,” she says.

Walker designed the three cushions—one red, one green and one ivory—with all of the appropriate ecclesiastical symbols, which were then approved by the verger. Phillips stitched the green cushion, which is decorated with vines, red grapes and the biblical symbols of the Alpha and Omega, and upon which the abbey’s Book of Worship will rest most days of the year. Two fellow stitchers, William Hutchison and Patricia Morse, assisted with the other cushions—the red for Advent and Lent and the ivory for Christmas and Easter.

Phillips, his colleagues and more than 70 of their relatives and friends attended the dedication of their work in October 2005, which occurred in conjunction with the 1,000th birthday of St. Edward the Confessor, the founder of Westminster Abbey.

“I’ve never seen anything like it,” Phillips says of the ceremony. “There was the full men’s and boys’ choir and the clergymen in their resplendent regalia.”

You would think that was the end of the story. But it isn’t. Phillips, never quite satisfied with good enough, had his sights set on one more target: Windsor Castle. Through a titled British friend from his law days, he sent Queen Elizabeth II an article from *Vero Beach Magazine* explaining the Westminster Abbey project. The correspondence led to a meeting

with the chapter clerk of St. George’s Chapel at Windsor Castle, where Prince Charles’ marriage to Camilla Parker Bowles was blessed.

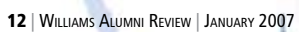
The clerk explained that kneelers for both the dean and canon and two cushions for the choir loft needed to be replaced inside the chapel. Phillips and his colleagues jumped at the chance to accept the commission. The project will take at least a year and a half and require the efforts of six to eight people, including Phillips’ wife, Hutchison, Morse and Walker, who estimates that the completed kneelers and cushions will require 295,100 stitches and 1,250 hours of work.

Phillips and his wife will squeeze the work into their already active retirement, which includes regular bridge games, golf outings and dinner parties, where Phillips is known for being a gregarious dinner companion. “Sometimes I think he’s overdoing it,” says Marty, “but it’s the way he is.”

Certainly his recent achievements will provide plenty of fodder for dinner conversation. But already Phillips is looking for other ways to leave his mark.

“Who knows?” he asks. “Maybe we’ll volunteer to needlepoint chair seats for the State Dining Room in the White House. I believe there are 50 chairs, so each chair’s design could commemorate a different state. Now that would be a footprint!” ■

Denise DiFulco is a freelance writer and editor based in Cranford, N.J.



Life After Williams

A Winter Study course challenges students to approach their future careers from the perspective of the kind of life they seek.

By Jim Mulvihill

Illustration by Shannon Brady

As head of All Campus Entertainment, responsible for planning student parties and concerts, Sarah Jenks '07 thought she had her future mapped out. Her experience at Williams would help land her a job in event promotions. And, if she worked hard, perhaps she could coordinate galas with exclusive guest lists, earning huge commissions while catering to the rich and famous.

"I wanted to graduate having the most and best event-planning experience of any female in the country so I could just go to New York and make it happen," she says.

Jenks was well on her way to realizing that dream, especially after nabbing a prestigious internship allowing her to work on high-profile happenings in the Big Apple. There was only one problem—the job was in no way what she had envisioned.

"I didn't like event planning in the real world because it didn't involve the community building that my work here with students did," she says. "I realized it just wasn't what I wanted to do, and that's when I really started freaking out."

Suffice it to say, people who hope to make a living arranging every detail of life down to whether the ice will be crushed or cubed don't typically welcome unforeseen occurrences, especially a major existential crisis. So, Jenks says, she was eager to "find some guidance."

She found it in "Composing a Life: Finding Success and Balance in Life After Williams," a Winter Study course that since 1996 has asked students to

approach their future careers from the perspective of the kind of life they seek. In the end, it's as much about posing questions as it is about finding answers.

"I thought it was going to be about choosing a career, which it was, but it was more about choosing a career that's going to fit your life," Jenks says. "We talked a lot about balancing career and family. What I took out of it immediately is that I don't have to choose what I want to do right away and get into it the moment I graduate. It really helped me feel like my life is more flexible, that I have more choices."

"Composing a Life" is the brainchild of Chip and Michele Moeller Chandler, both Class of 1972, who designed the course around lessons learned in their own lives. Michele has a master's degree from Columbia, a PhD from Northwestern and experience working in college administration. Chip has an MBA from Harvard, spent 25 years at McKinsey & Co. and this year was named a visiting professor of leadership studies at Williams.

In 1996, Chip took a sabbatical from his high-powered corporate job in Chicago so the family could move to Williamstown for a break from suburban life. When an opportunity to transfer to London arose, the Chandlers' eighth-grade son and third-grade daughter balked at the idea.

Michele recalls, "On the way back from visiting London, our son said, 'Well, that's an exciting city, but why would you move because you think you might love a place when you've already found a place you're in love with?'"

Michele was dealing with a medical issue at the time and discovered that she, too, found the quiet life more agreeable. What started as a temporary respite in the bucolic Berkshires ended up a permanent relocation.

"All of those factors led us to say, 'Life is short. Yes, it's very important to have a fulfilling, satisfying professional life. But it's also important to have a fulfilling, satisfying personal life,'" Chip says. "There has to be a balance, and staying was one of several steps along the way toward trying to find that for ourselves."

Chip arranged to work out of McKinsey's Boston office, returning home on weekends.

When the Chandlers first arrived in Williamstown, then College President Harry C. Payne suggested they get reacquainted with their alma mater by teaching a Winter Study



course. Chip and Michele relished the opportunity to lead a meaningful discourse with students on where they were going. Michele had completed her dissertation at Northwestern on professional women who sacrificed career advancement to have children. She found that many women in management, law, academia and medicine had never been briefed on what life had in store for them beyond their professional duties.

"We were educated in the '70s and had been taught that we could have it all," Michele says. "All these women had wonderful careers but found out they couldn't hack it for a host of reasons. There was a common lament that nobody had told us in college that we would have all these challenges."

Determined to help prepare a new generation for the struggles they knew were common among well-educated, family-oriented couples, the Chandlers created a course that evolved into a "Generation Y" journey of self-discovery tailored for Williams students, who often are so focused on academic and professional achievement that they might neglect to fully consider how personal life will fit in.

"The heart of a liberal arts education is learning to lead an examined life, and that's what this course is really about at its core," Chip says. "You learn to be thoughtful about everything, from how you define success to what your priorities are to how you at least begin to think about making trade-offs. Once we graduate, we all make trade-offs."

The course title, "Composing a Life," is borrowed from anthropologist Mary Catherine Bateson's book profiling five women who improvise successful and fulfilling lives despite the endless demands placed upon them. "Composing" implies that living life is a skill honed through study, practice and refinement.

This idea is emphasized in the structure of the course. Case studies, guest lecturers and assigned readings give students the opportunity to scrutinize other people's lives, so they might be better prepared to make life-altering decisions of their own.



One point constantly reinforced, however, is that solutions don't necessarily come easily. "We have no aspirations to give students the answers," Chip says. "There are no right answers, but there are right questions."

Take, for example, "The Case of Kim and Eric," one of the more challenging conundrums posed to the class each January. It's fictional but one that could be based on thousands of real-life couples. Eric and Kim are Williams graduates, alumni of top graduate schools in their respective fields and rising stars in their professions in New York City. Once they decide to have children, Kim agrees to move to Boston so Eric can work for a prestigious law firm while she raises the baby. Several years later, however, Kim decides she's ready to return to the workforce and gets a juicy offer in Chicago. By this time, Eric has almost made partner at his firm and doesn't want to leave Boston, but Kim feels it's her turn to have the career she wants.

Students are asked to identify the key "decision factors" for the couple "by applying the same analytical skills they would apply to any other course at Williams," Chip says.

The class is split into two groups, one representing Kim and the other, Eric, to form arguments. Each group then presents its recommendations. Some years the class is overwhelmingly in favor of Eric's run at becoming partner in Boston, while other years they favor Kim pursuing her career in Chicago.

"What typically comes out is it's a lot more complicated than it first appears," Chip says. "There are a lot of decision factors that you can actually be quite objective about. You can't make this a completely objective analytical exercise, but there's a whole lot more objectivity and analysis that's possible than when you first look at it."

In addition to preparing students for tackling tricky scenarios, the cases can also have the effect of helping them to avoid such decisions in the first place. For example, a student who knows he someday wants ample free time to spend with his children needs to be aware that certain careers are more conducive to such an arrangement.

"Does that mean that if you want a family life you can't be in medicine?" Chip asks. "No, but you may want to think about whether you want to be a cardiovascular surgeon, with the kind of lifestyle that it brings, or if you want to do something like radiology that might have a more controllable and predictable lifestyle."

Ideally, students realize that college is not only the time to prepare for a career but also for life. "If you keep doing these exercises with different cases, all of a sudden they see that these life choices, up to a point, can be subjected to a framework," Chip says.

Matt Libbey '98, a former investment banker making a transition into management consulting, took "Composing a Life" as a senior. Six years later, as an MBA candidate at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business, he was assigned a case identical to one the Chandlers presented in his final Winter Study course. It turns out the intervening years between



Williams and business school made all the difference in Libbey's reasoning.

In "The Part-time Partner," students debate who should be named the next partner at a successful law firm. The choice is between a woman who works part time but brings in the most business and a man who has been diligent as a full-time employee but without as much success.

"When I was an undergrad, I would have given it to the man," Libbey says. "My feeling then was you couldn't make partner someone who hadn't put in the requisite number of years and time. But after six years out in the working world and getting married and having this different perspective on life, you realize that you get points for showing up, but results are what you should be rewarded for."

Now Libbey is doing his part to help students look into their own futures. For the last two years, he and his wife, Gareth (Asbury) Libbey '97, have returned to Williams to share their experiences with the Chandlers' class. "It's amazing for us to see that kids are asking the same kinds of questions that we asked when we were seniors in college," Libbey says. "We feel a lot younger than we would have seemed to ourselves back then."

The Libbeyes emphasize the importance of flexibility in the real world. They also encourage young people to let go of the need to judge themselves against their peers. It's a habit that's easy to fall into as a student, Libbey explains, when grade point averages and awards make it simple to do so. "Once you get out of college, it's not like that anymore," he says. "You're comparing yourself to other people's successes when everyone has different trajectories and different things they're interested in getting out of life."

Thanks to "Composing a Life," Libbey says he felt better prepared when the competing demands of professional and personal life snuck up on him. "You think about some of these things [in college], but they seem so far off," he says. "It turned out I had to deal with many of these issues within my first two or three years out of college, and I was really glad I had thought about them before they happened."

Case studies and lectures are further supported by readings that run the gamut from wry contemporary philosopher Alain de Botton (*The Consolations of Philosophy*) to popular *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman (*The World is Flat*) to best-selling author Peggy Orenstein (*Flux: Women on Sex, Work, Kids, Love, and Life in a Half-Changed World*), not to mention past convocation addresses by Toby Cosgrove '62 and Glenn Lowry '76. The unique, Williams-specific flavor of "Composing a Life" is reflected in an assignment requiring students to peruse class notes from past Williams alumni magazines and circle lives they find appealing. Students then are asked to consider what appeals to them about these people, what the common aspects of their lives are and what can be learned from their stories.

The Chandlers also like to remind students that for most people the opportunity to change careers, cut back hours or relocate to a better place can be seen as a luxury, not a quandary. "We try to reassure them that while having all these choices

might be a problem on some level, this is a high-class problem," Chip says.

The course concludes with a 10-page paper based on field interviews with adults of the students' choosing as well as their own reflections on the course. Some talk to their own parents, while others reach out to friends, professors, mentors or community leaders.

In January, the Chandlers led "Composing a Life" into its second decade of helping students plot the journey of adulthood that begins at Williams. "The kids have been equally ambitious all 10 years," Chip says. "What they've been ambitious about has changed, and it's a reflection of the economy and culture of the time."

One year, he recalls, during the Internet boom, a sophomore told the Chandlers, "I'm sorry I can't make it to class on Friday because I have to meet with my venture capitalist."

"Then the bubble burst," Chip says, "and a number of them looked at the job market and did more adventurous things. They were proactively giving themselves a chance to travel or go into the Peace Corps or Teach for America."

Whatever the next stage of life holds for them, be it event planning or backpacking or investment banking, the bigger questions of life and how to live it remain essentially the same.

"What they learn is that they have to come face to face with their values," Michele says. "Your life, hopefully, is yours to do with what you wish. We know you can't plan everything, but you can be thoughtful about the choices you're making and make them with conviction. These are lessons that are timeless." ■

Jim Mulvihill is a writer based in Houston.



Of Time *and the*

Past changes in the landscape of Hopkins Forest may hold clues to its future.

A lot can happen in a century.

Though it's less obvious in a natural setting, evidence of change is there if you know where to look. In 1910, Col. Amos Lawrence Hopkins, Class of 1863, finished buying land for Buxton Farms, an estate covering more than 1,600 acres from Northwest Hill in Williamstown west to the New York state line and north to Vermont. Today those lands form the core of Hopkins Memorial Forest, where Williams researchers are studying patterns of long-term ecological change. The hills and plants of Hopkins Forest tell a story of farms reverting to woods—one that has played out across New England since the region's agriculture peaked before the Civil War.

"There's a misperception that we're a park, but the forest is much richer and more historical than that," says forest

manager Drew Jones. In fact, Hopkins Forest has been a research site since 1935, when the College (which received it as a gift from Hopkins' widow) sold it to the U.S. Forest Service for \$1, provided that the land would revert to Williams when the government's work was done. The forest service used the site to study how abandoned farmland reforested and to raise experimental crops of fast-growing, shade-tolerant tree species that might help to speed up the process. These "plantation plots" are easy to spot on a walk through the forest, where every so often the mixed vegetation gives way to uniform stands of soft poplar, Norway spruce or red pine in neat, precise rows.

In 1968 the forest service abandoned Hopkins Forest, leaving three decades of unpublished data. When biologist

Hank Art arrived at Williams' Center for Environmental Studies (CES) in 1970 and was directed to design an environmental research and education site for the College, plans were in the works to sell off the forest for private development. But Art recognized it as a unique resource, especially the 220 permanent quarter-acre research plots that the government had set up to study how vegetation was changing. He convinced President Jack Sawyer '39 to keep the forest as a research station—a decision that probably cost the school a hefty chunk of revenue but gave Williams researchers a unique outdoor laboratory.

"Hopkins Forest is a wonderful resource, because it's so representative of a broader region but also very diverse," says Art, the Samuel Fessenden Clarke



Forest

BY JENNIFER WEEKS '83

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HOUSTON

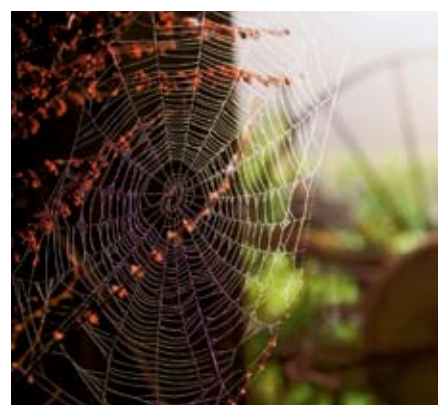
Professor of Biology. “Elevations range from 600 to 2,400 feet, there are many soil types, and we have north- and south-facing slopes. The land-use history wasn’t marred by logging in the early 20th century, so you can see reforestation stages more clearly.”

Forests regrow on abandoned Northeast farms in a clear pattern. Sun-loving weeds and herbs appear first, followed by dense shrubs like hardhack and blackberry. After about a decade, birches, aspens and other small, fast-growing trees move in, sprouting wherever the wind blows their lightweight seeds. In 30 to 40 years, slower-spreading trees like ash, red maple and oak take root. Lower areas of Hopkins Forest are dominated by these mid-successional species, along with some older stands that date back to the Civil

War. Beeches, which grow well in low light, sprout in the shade and will become increasingly common in coming decades.

CES has installed trailside markers that point out clues to the forest’s past. One way to spot tracts that formerly were pastures is to look for large isolated “wolf trees” whose branches spread widely on all sides because they grew up in open spaces. (Trees that sprout under a forest canopy typically grow straight up toward the light.) Former pasturelands also tend to have less undergrowth than other tracts, and many trees on these sections are species like hawthorn and juniper that are prickly or distasteful to livestock.

The forest also bears physical scars of its farming past. When the Berkshires start to warm in late winter, snow lingers on some sections in deep parallel furrows



that were carved decades ago by plows. Many old stone walls have collapsed and sunk halfway into the ground. Some are flanked by parallel rows of hickory or cherry trees, planted unintentionally by squirrels hiding nuts in the stone chinks or by birds that perched on the walls to eat fruit and then excreted the seeds.

Below: David Dethier (center) and students shoveled out sediments in the south branch (Birch Brook) weir in Hopkins Forest in August.



Small upland mountain streams like Birch Brook are virtually unmonitored throughout the country, so research in the forest is a very valuable resource.



Research in Hopkins Forest also promises a future full of questions. New stresses are coming to bear on New England forests, and their scope is increasingly national and global rather than local. Invasive pests are ranging farther afield, and air pollutants blow in from hundreds of miles away. Greenhouse gases from coal-fired power plants in India and China are warming the atmosphere, which is changing local rainfall patterns.

The core of long-term analysis in Hopkins Forest is the array of permanent research plots, which now number 440. In the 1970s and 1990s, faculty and students went through the plots and counted every woody stem more than a half-inch in diameter; a fourth census since 1936 will take place in the next several years. These data, which build on forest service work, let researchers analyze forest growth rates, succession patterns, the composition of vegetation and lasting impacts of events like major storms. For scientists studying long-term trends, consistent records like this are the gold standard, even if it takes years of these detailed measurements before researchers know exactly what they have.

David Dethier, the Edward Brust Professor of Geology and Mineralogy, has monitored the chemistry of rainfall and the rate and volume of stream flow through Hopkins Forest for more than 20 years. “This is information we need to have available—it’s the furniture of the forest,” he says. Long-term geophysical measurements may signal impacts of global climate change. For example, many models suggest that warming temperatures will make the water cycle run faster in areas that are typically moist, so observers would expect to see more yearly precipitation and high runoff volumes. The way to tell is to measure how much water evaporates or transpires from plants, compared with how much flows out of Hopkins Forest into the Hoosic River.

“We’ve seen higher precipitation in the past 20 to 30 years than in the 1920s and ’30s,” says Dethier, who also serves as forest

director. “When I arrived here, annual precipitation was around 42 inches, but now it’s averaging 55 or 60 inches. We’re collecting the data, and we look at pieces of it. Students pull out specific items for research, like the relationship between temperature, precipitation levels and the emergence of salamanders in the spring.”

Will Ouimet ’01, who wrote his senior thesis on sediment catchment rates in Birch Brook, is glad to have had this record available. “It was amazing to work with such a rich data set,” says the Ph.D. student in earth, atmospheric and planetary sciences at MIT. “Small upland mountain streams like Birch Brook are virtually unmonitored throughout the country, so it’s a very valuable resource.”

It takes time for signals to emerge from the noise, but some changes are clear. Acid rain was a major environmental concern in the 1970s and 1980s. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide compounds emitted from coal-fired power plants came down as acids in rain and snow, seriously damaging many Northeast forests and lakes. But local rainfall is less acidic now. Dethier has tracked a modest rise in the pH value (i.e., a fall in acidity) of precipitation in Hopkins Forest. The sulfuric component, which was capped by air pollution laws in the 1990s, is falling. Nitrates, which are less tightly regulated, are holding constant or rising.

Changes in temperature, rainfall and other physical factors ripple through the living forest, but their effects are not always predictable. “The permanent plot inventories turn up things that we wouldn’t have expected,” says Art. For example, the last research plot inventory found that sugar maples were declining at high elevations along the Taconics, contrary to expectations that these trees would thrive as a late successional species. In her senior thesis, Flynn Boonstra ’04 found that soils and rocks at higher levels in the forest were more acidic than those lower down the hillsides, and that acid rain was mobilizing aluminum in rocks and soils and poisoning sugar maples. But acid rain isn’t necessarily the smoking gun, says Art: Some trees were stressed by drought and pests in the 1960s and ’70s, so they probably were weakened already. In long-term ecosystem research, it can be hard to untangle contributing factors and track changes back to a single cause.

Subtle factors may affect how well a forest plot responds to stresses. Since 1998 biologist Joan Edwards has been studying the spread of garlic mustard, an invasive weed that sprouts small white flowers and peppery-tasting leaves on tall upright stalks. Research in other North American forests suggests that garlic mustard, which is found across 30 states and Canada, suppresses the growth of native trees by killing fungi that help the trees take up nutrients from soil.

Edwards, the Washington Gladden 1859 Professor of Biology, tracks garlic mustard plants on three forest sites in different stages of regrowth. The weed has spread throughout the early-succession plot, but older tracts appear to be more resistant. “I’m heartened that these very mature forests seem to be pretty robust,” she says. “The literature suggests that once garlic mustard hits an area, it moves through like a wave. That’s true for flood plains or open fields, but not so much for older forest stands.”

Not every project has such global scope. In early spring Williams invites the public to help make maple syrup at the Sugarbush, a grove of large sugar maples near the forest entrance that was prized by Amos Hopkins. And for a field botany project, several of Edwards’ students collected birch sap and steeped young birch twigs, then added sweetener and yeast to the brew to make birch beer. “It was unbelievable—cold and fizzy, and it tasted like wintergreen. It was pretty strong, too,” she recalls.



Student, faculty and staff research in Hopkins Forest has generated more than 160 journal articles, senior theses, independent study papers and other publications in fields that include history, art and archaeology as well as the sciences. The “Williams Naturalists,” a group of students from the classes of 1996 and 1997, published *Farms to Forests: A Naturalist’s Guide to the Ecology and Human History of Hopkins Memorial Forest*, a valuable pocket resource for a walk through the woods.

Art, Dethier and their colleagues plan to publish more analyses of long-term Hopkins Forest monitoring. “I’m really looking forward to seeing that come out. It will only get more valuable as time goes on,” says Ouimet. In the meantime, Ephs who have the Purple Valley on their minds can get current weather readings for Hopkins Forest or search the data archive back over more than 20 years at oit.williams.edu/weather/index.cfm.

This kind of record is scarcer than many people realize. According to a June 2006 report from the Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment, major “data gaps” make it impossible to size up the health of U.S. ecosystems in a comprehensive way. But Williams researchers are tracking many key indicators, such as impacts of invasive species and the conditions of plant communities and streams. No one is complacent about how global environmental stresses will shape Hopkins Forest in coming decades, but the past century shows that it is a resilient ecosystem. And as Jones says, “Change is an interesting thing to study.” ■

Jennifer Weeks '83 is a freelance writer in Watertown, Mass. E-mail her at jw@jenniferweeks.com.

LIFE OF THE MIND

The Cosmic and the Ordinary

Lithographer, abstract artist and studio art professor of 20-plus years **Barbara Takenaga** discusses obsession, intention, schmaltz and her dog's rear end. (Adapted from her gallery talk at the opening of the show "Patternings," with Ed Epping, the Alexander Falck Class of 1899 Professor of Art, which ran through Jan. 7 at the Williams College Museum of Art.)



Rosy Pink Spiral, courtesy McKenzie Fine Art, New York

Portrait by Bob Krist

You describe your work as "happy death paintings." What does that mean?

I think obsessive mark-making stemmed from mourning my mother's death. To quote Joan Didion in *The Year of Magical Thinking*: "Grief was passive. . . Mourning, the act of dealing with grief, required attention." There is a lot of repetition in my work, almost like ritual. The happy part comes from a range of thoughts—visual clichés (walk toward the light or don't walk toward the light), beauty, creepiness, the sense of being pulled far away.

You say your work is very process-related and obsessively made.

Do you think it's meditative, like a mantra?

It's working hard and yet not doing anything, like doodling the same thing over and over.

"SOMEONE ONCE WROTE IN THE GALLERY GUEST BOOK THAT I EITHER HAD A LOT OF IDEAS OR JUST ONE, WHICH SAYS IT PRETTY WELL."

And yes, sometimes it's about a calming kind of spacing out. Sometimes I watch daytime TV and work. Soap operas are notorious for nothing happening for months. Time is slowed down and measured in installments. And other times when I'm working, it's like Tourette syndrome, with lots of repeated obscenities. It's the old Marxist thing: I'm keeping society safe by making art and not becoming a serial killer.

You don't like your students to talk about their artistic intentions when their own work is being critiqued. Why?

I had a teacher who always talked about the "intentional fallacy," that gap between the artist's intent and what the viewer understands. Artists' statements are notoriously cringe-worthy, because they're often addressing big issues that are very close to them. So they end up using words like "spiritual" and "heartfelt," and it sounds awful. A critic can use those same words, and they'd have more authority and less emotion and schmaltz.

In a past *Williams Record* article, you said you were making paintings about your dog's butt. How is that relevant to your work now?

Actually, it was the two spirals of hair on my dog's butt. It could have easily been the spiral on his knee. But it's also that cowlick pattern on the back of a head—little cosmic patterns in everyday, funny settings. The cosmic and the ordinary. ■



Michael Morgenstern

A sampling of appearances by Williams professors outside the College's local news area, compiled by the Office of Public Affairs. For a complete list, visit www.williams.edu/admin/news/inthenews/php.

"I hope it will get African Americans of the present day to take a [fresh look at the Civil War](#) in a way that engages them and gets rid of the notion that this was done for [them], or to [them]," says [Charles Dew '58](#), the Ephraim Williams Professor of American History, in the Oct. 7 [Washington Post](#), referring to the inaugural exhibition "In the Cause of Liberty" at the new American Civil War Center in Richmond, Va.

In an article about East German expressionism in the Sept. 29 [Christian Science Monitor](#), [Mark Haxthausen](#), the Faison-Pierson-Stoddard Professor of Art History and chair of the graduate art program, says that an [enigmatic Neo Rauch image](#) "is not about a message. It's about a feeling."

IN THE NEWS

"There is a growing chorus of critics who want intelligence to become more transparent. ... But the [rush toward glasnost is profoundly dangerous](#)," says [Joshua Rovner](#), Stanley Kaplan

Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow in political science and leadership studies, in a Sept. 28 [Boston Globe](#) Op-ed piece about the politics of intelligence reports.

"You can't look at those posters of the films in those great gold frames and not see the [ambitions of the filmmakers to make great art with a capital A](#)," says [Nancy Mowll Mathews](#), Eugenie Prendergast Senior Curator of 19th and 20th Century Art, in a Nov. 8 [Los Angeles Times](#) review of the exhibition "Moving Pictures: American Art and Early Film, 1880-1910," which opened at NYU in the fall after debuting at Williams.

John Mark Karr's [false confession](#) to the murder of 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey prompted a slew of national newspaper articles in August quoting [Saul Kassin](#), the Massachusetts Professor of Psychology, and [Alan Hirsch](#), visiting assistant professor of legal studies, on why people take credit for crimes they didn't commit.

Though economists are convinced that "[annuitization is the way to go](#)" to provide lifetime income security, many consumers opt for the lump sum of money provided by deferred annuities, according to [William Gentry](#), associate professor of economics, in a Nov. 1 [Sun-Sentinel](#) of South Florida article.

LIFE OF THE MIND



Rick Reinhard

"I SUPPOSE IF YOU ARE GOING TO WRITE ABOUT OTHER LIVES, YOU ARE COMPELLED TO EXAMINE YOUR OWN."

On Medicine and Fiction

A major in psychology coupled with a concentration in neuroscience helped pave the way for Rosemary Eseh '04 to attend medical school at George Washington University. But her Williams education also led her down a path she did not anticipate.

"Through studying about psychology," the 25-year-old says, "I learned about the power of the mind, and I found myself wanting to write often, wanting to create characters whose minds I could explore and define."

The result was her debut novel, *The Looming Fog*, which was published in 2006 by Oge Creations Books. Set in a fictional village in Eseh's homeland of Nigeria, the book chronicles the life of an intersexual child who is shunned by

its family and community and is granted omniscient sight.

Eseh wrote *The Looming Fog* to make sense of her mother's struggles as the youngest of 12 living in poverty in a rural Nigerian community that valued males over females. After Eseh's grandfather died, the remaining family neglected her mother and grandmother. "To this day," Eseh says, "My mom cannot talk about her youthful years without tears."

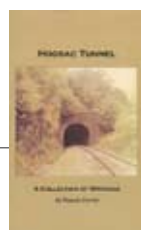
Eseh's own upbringing was quite different. Her parents started their lives together in Lagos City, where her mother's background was of little importance. Eseh's father became a foreman in the general services office of the American Embassy, and her mother

owned several shops and restaurants. Education was paramount to the family, and Eseh's father resigned from his job (rather than waiting to retire) so he could obtain visas for four of their six children to come to the U.S. for college.

Like her young character Kayinne, Eseh does her share of defying certain social norms. Though she was raised in a society where "a meal is not complete without some sort of meat or fish," for example, Eseh became a vegetarian three years ago—mainly as a distraction to the dismal weather she was experiencing in Williamstown.

Eseh had several more epiphanies after graduating from Williams. Raised Christian, she found that religion became more central to her life and was baptized in July 2005. She also started writing in earnest, publishing *The Looming Fog* using the last name "Esehagu," she says, to more clearly "separate my basic science-centered works from my literary works." (An earlier generation had shortened the family name from Esehagu, which means "the sacrifice is over.")

Eseh is at work on her second psychological novel, tentatively titled *In the Shadow of a Vestige*. "Actively pursuing my writing," she says, "allowed me to come into my full self." ■



MORE FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Stop Being Your Symptoms and Start Being Yourself: A 6-Week Mind-Body Program to Ease Your Chronic Symptoms. By Arthur J. Barsky '64 et al. Collins, 2006. A clinically tested program designed to overcome the symptoms of chronic illnesses of every kind.

Reclaiming a Plundered Past: Archaeology and Nation Building in Modern Iraq. By Magnus Bernhardsson, assistant professor of history. University of Texas Press, 2005. How politics and archaeology intersect in Iraq to build a sense of nationalism among differing religious traditions and ethnicities.

Hoosac Tunnel: A Collection of Writings. By Francis Currier (Currier Smith '39). Self published, 2005. A series of essays, many of which focus on the author's life on the Sudbury River in Concord, Mass.

A Voice of their Own: The Authority of the Local Parish. By the Rev. William Clark, S.J. '80. Liturgical Press, 2005. Using three parishes as examples, the author argues that a fundamental aspect of ecclesiastical authority resides in the local community.

Artless: The Odyssey of a Republican Cultural Creative. By Gary D. Cole '81. Ooligan Press, 2006. The memoir of a stalwart Republican and producer of controversial plays who carved out a niche for himself in the seemingly diametrically opposed worlds of politics and art.

The Great Earthquake and Firestorms of 1906: How San Francisco Nearly Destroyed Itself. By Philip Fradkin '57. University of California Press, 2006. The story of a city shaped by the country's greatest urban disasters of the time—with previously unpublished eyewitness accounts and photographs.

In the Shadows of War: A 20th Century Memoir. By Fred Greene, the A. Barton Hepburn Professor of Government, emeritus. Williams College, 2006. The author traces the rise of the U.S. to its current role as a leading world power through the lens of his own life.

The iPINIONS Journal: 2005: A Year in Review. By Anthony Livingston Hall '84. iUniverse, 2006. A review of the author's daily commentaries on current events, found at www.theipinionsjournal.com.

Soul Searching: One Man's Search for Life's Meaning Through the Wisdom and Faith of Others. By A.E. Jeffcoat '46. iUniverse, 2006. The late author offers affirmations of Christian faith through the testimony of Albert Einstein, Mother Teresa, Leo Tolstoy and Abraham Lincoln, among many others.

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RACE MATTERS



Jim Dandy

Do stereotypes affect academic performance? Have ideas about black cultural inferiority mobilized white voters in presidential elections? How did West African religion make its way into Brazilian music? These questions and many others were addressed during the fall installment of the Africana Events Calendar, organized by the Africana studies program. Among the recent offerings:

Race, Sex, Power: Dialogues on Community, a student discussion facilitated by Africana studies faculty.

Café, a concert and interactive workshop led by guitarist Freddie Bryant, visiting artist in residence in Africana studies and music, and Edson "Café" da Silva, a Brazilian percussionist, singer and composer.

The Triumph of Patriarchal Christian Racism, lecture by Edmund Gordon, Sterling Brown '22 Visiting Professor of Africana Studies.

The High: The Tragic Fate of New York City's Model Public School, lecture by Craig Wilder of Dartmouth, former Williams history professor.

For more information, visit www.williams.edu/africana-studies/

LIFE OF THE MIND



The Buddha's Apprentices: More Voices of Young Buddhists. Edited by Sumi Loundon '97. Wisdom Publications, 2006. A collection of writings by teenagers, young adults and established Buddhist teachers that explore the challenges faced by young people on their spiritual paths.

It's a Jungle Up There: More Tales from the Treetops. By Margaret Lowman '76 et al. Yale University Press, 2006. A pioneering treetop ecologist, joined by her teenage sons as co-authors, weaves messages about tropical rainforest exploration, conservation and science education with the challenges of raising a family.

Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning: A Reader. Edited by Eric Matson '92 et al. Oxford University Press, 2006. Key readings on knowledge management, with a focus on current practices at leading corporations.

The Eternity Artifact. By L.E. Modesitt Jr. '65. Tor Books, 2006. A novel employing four different narrative perspectives about an exploratory space voyage to an uninhabited world called Danann.

Kingship: The Politics of Enchantment. By Francis Oakley, former Williams president and Edward Dorr Griffin Professor of the History of Ideas, emeritus. Blackwell Publishing, 2006. The history of kingship around the world and the tenacity of its connection with the sacred.

Also by Francis Oakley: **Natural Law, Laws of Nature, Natural Rights: Continuity and Discontinuity in the History of Ideas.** Continuum, 2005. An examination of three bodies of theory on the existence and grounding of human or natural rights that developed between the 13th and 17th centuries.

Joel Perlman: A Sculptor's Journey. By Philip F. Palmedo '56. Abbeville Press, 2006. A volume illustrating the American metal sculptor's work and its relationship to his interesting life.

Encounter: A Handbook of the Williams College Museum of Art's Collection. Edited by Vivian Patterson '77, Grad Art '80, WCMA curator of collections. The President and Trustees of Williams College, 2006. An illustrated outline for a visitor's encounter with the museum, written through the eyes of faculty, students, community members and museum staff.

The Ultimate Marketing Toolkit: Ads that Attract Customers. Brochures that Create Buzz. Websites that Wow. By Paula Peters '95. Adams Media, 2006. A resource for small businesses looking to improve their marketing materials.

America's Struggle for Same-Sex Marriage. By Daniel R. Pinello '72. Cambridge University Press, 2006. In-depth interviews chronicle the evolution of the social movement for same-sex marriage in the U.S.

Birding in Winter. By Susan Edwards Richmond '82. Finishing Line Press, 2006. The lifelong naturalist's second poetry chapbook.

Intown Living: A Different American Dream. By Dick Rigby '57 et al. Island Press, 2005. Studies of eight North American cities experiencing a renaissance.

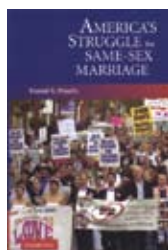
Perfume: Joy, Scandal, Sin: A Cultural History of Fragrance from 1750 to the Present. By Richard Stamelman, professor of comparative literature. Rizzoli International Publications, 2006. Perfume's impact on history, culture, society, art and attitudes.

ON CD

Strange Conversation. By Kris Delmhorst '92. Signature Sounds Recordings, 2006. The artist's fourth studio album finds inspiration in poetic works and sets them to music.

Recovery. By Cycle of Addiction, including Kirsten Hazler '93. Self-produced, 2005. A debut album described as modern folk rock with a punch.

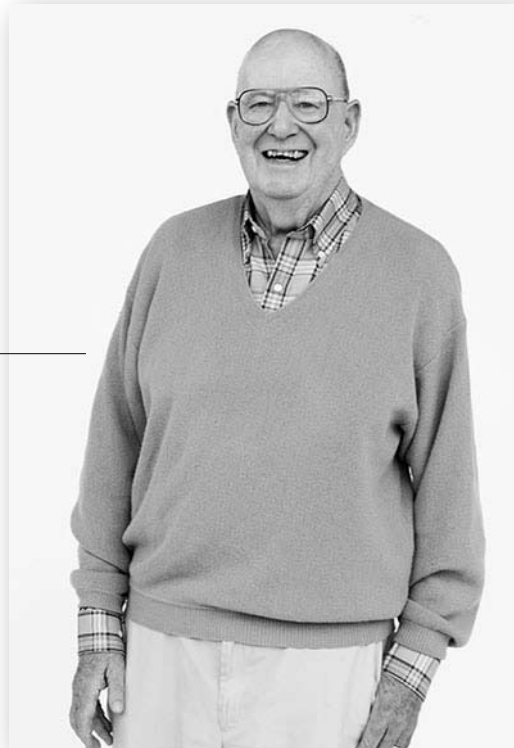
Open Eyes. By Bebek, including Lynn Murphy Michalopoulos '97. Self-produced, 2006. An album mixing organic electronica with European experimentation and American soul.



Williams

Octogenarian survivor. Williamstown since 1938, except for WWII and graduate school. Republican until 1940. Regular reader of The New York Times and New Yorker since 1938. Can do without the mail and TV. Great-grandfather. Interests: birding, gardening, art, travel, writing. Bibles: Bittman: How to Cook Everything; Piccolo: Timing is Everything. New Pastime: Physical therapy.

Fred Rudolph '42



Endlessly curious about people and places and things and ideas. I read everything and probably think too much for my own good. I care about the long term, the big picture and the world in general. And my ideals have survived long enough to become weathered, not tarnished.

Ramona Liberoff '91



PHOTOS BY CHARLES ESHELMAN

When we meet someone for the first time, our subconscious minds often make snap judgments—and misjudgments—about that person without our even knowing. This process is a matter of much study, including that of Williams' own Steven Fein, professor of psychology, who has published numerous articles on interpersonal perception, stereotypes and prejudice.

But what if there were a way to confront the biases created by our subconscious minds to realize that a person comprises many attributes and not just the one that at first seems obvious?

That is one of the goals of the **Williams** ("I Am Williams") photography project, an effort to document the many faces of the College. The project kicked off last summer during Reunion Weekend with more than 61 Ephs—alumni, several faculty and staff and a student. In addition to taking time out from reunion festivities for a photo shoot, participants also wrote descriptions of how they see themselves in the world.

The College plans to exhibit the photographs on campus and create a Web site to share them with a wider audience. A sampling of the photos and write-ups from reunion follows.

I was born in Puerto Rico, moved to Boston, Mass., when I was 11 years old in 1969. Graduated from Waltham Vocational High School. In 2000 I came to visit my sister in North Adams and I liked the Berkshires. Ended up moving to North Adams, then applied for a job at Williams. I've been working for the College ever since. It is a great place.

Luis A. Rivera, facilities



Dance is a primary force in my life. My family circle is large because of dance. At 58 I am going forward stronger because of where I've been during these years and hopeful that each day brings continued health, joy, creativity and spunk!

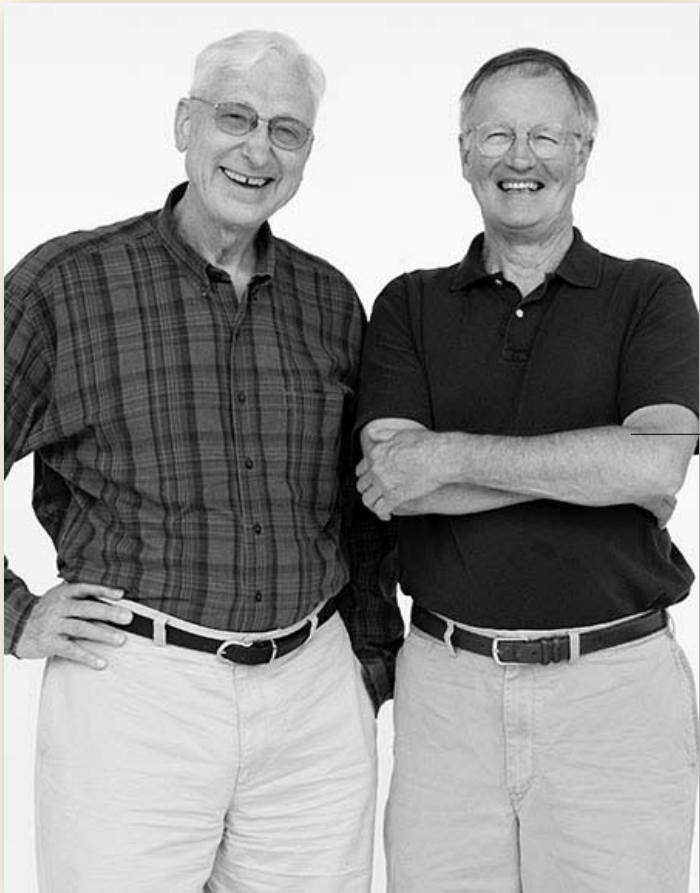
Sandra Burton, dance director



We are easily lost, like when we traveled together in Thailand and fell asleep on the bus and ended up far off course, but at least we were still in Thailand together. Julie has a lot of faith that things will turn out well, and Marisa has a lot of patience.

Julie Weed '96 & Marisa Castuera '96





Jim: I am experiences/ideas/feelings gathered over 71 years that grow in a field—like flowers/grasses/trees over the seasons of life. Some of the seeds were planted at Williams in the early '50s. New seeds are being planted today.

Ed: Upstate New York small-town boy who returned to his rural roots as a country lawyer and judge. Father, husband and lover of wilderness. Descendant of Ephraim Amidon, a private at the Battle of Bennington.

Jim Symons '56 & Ed Amidon '56



>48 inches tall and can ride roller coasters. fallible. my wife, family, friends, teachers, students, patients. willing. visual in a visual place. at my best when I am communicating well, interacting with others, challenged, productive, creative, with color; smiling, watching a good movie, on a journey. @: tgauk@yahoo.com. not done writing this.

Hugh Hawkins '71



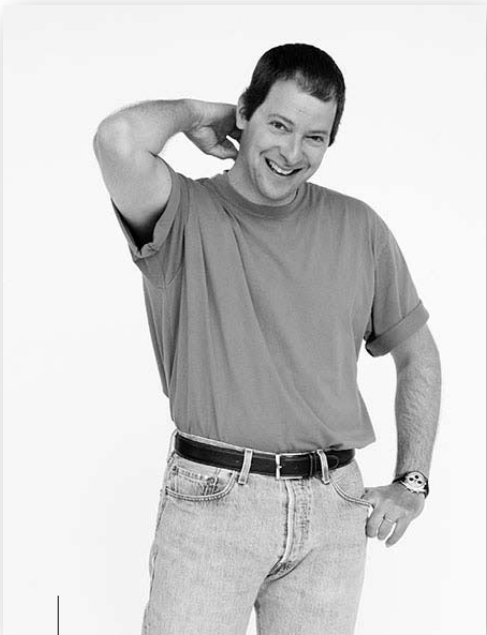
i like to write in lower case letters. maybe it's because i'm a teacher and tired of correcting my students. but what is "correct," really? at p.s. 277 in the south bronx "correct" can transform itself from a fourth grader reading and writing first period, dancing the fox trot second and then treading water sixth period. "correct" is what you make it.

Nickie Saintelot '01



I disbelieved cosmology and wrote a sonnet about it; I speak five African languages and dream in just one; I am an actor and an economist—a complicated being that refuses to be boxed into a stereotype. Should living be just one path, I pray it never finds me.

Leungo Donald Molosi '09



I am a father. I am a husband. I am a cancer survivor. I am a marathon runner and avid cyclist. I am a small business owner. I am a loyal friend. I am constantly learning new things. I am passionate about Williams. I am an Eph.

Edward Plonsker '86



I'm the oldest of 2, 4 or 6 depending on how you count. Numbers are my thing. I'm happy being 46. Changes take awareness, acceptance and action. I'm smart, funny, kind, generous, less late, still messy and a leader. Showing up and stepping up are more than 1/2 the battle.

Tory Ruder '81