

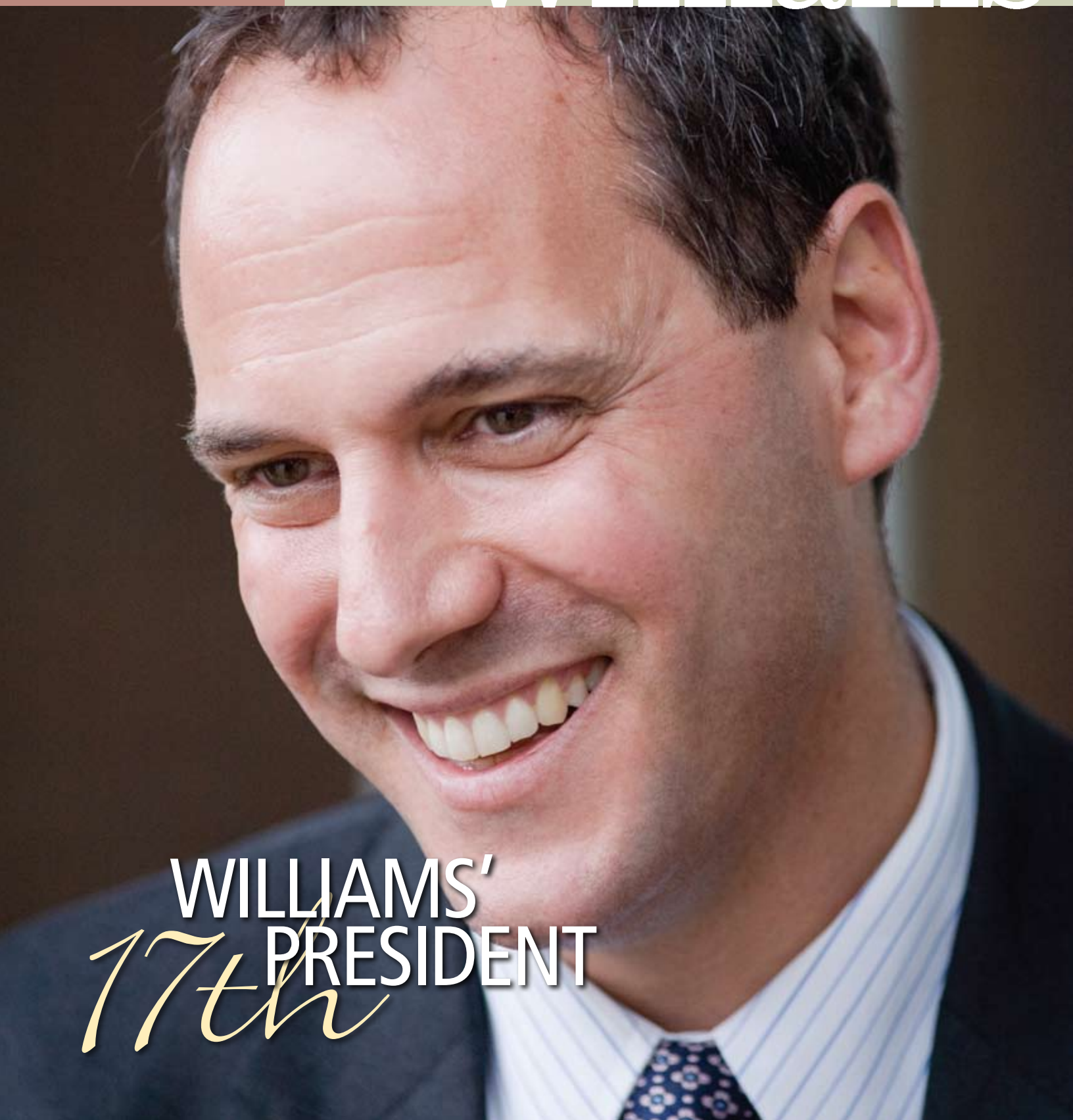
ALUMNI REVIEW

January 2010

Williams

WILLIAMS'
PRESIDENT

17th





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ALUMNI REVIEW

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Williams President-elect Adam Falk. Photo by Gabriel Amadeus Cooney.



Report from the Field

should probably stop talking behind your backs.

Among the experiences that serving as interim president has given me are more frequent opportunities to meet with groups of alumni, both on campus and far afield. When I return, colleagues ask my impressions of you all, and here is what I have been telling them.

I have found these alumni interactions to be both surprising and gratifying. Having taught at Williams for almost 30 years, I had known that our alumni are fiercely loyal. But I did not know the nature of that loyalty. I had assumed it was based largely on nostalgia for the College that alumni knew as students; it turns out to be much more than that.

Most alumni do recall fondly their time here, but, based on their comments and questions to me, few want the College to go back to what it was, and almost all are not only proud of what Williams has become but also are focused keenly on how it can still improve.

Among the most frequent questions alumni have asked me has

been, "How is Williams changing?" They want to know how the College can do what it does even better.

In particular, though they want to be reassured that the College is meeting its current financial challenges effectively and is maintaining its commitments to accessibility and diversity, they also ask how our academic and co-curricular programs are responding to changes in the national and international environments, expanding opportunities for students to experience the world and encouraging them to be publicly engaged.

Of all the ways that alumni support the College, this concern for progress is one I have found especially gratifying.

Another way to put it might be to say that the College's alumni support is "critical" in both senses of the word: It is essential to our institutional well-being and comes with a wonderfully inquiring spirit of the kind that Williams worked hard to imbue in these alumni when they were students.

This strikes me as the healthiest kind of support possible, for which, on behalf of all my colleagues, I can now thank you with a much deeper understanding. ■

—Bill Wagner, interim president

LETTERS

Thanks very much for the recognition of Sam Schuchat '83, the California Coastal Conservancy and its sister agency, the California Coastal Commission ("Shades of Blue," September 2009). You neglected to mention the other sister agency, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the first-ever coastal management agency in the U.S. BCDC has won numerous awards for precedent-making coastal planning and regulation, including current efforts to prepare the San Francisco Bay shoreline for sea level rise caused by global warming. Continue the good reporting on

Williams and the environment.

—Jonathan T. Smith '66

(former BCDC chief counsel), Novato, Calif.

I have just returned from seven months teaching at Kathmandu in Nepal on a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship. So I read in the January 2009 *Review* with a renewed vision the article "Food for Thought." Organic agriculture in Nepal refers to the use of cow dung and straw as the initial fertilizer each growing season followed by human defecation in the fields. Food for thought next time you pay premium prices for your "organic produce" in your local store.

—William S. Carter '63, Cleveland, Ohio



The Alumni Review welcomes letters related to topics in the magazine.

Send letters to:

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Fred H. Stocking

Intelligent Delight

by Bob Bell

Fred Holly Stocking '36 was a revered and beloved professor of English at Williams for some 40 years. He was curious about everything, generous and encouraging of different opinions and perspectives, clear in his attitudes and convictions, reticent in his manner. Fred had reams of poetry by heart. "If I get far enough from civilization, walking in Maine at low tide," he said, "I recite poems at the top of my lungs over the screeching seagulls. It's a pure personal indulgence." When you memorize a poem, Fred said with a smile, "You have music in your head whenever you want." Though personally modest, Fred was a compelling performer. He always valued theatricality more than sincerity. He would say that a cockroach trying to get out of a bathtub is completely sincere!

He stressed that he taught not to advocate ideas or attitudes but "to give intelligent delight." Fred made us remember that the word enthusiasm derives from the Greek for "full of the gods." His dynamic performances were not to show off or strut his stuff; he was bearing witness to the glories of Shakespeare and Keats, Jane Austen and Tolstoy. He believed in the eternal value of literature not as a gospel of morality or ethics but as a source of pleasure, meaning and purpose. "I feel coherence reading 'To Autumn,'" he mused. He hoped to provide access to "a pleasure that would be otherwise unavailable" by requiring and encouraging careful attention to its language. This was the principle of the introductory course, English 101, he helped implement in 1942.

"Our job is to develop in our students a skill—a skill for reading prose fiction, poetry and drama in such a way as to realize the potentialities of these forms," he said. "We must also organize and direct the critical powers of our students so that after they leave us they will continue to refine their critical discrimination and to intellectualize their taste."

Once after his retirement I sent a senior major, who was researching the history and rationale of the Williams English curriculum, to interview Fred. She returned aglow with excitement. Fred had talked with her for two hours and written several pages of detailed observations. "He kept apologizing for the vagueness of his memory," she noted, "and quoted what

>> Read Fred Stocking's 1977 Phi Beta Kappa speech.

some freshman said in class 50 years ago!"

One of Fred's favorite projects was the Winter Study course "Shakespeare in England." Fred told the student travelers that there was only one rule: "You've got to be cheerful, no matter what." Everybody stayed at a rustic inn in Monmouth, South Wales, where they would discuss and enact plays they would then see produced in Stratford and London. Every evening before dinner there was a cocktail hour, which Fred regarded as another important teaching opportunity—"I want the students to see that a gentleman can have a drink, remain civilized and polite, and have a marvelous time." Fred believed that courtesy had an ethical dimension. A gentleman should never say or do anything to make another person uncomfortable. Style was essential. Once he took 10 boys to the mirror in the men's room to demonstrate the art of tying a bow tie—an important part of their liberal arts education, he joked.

Immaculately attired in a white shirt, bow tie and a dark cape, Fred was a familiar presence on campus. He corresponded with his brother about the undergraduate plays, recitals and lectures he attended. Travel, especially to see theater, art and architecture, was a priority for Fred and his wife Carol. A recovering Anglophile, he had encyclopedic knowledge of English history, culture, politics and follies—those perfectly useless and splendidly grandiose structures adorning English estates—and subscribed to a little publication featuring them. He wrote vividly about discovering the Albert Memorial shortly after his graduation from Williams. "I was strolling through Hyde Park in London, preoccupied with my favorite subject, my own state of mind," he said. That blend of rueful self-irony, exuberance and perception made Fred an ideal companion and marvelous storyteller.

Fred Stocking was Williams through and through. Once walking with a friend he looked toward the horizon and commented, "Damn it. It is purple." So was Fred, to the enduring benefit of the Williams community. ■

Bob Bell is the Frederick Latimer Wells Professor of English.



Camille Utterback

UTTERBACK NAMED MACARTHUR FELLOW

Digital artist Camille Utterback '92 has been named a MacArthur Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Utterback is considered a pioneer in the field of "interactive installation," blending computer code with traditional media to redefine how viewers interact with and experience art. Utterback is one of 24 people to receive a 2009 fellowship, which includes a five-year, \$500,000 unrestricted grant.

NEW COURSE BOOK PROGRAM

Beginning this spring, Williams students receiving financial aid will pay no out-of-pocket expenses for course books. Instead they will swipe their ID cards at Water Street Books and the cost will go on their term bills, to be covered completely by their financial aid grants.

In the past, each aided student received a grant of \$400 per semester for textbooks, no matter how much they cost. To avoid paying out-of-pocket expenses, some students picked courses based on the cost of books. Another option was borrowing books from the 1914 Library, but those were often different editions, and students couldn't write in them or keep them for future reference.

The new system removes these barriers and is "cost-neutral to the College," says provost and treasurer Bill Lenhart. Meanwhile, the 1914 Library will close.



COLLEGE RECEIVES DONATION OF WILLIAMS CLUB HQ

Some 30 alumni and friends gathered at the Williams Club in October to celebrate the donation of its headquarters to the College. Williams is leasing the building, the site of numerous College events, back to the club in an arrangement that benefits both parties financially. Pictured above, left to right, are former Williams Club Board President Barton Jones '68, current President Jeff Urdang '89, Interim College President Bill Wagner and VP of Operations for the College Steve Klass.

MUKHARJI WINS MARSHALL FELLOWSHIP

Aroop Mukharji '09 was one of 35 students nationwide to receive a prestigious Marshall Scholarship for two years of study in the U.K. The math and political science major plans to pursue a master's in international relations at the London School of Economics and a master's in international conflict studies at King's College London.

WILLIAMS ENDOWMENT UPDATE

According to the College investment office's December endowment report, during the economic downturn Williams' investment portfolio declined by 18.4 percent for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. That compares with a 19.9 percent median drop experienced by 146 peer colleges and universities studied by a leading investment advisor to endowments. Taking into account spending and gifts

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 at Williams.

"Our approach has been and continues to be to reduce expenditures in a controlled fashion such that we minimize the impact on the quality of the education we offer our students, while both ensuring that a Williams education remains affordable to every student we admit and protecting our current employees." —**Bill Lenhart**, Williams provost and treasurer, on the \$73 million target the trustees set for College spending in 2010-11, a \$6.2 million decrease from this year's spending. Record, 11.11.09

"When students say, 'I just want to live with my friends,' we want to know exactly what that means. Is the neighborhood design too inflexible to allow friends to live together? We want to know how students live their lives, and what role returning to their dorms plays in their lives." —**Karen Merrill**, dean of the College, on the Interim Report of the Neighborhood Review Committee, which found that 70.5 percent of students surveyed last spring reported dissatisfaction with the neighborhood housing system instituted in fall 2006. Record, 10.21.09

during that same period, the overall value of Williams' endowment decreased from \$1.8 billion to \$1.4 billion.

Though the College's holdings in domestic and international equities have taken "substantial hits," says Collette Chilton, chief investment officer, "we had already reduced our exposure to U.S. equities and increased exposure to fixed-income and absolute return." That combined with "low debt exposure mean that Williams hasn't had to wrestle with liquidity issues that have unfortunately forced a few peer institutions to borrow at high rates or try to sell private investments at distressed prices."

The College initially intended to spend \$94 million from the endowment during fiscal year 2009 but adjusted its plan when the markets began to falter, spending only \$81.3 million by June 30. This year spending has been reduced again to \$79.2 million, or 5.6 percent of the endowment's June 30 value. "That rate makes sense for now," Chilton says, "to smooth out the effects of the current disruption—but we'll need to get it back as soon as possible to a more sustainable level between 4.5 and 5 percent."

To read the full endowment report, visit tinyurl.com/yk86op8. For an interview with Chilton in *Giftwise*, the College's gift-planning newsletter, visit tinyurl.com/y8oj9cj.

IN MEMORIAM

Al Shaw, former basketball coach, passed away on Nov. 29. He was 102. Shaw coached at Williams for 24 years, achieving a 302-171 record. Three of his teams reached the NCAA tournament, includ-



R.R. Renzi

Al Shaw

ing the 1955 team, which played in the Div. I opening round against Canisius at Madison Square Garden. His Ephs won or tied for 18 Little Three titles and compiled a 30-18 record against Amherst, including 19 consecutive wins in the '60s. Shaw also was assistant football, baseball and lacrosse coach and a referee in the Big Ten and the National Professional Basketball league, forerunner to the NBA.

He received a Merit Award from the National Association of Basketball Coaches in 1970 for his 38 years as a coach. A year later

...continued on p. 8

the list

WINTER STUDIES

Every January since 1968, students have participated in Winter Study as part of their academic requirements for graduation. Students can opt for independent study or choose this year from more than 100 courses across every academic discipline—from the perennial "Making Pottery on the Potter's Wheel" (a top-10 favorite class in January '09 taught by Pownal, Vt., ceramic artist Ray Bub) to the brand-new "Art and Science of Baking" (led by math professor Allison Pacelli). Among January 2009's favorite courses (based on students' first choices):

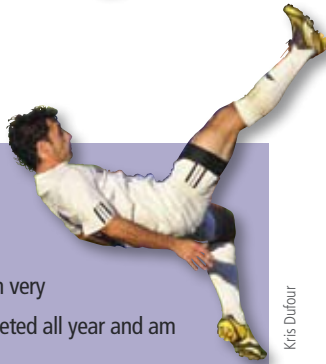
- **Meditation-Based Stress Reduction: Adopting a Mindfulness Practice**, with Peter Bohnert, ordained lay Zen Buddhist priest
- **Boxing**, with Keith McPartland, philosophy professor
- **Musical Performance: Cultural Exchange in Argentina**, with the music department's Steven Bodner, Ronald Feldman, Andy Jaffe and Brad Wells
- **The Taxonomy of the Undead**, with Christian Thorne, English professor



Farida Zaman/Images.com

- **Changing the World 101**, with Steve Case '80, AOL founder
- **Medical Apprenticeship**, coordinated by Jane Cary, health professions advisor
- **Introduction to the Craft and Art of Blacksmithing**, with Brian Hall, blacksmith, and Gary Lohnes, a trained mechanic and machinist and Williams sculpture technician
- **Landscape Photography**, with Nicholas Whitman, Williamstown photographer
- **Ballroom Dancing: History, Practice and Performance**, with Barbara Roan, dancer and local instructor

Compiled by the registrar's office. To see Winter Study course offerings and enrollment statistics, visit www.williams.edu/Registrar/winterstudy/index.html



Kris Dufour

SPORTS WRAP

"We were a little unlucky, but Messiah definitely [is] worthy of the National Championship. I am very proud of the way the guys competed all year and am most pleased with the numerous comments from observers about what a classy group of young men they are."

—**Men's soccer** coach Mike Russo, on the Ephs' conduct in San Antonio at the Final Four in December. The team reached its first NCAA semifinal since 1998 and lost to Messiah 2-1 in a hard-fought match.

"My first year we finished 8-3-3 and lost in the first round of NESCACs. Now we have been national contenders for a couple years, and that's any captain's dream."

—**Women's soccer** tri-captain and 2009 NESCAC Player of the Year Brianna Wolfson '10, after Williams was eliminated by The College of New Jersey, 1-0, in the national quarterfinals.

"The bar is set very high for our program ... but I'm proud of the effort our men put forth today, and I'm proud of the leadership the seniors displayed on the field this afternoon and all year long."

—**Football** head coach Mike Whalen, after the Ephs came up one yard short on a late fourth-down conversion attempt and lost to Amherst, 26-21, during homecoming.

...continued from p. 7

he was selected to coach the New England All-Stars. In 2003 he was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame.

Shaw was a star guard at University of Michigan, where he earned a B.A. and a master's degree. He coached at Dearborn and Ann Arbor high schools and played on three semi-pro teams. He was a U.S. Naval Reservist from 1943-47, co-coaching the Iowa Pre-Flight Sea Hawks. He is survived by his wife Marion and son John.

>> Get the latest Eph Sports news.

ECAC RANKS WILLIAMS ATHLETICS #1

Williams was named a 2009 Eastern College Athletic Conference Jostens Institution of the Year, sharing the title with Duke. It's the fifth time the Ephs have won the honor, given annually for a host of criteria ranging from documented academic success to total conference championships and NCAA tournament invites.

HOOPS HALL OF FAME WELCOMES EPHS

The New England Basketball Hall of Fame honored a slew of Ephs in October, including the 2002-03 men's team, which compiled a 31-1 record and was the first New England Div. III team to win the NCAA.

The team's coach, Dave Paulsen '87, also was inducted into the hall of fame for his career with the Ephs. Now the head coach of Bucknell's men's team, he guided Williams to a 170-53 record from 2001 to 2008 and twice was selected Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

Honoree Jim Frew '99, a VP of business development at the J.M. Huber Corp. in Houston, was a four-year letter winner at Williams during a period in which the basketball team went 96-17. He was the program's all-time leader in assists and helped the Ephs reach three NCAA tournaments and advance to the Final Four twice.

In the media category, Williams' Dick Quinn was the first sports information director in Div. III to gain entry into the hall of fame. He's been director for 21 years, covering 32 varsity teams.

CROSS COUNTRY FINISHES STRONG

The Williams cross country teams each earned a bid to the 2009 NCAA championship, continuing their successful seasons.

After finishing first at the New England regional race, the men placed second at Nationals. Edgar Kosgey '10 won his third consecutive NCAA qualifier and was named New England Region Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

After finishing third at Regionals, the women earned an at-large bid. It was the 17th time in as many years of eligibility that the team was invited to the NCAAs. The team finished eighth at Nationals.

Meanwhile, for the second year in a row, the coaches association named Pete Farwell '73 New England Regional Coach of the Year. Farwell also was named NESCAC Men's Coach of the Year.

Fields of Dreams

Williams' Alumni-Sponsored Internship Program helps students gain on-the-job experience in a host of careers.

By Zelda Stern

Illustration by Donna Grethen

It was the worst job market in decades for students seeking summer employment. Yet more than 90 rising juniors and seniors representing nearly every academic field at Williams landed work last summer with a host of organizations around the globe, thanks to the College's Alumni-Sponsored Internship Program.

The competitive program, a collection of 13 alumni-endowed funds, is overseen by the Office of Career Counseling. Students research internship opportunities using OCC's extensive database and write proposals explaining why they and a particular organization would be a good fit. A committee of faculty and staff winnows the pool of proposals to about 100 students who each receive a \$3,200 stipend to cover transportation, housing and other living expenses. Over the years, more than 1,300 students have participated in the program.

We took a closer look at how, exactly, some of the past year's crop of students spent their summer vacations (based on their final reports to OCC and interviews).

James Allison '11 is majoring in psychology but says he's always been interested in art. So when he came across an opportunity to intern at **Josh Simpson Contemporary Glass** in Shelburne, Mass., the Amherst native jumped at the chance. Working in the "Hotshop" alongside the glassblowers, making bowls, platters, ornaments and Simpson's iconic "planets," were "the most enjoyable moments of my working life," Allison says. He hopes to take more art classes before graduation and would "love to pursue" glassblowing as a hobby in the future.

>> [Click here for text only](#)

Eric Anderson '10 was "at the bottom level of the Hollywood food chain," but his experience reading and rating scripts at **Gold Circle Films** in L.A. "was a great place to start." Working with development director Guy Danella '03, Anderson was "exposed to a wide array of genres" and "a never-ending pile of books and scripts," giving him a "strong sense of understanding of what makes a good screenplay." A history and political science major who'd always been interested in film, the Connecticut resident was uncertain about his career plans. Now he's "encouraged ... to pursue a career in the industry."

Chinese major **Will Bobseine '10** had the chance to "experience China outside of the classroom and away from the foreign community in Beijing" with an internship at **CAI** (Chinese for "talent"). The Fredonia, N.Y., resident organized and raised funds



Wielding an axe and a chainsaw, **Nicholas Herzik '10** spent 12-hour days clearing trees felled by winter storms from hiking trails in Yellowstone National Park. The rewards of his internship with the

As co-president of the College film club, **Ariel Kavoussi '11** was experienced behind the camera. An internship with the alternative media collective **Paper Tiger Television** in Manhattan gave the philosophy major from New York a chance to flex her muscles on the small screen. She helped members write, film and edit new shows and did outreach, publicity and archival work. Her “most exciting project” was collaborating on writing, editing and producing

For more information on the Alumni-Sponsored Internship Program, visit www.williams.edu/go/careers/alumni_interns.php

an original cable access program about “branding and stereotyping in mainstream reality TV.” Kavoussi says the internship was the “perfect stepping stone” to her goal of obtaining an M.F.A./Ph.D. in the electronic arts.

Adam Lee '11 helped the Massachusetts-based **Young Entrepreneurs Alliance** with its first overseas project: developing a youth center in Kenya’s struggling Igenaitambe Village. Lee, an Asian studies and political science major from Penfield, N.Y., created a budget for the center and its kerosene and poultry enterprises, researched funding sources and wrote grant proposals, identified advisers and interacted with everyone involved in the project. In addition to gaining useful insights and skills related to international development work, Lee saw firsthand “not only the struggles faced by [the village’s] at-risk teens but also the incredible promise they display when provided with opportunity.”

An internship with the sustainability program of the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** was the “perfect confluence of my academic work and my deep appreciation for historic buildings and communities,” says **Abby Martin '11** of Alexandria, Va., who’s created her own major at Williams called “Environmental Studies: The Built Environment.” While in D.C., she helped prepare for the International Conference of National Trusts, which focused on how climate change is threatening heritage sites around the world. She wrote much of the Trust’s paper on its sustainability work, published its conference proceedings and got face-time with preservation officers, architects and prominent green building advocates.

What does it take to run a community health outreach program? **Gina Rodriguez '11** found out at **REACH for Community Health** at North Adams Regional Hospital. She helped teach local residents how to incorporate fresh foods into

their diets, enlisted the assistance of amateur radio operators in regional emergency preparedness strategies and developed a promotional campaign for the hospital’s HIV/STD testing services. She also wrote a policy for the hospital in accordance with state law on how to handle internal hospital emergencies. “There was never a dull moment,” says the psychology major, who hails from South Carolina.

“Not only did I spend my summer doing what I love, but I learned a great deal about what I want to do with my career in the music industry,” says **Joshua Solis '10** of his internship with **Moon Dogs Recording Studio** in his hometown of El Paso, Texas. The math major learned how to use all the sound engineering and editing equipment at the studio, a thriving business that works with local bands. He also designed Moon Dogs’ website, got an in-depth look at what it takes to get a studio off the ground and even played guitar with the owner’s band.

Interning with the **Montgomery County Adult Probation and Parole Department**, in Bridgeport, Pa., **Kristen Williams '10** conducted pre-sentencing interviews with a convicted thief, a rapist and an embezzler. Yet “by far the most rewarding and interesting” part of her summer was the few weeks she spent observing a drug court unit, where the political science and psychology major witnessed “the emotional journey” of offenders working toward a “clean and sober life.” One surprise for Williams, who is from King of Prussia, Pa., was finding that most parole officers “truly want to help criminals stay out of prison.” ■

Zelda Stern is a freelance writer based in Williamstown, Mass.





>> [Click here for text only](#)
>> [Read more about Adam Falk.](#)

A Week With Adam Falk

BY MARIA BLACKBURN

One would think that the dean of the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins University would feel out of place amid buckets of joint compound and boxes of horseshoe shims. But as Adam Falk leads a tour through the mammoth renovation project under way at Gilman Hall, he exudes confidence. Clad in a charcoal suit and white hard hat, he fields questions about tile placement and sprinkler systems. Then, at the building's core, he bounds out onto some scaffolding, walks across a temporary plywood floor spanning a 40-foot drop and smiles at the sunlight pouring into the once gloomy space. "Every time I come in here I see the future," he says.

The scene captures Falk's aptitude for balancing the details with the big picture, a skill that's served him well. At 44, he's an accomplished theoretical physicist whose rise through the faculty and administrative ranks during 16 years at Johns Hopkins has been nothing short of meteoric. The *Alumni Review* tagged along with him for a week last fall to see how his current job—leading what is essentially a small liberal arts college within a sprawling research university—has prepared him to become Williams' 17th president.

WILLIAMS / JHU



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7:39 a.m.

It's still dark when Falk arrives at the suite of dean's offices in Mergenthaler Hall and unlocks his door. The only signs of life on campus are a few clusters of students shuffling to classes and to the library. His first meeting isn't until 9 a.m., but he likes to come in early to prepare.

He fires up the espresso machine for his second double of the day and then sits down in his office to go through e-mail, scratch out a To Do list and read up on pending issues and projects. The walls and shelves of his airy office are adorned with an original "Zippy the Pinhead" comic strip, a Dwight Schrute bobble head and an Albert Einstein action figure, among other items, but his desk is meticulously neat. "I'm not smart enough to have a messy desk," he says. "If I have two pieces of paper and one gets under the other, I forget about the one on the bottom."

As dean, he is responsible for approximately 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students, 300 faculty members in 22 departments and an annual operating budget of more than \$250 million (compared to Williams' \$192 million), plus another \$50 million in sponsored research. Although Hopkins is a university with 10 divisions and campuses across the world, the institution is decentralized. "The deans of individual schools have tremendous autonomy within the larger Hopkins culture—academic decisions, budgetary decisions," explains Falk, who's held the post since 2005. "In contrast to most universities, there is no allocation of funds from the university to the school. The university doesn't build the buildings, the school builds the buildings."

The week ahead is a busy one, packed with trustee meetings, alumni leadership events, student receptions, reports on feasibility studies for new buildings and standing meetings with department chairs, deans and university administrators. "What I like about my job as dean is that I work with an extraordinary variety of issues, all of which have to be brought to bear on a single mission," says Falk, who often has 10 scheduled meetings per day. "I come in every day and everything I deal with is interesting."

12:32 p.m.

If you want some insight into Adam Falk, check his tie. As a physics professor he never had to wear one, but after he became vice dean of faculty in 2002, he began amassing quite a collection. The ties are conservative, not flashy, but he takes great care in choosing them to match how he's feeling or what he's facing on

a given day. There's the DNA tie for science meetings, the tie that spells out a certain eight-character profanity in binary code for contentious meetings, and understated "non-pandering" ties in Hopkins navy and blue for alumni events.

Today's tie is light pink with a small geometric print. And as Falk stands before 40 trustees, administrators and parents to reflect on his tenure as dean, one gathers that he's feeling pretty positive. His delivery is passionate and energetic, and the group is transfixed.

The news couldn't be better: Undergraduate applications are at a record high, and the number of students of color enrolling as freshman has doubled since 2001. A new class schedule, improved dining options and a new dormitory have fostered a greater feeling of community and satisfaction among undergraduates. The school just completed a \$333 million fundraising campaign. And the commitment to academic excellence has been bolstered by new programs in the social sciences and humanities and the creation of a new tenure system designed to enhance the contributions of young faculty members. "We want to be, person for person, pound for pound, the finest small research-oriented school of arts and sciences in the country," he says.

However, achieving this goal hasn't been easy. The school's endowment (\$435 million) and departments are small, which means that there is constant pressure to do more with less. And Falk has garnered criticism over the years for decisions such as the 2008 sale of Villa Spelman, a decaying Tuscan villa that for decades housed a research center focused on the study of Renaissance Italy but had become too expensive to maintain. The decision drew a rash of criticism from faculty, students and alumni, but Falk says it was necessary to free up funds to support vital humanities programs in the States and abroad. "This is a great job, and I love it, but it's not an easy job," he says. "You have to be willing to take the heat for unpopular decisions."

After his presentation, the discussion turns to what qualities the next dean should have. Falk's colleagues begin citing his strengths as a communicator, collaborator and colleague. "Adam is a leader who does not only articulate the problem," says Charles Clarvit '78, a Hopkins trustee and chair of the advisory board. "He has already thought through the solutions and is prepared to recommend the best course of action."

"As dean you really are a crucial player, so you need to be a real generalist," adds David Bell, dean of faculty for the school. "What makes Adam so effective is that he masters all of the details and works steadily day after day to create consensus and move things forward."

TUESDAY

5:48 p.m.

The tempura shrimp are going fast at the reception for Student Government Association officers that Falk and a fellow dean co-host each fall in the wine cellar of a historic home on campus. But Falk isn't eating. Instead, he's busy moving from one group of students to another, asking them where they're from and listening to their ideas about the best ways to bring undergraduates together on campus. The small room is packed and noisy, but every so often Falk's boisterous laugh rises over the cacophony. "It's great to meet the students, to find out who they are and what they're studying and what they're really passionate about," he says later. "I don't have enough opportunities to do that."

He spent 10 years teaching classes like Quantum Mechanics and Modern Physics to sophomores and juniors and became known as a vibrant teacher who was gifted at making even the most complicated topics accessible. "Where a lot of professors viewed teaching as hindrance, something that got in way of their research,



Professor Falk didn't," says Brian Smigielski '02, who is now earning a doctorate in theoretical physics at the University of Washington. "Even though he was this really intense particle physicist who was incredibly accomplished in his field ... he never made you feel like you had asked a dumb question and would always stay after class for 15 or 20 minutes to entertain any questions or just shoot the breeze."

The demands of being dean required Falk to quit teaching, and he still misses it. "One of the things I'm looking forward to about Williams is having the opportunity to teach again."

WEDNESDAY

12:25 p.m.

Each month Falk meets over lunch with the dozen chairs of the humanities and social sciences. Though the conversations arguably could take place via e-mail, he believes there is much to be gained by bringing everyone together. "Department chairs are one of the forms of collective leadership in the school," he says. "I think it's really important for them to see each other so that things don't get siloed."

Hopkins, like Williams, has a strong tradition of faculty governance. And Falk has the broad respect of the faculty, says Jonathan Bagger, a vice provost and

"Adam is very good at listening to his faculty and harnessing their energy to create a vision and move it forward."

physics professor who taught Falk in graduate school. "Adam is very good at listening to his faculty and harnessing their energy to create a vision and move it forward," he says.

Sixteen years ago, when Falk arrived at Hopkins, his goals were simple: to teach and do research. (Armed with a Ph.D. from Harvard, he had just completed two years of postdoctoral work at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center followed by a year at UC San Diego.) But the high energy physicist became interested in what was taking place outside of his department and began serving on a number of university committees, including one charged with creating a strategic plan for the future of arts and sciences. Falk distinguished himself as a natural leader and soon after the plan was complete former School of Arts and Sciences Dean Daniel Weiss asked him to become vice dean of faculty. He was 37, and he had no administrative experience.

"It's not about what you've run," Falk remembers Weiss saying. "It's about how you relate to people."

The two worked closely together for three years, and when Weiss left Hopkins to become president of Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., Falk was appointed dean. "Adam was chosen dean and succeeded in that role," Weiss now says, "because skills, intelligence and strong values trump experience as crucial elements for success."

THURSDAY



3:35 p.m.

Falk is leading the leadership team of the School of Arts and Sciences on his monthly tour of Gilman Hall, where a \$75 million renovation began in 2007 after more than two decades of discussion. It's the biggest building project of Falk's tenure and the most significant building project on campus since Gilman was built in 1915.

Falk has raised much of the money for the renovation himself and is the project's biggest champion on campus, saying that it's central to the school's mission to elevate the status of the undergraduate study of the humanities. Now, after more than two years of work, the renovation is almost complete, and he is eager for his colleagues to see the transformation firsthand. The group of 10 tromps through the building, marveling at the new 145-seat lecture hall, the freshly painted bell tower and the empty light well turned atrium.

When the first piece of the curved skylight roof was installed in October, Falk was standing inside the building watching from below as the crane lifted the 8,000-pound piece into place. He snapped a photo of the event with his phone and for the next week showed off the image to the faculty members he ran into on campus. "It makes a big difference," he says, "if I don't say, 'Well, what I hear is,' and instead can say, 'This is what I saw when I was inside the building a few weeks ago.'"

The renovation will be done in June, two months after Falk heads to Williamstown for good. And as the tour winds down, Falk is struck by the realization that he won't be in Baltimore when Gilman opens its doors to its second century of students. He doesn't like to leave things unfinished, and that's a big part of why he has chosen to stay at Hopkins for six months after being named president of Williams. "As thrilled as I am to go to Williams, I have a little pang that this building will open and I will no longer be the dean here."

FRIDAY

2:30 p.m.

During a lull between meetings, Falk sits at his desk, a steaming mug of espresso at hand, contemplating the next chapter in his career.

He says he'll miss his colleagues at Hopkins, but he's also looking forward to the challenges and new experiences that Williams will bring. Learning about the character of the College and its traditions. Living in a college town with his family. (He and his wife Karen and their three children, Briana, 14, David, 9, and Alex, 7, currently live in a trim brick Colonial

in the Baltimore suburbs.) Being part of a place whose singular devotion is to undergraduate education. Even buying a warm winter coat is a prospect Falk finds exciting. "When I was interviewing for the position at



Williams, every single meeting I had, whether it was with an alumnus, a trustee, a faculty member or a student ... was an interesting, substantive conversation about Williams College," he says. "I think it's a community that's very intentional about what it does, and I want to join that community."

The short break in his schedule is coming to an end, and Falk turns his attention to the brief remarks he will deliver in a few moments at a memorial service for Giovanni Arrighi, a sociologist on the faculty who died last summer. Falk plans to focus on how Arrighi devoted his final months to teaching, even after being diagnosed with brain cancer the year before.

"Giovanni's legacy wasn't just his scholarship, it was his students," Falk says as he slips on his suit jacket and prepares to leave for the service. The simple statement speaks volumes to Falk about the kind of legacy he'd like to leave behind as a college president. "What I want to do in my work at Williams is to make it possible for others to flourish," he says. "I want colleges to work well. And if I do my job well and, 10 or 20 years from now, if Williams is a better place in some way than it is now and the school has evolved in ways that it has needed to over that time, then it will have been well worth having spent my life doing this." ■

Maria Blackburn is an award-winning journalist and alumni magazine writer in Baltimore.

FRIEND of Hermann Park

Thanks to Chris Knapp '84, the century-old dream of an urban oasis in Houston has finally been realized. And the result rivals the parks of even the greatest American cities.

BY JIM MULVIHILL

>> **Click here for text only**

>> For more information on Hermann Park, visit www.hermannpark.org

As the most entrepreneurial of cities—a place where zoning is regarded as a conspiracy against capitalism—Houston is rarely lauded for its scenery. The nation's sixth-largest metropolis has plenty going for it, including being home to the most Fortune 500 companies in one place outside of New York. But in the rush to make money, its citizenry has never given much thought to aesthetics.

Contrary to popular belief, though, there are many trees in Houston. And, thanks to Chris Knapp '84, there is even a central urban green space—Hermann Park—to rival those in cities like Chicago and Boston.

Knapp, a Houston native, has been a lead fundraiser for the Hermann Park Conservancy since 1997, helping to transform an overlooked and overgrown mosquito refuge into a 445-acre oasis. With a dedication to volunteerism instilled by his father (David H. Knapp '60 passed away in January 2009), a keen aesthetic sense honed as an art history major at Williams, a long and successful career in asset management and a love of history that helped him see potential where others might not, Knapp was the perfect man for the job.

“The transformation from this nasty, yucky ditch with its stagnant water—not even ducks went in it because it was so vile—Chris believed in it before anyone else





Houston “moved away from this idea of public green spaces,” Knapp says, but now the city has a 445-acre urban oasis in Hermann Park.

© PETER MAUSSVESTO

did,” says Kim Sterling ’80, founder of Sterling Associates, a fundraising consulting firm that worked closely with Knapp through the first phase of the redesign, completed in 2003. “Ten years ago,” Sterling adds, “people in Houston just didn’t think about spending their money on parks.”

Knapp has helped potential donors visualize the park the way it was meant to be, back when the city first retained Cambridge, Mass., landscape architect Arthur Coleman Comey to create a parks plan not unlike Boston’s “Emerald Necklace” in 1913. At its center was a natural urban refuge in the spirit of New York’s Central Park or New Orleans’ Audubon Park. The tract of land mapped out by Comey belonged to George Hermann, one of Houston’s first parks commissioners, who upon his death in 1914 bequeathed 285 acres to the city with the stipulation that it always be used for recreational purposes.

In 1915, George Kessler, an influential landscape architect whose projects helped define modern urban planning in the early 20th century, created a proposal for the park with many key elements that remain today, including the reflecting pool, golf course, music pavilion and miles of trails. But as the country turned its focus to World War I and the Great Depression, other aspects of Kessler’s vision were never realized.

Houston emerged from the crises to find that its identity had changed. “By the 1940s most of that civic vision for Houston was displaced in favor of aggressive expansion,” Knapp says. In 1943, voters approved the sale of 133 acres of parkland for what would become the Texas Medical Center. At the same time, major downtown thoroughfares were extended through the park’s grounds.

The city grew up quickly in the latter half of the 20th century, with the population quadrupling

as opportunity abounded in the shipbuilding, petroleum, medical and aerospace industries. Infrastructure improvements, however, rarely included funds for parks.

“Houston went through a period in the ’70s when suburban expansion and annexation were primary on most political agendas, with parkland acquisition a low priority,” Knapp says. “A mayor during this period was famously quoted as saying Houston didn’t need many parks because people had big backyards. We moved away from this idea of public green spaces.”



It wasn’t until Knapp left his hometown that he saw firsthand the impact and importance of urban parks. Following in the footsteps of his grandfather Alfred ’33, father and uncle John ’73, Knapp and his twin brother Breck ’84 headed to Williams for college. After graduation, Knapp took a job with Wall Street’s oldest private bank, Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. In midtown Manhattan he watched the transformation of Bryant Park from a haven for drug dealers and the homeless to a space for revenue-generating restaurants, high-profile concerts and film series. The Bryant Park Restoration Corp., led by business and civic leaders, became a popular blueprint for urban park revitalization around the country.

Knapp took that knowledge back to Texas when he transferred to Brown Brothers’ Dallas office in 1987 and then, two years later, returned to his hometown to open an office for the firm there. When that branch closed in 1995, he remained

in Houston as cofounder and CEO of Chilton Capital Management, an independent investment advisory practice and trust company that currently manages \$700 million for individual and institutional clients.

Meanwhile, the Philadelphia firm of Laurie Olin, the landscape architect behind Bryant Park's renewal, was selected in 1993 to develop a master plan for Hermann Park. The resulting strategy aimed to restore much of Kessler's original, unrealized vision.

"When I came back, I was struck by how thoughtful the vision for the city had been in the '20s and '30s," Knapp says. "But it had been sacrificed in favor of, frankly, some awful, often piecemeal development. For a city with so much wealth and talent, we appeared to be doing little with it in the way of creating an exceptional urban environment."

Knapp threw himself into raising money for what would become the Hermann Park Conservancy, a partnership with the city of Houston that has generated almost \$50 million for significant improvements to the park's design, visitor facilities, gardens and tree canopy.

"Raising money for public parks is still challenging here because people don't understand how poorly funded green space is," Knapp says. "There's an important, influential segment of the population in Houston with little direct connection to the public sector beyond the water that comes into their houses. Understanding the link between a vibrant urban green space and a dynamic economy is often the first step in getting others to embrace and support the public/private conservancy model we have used so effectively in Hermann Park."

These days, the park is connecting Houstonians to the outdoors—and to one another. The "yucky ditch," as Kim Sterling called it, was replaced with a vast reflecting pool flanked by picnic lawns, fountains and pedestrian alleys shaded by some of

the park's original oak trees. The "grand basin," renamed McGovern Lake, was enlarged, with three islands that serve as bird and wetland refuges (the Texas Gulf Coast is one of the world's busiest migratory bird flyways). Streets were rerouted to improve public access and lessen the interruption of green space. A miniature train was restored, the golf course renovated, and more than 3,800 new trees were planted. The revamped Miller Outdoor Theatre now hosts concerts facing a hillside picnic area, and new light fixtures and benches dot the landscape.

Perhaps the most important development, though, has been the increase in the use of the park by its neighbors. By 8 a.m. this city of workaholics is already buzzing, and the park is playing host to young joggers, senior walkers, tai chi practitioners and a smattering of folks who just like to sit and watch the world unfold before them.

"It's the only place in Houston I know where a billionaire will be standing next to someone of very modest means," Knapp says, "and they're both having fun." ■

Jim Mulvihill is a writer and publicist based in New Orleans.



WATT MCSHAUDEN



WATT MCSHAUDEN

Thanks to the Hermann Park Conservancy, the original "grand basin" (left) was enlarged, with three islands that serve as bird and wetland refuges, and a miniature train (above) was restored.

R E C O L L E C T I N G



WCMA reveals how the president's image and ideas were shaped by the mass media of his day.

BY HUGH HOWARD

Everyone recognizes the beard—it's in the Quaker manner, framing the familiar face with its deep-set eyes and sunken cheeks. Yet when Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860, he was clean-shaven, meaning a life mask of him created around that time is perhaps the most accurate rendering of the president's face. A copy of that mask is one of a surprising number of Lincoln artifacts tucked away in the Williams College collections.

Some four dozen of these objects were the basis of last spring's exhibition "Lincoln to the Nth Degree: The Dissemination of Abraham Lincoln's Image and Ideas in Popular and Fine Art," organized in honor of the bicentennial of his birth. It was a case of the College as curio cabinet, with lithographs, stereographs, copies of the president's signature, poetry and even a decorative presentation of the Gettysburg Address highlighting how "Lincoln's fame was constructed in an age that redefined 'originality' and 'reproduction,'" according to organizers Nancy Mowll Mathews, Eugénie Prendergast Senior Curator of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Art, and Robert Volz, custodian of the Chapin Library. Most of the objects were gifts from alumni—many from Sidney Newborg, Class of 1904, of whom little is known.

For a century, Americans have been reminded by the pennies in their pockets of Lincoln's profile. The following pages offer a fresh glimpse of America's 16th president in his own time.



Life Mask of Abraham Lincoln

Plaster, unknown edition

Chapin Library of Rare Books & Manuscripts

In the spring of 1860, candidate Lincoln was approached by sculptor Leonard Wells Volk. The son of a Pittsfield, Mass., marble cutter, the artist had trained in Rome and wished to sculpt a likeness of Lincoln. To simplify the sittings, he asked to make a life mask. Lincoln agreed but found the process of being encased in wet plaster, with straw emerging from his nostrils, “anything but agreeable.” Still, the subject observed on seeing Volk’s finished bust that the artist had captured “the animal himself.”

Many copies were made of Volk’s life mask, including a set of 33 in 1888, when the original was donated to the Smithsonian. While the date, maker and provenance of the above copy is unknown, the life mask is surely a more exacting record of Lincoln’s physiognomy than many more popularized likenesses made by engravers, painters and lithographers.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
Immortalized his name by the PROCLAMATION OF EMANCIPATION January 1st 1863
whereby more than THREE MILLIONS of HUMANE BEINGS were declared
FOREVER FREE.

Portrait of Abraham Lincoln

E.B. and E.C. Kellogg, hand-colored lithograph with printed caption on white wove paper, ca. 1861

Chapin Library of Rare Books

Gift of Alfred C. Chapin, Class of 1869

Political consultants come in all shapes and sizes, and one of Lincoln's proved to be an 11-year-old girl named Grace Bedell. During the presidential campaign of 1860 she wrote to him, advising that "if you will let your whiskers grow ... all the ladies ... would tease their husband's [sic] to vote for you and then you would be President."

Lincoln gently rejected the proposal in his response to Grace but, after the election, grew a full beard that left image-makers scrambling. Though they had not yet seen the new facial hair, the Kellogg brothers, proprietors of a highly successful printmaking firm in Hartford, Conn., cobbled together a new Lincoln. The imagined beard they added to a drawing based on an existing Mathew Brady photograph resulted in this rather odd likeness.



Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States, at the Capitol, Washington, March 4, 1861

Winslow Homer, wood engraving on paper, 1861

Williams College Museum of Art

Anonymous Gift

To museum-goers, Winslow Homer is perhaps best known for his seascapes in watercolors and oils, but for almost 20 years the young Homer was a workaday illustrator contributing to newspapers and magazines. The technology to reproduce photographs in printed form had yet to be developed, so Homer and others were hired to sketch scenes that were then rendered as woodcuts for reproduction in printed form.

This image of Lincoln's inauguration ran as a double-page centerfold in the widely popular *Harper's Weekly* on March 16, 1861. The image is dominated by a detailed perspective drawing of the Capitol, possibly drawn by another and engraved before the event. But the sketch also portrays Lincoln declaiming from the portico and, on both sides of the foreground, African-American figures hint at the tensions surrounding the election. Barely a month after the publication of Homer's *Inauguration*, the first shots of the Civil War were fired in the harbor at Charleston, S.C.



True Blue

E.G. Renesch, *Chicago*, chromolithograph, 1919
Chapin Library of Rare Books

E.G. Renesch produced numerous patriotic posters in the World War I era, including at least three that featured African Americans. While the principal subject of this image is an absent family member, the picture of the uniformed husband and father is no larger than that of Lincoln hanging nearby. By the early 20th century, Lincoln, the “Great Emancipator,” had become one of an array of symbols the artist employed. Among the others are the warm and welcoming fire on the hearth, an overall sense of domestic comfort and even social status, Founding Father General Washington and then-President Woodrow Wilson. The in-service flag in the window announces to the neighbors that this family has done its part for the war effort.

True Blue came much later than the other images reproduced here—it was published in April 1919—but it suggests how Lincoln in the decades after his death entered American iconography.



Portrait of Abraham Lincoln

*The Keystone View Co.,
albumen stereograph, ca. 1865
Chapin Library of Rare Books
Gift of Robert P. Fordyce '56*

When seen through a viewer called a stereoscope, images like these give the illusion of three dimensions (the eye is fooled by the use of paired images that differ slightly in perspective). First developed in 1840, stereographs were widely popular by the Civil War era.

This is Lincoln as recorded by photographer Mathew Brady, probably in the early months of 1865. On the verso was the following text: “He had the face of a thinker; he reasoned clearly and used English of rare beauty. He spoke in simple words that every person could understand. His face shows his infinite patience, too. ... The world had never seen a victorious ruler caring less for self.” ■

Death of President Lincoln, At Washington, D.C. April 15th 1865 The Nation's Martyr

*Currier & Ives, lithograph, 1865
Williams College Archives & Special Collections*

Many Americans learned of current events from lithographers Nathaniel T. Currier & James Merritt Ives, who characterized themselves as “the best, cheapest and most popular [printmakers] in a democratic country.” Their versions of contemporary happenings, however, sometimes played fast and loose with the facts.

In this case, the victim’s gunshot wound to the head is nowhere in evidence; the room where Lincoln died would have been too small for the crowd pictured; and son Tad, seen here sobbing on his mother’s lap, hadn’t been allowed to visit the dying president. But Currier & Ives had long recognized the public’s desire for sentimental scenes, and this dramatization served that appetite.

Hugh Howard is the author of The Painter's Chair.

Research assistance for “Lincoln to the Nth Degree” was provided by Williams College graduate students in the history of art George Philip LeBourdais '08, Layla Bermeo '09, Jamie Sanecki '09, Rebecca Shaykin '09 and Bree Lehman '10 as well as undergraduate Ruth Ezra '10.

INTELLECTUAL CONNECTOR

by Denise DiFulco

The field of leadership studies might be synonymous with James MacGregor Burns '39, government professor, emeritus, who penned the groundbreaking book *Leadership* in 1978. But the success of the leadership studies *program* at Williams is largely owing to the direction of its chair, political science professor James McAllister.

Since 2003, the first year a concentration in leadership studies was offered, the interdisciplinary program has become one of the most popular at Williams. In 2006, only one student graduated with a leadership studies concentration, compared with 34 last June.

It's no surprise, considering McAllister's ability to act as an "intellectual connector"—as Burns himself characterizes him—attracting high-caliber visiting faculty and scholars to campus. In the past few years, McAllister has drawn more than 200 distinguished researchers to Williams through conferences focused on American foreign policy during World War II, the Cold War, and the Vietnam and Iraq wars.

But McAllister, 44, is equally well-known for engaging students. As a faculty sponsor of the student-run Stanley Kaplan Program in American Foreign Policy, he often participates in the group's informal, Sunday evening discussions of contemporary international relations. His course "America and the World After September 11" draws more than 100 undergraduates attempting to register for 40 seats each year. The College named him a Gaudino Scholar from 2004 to 2006, and he also has been recognized by the larger academic community, having been chosen a "Dream Mentor" by the University of Virginia Miller Center's Governing America in a Global Era Program.

Although McAllister was hired by the political science department in 1997, he considers himself first and foremost a historian of American foreign relations. "I was very fortunate to wind up in a department that allows me to offer the courses that I like and to conduct the kind of archival research that I prefer," he says. "Many political science departments would not be as tolerant."

McAllister credits his interest in the field to coming of age during the early years of the Reagan administration. Like many other young men and women at the time, he says, "I was worried that the world was going to blow up." He received a Ph.D. from Columbia University, where he wrote his dissertation on American policy toward Germany

during and after World War II. He then spent a year at Harvard's John M. Olin Institute.

Since coming to Williams, McAllister's scholarship has led him from the Cold War in Europe to the Cold War in Asia. In 2002, he published *No Exit: America and the German Problem 1943-1954*. More recently, he has extended his academic focus to include the Vietnam War.

Students will have an unprecedented opportunity to explore such watersheds in American international relations with McAllister and other faculty members this summer, when Williams launches its first-ever Summer Institute in American Foreign Policy. Sponsored by the

"I LIKE HISTORY ON A GRAND SCALE.
THE COLD WAR. THE VIETNAM WAR. I THINK
THE BIGGER THE QUESTION, THE MORE
INTERESTING FOR STUDENTS."

Stanley Kaplan Program, the institute will host 15 Williams students on campus for four weeks devoted to rigorous study of American foreign policymaking and grand strategy.

McAllister says the idea came in part from the Williamstown Institute of Politics—founded in 1921 by Williams President Harry A. Garfield, Class of 1885—which attracted some of the best minds in international relations to campus each summer. "The Institute of Politics put Williams College on the map in the 1920s and 1930s as a place where academics, government officials and European diplomats came to discuss the most important issues of world politics," says McAllister, who is currently researching the institute's history.

Given the Institute of Politics and the scholarship and influence of Burns, political science professors Fred Greene and Mac Brown and others, there is a great legacy of foreign policy study at the College of which McAllister is keenly aware. And, indeed, he hopes to leave behind one of his own: "I'd like to play a part in making Williams a place where our students can legitimately say, 'This is the best college to study the past, present and future of American foreign policy.'" ■

LEAP OF FAITH

by Denise DiFulco



"I'VE OFTEN WORRIED THAT IF WE LOOK AT FAITH SCIENTIFICALLY, WE MIGHT FIND OUT THAT FAITH IS A SHAM. BUT NOW I SEE THAT'S NOT TRUE."

In reporting on the religious faith of others, Barbara Bradley Hagerty '81 did not expect to have her own tested. It was 1995, and the journalist, who later would become a religion correspondent for National Public Radio, was in Los Angeles working on a story about evangelical churches. One night, while sitting outside interviewing a woman whose melanoma had returned after remission, Hagerty had an inexplicable, mystical encounter.

The woman was saying that she believed God would heal her cancer and that her illness was meant to give her a higher purpose—to help others. Hagerty says she suddenly felt the air grow thick and moist, "as if someone had moved close by and was breathing on us." The other woman felt it, too. They stopped talking, and the palpable presence gradually receded.

"It was a pivotal moment," says Hagerty, whose own personal beliefs had been in question at the time. "I thought maybe, just maybe, I had felt the presence of God."

The experience led her to seek research on God's existence, but her questions and doubts weren't satisfied. So Hagerty set out to find hard evidence of her own. Her personal and professional quest culminated in the 2009 book *Fingerprints of God: The Search for the Science of Spirituality*, along with a five-part series that aired last year on NPR.

Hagerty was no stranger to questions of faith. She was raised a Christian Scientist but at the age of 35 left the religion—which eschews modern medicine in favor of prayer and healing through faith—after experiencing Tylenol for the first time while sick with the flu. An economics major at Williams, she fell in love with journalism after completing an internship at the *Christian Science Monitor*. She worked there for 11 years, including three as the *Monitor's* Asia correspondent for the nightly newscast *World Monitor*, before joining NPR in 1995.

Still, she took on her research project with some trepidation. Though she found that slightly more than half of Americans report having had some brush with the spiritual or the mystical similar to her own, she worried that, after talking to scientists in particular,

she'd return with the notion that "God was a ruse or a sham."

Modern science, of course, has ways of explaining perceived spiritual occurrences. The parts of the brain associated with seizures, for instance, can cause sufferers to experience another dimension of reality. Another example is the chemical effects of peyote—Hagerty's reporting led her to an all-night Navajo healing ceremony involving the drug—which can elicit visions such as those described by the mystic St. Teresa of Ávila. Are they real or imagined?

Hagerty's conclusion: "It's clear that there's no direct evidence of God and no direct evidence that there isn't a God. But I believe I've found circumstantial evidence of God. It's like a crime scene. ... There are eyewitness accounts, there's DNA evidence, but you don't see the perpetrator directly."

The anecdote that for her cast the most doubt on the notion that we exist strictly in a material world was the experience of Pam Reynolds, who underwent an experimental surgery for a brain aneurysm that involved having all the blood drained from her head. Despite being placed into a deep, hypothermic coma in which her vital signs went completely flat on the monitors, Reynolds could recall parts of the operation.

"It seemed to be pretty clear: She didn't have any physical way to perceive these things, yet she perceived them," Hagerty says. "To me, it said something interesting about consciousness. This is something science is having to grapple with. It's the Achilles' heel of materialism—that consciousness continues when the brain is offline."

The evidence that consciousness might continue unaided by life as we know it left Hagerty with a renewed sense of faith. "I'm not embarrassed about my faith anymore," she says, explaining that people who profess to believe in God are often labeled "uneducated fundamentalists." She describes herself now as having a binary view of God. First, "the one I can defend at cocktail parties, an infinite intelligence." Then there is her Christianity: "It's a pretty simple view of how we live our lives, which I derive from the New Testament. It's a Christianity with a lot of tolerance, a lot of humility." ■



Williams professors and others weigh in on the issues of the day. For a complete listing of media appearances, visit www.williams.edu/admin/news/inthenews

"If education was a good enough topic for Plato, John Dewey and William James, it should be good enough for 21st century college professors," says [Susan Engel](#), senior psychology lecturer and Class of 1959 Director of the Program in Teaching, in a Nov. 2 [New York Times](#) op-ed on the importance of creating "a critical mass of great teachers."

Though people have "slightly irrational feelings about particular numbers," [Thomas Garrity](#), the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Mathematics and department chair, doesn't understand "people making real decisions based on such feelings," he says in an Oct. 28 post on [The Wall Street Journal](#) blog "The Numbers Guy" about criticism of a new building in Hong Kong with unconventionally numbered floors.

IN THE NEWS

"It certainly allows parishioners to have a great deal more involvement in what one might call 'doing church,'" says religion professor [Glenn Shuck](#) in an Oct. 11 [Houston Chronicle](#) article about emerging churches encouraging parishioners to use real-time messaging tools such as [Twitter](#) during services to share their thoughts, reflections and questions.

Though it seems as if people are leaving white-collar jobs for blue-collar ones during the financial crisis, [Robert Jackall](#), the Willmott Family Third Century Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, says in the Aug. 26 [New York Times](#): "I'm skeptical that our society, and the way in which the institutions of our society are geared and the economic situation in which we find ourselves, will permit the realization of this noble dream."

American policy makers "know that the mistakes we made in Vietnam must be avoided in Afghanistan," says political science professor and leadership studies chair [James McAllister](#) in an Aug. 7 [Associated Press](#) article on a meeting of top U.S. officials and a leading Vietnam War scholar to discuss the similarities between the two wars.

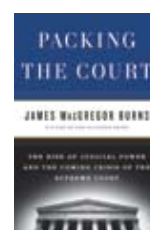
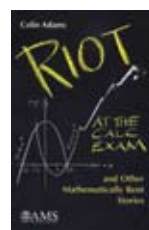
FROM THE BOOKSHELF

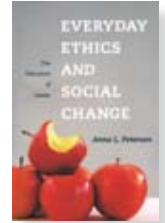
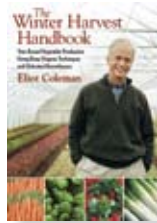
Reality Check. By Peter Abrahams '68. HarperTeen, 2009. A high school football star sets off across the country to find his girlfriend, who disappeared from her boarding school in Vermont.

Riot at the Calc Exam and Other Mathematically Bent Stories. By Colin Adams, the Thomas T. Read Professor of Mathematics. American Mathematical Society, 2009. A collection of comedic stories, skits and letters aims to ease students' anxieties about math.

Lacandonia 1951. By Jack H. Birchall '48. Lulu, 2008. A memoir of a 16-week expedition into the jungles of southern Mexico in 1951.

Sublime Voices: The Fictional Science and Scientific Fiction of Abe Kobo. By Christopher Bolton, associate professor of Japanese and comparative literature. Harvard University Press, 2009. How biochemistry, geology, mathematics and computer programming influenced the language and style of one of Japan's most important novelists.





Packing the Court: The Rise of Judicial Power and the Coming Crisis of the Supreme Court. By James MacGregor

Burns '39, the Woodrow Wilson Professor of Government, emeritus. The Penguin Press, 2009. How the Supreme Court has come to wield more power than the founding fathers ever intended.

The Winter Harvest Handbook: Year-Round Vegetable Production Using Deep Organic Techniques and Unheated Greenhouses.

By Eliot Coleman '61. Chelsea Green Publishing, 2009. A guide to harvesting fresh, organic produce year-round using little or no energy.

Priceless: The Case that Brought Down the Visa/Mastercard Bank Cartel. By Lloyd

Constantine '69. Kaplan Publishing, 2009. The lead counsel on the largest federal anti-trust settlement in U.S. history recounts the behind-the-scenes and courtroom dramas.

Dress Her in Silk. By Martha Andrews

Donovan '80. Finishing Line Press, 2009. Through 20 poems, the narrator tries to reconcile the child her mother was with the woman she has become, now dying of cancer.

Primo Levi and Humanism after Auschwitz: Posthumanist Reflections. By Jonathan

Druker '80. Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

A re-examination of the international critical

consensus that the Holocaust writer experienced and interpreted Nazi genocide through the lens of secular humanism.

When Europe Went Mad: A Brief History of the First World War. By Terence T. Finn '64.

Ivy House Books, 2009. A book for readers with limited knowledge of history who want to learn more about The Great War.

Dance Class: American High School Students Encounter Anthony Powell's Dance to the Music of Time. Edited by John A. Gould '66.

iUniverse Inc., 2009. Essays offer a fresh perspective on Powell's comic novel.

Race and the Politics of Solidarity. By Juliet

Hooker '94. Oxford University Press, 2009. At a time when political theorists claim it's necessary to move beyond race to achieve political solidarity, the author argues that racial identity is the starting point for any such endeavor.

Blueprint for Disaster: The Unraveling of Chicago Public Housing. By D. Bradford

Hunt '90. University of Chicago Press, 2009. An account of the decline of Chicago's formerly celebrated public housing projects, from their New Deal start through Mayor Richard M. Daley's Plan for Transformation.

Imperial-Way Zen: Ichikawa Hakugen's Critique and Lingering Questions for Buddhist Ethics. By Christopher Ives '76. University

of Hawai'i Press, 2009. A study of the famed

priest, professor and activist's critique of Japanese imperialism, which had been supported by Zen Buddhist leaders.

Creating Games: Mechanics, Content, and Technology. By Morgan McGuire, assistant

professor of computer science, et al. AK Peters, 2009. The ins and outs of game design presented from the perspectives of computer science and art.

Magic Gardens: The Memoirs of Viva Las Vegas. By Viva Las Vegas (Liv Osthus '96).

Dame Rocket Press, 2009. A memoir of the author's life as a stripper in Portland, Ore., offers a unique perspective on the sex industry and the women who work in it.

Space-Age Aesthetics: Lucio Fontana, Yves Klein, and the Postwar European Avant-Garde. By Stephen Petersen '85. Penn State

University Press, 2009. A study of the artistic responses to the age of space exploration and the historical emergence of pop, conceptual, postmodern and installation art.

Everyday Ethics and Social Change: The Education of Desire. By Anna L. Peterson

'85. Columbia University Press, 2009. An exploration of the disconnect between private virtues in our personal relationships and the ethical decisions we make in the public arena.

The History of Forgetting. By Lawrence

Raab, the Morris Professor of Rhetoric.



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kid; introverted; weightwatcher; **musical**; little brother to

Peg, Kathy, Dan and Mary; Honda lover; psy-

chology major; **son** of Harold and

Ruth; former grocery store bag boy;

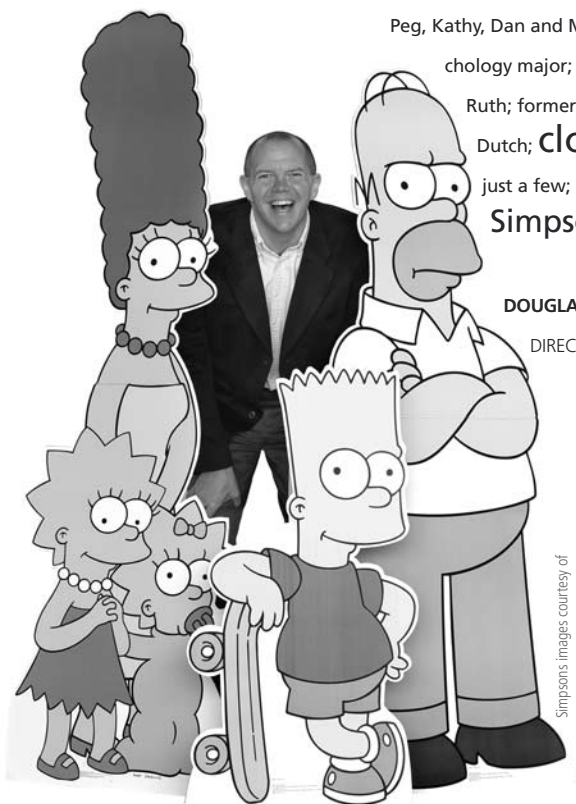
Dutch; **close friend** to

just a few; Christian; e-mail addict;

Simpsons fan.

DOUGLAS J.B. SCHIAZZA,

DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS LIFE



Simpsons images courtesy of
20th Century Fox Film Corp.

Stepped outside of my bubble and came to Williams

Only to enter the bubble of the world

I dared to dream

And now I'm **crossing continents**

Nicaragua, Spain, Kenya,

I blame Williams for giving me the
travel bug!

DANIELLE CALLAWAY '08





Penguin, 2009. Raab's seventh collection of poems explores the nature of remembering and forgetting.

Bob Dylan: Prophet, Mystic, Poet. By Seth Rogovoy '82. Scribner, 2009. A look at the role of Judaism in the life of Bob Dylan.

Seven Pleasures: Essays on Ordinary Happiness. By Willard Spiegelman '66. Farrar Strauss & Giroux, 2009. Essays tout the positive effects of reading, walking, looking, dancing, listening, swimming and writing.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens in The Metropolitan Museum of Art. By Thayer Tolles '87. Yale University Press, 2009. How the French-Irish immigrant became a renowned 19th-century American sculptor in the Aesthetic Movement and helped to advance American art internationally.

Levinas and Nineteenth-Century Literature: Ethics and Otherness from Romanticism Through Realism. Ed. by Donald Wehrs '78 et al. University of Delaware Press, 2009. Essays reinterpret major British, American and European literary works from the 19th century using post-deconstruction ethical philosophy.

Museum Legs: Fatigue and Hope in the Face of Art. By Amy Whitaker '96. Holart Books, 2009. A humorous collection of essays on why museums matter.

Bajo la Palabra de las Plantas. Poesía Selecta: 1979-2009. By Steven F. White '77. 400 Elefantes, 2009. One hundred poems with Nicaraguan and environmental themes.

La Poesía de Nicaragua y sus Diálogos con Francia y los Estados Unidos. By Steven F. White '77. UNAN-León, 2009. How key 20th-

century Nicaraguan poets such as Ernesto Cardenal, Pablo Antonio Cuadra and Joaquín Pasos assimilated poetry by Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Whitman, Eliot and others.

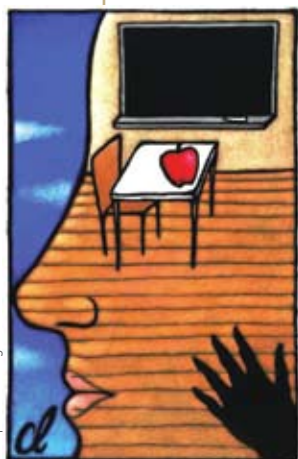
ON DVD

A Beautiful Ship: The S.S. John W. Brown. By Ernie Imhoff '59. Project Liberty Ship Inc., 2009. The story of one of the many Liberty ships that played an important role for the Allied forces during World War II.

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LUNCH DATES



"In order to become great teachers, students must experience what it is to be engaged, disciplined and inspired students." That's one tenet behind Williams' Program in Teaching, a combination of coursework, advising, teaching experiences and guest speakers designed to help budding educators. Monthly teaching lunches, a popular aspect of the program, routinely attract 25 to 30 students for talks with education veterans and innovators. Among the recent topics:

Five Easy Steps to Good Teaching: Susan Engel, Williams senior psychology lecturer and Class of 1959 Director of the Program in Teaching

Writing with Children: Gale Jackson, poet and storyteller

What Teachers Should Teach, and Children Should Learn, About the Information World: Lori Dubois, Williams reference and instruction librarian

I Am Not Michelle Pfeiffer: Teaching in America's Educational Divide: Will Okun, teacher and writer who traveled throughout Africa with *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof

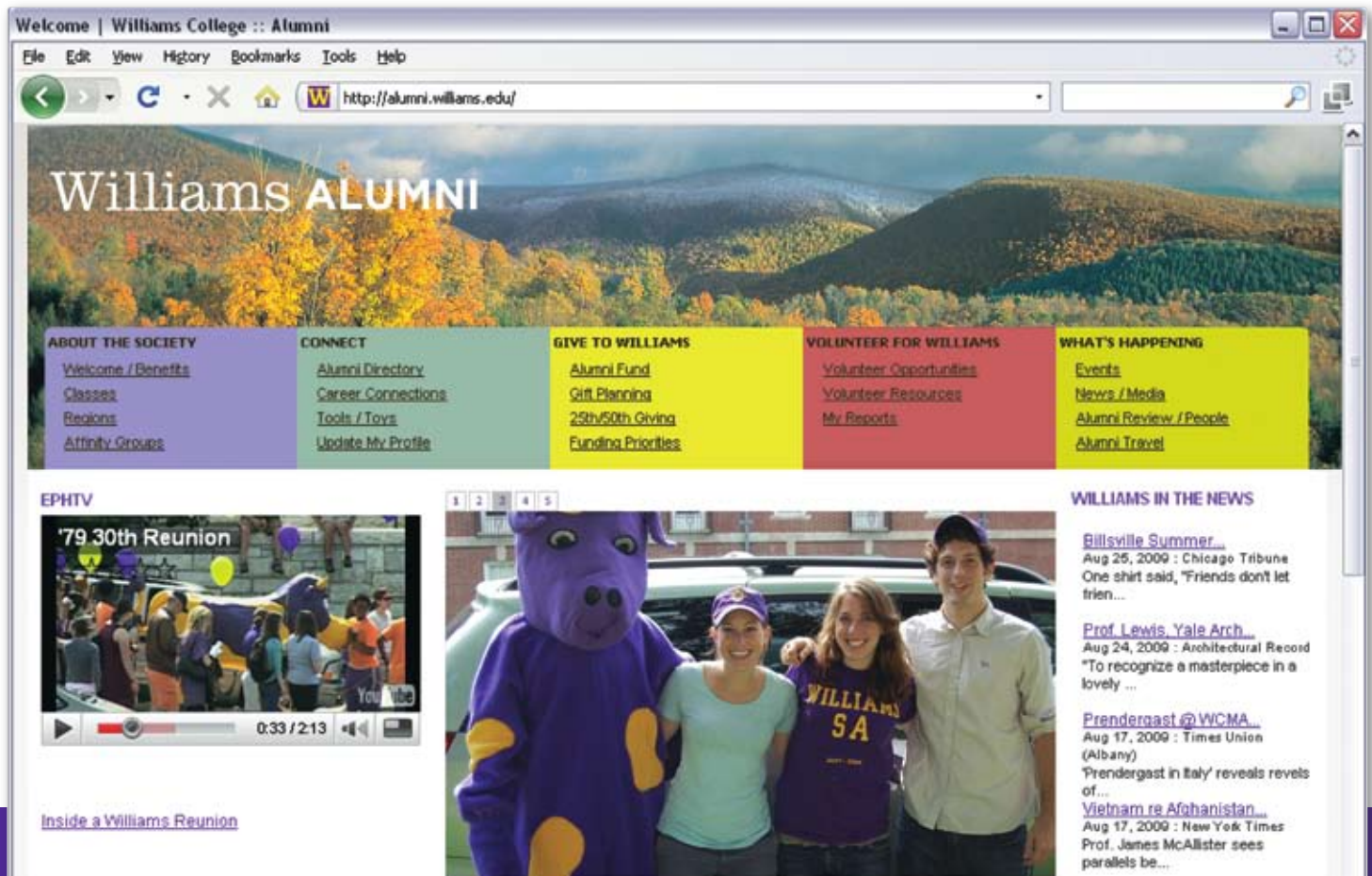
Teaching Peace: Carol Bellamy, president and CEO of World Learning and former director of the Peace Corps and Unicef

For more information, visit www.williams.edu/resources/teaching/index.html

Re-connect!

An online career network and alumni directory, breaking news and events, and lots of Eph photos and videos—all are on the new alumni website at <http://alumni.williams.edu>

Eight out of 10 alumni get Williams news more quickly and sustainably via e-mail. If we don't have your e-mail address, please share it with us by e-mailing alumni.relations@williams.edu.





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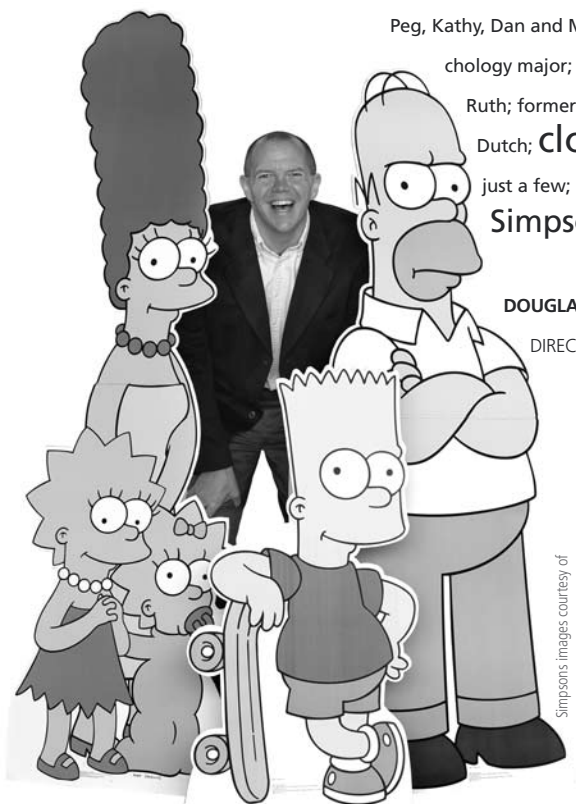
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