



# DEEP SPRINGS COLLEGE

SPRING 2011 ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

# INTERVIEW WITH VISITING PROFESSOR JOHNATHAN THIRKIELD

What is it about Deep Springs and poetry? Jonathan Thirkield, our visiting professor this term, thinks that under such unusual circumstances as ours, “poetry can be a way of integrating a wide range of experiences in a very personal way, of harnessing your intellectual and emotional growth and directing that knowledge into a useful and dynamic form”. And he should know, after having to marshal the unruly hordes of student verse in his class about sonnets (“the most loaded weapon in the formal arsenal”). After winning the 2008 Academy of American Poets’ Walt Whitman Award for his book, *The Waker’s Corridor*, Jonathan has been looking for a place to teach poetry, and he says that “as a writer, one of the hardest things to do is to write in a familiar place, in your daily life. Coming to a place that is so distant from my everyday experience allows me to see my own life in sharper relief.” Originally from Brooklyn, this is his first time living in the west. Jonathan says his favorite time of day at Deep Springs is twilight: getting to be “this close to the sky, and seeing the division between the sky and the ground in such a Technicolor way.”

Jonathan’s class is a mixture of workshop and seminar: his students are exploring the extents of formal restriction in the work of great poets (Shakespeare, Hopkins, Rilke, etc), and are pushing these limits in their own work. Matt Siliciano DS10 says that Jonathan’s class “has struck a nice balance between constraints that pushed us to stretch ourselves and the freedom to follow our inclinations”. With an enthusiastic mentor whose infectious love of language is encouraging his students to immerse themselves in their poetry, and with weekly workshops and



sonnet sequences to read, it’s hardly surprising that Zack Stout DS10 and Edward Pimentel DS10 now play word games on the basketball court.

Our community was blessed with the addition of Jonathan’s wife, Ema Yamashiro, and their two children, Caspar (two and a half) and Imogen (not yet one). His family (described by Matt Stolz DS10: “They’re awesome, man!”) has injected a much-appreciated dose of energy and love into the community. Whether Caspar is entertaining an enthralled multitude of students with his animated body language, or whether they are baking cookies for the community in celebration of Imogen’s one hundredth day of life, we want them to know how much we enjoy their company.

We wish them well as they raise their children on “a diet of William Blake and Wallace Stevens” and spread the joy of the well-chosen word!

## NEW LIBRARIAN & REGISTRAR, KERRIE COBORN



For quite some time now Deep Springs hasn’t had a full-time Librarian. This January, Kerrie Coborn joined our community to do just that. Born and raised in Minnesota, she moved to St. Louis where she received her Masters in Library Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. During her studies, she taught ESL to adults while working as a job coach

for MERS Goodwill. Later, she was hired as a reference librarian at the St. Louis County Library - the largest public library system in Missouri - and soon after was promoted to branch manager. There, she managed 28 employees and a collection of 80,000 items. Her responsibilities included hiring and training staff, maintaining the facility, developing programs for patrons, outreach to the community and interfacing with other branches.

At Deep Springs, Kerrie currently fills three distinct functions - Librarian, Registrar, and Development As-



sistant. Her job as librarian involves organizing books/periodicals, and cataloging/processing purchases and donations. Her job as Registrar involves working with Dean Kenneth Cardwell to execute transcripts and faculty paperwork as well as process course documentation and evaluations. Finally, with Linda Williams' departure, Kerrie has taken on the development functions of managing our alumni & friends database and properly tracking contributions to the college. Arriving to Deep Springs after having worked as a branch manager at a very large library, Kerrie has taken on a disparate array of responsibilities at our somewhat smaller library (20,000 books). She says though that the newest experience for her is "working with the same people you live with."

In Kerrie's case, the mixing of roles that occurs in a community becomes especially apparent. Because her desk is located between the library, computer lab and reading room, she is constantly at the forefront of all student activity. Yet no matter how flustered, overworked or disoriented a student may be, Kerrie will always be happy to speak with him and give him a knowing smile that says "isn't it a wonderful day!" - A smile that puts everything back into perspective. We are all very happy to have Kerrie take on so many difficult but necessary jobs, keep our library in great shape, and help us get through the day with something as simple as a smile.

## STUDENTS PRESENT PETER SHAFFER'S EQUUS

DIRECTED BY: CARTER WEST DS09

Winter at Deep Springs has often been associated with thespian ambitions that augment the regular curriculum. This year was no exception as a third of the SB tackled Peter Shaffer's challenging off-Broadway hit *Equus*.

The play is the story of Martin Dysart, (performed in parts by Andrew Crawford DS10 and Matthew Stolz DS10) an overworked and over-the-hill psychologist presented with perhaps the most troubling case of his career: 17 year old Alan Strang (Tim McGinnis DS09), who has blinded several horses with a footpick. Through his work with the boy, Dysart begins to question his own passionless existence, characterized by banal professionalism and marital celibacy.

Directing the play was Carter West DS09, who came to Deep Springs with an extensive background in theatre production. He began each rehearsal with warm-ups and posture exercises, often met with moans, during which the cast could hardly keep up. Throughout the production, Carter kept his actors to a tight schedule, which paid off in spades.

Scott Wang, Brendan Bashin-Sullivan, Timmy Henderson, Noah Harris (All DS10) and Michael Harris DS09 constituted the supporting cast. Assuming horse-like mannerisms and prancing about wildly, the group added a haunting equine presence to the play. Each of these horse actors played a speaking role: a judge, the parents, a horse-man, a stable-girl, and the owner of the blinded horses.

Throughout Terms four and five, Carter and the cast were hard at work learning lines, practicing equine



physicality, and finishing the horse masks for the duration of the spring semester. Near the end of April, the wait was finally over, and the community filled the main room, which was hardly recognizable after Carter & co. removed all the furnishings, paintings, and carpets.

The show was a great success, and elicited a five-minute-long standing ovation and even a tossed batch of flowers! After the audience filed out, the cast, hot and tired after their ninety-minute performance, set right to cleaning up the main room. Nothing says Deep Springs like actors who double as their own stage crew.

Many thanks to Carter and the Cast for a great performance!

# MY HERO, JOHN W. GREEN, JR. DS 1938-1940

BY E. GEORGE RIVERS



*This profile of **John W. Green, Jr. DS38** was contributed to the newsletter by his nephew, E. George Rivers. Mr. Rivers' descriptions of his uncle's background, military leadership, love of Deep Springs and love of country were inspiring to us—and we hope they will be to you as well.*

In Dr. Robert Aird's book *Deep Springs, Its Founder, History and Philosophy with Personal Reflections* he lists many of your distinguished and illustrious graduates. The list is impressive. The reputation of your fine college speaks for itself. I have added Jack Green's name to my own list and hope the college might remember him and the others who went on to excel as leaders. Jack served his country well and with great distinction.

My story begins on a beautiful spring day two years ago on my return to Las Vegas from Bishop, California. My wife and I decided to stop by Deep Springs on our way and were met with a heartwarming reception from your president, David Neidorf, and several trustees. It was a visit I shall never forget. I had been to Deep Springs with my mother, 68 years before, to visit Jack, who was about to graduate and go on to Stanford as a pre-med student. I still have a photo of the three of us at Deep Springs in the snow.

Jack's father, my grandfather, was a giant of a man. Born in London, his family immigrated to the States when he was young. He ran away from home at the age of 9 and went to sea in sailing ships. He later became Chief of Police of Manila. Jack and the rest of our family were born in the Philippines. Grandfather sent Jack to a Spanish school to become fluent in the language. He spoke 7 languages

himself and insisted that all family members be bi- or multilingual. Jack's college choices were meant to be Harvard and West Point. He chose Deep Springs instead. His hope was to be a medical doctor.

Like so many others, December 7, 1941, was a defining day for our family. Just a few months into his work at Stanford, Jack joined the U.S. Army and was immediately sent to flight school. He deployed to England as a member of a B-17 squadron where he flew 30 B-17 combat missions and then 47 more missions as a fighter pilot in a DeHaviland Mosquito.

In 1944 Bert Stiles, Jack's co-pilot who died in combat, wrote a book later published as *Serenade to the Big Bird*. In *Serenade*, Jack is described as courageous and cool under the most dangerous wartime assignments—daylight B-17 raids over Nazi controlled Europe. Bert details one mission over Leipzig where only 2 B-17's from his entire squadron returned safely to England.

The author gives great credit to Jack's leadership and his concern for his crew. When Jack's father read the account in Bert's book, he wept. Jack was always trying to please his demanding father. My Grandfather died very proud of his only son.

Sadly, when Jack returned at the end of the war, he was unable to finish his studies at Stanford and he dropped out of school, never to return. He lost his concentration in the war and never fully regained it in his entire life. Today, he would likely be diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, a psychological disorder we are just starting to learn more about. As a Vietnam combat veteran myself, I know something about it.

To say Jack loved Deep Springs would be an understatement. It is where he learned teamwork, responsibility, dedication, how to get along with men and how to lead them. Long after his military service he would go back to visit the White Mountains he dearly loved. He asked to have his ashes spread there but, as per the family's wishes, he is interred at Arlington National Cemetery with the full military honors he so rightly deserved. Jack Green lived until he was 80.





# 2011 SPRING SEMESTER COURSE OFFERING



This spring semester, our course offering is quite diverse. We have three long-term faculty positions filled, a spring visiting professor, and courses taught by both our president and our new dean. With options ranging from ecology to religious studies, the academic pillar this semester has been assembled with refreshing variety. Here is a brief overview of the Deep Springs classroom for terms four & five:

**Introduction to New Testament Greek**, taught by Brother Kenneth Cardwell: A fast-paced introductory course in Greek, this class gives students the tools they need to both read and translate the Gospel According to John.

**The Sonnet and its Aftermath**, taught by Jonathan Thirkield: Using the sonnet as a springboard to unpack the formal aspects of poetry, this class mixes writing workshops with seminar discussions. Students read the great sonneteers while pushing formal limits in their own work.

**Natural History of Islands, or Why Do Islands Contain Such Extraordinary Creatures?** taught by Amity Wilczek: A science seminar, this course addresses the unique evolutionary trends found on islands. Students explore the effects of biogeographical isolation and the construction of island ecosystems.

**Ecology**, taught by Amity Wilczek: In part an introductory ecology course, this class is supplemented by a major lab component. While learning basic ecological principles, students engage in two research projects in the valley: studying high altitude plant phenology and tracking our endemic Black Toad population.

**Political Theory After Marx: Critical Theory and Post-modernism**, taught by Joel Schlosser: Biting into Adorno, Heidegger, and others, students tackle issues of late modernity face-to-face. In reading the Frankfurt School and their postmodern counterparts, this class hopes to address modern issues of capitalism and the realization of rational autonomy.

**Justice Among Nations in Thucydides and Herodotus**, taught by Joel Schlosser: In this class, students engage with issues of justice and international relations in Thucydides' and Herodotus' histories, while also grappling with the greater question of how the past can inform the present.

**Feminism**, taught by David Neidorf: This class approaches feminism through political, theoretical and literary lenses, giving students the opportunity to explore the historical development of the feminist movement and gender theory while gaining exposure to newer theory.

**Sacred Sources & Religious Movement**, taught by Jennifer Rapp: An introduction to the study of religion, this course explores sacred texts of Islam and Hinduism and secondary sources with an eye to sacred movement: physical, theoretical, and textual.

**The Senses, the Passions, & Being in the World**, taught by Jennifer Rapp: This class examines the relationship between the senses, emotions, and the embodied mind through a variety of philosophical, literary, and scientific texts.

# ECOLOGY, A STUDY OF THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF DEEP SPRINGS VALLEY WITH AMITY WILCZEK

This term, students taking science chair Amity Wilczek's Ecology class are learning about the organisms that inhabit Deep Springs Valley; a large portion of their study is devoted to the endemic and poorly understood *Bufo Exul*, commonly known as the Black Toad. The purpose of this class is to learn where organisms fit into an environment and what factors limit or enhance their survival. Since January, the students have been going out into the field every week to observe the lifestyle of the toads and study the environment in which they live. Using the powers of observation and a wide array of instruments, they traveled to springs throughout the Southern portion of the valley - Corral, Antelope, Buckhorn and Bog Mound Springs - and ran a wide array of tests to determine the condition in which the toads live. They set up temperature sensors both in and out of the streams, checked the pH and the oxygen levels of the water and determined the plausible locations of the toads - who were hibernating at the time. In March, when the weather got warmer, the

Toads emerged.

The Black Toad is a relatively small toad that spends most of its time close to or around bodies of water, in this case, streams. In the Spring time, the toads can be easily heard because of their characteristic high-

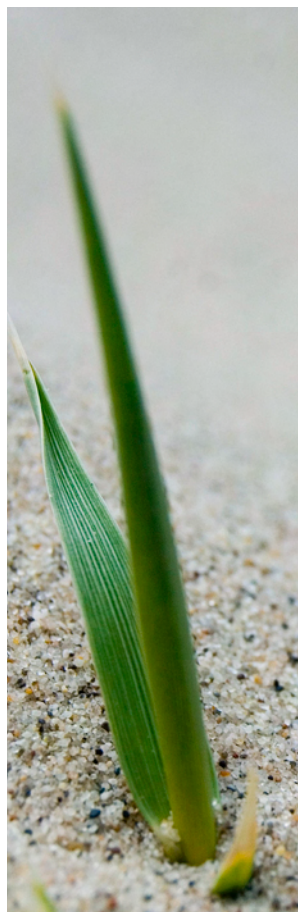


Edward Pimentel DS10 goes to catch carp at Deep Springs Lake

pitched croaking that they make in the mating season. They can be difficult to spot though, because their dark markings closely resemble the sediment at the bottom of the streams. The toads also produce thousands of small tadpoles that emerge at the beginning of April and populate the shallow areas of the streams where the temperature is significantly warmer.

Recently, the students conducted studies to assess the harmful effects that invasive species, such as Tamerisk and Carp have on the toads. They began by clearing out patches of the invasive plant to test the change in oxygen content and toad numbers in the water. Students received the help of Dawne Becker (from California Fish and Game), and using elaborate traps, nets and an electric stunner, caught a number of carp at Corral Springs to observe their lifestyles. It is believed this is the first time the Carp have been examined since their introduction to the area as a "fish for sport" in the late 1800's.

The ecology class has submitted an abstract for consideration and if accepted a more extensive paper will be submitted and published. Over the course of four months, Amity and her students were able to merge Deep Springs academics with life in the valley by following the lives of the poorly studied Black Toad. In addition the class studied the flora within Deep Springs valley in an attempt to understand the effects cattle grazing has on plant communities, and ventured to Mono Lake and the Eureka Dunes to study their unique flora and fauna. Next year, Amity and many of this year's first-year students will continue to study the Black Toad in order to come to a fuller understanding of its life, and the environment in which it lives.



**Above:** *Swallenia alexandrae* (grass endemic to Eureka Dunes), Amity and her class examining *Swallenia alexandrae*, Black Toad (*Bufo Exsul* endemic to Deep Springs Valley). **Right:** Flora and fauna around Deep Springs College, and Brine Shrimo from Mono Lake (all taken by Ecology students).







## UPDATE FROM STUDENT TRUSTEE CORY MYERS



The spring meeting of the Trustees of Deep Springs took place March 11–13 right here in the valley. The agenda was long and varied, and for me, the Student Body's new Academic Affairs Trustee, it was a whirlwind introduction to what looks to be an uncommonly busy—and an uncommonly exciting—season.

The headliner was the official reopening of a perennial question: should Deep Springs go coed? In a letter that has since gone out to the college's alumni and friends, Chair Dave Hitz DS'80 set a cordial tone for the discussion. Our emphasis now is whether and why Deep Springs should go coed or remain all-male. Only if the college does decide to go coed will we assess how best to make the transition. To help separate financial considerations from the question of whether coeducation or the single-sex policy will better serve the college's mission in the future, Dave has generously offered to underwrite the cost of going coed, should that be the Board's decision.

This summer, various members of the Board will conduct listening sessions around the country to gather the opinions of alumni and friends. In late August, the Board will spend a weekend in the valley to review this in-

put as well as the documents produced in past discussions of coeducation. A month later, the regular fall meeting will include extensive deliberation and a vote on the issue. Stay tuned—and, in the meantime, don't hesitate to send your own thoughts to [coeddiscussion@deepsprings.edu](mailto:coeddiscussion@deepsprings.edu).

Coeducation isn't the only item on the trustees' agenda this spring, however. Coming out of the weekend's meetings of the Budget & Operations Committee, the Board approved the draft Strategic Plan for Ranch and Farm Operations developed by Vice President David Welle, Ranch Manager Ken Mitchell, and Farm Manager Mark Dunn. The plan calls for a series of upgrades to the physical plant of the ranch and farm, including replacing thirty-year-old haymaking equipment with ten-year-old machinery, replacing our sixty-year-old deep-well pump with a modern version, and, in the longer term, installing a water-efficient pivot irrigation system on Fields 7–8. The college must first identify sources of funding for these projects, but the odds are good: two current projects, the rehabilitation of the Lower Reservoir and the installation of fencing along Highway 168, have been funded by grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The strategic plan also outlines a potential new breeding and grazing schedule for the cattle herd, which aims to maximize the ranch's sales and minimize winter losses.

In addition, at their closing plenary session the Board passed several resolutions designed to clarify the college's policies on fairness, the recruitment of potential trustees, and the management of its capital reserve.



Restoration dredging for lower reservoir





## A NEW HAY BARN ON THE LOWER RANCH

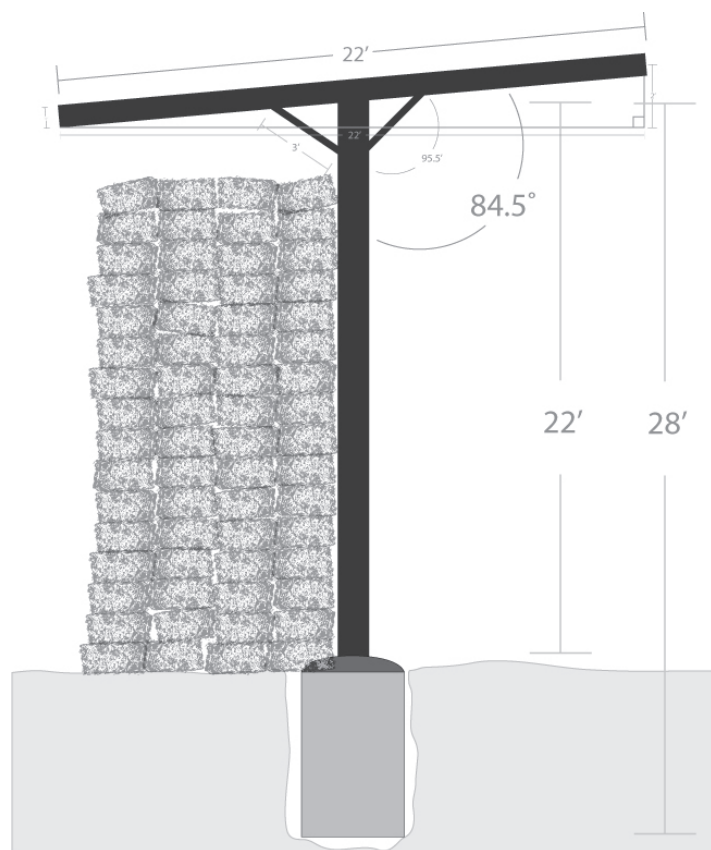
During the last weeks of term three, Farm Manager Mark Dunn DS99 sat down with Harper Keehn DS10 and Tim McGinnis DS09 with plans to construct a new hay barn modeled after a barn that longtime friends of the college, Bob and Carrie Hartman designed and built for their own alfalfa farm in Fish Lake Valley. In December, with only one week of term left, Harper and Tim began cutting and fitting pipe that would later be welded together to fabricate towers—the main structural component of the barn.

Deep Springs received a \$14,000 grant from **The Darling Foundation (Rick Stack, Trustee)** to cover construction costs of a barn for the farm's abundant alfalfa operation. Even so, the budget was tight, requiring prudent spending and innovative engineering to reduce costs. Despite moments of uncertainty that material and equipment costs would overwhelm the budget, as we near completion it's evident that—thanks to Mark's resourcefulness—the grant will cover 90% of the cost.

The farm operation has more than doubled its alfalfa production over the last five years. To protect the hay from rain and snow, students typically cover it with large tarps—a frustrating and sometimes ineffective method. Once wet, the quality of the hay rapidly deteriorates rendering it unfit for some of the farm animals. The new hay barn will allow us to keep a higher quality hay, avoid waste, and obtain higher market prices. With current alfalfa production at about nine hundred tons, we estimate as much as \$3,000 increase in sales value of hay each year.

At the beginning of January Eamon Heberlein DS10 joined Mark, Harper and Tim on the lower ranch, and barn construction went to the top of the priority list. Every afternoon—and what would become many mornings—the barn team met at the stack yard to continue the process begun in December: cutting, grinding, and welding piping to fabricate the towers (or “T’s”). Each day brought new frustrations, but after a solid month of work thirteen towers lay beautifully assembled at the south end of the stack yard; a testament to hundreds of man hours, innumerable grinding wheels, tanks of burned acetylene and oxygen, and boxes of welding rod.

The completion of the thirteen towers gave the barn team a sense of relief, as if the bulk of the work was now over. However we soon realized this was not the case. Before the



Cross-section of erected “T.”

Thirteen towers set 23' apart—fabricated from 14" x 28' and 10" x 22' steel piping. Towers set 8' deep, encased within 3'x7' sono tubing and concrete. Seven perlin's (braces) welded between each set of towers (within each bay). An estimated 17 tons of metal, and 40 tons of cement/gravel went into the final product.



Above: Tim McGinnis and Mark Dunn setting a perlin.





team could begin erecting towers, a few crucial apparatuses were needed. Mark and Eamon fashioned a detachable boom for the farm's 1970s vintage bale wagon. Using a winch controlled by the wagon's hydraulics, the boom would serve as a crane to lift and carry each tower. Simultaneously Harper and Tim constructed a frame atop the 1940's dump truck to act as a base for a mobile scaffolding. They also fabricated a hoisting mechanism to easily lift large amounts of roofing panels with the boom.

As January came to an end, the stack yard became an official "Construction Zone." A safety policy was written, hard hats were put on, and Tim McGinnis (Student nurse) became the official site safety manager. Students from GL and Farm Team were recruited and the labor-intensive process of mixing and pouring concrete for the thirteen towers began. The first tower was erected in late January and the process continued though February into March. The barn team stayed in the valley over term break, spending mornings and afternoons cutting, raising, and welding perlin between each tower.

Tim McGinnis described the first morning, and the initiation of this process, as one of the most "demoralizing" days in the barn's construction. There was a common sinking feeling with the realization of how much work would have to be dedicated to raising and welding almost one hundred perlin. Nonetheless, by mid-March, all thirteen towers stretched monumentally down the stack yard.

Assigned to new labor positions, Harper and Eamon left Mark and Tim to carry most of the work forward and to set the last of the perlin. What remains is to secure roughly 6,950 square feet of corrugated steel roofing panels.

For Tim, Eamon, and Harper, working long days at the stack yard and having the occasional meeting or lunch with Mark and his wife Callie at their house, led to a greater sense and feeling of the lower ranch as a home. In this way the ranch became not only a place of familiarity and comfort, but also a locus for developing a new philosophy of labor.

The Barn Team could not fully envision the complete structure when looking at drawings. Only after many towers were up, and perlin welded in place, could they begin to believe in the project's success. It is one of the oldest clichés to say that mistakes are the greatest learning device, but what is implied in learning is a leap in confidence. Confidence concerning what one is capable of, and more importantly, what a couple sets of hands with time and materials can achieve. There's an inconceivable gap between hand-drawn plans and their physi-

cal or real-world expression that is more than the combination of man-hours and raw materials; a conceptual leap that goes beyond intellectual work and writing papers. The journey from paper to steel can in itself be somehow more profound than a philosophic tract or a great piece of literature. The humbling nature of a project of this scale facilitates our faith and understanding in the mind and the material world, and how one can find expression in the other.

Special thanks to Bob and Carrie Hartman for loaning us equipment and offering invaluable advice!



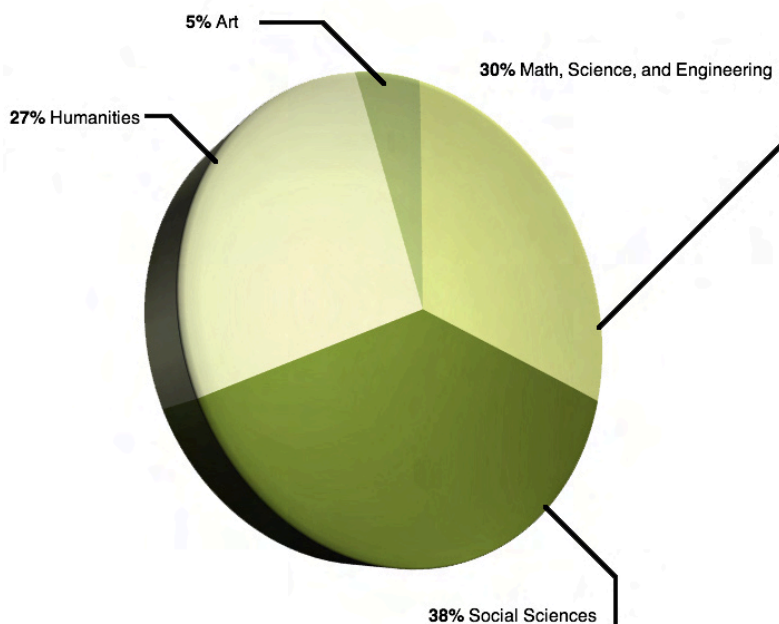


# DEEP SPRINGS IN THE WORLD

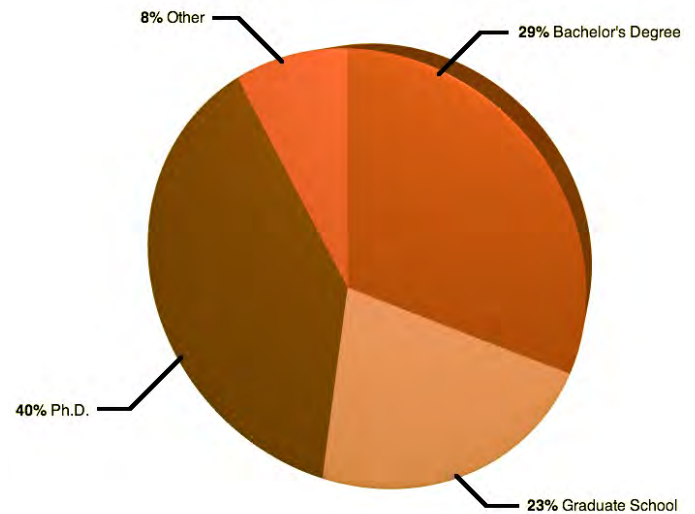
## WHO ARE WE NOW?

In 1917, L.L. Nunn founded Deep Springs to produce men who would lead lives of service. Today, in order to remain accredited, the college is required to circulate surveys to our alumni about the relevance of the Deep Springs experience. Ever wonder what your fellow alumni are up to? Here are a few stats from the 164 alumni respondents to our 2009 survey:

### WHAT DO WE STUDY?



### HOW ARE WE EDUCATED?



**59%**

OF ALUMNI THINK THE CONCEPT OF SERVICE WAS "VERY PRESENT" IN THEIR DEEP SPRINGS EDUCATION

**71%**

OF ALUMNI SAY DEEP SPRINGS WAS "VERY RELEVANT" OR "ESSENTIAL" TO THEIR LIVES AFTERWARD



Ben Shaver DS10 (Student Trustee) takes a break from hiking to enjoy the scenery around Deep Springs Valley.



# AUTOMOTIVE INTEREST, MECHANICS, MOTOR-CYCLE MAINTENANCE

Deep Springs transportation has come a long way since 1917. Initially, the college had a few horses and only a single car, which was used occasionally by the SB for field trips. Over the years, however, we have acquired many and more vehicles, making work around the ranch much more efficient. Today, we have a range of vehicles that fill a wide array of purposes: labor trucks, tractors, fire-truck, suburbans, personal cars and even motorcycles. These vehicles have given countless benefits to our education by expanding the possibilities of the labor program, and without them, we would inhabit very different and rather primitive lifestyles. However, as our use of cars became more ubiquitous, our understanding of them deteriorated – engines became more complex, and a broken one became a nightmare. Our ability to understand how a machine operates was taken out of our hands; leaving us unequipped to deal with breakdowns.

The current Student Body, equipped with curiosity and the willingness to learn is enthusiastically trying to break this trend. In the fall, our mechanic Padraic MacLeish DS99 began changing the automotive knowledge of students by teaching them the Art, and in many ways the Zen of automobile maintenance. He began by offering an Automotive Mechanics class. A striking twenty students signed up for the course, each of whom learned everything from how to jump-start a car to the proper method for setting ignition timing. Class readings were accompanied by weekly lab assignments completed on a ranch truck (“the Courier”) which Padraic continually handicapped for them. The students came out of the course with a basic, yet fundamental set of skills on how to identify, and hopefully repair automotive problems.

The students soon took their newly-gained knowledge to pursue personal projects. Eamon Heberlein DS10, purchased a Honda motorcycle in January, and under Padraic’s guidance is reviving it back to working condition. Tim McGinness DS09 is currently repairing the transmission of Mark Dunn’s dirt bike, and Kevin Morrell DS09 will restore one of the trucks that belongs to the Mitchell family. A long list of other students have also gained the courage to repair their own vehicles, which includes anything from tuning sedans and hatchbacks to restoring off-road vehicles and resurrecting rusty bicycles. In their free time, students have also been known to frequent the Mechanic’s shop and help Padraic out with whatever vehicle he is working on at the time.

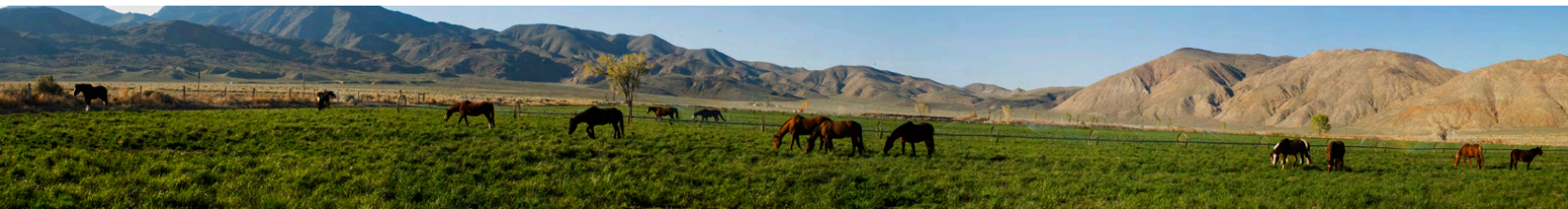
For the Spring Semester, Henrik Herb DS10, took an

independent study with Padraic to fix up a derelict pickup. This involved removing the engine (and almost every other mechanical component tied to it) taking it apart and repairing a blown cylinder that caused constant misfiring. Henrik still has a long way to go in fixing the automobile, but he passed his final exam.

In many ways, the students of today’s Deep Springs have diverged from the students of the past - simply because today’s students live in a different world. We have a lot more conveniences available to us that make life simpler, and require less hands-on involvement. However, these come at the price of comprehension, and consumers can become paralyzed with the belief that they don’t know how to fix anything. So it comes as a relief that today’s generation of Deep Springers has something in common with those of the past: an insatiable curiosity about how things work. And hopefully, as vehicles become easier to use but more difficult to understand, students of Deep Springs will continue to hold curiosity as a constant value of self-reliance.



Jacob Goldstone DS09 works on his Subaru



## ALUMNI NEWS

**Kevin West DS'88** has been commissioned by publisher Knopf to author a book about home food canning & preserving. The book is titled *Saving the Season* and stems directly from Kevin's work on his blog of the same name [www.savingtheseason.com](http://www.savingtheseason.com). The book will be an extensive survey of the history and techniques of food preservation along with consideration of its cultural impacts.

**Robert Gatje DS'44** conducted a lecture tour in several cities coast-to-coast this past year in conjunction with his latest book *Great Public Squares, An Architect's Selection*, published by W.W. Norton. We were fortunate to have Bob give his presentation here in the Main Building during his brief visit to Deep Springs last fall. Using extensive drawings and illustrations, the book closely examines the history and design features of forty noteworthy urban public squares in cities of Europe and North America. Bob is formerly a partner with the firms of both Marcel Breuer and Richard Meier, respectively.

**Andre Houssney DS'96** has founded an organic farming company in Southern Africa that is producing Fair Trade products for market in developed nations. The company works with local farmers in Zambia, providing fair wage contracts and returning a portion of revenue directly back to local community organizations in the area. You can find some of their products at [www.zambiansoap.com](http://www.zambiansoap.com). Andre also owns a small farm in Boulder County, Colorado with his wife, Vanee.

Having made a trip to explore the geology around Telluride, Ouray and Silverton, Colorado last summer, **John Hoskins DS'61** relates that he is VERY impressed with tales of L.L. Nunn's stamina in traversing those mountains on foot during his Telluride days in the 1880s.

**Kelly Carlin DS'02** reports that in the last year he spent eight months performing public health service work in Uganda; guided a lengthy backpacking tour through Alaska; and most recently worked as a carpenter building a timber-framed passive solar home in New Hampshire.


**Donald Greer DS'54** is enjoying retirement from his surgical practice. After a twenty five year hiatus he has taken up riding again and even won some trophies in competitive horsemanship. He also sails avidly and keeps his hand in the medical profession by doing occasional site inspections of outpatient facilities with the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities. Don states: *It is particularly gratifying to be able to give as much time as I want to whatever project is at hand, rather than facing the ever tightening deadlines current society seems to be forcing on us.*

**Lee Talbot DS'48** updates us on his latest expedition: *"Earlier this spring my scientist wife, Marty, and I spent over a month exploring and assessing conservation and development conditions in the most remote parts of the central Annamite Mountains in Laos. This involved days of travel in dugout canoes over rapids and through rock-strewn rivers, camping in totally uninhabited areas, staying in all manner of remote village accommodations (usually pitching our sleeping bags on the headman's porch high on stilts as all such Lao huts are) and eating vast masses of sticky rice. Because of the scientific and conservation significance of this expedition we were awarded expedition flags by both the Explorers Club (Marty and I are both members) and the Society of Woman Geographers (for Marty). We understand that the government of Laos is already acting on some of our recommendations. So we've had a real impact as well as great adventures."*

**David Werdegarr DS'47** is currently the President and CEO of a non-profit, community-based organization in San Francisco: The Institute on Aging. The IOA provides a variety of health care and supportive services to help older adults continue to live independently in the community; there are associated health professional educational activities and health services research endeavors. David notes: We are about to open a new, model facility in San Francisco that combines our health care and social services with affordable senior housing.

**Andrew Zipser DS'66** completed "six arduous months" of training at the Prince William County Fire Academy in Virginia and has graduated as a Firefighter I/II. Andy





suspects he is the first great grandfather to do so. He will serve as a volunteer first responder and EMT officer with the county. Andy is also the editor of the Guild Reporter, the official periodical of the Newspaper Guild in North America, an organization whose dwindling membership he bemoans.

A recent update from Yale University, courtesy of **Charlie Munford DS'00**: *"I am currently in the second year of a two-year Masters at the Yale Forestry School. I am doing a masters project studying the effects of sheep grazing on native flora in New England. I have a flock of sheep that I trailered up here from Mississippi, and I am keeping them at a nature preserve nearby. I am planning to go back down South, maybe to Louisiana, after graduation, to work in forestry and agriculture in some capacity."*

**David Cole DS'45** and his wife Betty Slade have retired from their work in international development. They concentrate on pursuits closer to their home base on the south coast of Massachusetts. Particular endeavors dear to them are the Massachusetts chapter of the Audobon Society and the New Bedford Whaling Museum, where David helped organize a conference on why New Bedford became the center of the whaling industry in the 19th Century. They invite fellow alumni and friends to look them up if traveling to Cape Cod.

**Mike Cravey DS'65** joined **Glen Kaufman DS'65** and **Jim Partridge DS'66** for some exploring in Grand Canyon last fall (echoes of student body trips from bygone days). Mike reports that he continues to practice family medicine in his small Texas town, now as an employee of Scott & White Clinics.

**David Wax DS'00** and his band The David Wax Museum were featured in Time Magazine as one of the top ten acts at the 25th annual South by Southwest music festival in Austin, Texas. SXSW is considered the premier festival of live music in North America, drawing hundreds of bands and tens of thousands of fans each spring. The David Wax Museum draws on a fusion of Mexican and American folk music and has been touring extensively for the past two years.

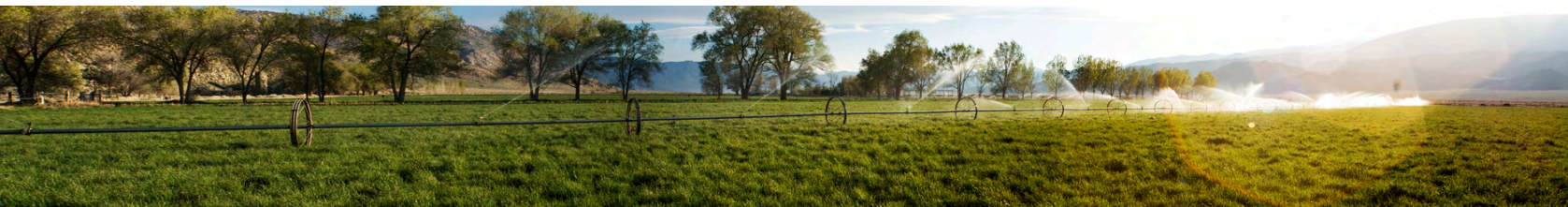
**Vern Penner DS'57** made his third lecture tour for National Geographic/Lindblad Expeditions on board the **NG Explorer** in April. The ship departed Dakar, Senegal with stops along the Senegalese coast, Banjul, the Gambia, the Cape Verde Islands where Vern served as US Ambassador from 1986-1990, Dakhla, Western Sahara and the Canary Islands. Vern provided background lectures on

the culture and politics of the region for the travellers on board. At press time, he noted that his *"return to Annapolis will be just in time for the start of the sailboat racing season and I will be defending my winning record in the Hospice Cup charity regatta for the fourth consecutive year."*

**Andrew McCreary DS'06** served an internship this spring in the White House Office of Public Engagement. During his leave from Harvard University, Andrew was ably assisted in acclimating to our nation's capital by DS Trustee Beth Thomas and her husband John.



It's spring and there's new life in Deep Springs Valley. In addition to new calves, lambs, and piglets, Cyril Malle-Barlow DS10 has acquired ten ducklings to raise on the ranch.



## IN MEMORIAM

### **Charles Christenson – November 19, 2010**

Charles J. Christenson was born September 25, 1930, in Chicago. He attended the short-lived Pasadena Branch of Telluride in California before transferring to Cornell Branch in 1950. A long-standing member of Telluride Association, “Chuck” Christenson served on the board of trustees at Deep Springs from 1986-1994, including time as chair. He died of natural causes at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

After graduating Cornell, Christenson went to Harvard Business School as an MBA student, graduating with high distinction as a Baker Scholar in 1954. After two years of military service, during which he participated in the development of the U.S. Army’s first cost-based budgetary control system, he returned to Harvard Business School in 1957, where he obtained his doctorate in business administration (DBA) in 1961 and joined the faculty. He was promoted to full professor in 1968.

A member of the active HBS faculty for almost 40 years, Christenson had a distinguished career as an innovator, teacher, and scholar. A disciple of the work of Sir Karl Popper, a noted British philosopher of science, Christenson was among the first to bring the social sciences into the mainstream of practical business studies in Harvard Business School’s MBA Program. His research focused on organizations as learning systems, corporate adaptability, and the applications of social sciences to business.

Chuck was actively involved in a number of professional organizations, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Accounting Association, and the American Economics Association. He served as a director of several private companies, as well as a trustee and officer of several not-for-profit organizations, including Telluride Association and Deep Springs College.

Jack Newell DS’56 recalls that *“Chuck was as kind and considerate as he was brilliant, making him an outstanding trustee and board leader. He did the analysis and wrote the 1994 ‘Doomsday Report’ on the state of the endowment in which he forecast bankruptcy for the college before the year 2000. Chuck and his report stunned and then galvanized the board, leading to our quick recovery from the scars of the coeducation debate and the launching*

*of the \$18 million Campaign for Deep Springs (1995-2001). A lot of people are recognized for playing key roles in saving Deep Springs in that era, but Chuck is often wrongly overlooked. His courageous report was the trigger that started the renaissance.”*

Chris Breiseth, Telluride member and former DS President & board member notes:

*“What always struck me about Chuck as a Tellurider through the years of working with him--and always enjoying his company--was that he began with Pasadena Branch before going on to Cornell and CBT. The significance of this for me was that Chuck was independent of some of the cliques within the Association, whether they represented Deep Springers, CBTers or TASPers. He inevitably brought common sense and balance to any discussion, always with his quiet sense of humor and respect for others. When I saw his deep dedication to Deep Springs, after all he had done for Telluride, I realized how profound his belief was in the Nunnian educational institutions and experiments.”*

Upon his death, Chuck Christenson bequeathed nearly one million dollars to the Deep Springs College endowment. We are profoundly grateful and deeply honored to have had Chuck’s friendship and support, both throughout his life and in his passing. The continuing vitality of the college owes much to his legacy of leadership.

### **Wendell Williams DS’46 – November 20th, 2010**

Wendell S. Williams was emeritus professor of physics, materials science and bioengineering and director emeritus of the Program on Ancient Technologies and Archaeological Materials at the University of Illinois. He died at the age of 82.

Born in Lake Forest, Illinois, Wendell graduated from Lake Forest High School as valedictorian of his class and sang lead roles in several Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. In September 1946 he came to Deep Springs where he attended for two years before transferring to Swarthmore College.

At Swarthmore, he co-founded the Swarthmore Savoyards with his wife-to-be, Dorothy Watt, and as music director and conductor produced several G & S operettas. In graduate school at Cornell University, he and his wife founded the Cornell Savoyards, which still continues. He completed his graduate studies at Cornell University where



he was elected to Telluride Association and served as an officer.

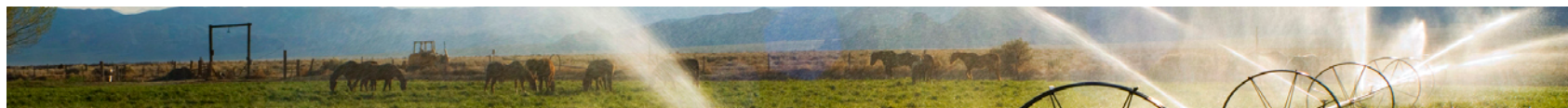
After receiving his Ph.D., Wendell was a research physicist for Union Carbide Corporation, where he worked on transition-metal carbides, nitrides and borides and continued his musical pursuits by leading a lab chorus, the Carbon 14.

In 1967 Wendell joined the Illinois faculty as associate professor, later professor, of physics, ceramic engineering and bioengineering. For several years he headed the university's Program on Ancient Technologies and Archaeological Materials. Retiring from Illinois in 1987, he was appointed chairman of materials science and engineering at Case Western Reserve University. He retired from CWRU in 1995 and returned to Urbana. Throughout his career he received numerous awards from both students and administrators for his excellence in teaching and research.

Among his numerous endeavors, Wendell served

as consultant for the National Science Foundation, the National Research Council, the Department of Energy, Argonne National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Sandia Laboratory, and the Nordson Corporation. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Ceramic Society, and past president of the Society for Physical Regulation in Biology and Medicine. He also served for several years as music director of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Urbana and was a senior research visitor at Cambridge University, Oxford University and Imperial College, London. For his scientific achievements, he was elected to the Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C.

As a testament to his appreciation for Deep Springs, numerous friends of Wendell's have sent contributions to the College on his behalf. The SB is genuinely honored to claim him as one of their own.



## UPCOMING REUNIONS

### Memorial Day

We'd like to remind everyone that they are invited Memorial Day weekend to a reunion at Deep Springs for all alumni and friends of the college. Festivities will begin on Saturday morning, May 28 and continue through Sunday night, May 29. In addition to barbecues and hiking around the campus and valley, the schedule includes updates from the staff on the college, ranch & farm, presentations by selected alumni & guest speakers and a listening session with attendees on the question of coeducation at Deep Springs. And, the Trustees will award the Deep Springs Medal for Service to Robert Gatje DS'44.

There is room to camp on the college grounds. If you prefer a roof over your head, you'll need to book a motel room in Bishop. Check our website events page for information about local motels. You can RSVP to the college, but book your motel directly ASAP because the annual Mule Days celebration happens in town that same weekend. Contact [officeman@deepsprings.edu](mailto:officeman@deepsprings.edu) with your confirmation or questions.

### 1990s Decade

Following a format that has been very popular with other decade groups, on September 3 & 4, 2011, Deep Springs will hold the first-ever reunion specifically

for 1990s alumni. Mark your calendar and check with your friends from those years to see who can join you. The class of 1991 is planning a big showing for their 20th anniversary. Camping on the ranch grounds is encouraged, as are families. Watch for a forthcoming invitation with specifics on the schedule. We hope to see many of you here.

### FUNDRAISING REMINDER

Deep Springs has weathered the Great Recession in healthy shape. Many of our readers are directly responsible for assuring the quality of our educational program through their financial and practical contributions to the college. We wish to express our gratitude to all of you for support over the years, and again to those who have given this academic year.

We're still shy of our fundraising goals for the current fiscal year that ends June 30, so we hope many of you will consider a financial gift to the college before then. Checks can be made out to Deep Springs College in Dyer, Nevada 89010. Or, visit the "contribute" page of our website [www.deepsprings.edu](http://www.deepsprings.edu) for more information.

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