

DEEP SPRINGS COLLEGE



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012

SPRING SHORT-TERM FACULTY

PATRICK GRAY

Patrick Gray comes to us from Yale University, having just finished his Ph.D. in English and Renaissance Studies. Patrick is leading a seminar, *Shakespeare's Problem Plays*, on plays that evade standard classification or otherwise present significant problems for critics, and also helping to teach another class on Homer's *Odyssey* and James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

After finishing his undergraduate education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Patrick spent a year teaching English at the Himanchal High School in Nepal (www.himanchal.org) and then continued his education at the Sorbonne, Oxford, and Yale respectively. In addition to writing his dissertation, teaching, and co-editing an anthology called *Shakespeare and Renaissance Ethics*, Patrick spent this last year producing an original musical, *Broken Chains*, about the life of Saint Peter, which he wrote in collaboration with composers from the Yale School of Music. In contrast to that heavy workload, he describes his time here as luxurious, and he appreciates this opportunity to discuss less-familiar plays in a small-class atmosphere.

Patrick has been eager to bring more Shakespeare into the valley, screening film adaptations of Shakespeare plays every Saturday night. Shakespeare wrote in a world of tightly connected relationships, and Patrick says that this makes the Bard particularly relevant in a place like Deep Springs. In spite of a world that is increasingly atomistic, with modern drama focusing on the malaise of solipsism,



Patrick points out that “it’s hard to be alone here.”

Expecting the spartan lifestyle he experienced teaching in Nepal, Patrick was surprised by the creature comforts of the college. But great food aside, one of his favorite things about Deep Springs is the community, which includes everyone, and, explains Patrick, “extends beyond the classroom. Great conversations happen organically.”

MAX GREENFELD

“Nobody grows up wanting to be a chemical engineer,” according to Max Greenfeld. His own interest in the field was sparked while doing bioengineering research as an undergraduate student at the University of Washington. Now completing his Ph.D. at Stanford, he is spending this semester teaching a biochemistry course. Max had heard that the Deep Springs curriculum is often short on sci-



ence courses, and so he figured he had something particular to offer. Coming to Deep Springs gave him an opportunity to teach a course about things that he is interested in, and to teach that course from scratch, something which he hasn’t had much opportunity to do in his graduate studies.

While *Foundations in Biochemistry* offers students the chance to learn the basic vocabulary and concepts of biochemistry, Max’s particular interest in teaching this course is much deeper: Max wants to provide his students with exposure to the “backstory of the concepts” so we can appreciate the scientific methods which went into the discoveries which are presented as fact in classroom textbooks. “Biology,” Max states, “is an evolving field,” and he wants this understanding to inform his students’ work.

Max’s research right now focuses on the thermodynamics and kinetics of RNA folding, but his interests extend beyond his work. Until recently, he worked as a Volunteer Ranger at the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve at Stanford, and he enjoys cooking and hiking. He worked as a bicycle mechanic for a few years, and in his own words, “working as a mechanic gave me an appreciation for skilled labor . . . [which] has significantly influenced how I conduct research.”

Like Patrick, Max is impressed with the comfort of Deep Springs. He is also surprised at how connected he feels to the world outside of the valley, and at the quality of the food. Nevertheless, one of Max’s favorite things about Deep Springs is the people. In his own words: “Everyone has an interesting story and a good reason for being here.”

NEW FARM MANAGER

Adam Nyborg DS97 returned to Deep Springs in early February to fill the position of Farm Manager. A day after he completed the six-day drive from the White Mountains of Franconia, New Hampshire, to the White Mountains surrounding the Valley, his wife Jill Brewer and 21-month-old daughter Wenonah Brewer-Nyborg joined him. They expect another child in early May. We are excited to be living and working with him and his family.

After graduating from Deep Springs, Adam completed several agricultural internships and jobs, including the mountain cowboy po-



sition and jobs at sheep and horse ranches in New Zealand. In 2003 he received a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Yale University. While at Yale, he received fellowship money to work another season on a horse ranch in Antimony, Utah. He also met Jill Brewer, who was studying for a degree in Sociology and History at Wellesley College. Jill later earned a Master's in Psychology and Counseling from Goddard College. After graduating, Adam worked brief stints in outdoor education – including Outward Bound and the Appalachian Mountain Club – before marrying Jill in 2009 and entering the construction business.

He has built houses in Montana – his first project was a cabin for himself and Jill – and in New Hampshire, where he worked with Jill, his brother, **John Mangin DS96**, and **Andrew McCreary DS06**. While in New Hampshire, he also taught at the White Mountain School, managing the school farm and teaching chemistry and environmental science.

Adam is drawn to the Farm Manager position because he has “loved this work for his adult life – building and farming and thinking, considering the purpose mixed into the physical work.” He had long considered returning to the Valley; his connection to Deep Springs has always been valuable to him. Knowing that he was unlikely to be able to contribute much to the college financially, he thought this position would be a good way for him to give back.

Adam plans to run the farm largely as it has been in recent years, continuing its phenomenal production. He will strive to keep the education of students in mind, while trying to improve the environment and keep the economics stable or improving – he will keep a pragmatic eye towards production. “The farm is running very well now,” he notes, “so every adjustment will be gradual.”

Adam and Jill have quickly adjusted to Deep Springs community life. They are excited to be raising their children here. Wenonah can already be seen scampering about the ranch visiting with the farm animals, and the family can always be found at the BH during meals, which they enjoy for the excellent food and conversation. They frequently bike or walk around campus, and appreciate the easy commutes and calmer lifestyle. Adam has been “glad to find the community at peace, despite the many transitions of the past few months.”

In addition to running the farm, Adam hopes to eventually begin mountaineering again, and start using the college woodshop.

Adam has impressed us with his cheer, enthusiasm, and diligence, and his family has brought energy and excitement into the community. “I’m so happy to be back,” says Adam, and we’re happy to have them.



NEW RANCH MANAGER

At the start of 2012, our new ranch manager, Janice Hunter, joined the Deep Springs community. Janice comes to us from Corvallis, OR, along with her daughter Julie, her dog Twig, and her two mares, Sierra and Punk.

In Corvallis, Janice worked as ranch manager at Oregon State University, taking care of a 100-head herd. "Because it was often tied in with labs at the University, the job," she says, "involved a lot of crossbreeding and pasture management." She also oversaw the OSU students who worked on the ranch and assisted students on field labs.

Before Oregon, Janice worked as a substitute teacher in the Lone Pine school district, as well as a volleyball coach and ski program coordinator. She holds a degree in Agricultural Science from Chico State. Her focus on education might explain why she has integrated so easily into the community, with teaching being a regular part of an afternoon on the ranch with her.

Janice was born into ranching. She is a fourth generation member of the Hunter Ranch, in Olancho, CA. The ranch has been running cattle from land near Death Valley to the Sierras since the 1860's, as well as being a hay operation. She has also worked with the U.S. Forest Service in several capacities, including three years conducting grazing utilization monitoring in the Eastern Sierra.

During her time at Deep Springs, Janice has enjoyed the students' and staff's willingness to learn anything related to the ranch, as well as their diverse backgrounds. She also laughingly commented that "you can certainly get by on food here"; so far she seems to be impressed by the quality of the meals. She says that what sticks out to her the most since arriving here is the level of talent in the community, among students, staff, and alumni, as well as the caliber of old Deep Springs curriculum and faculty lists that she has looked through.

When asked what her future hopes for the ranch are, she replied that she would like to see the ranch utilize more of the range and water resources that are allotted to it. She believes if this were accomplished, "we would see some improvements in weaning, breeding, and conception rates." She says that it won't necessarily be easy to do, given all of the agencies that must be negotiated with, but



she is certainly making major strides in frequent meetings with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Janice is also very interested in the prospect of more instruction on livestock production, animal husbandry, and other ranch-related classes for interested students, blurring the distinction between labor and academics. In keeping with this, she would like to see the ranch become a bigger part of every day life at the college.

She has already taken steps towards this goal, teaching students to rope and use spurs, as well as encouraging students who haven't been involved in the ranch program in quite some time to "get back on the horse" and come on a cattle drive if they are interested.

Janice has eagerly taken advantage of community activities, including public speaking, tango lessons, movie screenings, and committee meetings. She has also begun her own contribution, setting up a net on the main circle and teaching students to properly hit a volleyball.

We in the community are grateful to Janice for joining us, and are looking forward to the great things that are to come.

SPRING COURSE OFFERINGS

Courses offered at Deep Springs this spring reflect the diverse academic interests of the student body and faculty. This semester is distinguished by several courses that focus on perennially popular classics – including Joyce's *Ulysses*, Euclid's *Geometry*, and Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* – as well as more and varied science offerings. Teaching this semester are visiting professors Max Greenfeld and Patrick Gray; Dean Brother Kenneth Cardwell; President David Neidorf; and long-term professors Jennifer Rapp, Joel Schlosser, and Amity Wilczek.

Literary Criticism: The *Odyssey* and *Ulysses* (Brother Kenneth Cardwell) juxtaposes two major classics, Homer's *Odyssey* and James Joyce's *Ulysses*. In addition, students read critical theory pertaining to both works.

Euclidean & Non-Euclidean Geometry (David Neidorf) explores the Euclidean basis of modern plane geometry, ratio, and proportion. Demonstrations of proofs lead to discussions of certainty and the nature of claims based on sensation or logic. Lobachevsky's theorems of non-Euclidean parallelism complete this investigation

into the relation between sensation, spatial intuition, and reason.

Foundations in Biochemistry (Max Greenfeld) provides an overview of the biochemistry and molecular biology that governs all living systems, focusing on a strong grasp of concepts as a foundation for later studies. Students work with biochemical modeling programs, the classic Stryer textbook *Biochemistry*, and primary literature.

On The Human Condition: Hannah Arendt and her Inter-



Prof. Joel Schlosser delivers an extracurricular lecture

locutors (Joel Schlosser) focuses on Hannah Arendt's *The Human Condition* and the distinctions she draws therein. Students also consider the intellectuals with whom Arendt was explicitly in conversation and her broader context.

The Future of Democracy (Joel Schlosser) combines case studies and readings in democratic theory to develop a critical vocabulary for understanding democracy and its structures, conditions, and practices.

Shakespeare's Problem Plays (Patrick Gray) focuses on plays not typically included in a standard Shakespeare survey, especially those from the middle period of his career that are unusually equivocal or ambiguous. In addition, the course exposes students to problems and debates in formalist criticism.

The Evolution of Conflict and Cooperation (Amity Wilczek) establishes a foundation of basic evolutionary principles and applies these to the evolution of conflict and cooperation in natural systems. Students draw on readings in core texts and primary literature to formulate and provide peer critique of novel courses of inquiry.

Life on the Edge: Field Biology of Joshua Trees (Amity Wilczek) is a field-based course in which students measure the population dynamics of native Joshua tree populations at the northern edge of the species' range. Through reading and direct observation, students develop an understanding of ecological processes in the high desert environment.

Modes of Black Thought in America (Jennifer Rapp) studies forms of response to Baldwin's entreaty to "know whence you came," focusing on figures whose works enmesh religion, politics, and culture. The course covers texts by W.E.B. Du Bois, James Baldwin, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Charles Long, James Cone, Cornel West, bell hooks, and others.

On Making (Jennifer Rapp) explores the classical, and now contested, relationship between theoretical and practical knowledge through both textual study and "making" projects. Course readings draw from the fields of philosophy; design, art, and architecture; myth; and poetry. Projects are in roughly four modes: material/craft, theory, relational, and artistic.

Public Speaking (David Neidorf) remains the only class required for all students. This year, each student delivers five ten-minute speeches over the fall and spring semester; topics vary from community issues to abstract concepts to experiences inside and outside of the Valley.

Independent Studies: Martin Buber, Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, Revolutionary Agrarian Thought, Foucault and Geography, Piano Performance

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Soccer: Despite the busy-ness of life at Deep Springs, many students still make time for a leisurely soccer game on the main circle pitch before dinner. Played barefoot and often with uneven and indistinguishable teams, the matches usually last long after the dinner bell has rung, leaving many panting and red-faced.

Marksmanship: Many members of the SB have recently learned to use firearms for the first time, instructed by Ben Shaver DS10, who stresses safety first. Other members of the SB have brought their personal firearms and practice their marksmanship on the shooting range.

Cheese Club: The most refined of Deep Springs activities, Cheese Club relishes in all of the great fineries of life, such as fancy cheese, jazz music, Italian sodas, and prosciutto. Cheese Club also happens to be the most exclusive club on campus, as it enforces a strict dress code: button-up shirts, ties, and absolutely no jeans.

DS Men's Choir: Led by Caleb Hoffman DS11, the choir has sung at various DSPACs, as well as the Mitchell family's farewell dinner.

Their most recent performance saw a medley of Taylor Swift songs arranged by Isaac Stafstrom DS11.

Bible Study: Every Sunday night, various members of the community meet to discuss a few passages from the Good Book, as well as indulging in tea and baked goods.

Theater: Since January, a few dedicated members of the SB, led by Matt Stolz DS10, have been rehearsing the "Life of Galileo" to be performed in late April. The community eagerly anticipates the fruits of their labor.



EXPLORING THE VALLEY

The desert has a deep personality; it has a voice...you can hear it if you listen

- L. L. Nunn

Since 1917, students have been drawn to Deep Springs valley for the wealth of opportunities the college provides in regards to service, academics, and governance. Yet it is easy to forget there is a voice of the desert that can only be heard by venturing out into the wilderness surrounding the campus. For many students, one of the defining characteristics of Deep Springs has been the ability to walk off the main circle, and into the middle of an uninhabited desert wilderness. As the college has the ability to open minds to possibilities inherent in the liberal arts, the desert and wilderness in general have a similar ability to expand horizons. It has been a place of both reflection and adventure for generations of Deep Springers.

This year has seen a revival of the Expedition Committee, or ExCom for short. Previously known as TripsCom, this group of students has been exploring a multitude of different opportunities that surround us. These have run the gamut from overnight horseback rides, to winter camping, to climbing trips across the valley. Many of us see these trips to the desert as just as important as our life within the main circle,

The following is a selection of brief anecdotes of ExCom and the SB in the great outdoors.

HIKING:

Always a popular pastime around the valley, hiking is easily accessible even from the main circle. It is often easy to sneak an hour-long hike up to the Druid between class and lunch.

The Druid - For the final Student Body Meeting of Term 1, the combined classes of 2010 and 11 hiked up to the druid at night. The ridgeline obscured the moon, so orienting ourselves in relation to the rock itself became incredibly difficult. However, after missing several well-marked cairns, and losing (and subsequently finding) several people, we made it to the top of the ridge and were graced with a beautiful, moonlit view of the valley.

Dead Horse Meadow - Midway through November, ExCom members Ben Shaver, Isaac Stafstrom, and Rhys Dubin made the trip to Dead Horse Meadow. After an exciting 4-wheel extravaganza over rough roads, we arrived at our camp. The spot had clearly been occupied before, possibly by previous Deep Springers, as indicated by its large stock of firewood and convenient jury-rigged toilet seat. We immediately set out to explore the meadow, and managed to get in a few short climbs before heading back to camp. After enjoying a delicious meal, we went to sleep, only to wake up to snow-covered tents. A storm had moved in overnight, and as the morning progressed, the snowfall began to pick up. By the time we decided to call it quits and drive out, almost 4 inches had fallen on the ground.

RIDING:

Since completing the horsemanship class taught by Ken Mitchell, the former ranch manager, the class of 2011 has been able to join the second years in enjoying the desert on horseback.



The Tree of Solitude - One of the more popular rides around

the college is to the aptly named "Tree of Solitude," on the west side of the valley. Approximately 30 minutes away on horseback, the trail takes you across the road, down a sandy wash, and eventually through the dry riverbed of Wyman creek. The trail ends at a small tree located on the banks of the creek, where previous students have considerably placed a small couch from which you can take in the length of the valley.



Ride to Fish Lake Valley - During the previous term, second year students Ben Shaver and Timmy Henderson took an overnight ride to Fish Lake Valley. Following the route normally used by cattle drives over Gilbert Pass, they spent the night at the corral used by the Fish Lake cowboy during the summer. Harrowingly, crossing Gilbert pass on their way back to campus, they were caught in the first major snowstorm of the season, making the return journey that much more adventurous.

CLIMBING:

Because of Deep Springs' proximity to the climbing mecca of Bishop, CA, not much in the way of climbing has been developed in the Valley. However, the isolation policy makes it imperative that avid student climbers find some rocks to climb near the college.

Dead Horse Meadow Climbing - Several trips have been made to the previously mentioned Dead Horse Meadow. Unfortunately,



we haven't been able to climb any of the beautiful granite towers that rise prominently above the floor of the meadow due to weather and other factors, but we have been able to climb some of the smaller boulders. We anxiously await Term 6, with its warmer weather and lack of snow. Additionally, the creek that runs through the meadow appears to have trout, and plans have been made to bring fishing tackle on our next trip.

With such a wide variety of activities within a comparatively small area, it is no wonder that the wilderness surrounding Deep Springs has been a potent draw for students, and even L.L. Nunn himself. The voice of the desert is difficult to hear unless you allow yourself time to explore its secrets. The mountains, canyons and desert flats surrounding campus are the setting for a lifetime of adventure that students at Deep Springs can only begin to explore. In order to gain a better perspective on the outdoor history of the college, we would love to hear stories of Deep Springs outdoor adventures from alumni.

Additionally, ExCom hopes to expand, necessitating more gear than we have on hand at the moment. Therefore, we'd like to send out a request to any alumni or other recipients of this newsletter to send us gear. Potentially helpful items include:

Any size of climbing shoe, harnesses, belay devices, traditional protection (cams, nuts, hexes, tri-cams), bolting gear and anchors/chains, crampons, ice axes, light tents, stoves/cooking gear, hiking first aid kits.

Investigating boulders on the west of the Valley

Roped Climbing - On a smaller scale, we have made trips to an unnamed rock face south of campus. While it looks like a small lump from one side, the other has a 30-foot granite face. The site of some of the most intense climbing activity in the valley, we have established about six moderate to difficult routes. We plan on securing anchors so that more routes can be established.



SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

BY: EAMON HEBERLEIN

In higher education, schools with sustainable initiatives are now in vogue. A good thing, I believe, and yet I rarely think about Deep Springs having such initiatives. Maybe this is because we don't advertise these practices, or wave them at the world for publicity and recruitment. Or maybe this is because self-sufficiency is so ingrained in our culture – or at least it tries to be – that we no longer think of such practices as “initiatives.” We could argue that the very tenability of our operation depends on certain self-sufficient and sustainable practices; at Deep Springs such practices might simply be necessary rather than a veneer or recruitment strategy. What follows are different rough perspectives on what sustainability and self-sufficiency have historically meant for our various operations, and what they have come to mean.

THE RANCH: Deep Spring Valley has been a crucible for cattle ranching since at least 1877 – 40 years before Nunn founded the college in 1917. But only in the past 40 years (or less) has it seen a more environmentally progressive approach in the cattle operation and range management. In some of the early years (in the 1930's)

more than 600 head of adult cattle grazed in the mountain pastures. This many cattle contributed to significant overgrazing and range damage, resulting in the USFS rescinding our access to the mountain allotments from 1948 to 1953. More recently though, with reductions in the number of cattle grazing in the mountains (down to roughly 300 head starting in the 1960's, and almost half that since we've split the herd for summer grazing) and with Geoff Pope's work in the 80's and 90's, a lot has changed in terms of range management and environmentally conscious practices around our cattle operation.

Environmental preservation became an explicit goal in the ranch's mission in the late 80's, and today the Deep Springs Resource Management Team that Pope founded in the early 90's continues to hold environmental/range preservation as a guiding principle. This ecological and environmental consciousness (exemplified by past and recent studies on how grazing affects the population of the Deep Springs black toad, endemic to our valley), and a more recent Temple Grandin-inspired low-stress cattle handling approach, shows that we've learned a lot and have come to stand more

honestly and firmly in sustainable ranching practices.

Few ranchers take the open range, desert-feed approach anymore. But with sound range management it's a healthy and sustainable ranching model. In fact it was historically the norm. Desert grazing keeps cows healthy. The dry open environment makes them less susceptible to disease, and it keeps the monetary and environmental costs of alfalfa production down. Not to mention it keeps the wild-west culture of long rough cattle drives alive.

Today we have about 210 adult cows, 50 yearlings, and as yet an undetermined number of calves (somewhere above 150), and 18 bulls. As mentioned, since 2005 we've split our summer grazing between the Crooked Creek allotment in the White Mountains and the Oasis allotment in Fish Lake Valley. This summer, four cowboys – two in the mountain, two in Fish Lake – will watch the herd.

FARM: The farm of course contributes to self-sufficiency, producing grass and alfalfa for winter livestock feed and reducing our need for outside supply. (Grass and alfalfa weren't always the only crops, though; rotational crops of oats, vetch, pinto beans, and barley have been harvested as well.) For most of the farm's history flood irrigation was the norm. In the 70's, more efficient wheel- and hand-line



irrigation practices began; subsequent changes in growing practices have increased our hay production twofold in the past five years and our annual return fivefold since 1985. In particular, recent changes in farming practices implemented by **Mark Dunn DS99**, such as the utilization of fertilizers and a heightened attention to detail (including incessant gopher trapping and more efficient use of water through systematic irrigation-line moves) have gone a long way in increasing production.

The viability and tenability of the farm rests on many factors. Most important for its historical and future success is access to a reliable source of water. Depending on annual conditions, pumping water can be our single greatest electrical cost. Efficiency of our operation varies according to the flow of water out of Wyman canyon, which in turn is determined by annual snowfall. Last year we had 10 weeks of strong flow out of Wyman, giving us 10 weeks irrigation without pumping water. To put that in perspective, every week not pumping saves us, on average, \$2,500 in electrical costs.



FOOD: What we eat is also a good marker for sustainability practices. The variety of food-related pursuits at Deep Springs is difficult to enumerate – honey bees, laying hens, grapes, preserving, baking, and more – but the following are some thoughts on our staples:

MEATS: Writing this, the difficulty in establishing clear lines between “different” operations is becoming apparent. The staff and students and infrastructure make the farm possible, the farm helps make the ranch possible, and regarding food, the ranch brings us more than enough beef to feed our community. Student butchers, however, bring more than Deep Springs beef to our tables. Pigs – and all their respective cuts – and the occasional stewed or stockied chicken are also dinner-table regulars. Other products like jerkies and smoked meats are not uncommon these days, and I'm sure historically students have been quite creative.

In 2008 a flock of sheep was introduced to the college, and since then our freezer has been well stocked with lamb in addition to beef and pork. Currently, almost all the meat we consume (save chicken and some breakfast meats) is born and raised here. In the past four months our butchers estimate that roughly 1200lbs of lamb, 1200lbs of beef, and 750lbs of pork have been cut and stored in the Boarding House freezer.

DAIRY: It's difficult to get a complete historical picture of our dairy operation. It's clear that it used to be a much larger operation. In the 20s and 30s hired laborers (often students) milked upwards of twenty to thirty dairy cows, and according to historical records the operation brought in almost four thousand dollars annually in the 1920's. For me, the family cow (or cows, as it still is in our case) has always seemed a cornerstone of the farm. From her comes much of the farmstead abundance: milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, cream, and their byproducts. Historically, it seems we've done well at these; for long periods most dairy products consumed on the ranch came from the ranch. We only have three cows now, and long



ago stopped selling in Owens Valley. But all our milk is still brought to us from the dairy barn, and the dairy boys still make yogurt, buttermilk, butter, cream, and occasionally cheese (even smoked). The community drinks five or more gallons of milk a day, saving the college \$8,000.00 or more annually on milk costs alone. In addition, the twenty quarts of yogurt made by the dairy boys each week could amount to over \$2,500 annually.

GARDEN & ORCHARD: A garden is a centerpiece of agriculturally “self-sufficient” or “sustainable” operation. Our archives don’t have much to offer regarding a historical perspective on the garden. It’s clear though, that the garden has gone in and out of prosperity and neglect, and that currently (perhaps more so than ever before) the garden is thriving. This is probably the cumulative result of many factors. Recent developments increasing the health and productivity of our garden include the drip irrigation system installed in 1996 and a garden road this past year. Without question the dedicated work of Karen Mitchell



brought the garden to where it is today. Last year five and a half tons of potatoes were harvested – much of which was sold – and the garden provided innumerable produce items, including tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, lettuce, kale, zucchini, carrots, asparagus, broccoli, chard, peas, turnips, peppers, beets, cabbage, rhubarb, eggplant, leeks, spices, raspberries, and strawberries. It’s difficult to translate the monetary costs and benefits of the garden at this point by balancing labor and total production, however, I imagine the fuel and energy saved by local production goes a long way, to say nothing of the unquantifiable value of eating fresh produce at meals, as all our new staff note.

Additionally, the orchard supplies seasonal apples, pears and peaches to the kitchen, and the Michael Pihos vine arbor brings in



grapes as well. In the past apples have given rise to cider, and this year all sorts of delectable preserves were made from the fruits. All this goes toward reducing food costs, and creating more healthy and wholesome meals.

INFRASTRUCTURE: We can talk a lot about sustainable practices in terms of food and ranch and farm life, which go a long way towards self-sufficiency; however, energy consumption is always a central concern. Deep Springs has been active in this regard, and yet, as with all the above there’s room for improvement. In 2006 a 55,000 square foot solar field was installed which supplies roughly 70% of the college’s electrical needs. The newsletter from 2006 read as follows: “Over the 20-year lifetime of the 182kW photovoltaic system, the solar generated electricity will reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by over 3,400 tons. These emissions reductions are equivalent to planting 950 acres of trees, removing almost 700 cars, or not driving eight million miles on California roadways.” Running the solar field in tandem with the hydroelectric station – and when electricity is not needed to pump irrigation water, such as late fall or winter – all the college’s night and daytime energy needs are met right here in the valley.

DEEP SPRINGS CULTURE: Sometimes the phrase “omni-competence” is thrown around at Deep Springs; it’s an ideal towards which many students – and the Deep Springs educational model – aspire. To say omni-competence is ever achieved at Deep Springs however would be more than conceited, but that it is an honored and sought after characteristic is telling. It speaks to a social, cultural, and educational push for a self-sufficient, responsible labor and lifestyle. It suggests that self-sufficiency can be about more than balancing material consumption with production. From my experience and perspective, the increased self-sufficiency students develop here (which I loosely define as greater flexibility of thought



and problem solving, with more skill-sets and aplomb to address such problems – to create or fix things), seems to be one of the greatest tools Deep Springs gives students to pursue a life of service. Self-sufficiency in these terms can translate to a greater confidence that problems encountered in the world can be fixed, and that one has the wherewithal to make a difference.



CONCLUDING THOUGHTS: I can count on one hand the number of specialists that I've seen hired out here to fix problems. Students maintain the phone and internet services; students and staff build barns and trailers and gopher-poisoning machines; and **Padraic MacLeish DS99**, our mechanic and maintenance man, can fix pretty much anything. It is easy to forget just how little we need to outsource for expertise (and resources such as food or animal feed) here.

Or is it? Despite all this, one can easily question whether Deep Springs is a viable model for self-sufficiency and sustainability. If we are honest with ourselves, all these practices rest on the college's very practical financial needs. Without the outside support we receive,

and a healthy endowment, this picture of self-sufficiency and sustainability quickly crumbles. Nevertheless, I think there's unquestionable value in these practices. In today's world it's nigh on impossible not to rely in part on resources (in our case, largely monetary) that originate beyond the bounds of a given operation. Nevertheless, I think it is incumbent upon everyone to reduce that reliance. Deep Springs is a good example of an institution pushing and testing the boundaries of how self-reliant and environmentally-conscious it can be based on the practical circumstances and resources it's presented with. This, I think, is how Deep Springs is inspiring and has something to teach regarding self-sufficiency, sustainability, and leadership.

LIZARDS, FRUIT FLIES, AND HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINEERS

This article is the second in our ongoing series of alumni guest contributions. We are grateful for Raymond Huey's generosity in providing the following article. If you wish to contribute, please contact ComCom at comcom@deepsprings.edu

Raymond B. Huey DS61

(Professor of Biology, University of Washington, Seattle)

In September 1961, I started at Deep Springs. A half-century later, I'm a Professor of Biology at the University of Washington. In between I've made field trips to study lizards or fruit flies in Costa Rica, Peru, the Kalahari and Namib Deserts, various Caribbean islands, Europe, Australia, and even Texas; and I've taught courses in animal diversity, evolution, and physiology. I'm currently doing research on the vulnerability of tropical organisms to climate warming and on factors that influence success rates and death rates of Himalayan mountaineers.

A career in academic biology was not in my mind when I arrived at Deep Springs, as I intended to become a medical doctor. After the excitement of pulling several calves and of helping a Bishop vet do a caesarian on a cow out in the desert during a winter snowstorm, I even contemplated becoming an obstetrician. Fortunately, I immediately scrapped that plan.

In retrospect, my biological interests began at Deep Springs, even though I was completely oblivious to this at the time. I do remember my excitement at seeing high-desert animals. I was thrilled to ride up to desert bighorns at the lake, to see a mountain lion dash cross the road at Westgard, and to chase a golden eagle with its snake prey down the pass towards the Valley. By fortunate

chance, **Lee Talbot DS48** visited and gave a lecture on the ecology of wildebeest in east Africa. I was intrigued not only by the adventure of his thesis project, but also by the underlying ecological issues he explored. This was my first introduction to conceptual and empirical biology – I still remember it vividly. Nevertheless, I still saw biologists as an odd lot. What is the mental state of people who would drive hundreds of miles just to see the Deep Springs toad?

When I moved to the University of California, Berkeley, in January 1964, I majored in Zoology, as this seemed the best preparation for medical school. But I was captivated by field courses, and my grades jumped off scale. Gradually I realized that biology was far more interesting to me than medicine and so I enrolled in a masters program in Zoology at the University of Texas, Austin. Thereafter, I spent a year studying the ecology of lizards in the Kalahari and Namib Deserts, later finished a Ph.D. in Biology at Harvard, and then two years as a Miller Postdoc at Berkeley before beginning an



Prof. Amity Wilczek conducts research with students in the Joshua Trees class

Assistant Professorship at the University of Washington.

My biological research over the decades has focused on ecology, behavior, physiology, and evolution. I've worked mainly with lizards and insects. Many of my projects investigate how temperature influences the behavior, physiology, and ecology of these animals, as well as how physiological sensitivity to temperature evolves.

The reality of climate warming has given new relevance to thermal biology. Most of my current work is focused on the impact of climate warming on tropical organisms. The tropics might seem like an odd place to study impacts of climate warming. After all, the observed rate of warming has been lower in the tropics than in the northern Temperate Zone or especially the Arctic. This has led some biologists to speculate that the biggest impacts of warming will be at mid- to high latitude, and not in the tropics.

Nevertheless, my colleagues and I suspect that this is misguided. We expect that the biggest – and the most negative – impacts will be in the tropics. Although our expectation may seem paradoxical, it derives from basic physiology. Contrary to organisms from higher latitudes, tropical organisms experience limited seasonal variation in temperature. As a result, their physiologies are specialized for temperature: they tolerate only a relatively narrow range of body temperatures, and small changes in body temperature have relatively large effects on their ability to perform tasks (capture food, escape predators, produce offspring).

Moreover, we've discovered that tropical forest lizards living beneath the forest canopy are amazingly intolerant of high body temperatures. In fact, a fence lizard scampers around rock corrals at Deep Springs at body temperatures that are lethal to tropical forest lizards. The intolerance of tropical lizards to heat may seem surprising because we humans think of the tropics as hot. Actually, tropical forest floors are only warm, not hot: the forest canopy shields them from the intense tropical sun. Moreover, equilibrium body temperatures of lizards and insects in deserts (even high deserts such as Deep Springs) are much higher than those inside tropical forests.

Our modeling suggests that many temperate zone species may actually benefit from warming, but that tropical forest species will be harmed. Several of us are now working in Puerto Rico, replicating studies we did decades ago as graduate students, and evaluating whether the observed warming might be influencing the ecologies of lizards. All of us involved in this project hope that we are wrong – we hope tropical organisms won't suffer from climate warming. But if we are right, the ecological consequences will be disastrous, because the tropics are the center of biodiversity.

My other main research concerns the 'epidemiology' of Himalayan mountaineers. I'm trying to detect factors that influence the success or death of mountaineers, a topic that was essentially unexplored when I began about 15 years ago. But why would a biologist ever become interested in analyzing mountaineers? The logical expectation would be that I myself was a mountaineer. In high school and at Deep Springs, I did lots of hiking and scrambling. I loved to climb to the Druid, and I made a delightful ascent of The Thumb. But on a DS trip to Yosemite, I fell while climbing below the face of Half Dome. I wasn't hurt, but the experience made an impression. I stopped climbing.

Then around 1995, Reinhold Messner (perhaps the greatest mountaineer ever) gave a public lecture at the University of Washington. To me Messner's ideas on how to climb safely (climbing light and fast in small teams, and without supplemental oxygen or fixed ropes) seemed counter-intuitive and dangerous. I went home from his lecture wondering whether I could obtain data on success

and death of Himalayan mountaineers. If so, I knew I could adopt statistical methods developed by evolutionary biologists to test some of Messner's ideas

Fortunately, I found a rich trove of data, which amazingly had never been exploited. My first project was to determine whether supplemental oxygen increased survival on Everest and K2, the two highest peaks in the world. Oxygen levels at the summit of these peaks are about 1/3 that at sea level, and humans cannot survive long. Whether supplemental oxygen would enhance survival was unclear. On one hand, supplemental oxygen improves physiological performance, and so climbers using it might survive better. On the other hand, only the best and most experienced climbers summit those peaks without supplemental oxygen, and that experience and skill might enhance their survival. To resolve this debate, a colleague and I compiled data for climbers who had summited Everest or K2. We asked, "Did they use supplemental oxygen? And did they reach base camp alive?"

I didn't expect to see a pattern, as constantly changing conditions at extreme altitude should make data inherently "noisy." And noise would likely obscure any true pattern in the data. Noisy data or not, the results were striking. Climbers who used supplemental oxygen did have higher survival rates.

Another study concerned whether age and gender influenced success and death rates on Everest. Current Deep Springers might assert that youth should be an advantage, while ex-Deep Springers might counter that mountaineering is a skill, such that age and experience should compensate for any declines in physical capacity. I have distressing news for those of us 'long in the tooth.' The probability of summiting drops from 1 in 3 for those aged 20 to 40 to about 1 in 8 for those in their 60s. Moreover, the risk of dying (especially for those who summited) was also suggestively elevated for sexagenarians. I've missed my window of opportunity.

If I trace my life in the half century since I arrived at Deep Springs, I see my own pathway as often unpredictable. By chance hearing lectures by Lee Talbot and by Reinhold Messner launched me on academic adventures that I never anticipated. Any such change in career direction exposes one to challenges and risk. But I've come to appreciate that risk is a key 'dietary' nutrient because risk provides motivation. Granted, the resultant ride can sometimes resemble being on a bucking horse. In my SB days, the legendary Fogger Dunagan – cowboy when I first arrived at Deep Springs – provided useful advice for such times:

At a cattle roundup, a student was riding a big palomino called Goldie in one of the rock corrals and dropped one of his reins. Goldie stepped on it, jerking her head; she went nuts and started bucking wildly. All of us (presumably intelligent young men) stood around not knowing what to do. Fogger immediately ran to close the gate so that Goldie couldn't bolt, and yelled at the student, "Hold onto your reins!" It was a learning moment.

STUDENT BODY WISH LIST:

- Donations towards a *New York Times* subscription
- Ice cream machine
- Jazz records
- Toaster oven
- Bale hooks
- Stereo equipment

AN INTERVIEW WITH VICE PRESIDENT DAVID WELLE DS80:

After graduating from Deep Springs in 1982, and eventually finishing graduate school at the American Film institute, David Welle spent sixteen years in the non-profit theater business as a designer and producer, and later worked for seven years as a creative producer for corporate events in San Francisco. After returning to Deep Springs in 2005 as a writer in residence, David accepted the position of Development Director in 2008, and in 2010 he took up the additional position of Vice President of Operations. He has effectively served in both capacities since. As David plans to move on from Deep Springs this summer, we asked David some questions about his veteran perspective on Deep Springs:

What attracted you to Deep Springs as a student, and what drew you back as a staff member?

When I received the brochure I was attracted to DS for the sheer adventure of it; the college was different, more challenging, and more interesting. Nevertheless, part of my education here was realizing there was so much more than just the adventure. I was drawn back as a staff member because Ross Peterson got me involved in alumni fundraising. I became interested in knowing more about who all these other people were who went to DS, what they were about, and what their lives were like. I was looking for some way to actively and practically do something for Deep Springs.

Looking back over your time as a Deep Springs student, what aspects of that experience were most affecting and have stayed with you?

The most affecting was the quality of the relationships that I built up working with the other students and staff – being in a position of doing actual, meaningful work. That whole process of combined effort was most meaningful to me. It was a rewarding way of interacting with people. I could conjure up some academic analyses to say that's how a community is supposed to work, and that's how you build a society, etc., etc., and all of that is true, but the simple emotional satisfaction working with others is what I found most instructional and rewarding.

Have you maintained this same appreciation of working with others as a staff member?

Perhaps less so as a staff member. When you are a student here, you are focused on each new experience, tackling that experience and seeing where it takes you, seeing what happens. But as a staff member you often just want to get the job done. You can feel like 'this is not a new experience. I've encountered this umpteen times before.' At least that's the case some days. The more rewarding aspect of being on staff is to witness the (often silent) revelations that students have. I get to see you guys go from varying degrees of novice to being very experienced with things; I get to live that growth vicariously as a staff member.

In what ways is Deep Springs different now then it was 30 years ago? From your perspective witnessing such revelations, do you think students today have a similar "Deep Springs experience," and come away with similar lessons as you did?

I think the nature of the experience (having spent a lot of time talking to alumni) has always been evolving. Nevertheless, students still have the experience of learning both the burdens and the joys of



responsibility. I think their fundamental experience, to paraphrase Nunn, is that "authority stems from taking responsibility." It's easy enough to read it and understand it at face-value but engaging in it in either profound or mundane ways still goes on here. Even though the practical circumstances of DS have evolved, those situations of responsibility still exist.

Overall, I think the college has become less isolated. This is perhaps the most fundamental change it has undergone, and that's not for lack of preventative efforts. Society in general – it's a cliché to say it – is interconnected in multiple ways and Deep Springs has been drawn into that in relative ways.

Do you personally feel a sense of loss over this pretty fundamental change in the Deep Springs experience?

I think the students have a less isolated experience than they used to. But it may be true for every alumnus. As an 80's alumnus, I look at you guys and say 'you have internet, UPS comes every day and you can hop on a jet and go anywhere on break, whereas alumni 30 years prior to me would say 'Oh, you guys have telephone service, we didn't even have telephone service.' And if you go back earlier still – when no one was leaving the valley for six months – they'd have a different response, so it's definitely accelerated. Nevertheless, the experience of the student body still is quite isolated in comparison to any other college.

Do you see the continued evolution of less isolation to be a problem for DS's future?

The question of isolation is perhaps one of the biggest challenges the college faces. I think both the college and the SB need to make this a deliberate goal in the sense that it's what L.L. Nunn decided he would attempt to do physically while other colleges attempted to do so by virtue of rules. It's incumbent upon both SB and trustees to work together to make sure the college remains isolated enough to achieve the kind of result that most of the alumni are used to. I personally think that isolation is more critical than the issue of coeducation to the nature of the student experience... isolation, and

the size of the student body.

What do you see on the horizon in light of the coeducation transition? Do you see the "Deep Springs experience" changing with a co-education transition from the experience you had, and from experience you perceive students having now?

No. Having witnessed student body interactions over the last few years up close as a staff member, I see the SB more as a tribe than as a fraternity. It just so happens to be a single-sex tribe, but it really is its own little family. The way students care for each other or hate each other at various times, or conflict, or support each other – that tends to be a more familial thing than a fraternal thing. So that's why I'm optimistic that becoming co-ed will be more about a familial organization than about a fraternal one with an identity crisis. That's my analysis from living here anyway, and I'm sure there are those who would disagree.

One of the difficulties for an alumnus (and this is true for me too) is to look at the SB and think "you guys aren't like we were, and that's not what my experience was." The challenge for alumni is to sit back and let the current students have their own experience, even as we support them. For some alumni, this will be even more difficult when women enter the SB, but I think it will still fundamentally be a Nunnian education.

What difficulties do you think the school faced when you were a student, and what do you think are the difficulties it will face in the coming years?

I think its always a challenge finding the right kind of staff

here. The adults have to lead very isolated lives for extended periods and they are exposed to work literally 24 hours a day. Staff face the dilemma of trying to get their job done while also trying to mentor a bunch of talented but inexperienced students. I do think alumni are particularly suited to working here because they understand this dilemma. The college benefits from alumni being able to do practical things for the college. Having been here now I certainly have a far greater appreciation for all the alumni who've worked here. There have been periods in the past when DS lacked talented and motivated staff. I feel that the current staff – alumni and non-alumni – are all excellent, and that bodes well for the future.

The Deep Springs community deeply appreciates the incredible dedication and energy David has given over the years, and we wish him the best of luck in life beyond the valley.

DEEP SPRINGS STORE:

Interested in purchasing Deep Springs merchandise? Contact our Officeman at officeman@deep-springs.edu for pictures of our products. We stock sweatshirts, t-shirts, Nalgene water bottles, baseball caps, western belt buckles, cookbooks, and more!



IN MEMORIAM

Steven Gregory, DS07

We were sad to learn of the untimely death of Steven Gregory, who passed away on December 21st, 2011 near his home in Churchville, Pennsylvania. While at Deep Springs, Steven worked as feedman, served the community as one of the trained EMTs, and was known for his devotion to poetry and academics, as well as his love of singing. After his two years here in the valley, he attended Bard College, graduating last year with a degree in English. At the time of his death, he was readying for graduate study in English as preparation for a teaching career. President David Neidorf and several of Steven's classmates attended a memorial service for him on December 28th in Pennsylvania.

Robert Gorrell, Faculty, Trustee

Robert Gorrell, Trustee of Deep Springs from 1981-1984 and former faculty member, died on December 25th, 2011 at his home in Reno, Nevada. Gorrell was born in 1914 in Indiana where his father owned a local newspaper. He began teaching at the University

of Nevada, Reno in 1945, where he devoted his entire academic career. Gorrell's discipline was English, and he co-authored the *Modern English Handbook*, which became widely used for freshman on college campuses across America. At one point, he nearly found himself fired during a dispute with university administration over academic freedom, but he ultimately became chair of the English Department, then Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences before serving as academic vice-president. Gorrell specialized in the English Renaissance and was a great fan of all Elizabethan drama, including Shakespeare. He is remembered as an easy-going colleague who was nonetheless passionate about learning and education.

Robert Fletcher, DS35

We learned in January that Robert Fletcher passed away on December 30, 2011. Fletcher was born in Portland, Oregon in 1918, the descendant of Oregon Trail pioneers. After his parents' early deaths, Fletcher was raised from the age of eight by his aunts on the family homestead along the Columbia River. He came to Deep Springs in the summer of 1935. On his application he wrote, "those who are not influenced mainly by selfish motives are the ones who contribute most to society; I want to become a real, vital, and

unselfish part of life.” After attending Deep Springs for one year, Fletcher completed his degree at Stanford University, graduating first in his class in engineering. He subsequently entered Stanford Law School where he met his future wife, Betty Binns (now Judge Betty Binns Fletcher of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit).

Fletcher’s education was interrupted by WWII while he served with the US Navy, patrolling the coast for submarines in lighter-than-air craft. After the war, Fletcher completed his law degree and entered private practice in the Seattle area. In 1956, he joined the faculty of the University of Washington Law School, where he taught constitutional law, property, and wills and estates. During the 1980s he served as associate dean and his career at UW continued until retirement in 1988. Even after official retirement, Fletcher continued to teach law periodically at UC Hastings College of Law, Vermont School of Law, and Seattle University School of Law. Fletcher is remembered for the breadth of his abilities – he was a skilled carpenter and bricklayer, an avid sailor, and a proficient cook, providing ten home-baked loaves of bread each week for his family as well as cooking all the meals. In addition to his own career, his devotion to family helped make his wife’s demanding career possible.

Alan Paskow, Faculty (courtesy of Jackie Paskow)

Alan Paskow, who taught philosophy at Deep Springs from 1976-1980, died on April 5, 2011, at his home in southern Maryland, from metastatic head and neck cancer. He was 71. At Deep Springs, Alan taught synoptic courses in ancient and modern philosophy, and more specific courses on Hegel and Kierkegaard and particularly on Heidegger’s *Being and Time*, which students dubbed “Being on Time,” since Alan perennially came late to class. He loved teaching and discussing philosophy. His writings were in the phenomenological tradition on such subjects as “The Meaning of my own Death,” “Toward a Theory of Self-Deception,” “Phenomenological Reflections on the Self and the Other,” and “What is Aesthetic Catharsis?” In 2004 he published his major work, *The Paradoxes of Art: A Phenomenological Investigation* (Cambridge UP), which aims to show how art, and especially painting, makes a difference to our lives. In a different vein, he wrote a one-act play called “Trustee of the Nation,” featuring a fictional Deep Springer, which was performed in Philadelphia and elsewhere, but was never published.

Alan graduated in 1961 from Haverford College as a pre-med and philosophy major. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Yale, where he met his wife, Jacqueline, who also taught at Deep Springs. After a one-year Danforth Teaching Fellowship at Antioch College, he spent five years at the University of Vermont. There he became involved in college politics, both campus-wide and national – during the era of the Vietnam War – and, along with three other philosophers who had tried to democratize the philosophy department, was denied tenure. Alan then accepted a position at Prescott College for Alternative Education in Prescott, Arizona, where he and his wife taught for one semester before the institution went bankrupt. Unemployed for two years, 1974-6, he trained to be an emergency medical technician, while at the same time he and other faculty continued teaching Prescott students in their living rooms and laid the groundwork for a successor Prescott College. He and Jackie came to Deep Springs 1976 with their newborn daughter, Linnea, joining faculty members John and Diane Mawby, Sharon and David Shuman, Peter Lehman and Carolyn Polese, under the

deanship of Ed and Dorothy Cronk. Linnea spent her first four year of life fascinated by spirited students and the animals. One day in the Boarding House she remarked with total candor: “Look! Lars is eating just like the pigs!”

After participating in a not-very-much-appreciated effort to introduce the question of co-education to Deep Springs, the Paskows moved to Haverford College on a one-year Deep Spring-Haverford exchange program. From there they went to St. Mary’s College of Maryland, the state’s 2,000-student, relatively new public honors college, where he and his colleagues built a Philosophy and Religious Studies department and where Alan taught from 1981 until his retirement in 2007. Alan also spent three sabbatical years teaching philosophy at the University of Konstanz in southern Germany, having learned German at the late age of 48.

Alan is survived by his wife, an emerita professor of Modern Language and Literature at St. Mary’s College; his daughter, Linnea, a professor of painting at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn; a new son-in-law, Ben La Rocco, also a painter; and a posthumous grandson, Cassel Alan La Rocco, born December 3, 2011.

Jack Scharr, Faculty

John ‘Jack’ Schaar, (1928-2011) a long-time contributor to Deep Springs’ academic program, passed away on December 26, 2011. Jack was a political theorist at UC Berkeley when he first taught at Deep Springs in 1969. He soon began co-teaching introductory summer seminars along with Deep Springs’ president Randall Reid, returning frequently to lead summer sessions after Reid moved on. His commitment to Deep Springs over forty years of teaching helped develop the summer seminar into a course that today plays a central role in Deep Springs’ curriculum.

Jack’s work at the college established the summer seminar’s current form as an interdisciplinary team-taught course. His seminars focused on themes of community, authority, and the relationship between society and nature, themes that Jack thought were particularly important in the context of the Deep Springs program. In later years Jack worked closely at Deep Springs with long-term faculty members David and Sharon Schuman, and introduced several of his former students to the Deep Springs’ visiting faculty rolls-among them Doug Lummis, Richard Gibbs (now Richard Mahon), and, most influentially, Jeff Lustig.

Jack was a lively and beloved teacher. Students remember Jack for his beautiful, intricate lectures on a wide variety of topics and texts; for his witty, probing engagement with students, and for his twin commitments to careful thought about issues in politics and to deliberate action in improving the lot of humanity. Outside the classroom, Jack frequently shared his devotion to hiking and rock climbing in the desert and the Sierras with other community members.

Jack was born in Montoursville, PA, in 1928, and was raised in a Lutheran farm family. He earned a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at the University of California, Los Angeles, and went on to teach in the political science department at the University of California, Berkeley, where many of his students were involved in the Free Speech movement.

From 1970 to his death, Jack taught in the politics department at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He was particularly well known for his approach to American political thought. His publications – in journals and books, as well as in popular venues like *The Nation* and *The New York Review of Books* – dealt with questions of authority and loyalty in the modern state, the student movements

of the Sixties, and the role of the social sciences in political thought, among others.

Jack is survived by his wife, political theorist Hanna Pitkin, and by his son John.

Norton Dodge DS43 (courtesy of **Pete MacDonald DS'43**)

Norton Dodge, DS43 CB46 TA46, passed away on November 5, 2011. An emeritus professor of economics at Saint Mary's College of Maryland and the University of Maryland, College Park, Dodge is known to Deep Springers as a classmate, teacher, and host on his 1,250 acre Maryland farm and vineyard, and to the world as a collector of Russian dissident art. Born in Oklahoma City where his father was dean of the University of Oklahoma graduate school, Dodge entered Deep Springs after his sophomore year in high school. Perhaps unique among Deep Springers, he had been a member of his high school Boy's Roping Association (he won second place in two Tucson rodeos).

At Deep Springs, Dodge served as labor commissioner, student body president, and student trustee. Director Simon Whitney encouraged Dodge's interest in economics, and after Deep Springs he matriculated at Cornell, joining Telluride Association. After completing an MA in the Russian Regional Studies Program at Harvard, Dodge began work on a Ph.D. in Economics. In 1955, he accompanied his father on a trip to the USSR, claiming to be assisting with his father's research on Russian education. In fact, Dodge was researching Soviet tractors for his doctorate, "Trends in Labor Productivity in the Soviet Tractor Industry: A Case Study in Industrial Development."

After finishing his Ph.D., Dodge turned his focus to the status of women in the Soviet Union. In his book on Dodge's collection of Russian dissident art, John McPhee writes that Dodge "suspected that this was one sociopolitical area in which the American situation might benefit from the Soviet example." McPhee quotes Dodge as saying, "I felt that in many ways women were discriminated against in the United States in a rather shameful fashion. Many areas closed to American women by tradition or convention had been opened up in the Soviet Union." While Soviet women were de facto excluded from the highest ranks of most professions, a variety of career paths were open to them that were still effectively closed in the U.S.

During research trips to Russia for his book *Women in the Soviet Economy: Their Role in Economic, Scientific, and Technical Development*, Dodge became acquainted with Russian dissident art, encouraged by **Julian "Pete" MacDonald DS'43**, then a second secretary in the American embassy in Moscow. In spite of the relative cultural thaw that followed Stalin's death in 1953, art in the USSR remained heavily regulated, and art that was abstract or challenging in any number of ways was forbidden. However, Dodge made contact with a network of dissident artists who, often supported by spouses or day jobs, made "unofficial art" in relative secrecy.

"It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say the Norton singlehandedly saved (a whole sector of) contemporary Russian art from total oblivion," according to art critic Victor Tupitsyn in McPhee's book *The Ransom of Russian Art*. Dodge felt that "it would be tragic if these artists were to die without their work being seen outside Russia. The courage of these people...they worked often in isolation with no audience other than their wives and families and a small circle of friends. They risked harassment and interrogation. Also I thought, if anything is going to happen to change the system for the better

it had to be through greater freedom of expression. These people were sticking their necks out. They were risking everything." Dodge found particular satisfaction from the fact that his art purchasing helped support émigré artists and their families.

Dodge used the assets he and his father had acquired through a pretty sound investment with a young investment advisor named Warren Buffet to collect and preserve the works of hundreds of Soviet artists, and to purchase Cremona Farm, a grand estate on the Patuxent River in rural southern Maryland. Today the number of works he and his wife Nancy have collected totals over 23,000. In 1991 they donated the collection to the Zimmerli Foundation at Rutgers University, assuring that it will be available for exhibition and research to a broad public. In 1971 he established the non-profit Cremona Foundation dedicated to the development of historic, archeological, and environmental research pertaining to the Cremona property, the Chesapeake Bay, and surrounding bodies of water. The Foundation also supports publications, conferences, workshops, and more. In the 1970's, Cremona farm was the site for three Telluride Association summer programs with a curriculum devoted to the study of environmental issues, one of the Dodge's long-term interests in the riverine world of southern Maryland that he adopted so fully. As a member of St. Mary's College's board, it's tempting to speculate that Dodge's Deep Springs and Telluride experiences may have informed his contribution to the development of this unique small school, a liberal arts college within the Maryland state system – altogether a striking display of the Nunnian heritage in action.

Norton Dodge lived on Cremona with his wife Nancy, where they hosted many Deep Springers over the years. In 1986, Dodge returned to Deep Springs to teach, leading him to reflect: "I wondered what it would be like to return after 42 years. The mountains and the ranch were the same. The students were still very academically talented, but not so well-rounded with experience in high school government or other leadership opportunities. However, I taught some of the best students of my career during those months at Deep Springs."

Dodge appeared in the documentaries *Vasya* (2002) and *The Russian Concept: Reflections on Russian Non-Conformist Art* (2009); his exploits collecting Russian art are recorded in John McPhee's book. Dodge is survived by his wife, Nancy, and his sister, Alice Dodge Wallace.

THE DAILY GRIND:

Few things are as crucial to the Deep Springs enterprise as strong, constantly available coffee. Remember those hazy early morning jogs from the BH to the classroom, coffee cup in one hand and books in the other? Alas, our current coffee maker is on the fritz. Only the most bombproof and industrial food-service equipment lasts more than a few months in the BH, so the cost for a suitable unit is more than the BH Equipment budget can spare this year. We would like to solicit donations for a new coffee grinder/brewer. BH Manager Jonathan "Dewey" DeWeese DS07 would be happy to correspond with interested donors. You can reach him at jdeweese@deepsprings.edu or phone extension 25. Please send donations earmarked for the "BH Coffee Machine Fund."

Deep Springs College
HC 72 Box 45001
Dyer, NV 89010

SPECIAL THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS

We have had a great number of alumni and friends of the college come out this past semester to give lectures or help out around the college. We would like to specially thank:

Gareth Fisher DS03 and his wife Maura for stepping in over his winter break from graduate school at UC Berkeley to help with calving and management of the cattle herd before the arrival of Janice Hunter.

Geoff and Iris Pope for providing training and assistance to students during the transition between Ranch Managers.

Matt Mandelkern DS07 for his work last semester as Assistant to the President. Matt is spending the spring traveling and working in Germany before pursuing a Ph.D. in philosophy.

Frank Wilczek (a 2004 recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physics) for delivering a lecture on "Quantum Beauty." He and his wife, Betsy Devine, were visiting their daughter, Amity Wilczek, our current long-term science professor and Herb Reich Chair.

Joe Linzmeier DS73, on sabbatical from teaching English at Ming Chuan College in Taiwan, for his lectures on "Wordsworth and Blake" and "Three Apocalyptic Novels of the '90s".

Jacob Giessman DS94 for visiting and serving as alumnus volunteer on the Coeducation Transition Committee. Jake is an education administrator in Columbia, Missouri.

Phil Kennicott DS83 for giving a lecture about careers in journalism. Phil is the culture critic for The Washington Post.

We would also like to congratulate our Mechanic and Maintenance Manager, **Padraic MacLeish DS99**, and our new Garden Manager, Shelby MacLeish, on the birth of their third child, Willa Anne, born January 11th, 2012.



*The Deep Springs Communications Committee is: Eamon Heberlein DS10 (Chair), Timothy Henderson DS10, Edward Pimentel DS10, Rhys Dubin DS11, Isaac Stafstrom DS11, David Welle DS80.
comcom@deepsprings.edu.*