

# DEEP SPRINGS COLLEGE



## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER SPRING 2014

Stefania Heim and Peter Pihos are both teaching at Deep Springs for the first time this spring. Together with their daughter, Michela (age 2), they are taking a break from their recent homes of Somerville and Brooklyn to settle into the BH apartment.

## Peter Pihos

Peter Pihos is currently a Ph.D candidate at the University of Pennsylvania, working on a dissertation titled *Police Power and Civil Rights: The Battle for Chicago since the 1960s*. He holds a fellowship in legal history at Harvard Law.

Peter is teaching a course on the history of punishment in America, looking at everything from the purpose of imprisonment and manufactured delinquency, to what caused the shift away from public execution. He is teaching the course because of his deep personal interest in the field and its immense real world importance. The fact that the student body is “a bunch of masochists” also plays some role. The chance to teach “serious young men” has been greatly enjoyable, but Peter also wishes we would “laugh more at [his] jokes.”

The communal nature of life at Deep Springs has been a positive change for Peter, who compares it to “the isolation of finishing graduate school in a strange city.” The intergenerational nature of life here is a particular benefit, especially how good the students are with children. The chance to engage with students in an informal setting also helps him to “avoid overspecialization” by giving him the chance to converse on a variety of topics. According to Peter, Deep Springs is an amazing place to be a historian. There are so many questions that he would like to explore here: what we are doing in this particular valley, how this place has survived, and

## Stefania Heim

Writing and teaching have been the focus of Stefania Heim’s career for the past ten years. After earning an MFA from Columbia, Stefania spent most of her early career in arts administration, writing grants and raising funds for organizations such as the Poetry Society of America. Eventually, she found herself wanting to “ask the tough questions,” and began work on a Ph.D in poetry at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Not only has the program allowed Stefania to redouble her efforts in writing and criticism, it has also opened new avenues for her to explore teaching. “Teaching feels as creative a work to me as writing often does,” She says. She is particularly enthusiastic about teaching at Deep Springs where professors interact with students holistically, in daily life as well as in class. The relationship not only changes her perception of students, but also her self-perception as a professor. She explains, “It really forces me to think about how myself as a teacher is an extension of myself as a

ideas of democratic education, to name a few.

As you probably know, Peter is the brother of **Michael Pihos DS98** who died in this valley fifteen years ago. He is finding it very jarring being back, in part because while there has been a near total turnover in people, the place still feels very much the same. While his friends wondered why he would want to do this, Peter finds that “Deep Springs represents the parts of Michael that I valued most.” For him it is “liberating to be in a place where [his] brother exists” as that loss is something that is hard to express in much of his life. He is finding that interacting with the students here is allowing him to “triangulate” the pieces of Michael that he finds hard to remember, the little idiosyncrasies of being young and idealistic.



thinker and a community member.” For her, living and teaching in the Valley with her family is an opportunity to explore what bell hooks calls “teaching to transgress.”

Stefania’s first full-length book of poetry, *A Table that Goes on for Miles*, has just recently been released. Her original work and translations have previously been published in *The Paris Review*, *Harper’s Magazine*, and many other periodicals. While at Deep Springs, she is finishing her dissertation and beginning a new book of poetry which explores concepts of time.

# Erin Shea

The Deep Springs community welcomes Erin Shea to the valley. Erin has just recently received her Ph.D in Geology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is putting that knowledge to use in her two-term class “Intro to Geology.” Erin’s specialty is in igneous rocks, making her well equipped to parse the mysteries of our plutonic valley.

Erin was born and raised in Massachusetts, where she attended MIT as an undergraduate and graduate student. She began her education with a focus on physics, but found the rough-and-tumble life of geologists too exciting to resist.

Antarctica and five of the other (less exciting) continents comprise the places where Erin has camped out and done fieldwork. It is not difficult to imagine Erin in her trademark black Patagonia down-jacket, braving all manner of violent elements in search of radiometrically dateable zircons.

Erin discovered Deep Springs College while driving through the valley with her husband (accompanying her now), Kyle Gilpin. Before joining the Deep Springs community, Erin and Kyle were graduate residence tutors together at MIT. Now they go on “peaceful” dairy runs, help the BH crew with their chores, and ride on cattle drives. Their presence brings an inspiring vivacity to the valley.

In her class, Erin hopes to both teach students “to appreciate the world around them,” and to inspire them “to go for a walk and think about how that landscape got there.” She’s tackling this goal by taking students on frequent trips to geologic hot spots, where students have gotten their hands and hand-lenses



dirty examining the ash of the Bishop tuff, the obsidian boulders of Panum Crater, and deposits from the Owens River when it still ran through Deep Springs Valley.

Erin has stressed to us that the questions surrounding the geology of Deep Springs are particularly exciting for her because “how your landscape got here is a matter of contention.” As she brings us closer to the geology of our home, Erin also brings her students into contact with the scientific worldview that many of us find easy to elide. Explaining her philosophy, Erin said that “science is about asking questions, and there aren’t always answers. But I try.”

## Mark Your Calendar! Oct. 11-13, 2014

Deep Springs will host a reunion for all alumni and friends at the college over Columbus Day weekend. This will be the last general reunion until the 100th Anniversary celebration in 2017. It’s a beautiful time to visit the DS Community and hear the Voice of the Desert. Watch for an invitation and details this summer.

# Student Labor

## The Future of the Farm and Ranch

Janice Hunter, our Ranch manager, and Adam Nyborg DS97, the Farm Manager, gave a presentation at the beginning of February about their experience at the highly renowned “Ranching for Profit” weeklong seminar. Adam opened with, “The main lesson we learned, one that I was certain I was going to struggle with, is that *profit is key to any enterprise*, because without it you can’t build on top of new ideas.” They expressed gratitude and amazement for how many ideas they have been able to coalesce by virtue of what was shared with them at the course.

And so, Janice and Adam revealed a new vision for the Ranch and Farm operations at Deep Springs.

“We were worried that much of their advice would be contrary to our vision, but it turned out to be just the opposite,” said Janice. “The seminar was run by people with great ideas and enormous experience. They really focused on the idea that there’s a difference between working in the business and working on the business.”

Adam and Janice shared new economic models that focused more on individual enterprises rather than an overall shift in efficiency. They introduced the community to new terms, like “direct cost,” demonstrating how, by examining singular endeavors within the overall business, the college could more effectively spend its resources while exploring new pedagogical potential.

An example of this analysis is the re-evaluation of the poultry operation. Without being extremely detailed about the numbers, examination of the direct costs of keeping the chickens reveals that the gross margin, or the difference between all costs and the actual gross product of the venture, is negative. Meaning, we lose money for each individual chicken we keep. Of course, it isn’t quite that simple. The cost of buying eggs from Sysco makes it worthwhile to the kitchen to continue to get eggs from our chickens, but the enterprise as a singular facet of the Farm and Ranch clearly needs to change.

Adam and Janice have begun an immensely in-depth process of examining each and every part of the Farm and Ranch. The greatest change they are now proposing is a move to a new strategy for the cattle operation, which is called Cell Grazing.

Essentially, this strategy would graze our herd here, on our alfalfa fields, and integrate their needs into an optimized method of farming. The first part, the new grazing strategy, would involve moving the cattle between paddocks on each field in tight rotation.

This would mean a more direct use of the alfalfa by the herd while also making sure that over-grazing doesn’t occur. This carefully organized grazing would mean that the cows would consume the alfalfa during its two optimal ends of growth, at the beginning when the plants begin to really shoot up, and at

end just before they go to seed. The transition time between growth cycles would be minimized and so the college would get the most out of each growing season as possible.

There are plans to begin testing these new strategies as early as this summer. Adam and his Farm team have already pulled up many of the fences on the fields and Janice is training the herd on electric fences, which will be easier to set up paddocks with. “It could get pretty exciting if one of those bulls gets it in his head to visit a different paddock when it isn’t his turn,” she said during the presentation, “But really, these cattle aren’t going to go anywhere, we’re in the middle of the desert.”

## The Hay House

Jonathan DeBorst DS12 has been referred to as “The King of Scrounge.” No one deserves the title more than him. From the wood dump and the metal dump, outside the Green Shed or behind the Dorm, he can find material for any project in what would otherwise only be trash.

And because every king needs a palace, Jonathan spent part of his fall constructing a hay-bale cabin near the Dairy. His skill at scrounging was invaluable. So was his knowledge of carpentry and welding, which allowed him to roof the cabin with salvaged wood and construct a rocket-mass stove from a 50-gallon drum and metal scrap. The stove is of particularly impressive craftsmanship. Similar to radiant floor heating, its duct work diffuses heat through the cob earthwork that encases it. While there are no windows, daylight is provided generously through a skylight in the ceiling while the front yard provides a view of the Sierras across the Lower Ranch and Field 4.

The project, now complete, allowed Jonathan to experiment with alternative and sustainable forms of creating shelter. In the future, this knowledge may help him advance social justice in impoverished communities. “Hopefully, I can learn well enough to share these methods with people who may use them daily.”

Now that the cabin is finished, Jonathan is opening the door to all community members. “I’m really happy to give a space over to people that they can use, that they can do whatever they would like with,” He explains, “I like the idea of people three years from now sleeping on the roof in the summer and inside in the winter.”

The structure is not permanent, of course. The elements will eventually cause the hay to decompose and the cabin will have to be disassembled. But Jonathan did not set out to make something permanent, but rather something sustainable.

## Gophering

The canine and avian members of the Deep Springs Community are well fed thanks to a new effort from the Farm Team. Three of the four members of farm team have been concentrating almost solely on gophering this term, in an attempt to assess the feasibility of eliminating gophers from the farm entirely. Results are

promising so far.

The idea grew out of a long discussion on the first day of the term. As we discussed potential “effectiveness areas” someone brought up the possibility of eliminating the gopher population on the farm, while simultaneously building a fence to stop or slow intrusion from the desert. While this would require an initial investment of labor and capital, it should both improve alfalfa yields significantly and reduce maintenance costs on farm equipment. It would also hopefully free up some labor, as less time would need to be spent gophering. This labor could then be applied to other areas.

The process has been very much student driven, as the team was captivated by the possibility of making a real and lasting contribution to the college. The current Farm Team **Kai Mateo DS13**, **Laughlin McKinnon DS13**, **Jacob Greenberg DS12**, and **Isaac Urner DS13** has been building new traps, gathering data (gophers killed per man hour, etc), and working to convince the rest of the community that this is a project worth investing in.

The financial side of things certainly makes sense. The gophers significantly reduce yields on the farm and increase maintenance costs because of the dirt from the mounds clogging machinery. The plan for the next term is to build a fence between field four and the dairy (the other sides border fields that should act as buffers) and use that to evaluate how long a cleared field stays gopher free. If this works reasonably well, a perimeter fence might be put in. The farms in next door Fish Lake Valley have been successful with a similar scheme, and now only require low level trapping to deal with any gophers that get around the fence.

While attempting to eliminate the gophers from the farm entirely will certainly have some environmental effects, they may not be harmful. Pocket gophers are native to this area, and do live out in the desert. There is an argument that the alfalfa fields are an unnatural habitat for them, and thus removing them should not do any long term harm to the ecosystem, though it may affect the crows and will certainly annoy the Deep Springs dogs.



*Clockwise from top left: the exterior of the hay house; the interior of the hay house (featuring rocket-mass stove); Farm Team Field 4, which will be used to graze cattle; Tirragen Vixie DS13 checks a gopher trap with his puppy, Annie.*

# Culture

## Service

The second years will be leaving soon, and with their approaching departure the question of service is again confronted, spun, mulled, chewed, spit out, swallowed. During Term 4, Student Body president **Saarthak Gupta DS12** brought a discussion of service, the SB shared individual written meditations on service, President David Neidorf's gave his own thoughts in a service-oriented address to the body, and perhaps – we're not really sure — we even performed service itself here on campus. All this is a response to the one demand that Deep Springs successfully levies upon its students with regard to service: the exhortation to think about it. To ask service what it is, what a life of it entails, and how and why and whether we are preparing ourselves for it here in the valley.

Like any word trying to rope together a mess of ideas, service disintegrates when you try to interrogate and justify it. Here is the “slipshod” definition that Neidorf provided us in his address: “Service is activity that involves getting outside of the prison of yourself, the importance of yourself, serving yourself, to devote your energies to something bigger and outside yourself, to someone else, a future good, a community, a collective, or even an idea.” This certainly gels with the impetus of The Grey Book. Nunn's mandates of “total renunciation of self” in the name of “sentient universe” are all about putting something else before oneself.

But we students (I, at least) wonder what Nunn would think about the current SB's understandings of service; whether his expectations of “superior ability and generous purpose” in students translated to superior expectations and generous dedication to service. Shifting the school's purported purpose from Nunn's original “Christian-mystic” phrasings to the more secular term “service” frees us up in the scope of our interpretation. In his address, Neidorf posited that perhaps the “boring, prosaic” acts that keep the world working – changing diapers, packing school lunches – are actually acts of great import with enormous stakes. One of the students' written meditations on service, this time taken directly from Nunn, suggests that “it would be shortsighted if someone were to posit that the mundane aspects of life have no bearing on their conception of service... we have to remember that Nunn said he wanted to train promising young men for lives of service, not careers of service.” The begged question then is ‘what then does and does not qualify as a life of service?’ And is more than the maintenance of the status quo expected of us students, given the sheer fiscal privilege of our scholarships?

I remember a late night conversation in the boarding house over toast and cereal. A second year asked a first year if he thought that donors were spending tens of thousands of dollars on him (the first year) so that he could screw around in the desert. According to the Nunn quote that was secular enough to be repurposed as our mission statement, we students are here to “prepare

for a life of service.” Simply by nature of our scholarships, we are obligated to engage with the idea of service. In another service meditation, a student observed how “I have been gifted an extraordinary education and some of my most powerful and cherished life experiences with the clear purpose of training me for a life of service. By accepting that, I cement my obligation.”

But service is not done here. I often think of my peers at other colleges, volunteering in soup kitchens, or teaching English with the Red Cross, while our “servicemen” on the BH crew sweep and mop the floor for students on full scholarships and professors on full salaries. I think it gives each of us students pause to come out to the valley and cede two years of our lives to preparation for service rather than the action itself. As Neidorf said in his address, speaking of our mission statement, “it doesn't say that you came here to do service. You came here to prepare for service. The Deep Springs community exists for the sake of the school.” I try to reconcile the loss of these years with the knowledge that I am not preparing for two years of service, but rather for a life of it. And the preparation for that whole long succession of years is perhaps justified by the time spent facing the challenges of the valley. The challenges of empathizing with others, living with them, making decisions with them, and understanding oneself as part of a community.

By Nick Barton DS13

## The Main Circle

**David Welle DS80** remarks that, “the Main Circle has served as an emblem of the idea of community at DS. Along with the cattle guard at the entrance, it is the totem that alumni refer to when they depart the college. Upon arrival, one crosses the cattle guard and enters the circle. Upon departure, one leaves the circle and crosses the cattle guard for the last time.” All visitors, staff and students notice the grassy ellipses at the heart of the Deep Springs campus. It is a striking reminder of the human occupancy in this dry desert valley, and the feeling of community that pervades the school.

Architect and historian **Bob Gatje DS44** says that no one knows who thought to put in the circle, and that there was no precedent for a circle to be the design for the center of campus. Historian and former Deep Springs President **Jack Newell, DS56** on the other hand, believes that it was L.L. Nunn who envisioned the layout of the property, and that at the time of the college's construction it was common to build public structures around a central point. It could be that Gatje and Newell are both correct, that there wasn't much precedent but Nunn was a visionary. Perhaps Nunn anticipated the meaningfulness a circle, as opposed to a rectangle or square, would bring.

In researching the history of the Deep Springs Circle as part of a class taught by Joel Schlosser on Herodotus's *Histories* I had the good fortune of speaking with many alums about their memories of how the circle played into their time at Deep Springs.

Common memories revolved around the circle as a place for sport. Particular sports seemed to be popular in different eras. In the early days baseball was most often played, and then in the 50s and 60s football became the mainstay. In the 70's and 80's Ultimate Frisbee was popular. By the 90's the current tradition of soccer (which may soon be replaced by rugby) became the norm.

There were many hazards to sports on the circle that have since been removed. The first to go were the old sprinklers, which were 12 inch permanent metal pop-ups. **Jack Murphy DS 78** tells me his feet hurt just thinking about them! Many may recall the flagpole that used to sit on the circle's center, and has since been located to the south side of the main building porch. **Padraic MacLeish DS99** tells us that the flagpole was taken down for causing concussions. Some say the flagpole was taken down as a symbolic gesture on the part of the SB signaling their desire to go coeducational. Jack Newell assures us the SB's motive was a combination of the two.

The circle has also been the site of controversy. In the early 1940s, the road was paved from the highway all around the main circle. This pavement was still in place in the 1980s. By the late 1990s it had deteriorated quite a bit and completely crumbled into dust with all the heavy construction taking place on the buildings. Toward the end of the massive project to rebuild or replace virtually all campus and ranch buildings, there was disagreement over repaving the circle road and adding curbs and gutters on both sides of the pavement. The Building Committee wanted to do this to reduce dust and control erosion of lawn edges, but the SB opposed the idea. Jack Newell, president at the time, recalls that "safety for sports, the pleasure of walking directly on the earth, and resisting gentrification of the ranch's natural environment, were three arguments against paving the circle." Bob Gatje was chair of the building committee, and advocated for paving. The trustees deferred the matter to Jack Newell, who acted on the SB's behalf and his own conclusions about the matter and blocked the initiative.

More often the circle is a site of community. **Jim Stearns DS79** writes that "the feeling I got from sleeping there [on the circle] was like sleeping in the exact center of the entire community, comfortable knowing we would never miss a thing." Jack Murphy says that, "the circle is a literal center, it draws people in." **Abdramane Diabate DS12** says, "the main circle is the heart of Deep Springs". Many end of term meals, countless naps, even more meaningful conversations have taken place on the circle. Christmas trees have glittered in the middle and the northern lights have danced above it. The sheep and cows have wandered up to graze, seed has been scattered by hand and lawnmowers have been pushed and steered. Once anyone crosses over the cattle guard to enter the circle, they join the community for as long as they are here, and once they leave, they become part of a larger circle that seems to unite all who have stepped upon the physical one.

By **Jackson Melnick DS12**

## Music Ethos

In the BH, loud music should be expected after every meal. Music is one of the most exciting aspects of the BH. It serves to illustrate the diversity of personalities within our community and the richness of culture that diversity creates. Even ridiculous institutions, like One-Song Wednesday, create an opportunity to examine our own tastes and let them evolve.

Of course, the Deep Springs music ethos isn't confined to the BH. **Laughlin Mckinnon DS13** recently compiled the Deep Springs Ultimate Playlist. Soliciting songs from every Student Body member, Laughlin put together the massive, 405 song, 28 hour playlist and distributed the file on a flashdrive. In shuffling, you might hear Soulja Boy, Yo-Yo Ma, the Velvet Underground, or the Dixie Chicks. Deep Springs Ultimate has been the go-to choice for cooking, labor parties, working out, and, of course, doing BH. It is perhaps the closest thing Deep Springs has to a college radio station.

Staff and faculty join into the music culture too: Joel Schlosser, Chair of the Social Sciences, can be found listening to and discussing Chopin with **Lucas Tse DS12**. When working with students, Donna Blagdan is always interested in putting on her own favorites or hearing something new. **Jackson Melnick DS12** has spent some evenings swapping his global folk music with community member Jackson Frishman, who has an even more extensive collection. Visiting professor Erin Shea was recently caught singing along to "Alice's Restaurant" with **Pablo Uribe DS12** and me. In the fall, I was introduced to the music of Smog and the Silver Jews by visiting professor **Nathan Deuel DS97**. The interchange of music has become one of the best ways for students, staff, faculty, and other community members to build friendships together.

If we did not share our passion for music so liberally, Deep Springs would not be the same place. The effect is not achieved because we are all passionate for the same artists or styles. Indeed, we often end up debating merits and demerits of music endlessly. What intellectual discourse at Deep Springs is more divisive than the question of Taylor Swift versus Ke\$ha? In disagreeing, however, we are enthusiastic and good spirited. The appreciation of music is one thing at Deep Springs that is always uncomplicated and joyful.

By **Nick Jones DS13**

# Course Catalog, Terms 4 & 5

## Euclid's Elements (Cardwell)

"This is not a math class. It is a philosophy class" is the caveat introducing this course on Euclid's *Elements* – but to be a philosopher one must first be a geometer, thought many ancients. The text itself is considered by many to be among the most important ever written and the foundation of modern mathematics. Students in this class are expected to be prepared to demonstrate proofs on demand in class, but discussions are centered mostly on what it means to proceed, as Euclid does, deductively from a set of axioms, and why his particular system appears so well-suited to our own intuitions: does it say something about the physical world, are our intuitions conditioned by its legacy, or is it something else?

## Thinking Like a Poet: Investigations in Poetry (Heim)

Taking as its premise Muriel Rukeyser's assertion that poetry is "one kind of knowledge," this course asks what it means to inhabit this way of knowing – to think like a poet – and tests the very boundaries of this mode of thinking by looking at poetry as it intrudes on other disciplines (and vice versa). "Part literature seminar, part creative writing workshop," this course asks students to engage with this mode of thinking both analytically, in close readings and discussions of a wide range of twentieth and twenty-first-century texts, and creatively, in the exploration of their own poetic thought. The two elements synergize in a final "creative-investigative poetry project" in which students use poetic modes of thought to address a question of real importance to them.

## Auto Mechanics (MacLeish)

This perennial favorite, a two-credit course in the basic theory and practice of automotive technology, returns for an encore this spring. Students will supplement reading from the Auto Fundamentals textbook and lectures with hands-on labs and exams performed on vehicles around campus. Students will leave the course with an understanding of automotive systems and components, the ways they relate, and common problems afflicting them.

## History of American Punishment (Pihos)

This course focuses on the history of punishment in the United States in particular and its movement from public spectacle to invisible-but-monolithic social institution. Readings for the course will cover a wide range of perspectives and disciplines, from Jefferson to De Tocqueville and from Foucault to Malcolm

X, and students will be expected to look for trends in these readings that may represent broader shifts in the way American culture has seen punishment. They will be expected to write three essays: one on "failures of reform," one on "race and revolution," and one concerning the arc of the class as a whole.

## On Solitude, the Un-Public, and the Stillness of Vital Thought (Rapp)

Anyone who has lived at Deep Springs knows that it is not, as some expect, a haven in which one can easily engage with solitude and introspection. The Voice of the Desert is elusive. This course attempts to explore the qualities of life in the valley that give birth to this misconception, and explore within them the possibility for true, deliberate solitude. Through an unorthodox class structure (one class a week of ritualized solitude, one of more traditional discussion), a daily practice of solitude, and a diverse range of texts and activities, the course offers students many vantage points from which to explore the subject. Ultimately, as the winter gives way to spring, the focus will shift to the products of this practice of solitude.

## Word, Body, and Blackness: the Theological Dimensions of Race (Rapp)

This course aims to pay special attention to "the religious and theological roots of what is often regarded primarily in philosophical, political, and sociological terms," which is to say — race — and to begin to explore the complex tapestry of the subject. The theoretical backbone of the course is formed by a Term spent closely reading J. Kameron Carter's text *Race: A Theological Account* and some of its primary sources; during the second Term, students will engage with a variety of texts and other media which explore the theological possibilities laid out in this text. The readings place special emphasis on modern black theology, empowerment, and culture.

## Politics, Markets, and Theories of Capitalism (Schlosser)

This course begins with a historical overview of the emergence of capitalism from the mercantilist system of the eighteenth century before moving into a survey of the different theories and approaches to capitalism and the way that these become political. These range from critiques of capitalism to treatises on political economy to more contemporary debates among economists like Milton Friedman and John Maynard Keynes. The course con-

cludes by looking at the issues capitalism faces globally in the twenty-first century. Students are expected to write four essays over the course of the class and to frame seminar discussions with prepared questions.

## Hegel And The Politics of Recognition (Schlosser)

The idea of recognition, as introduced by Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel in his *Phenomenology of Spirit*, frames this course. For the first Term, students will engage in a close reading of the *Phenomenology* itself, working in pairs to facilitate seminar discussions in class. At the end of the first Term, students are expected to write an interpretive essay on an aspect of the text. The second half of the course deals with responses to, and interpretations of, Hegel's theory of recognition from thinkers like Frantz Fanon, Jessica Benjamin, and Alexandre Kojève. Each student

will produce a lengthy seminar paper on one of these texts of their choosing.

## Introduction to Geology and Geologic Problems (Shea)

This course combines lectures, readings of actual scientific papers, and laboratory and field work to bring students an understanding not only of the basics of geology, but also of some contemporary research problems and, of course, the particularities of geology in the Deep Springs area. The students will go on two longer field trips, to Owens and Death Valleys. At the end of the semester, each student will produce an independent research paper and presentation concerning some geological topic of their interest to share with the Deep Springs community. The ultimate goal of the course is for the student "to leave with an appreciation of the natural world around you and the complex processes that shape terrestrial planets."

## Publications from Deep Springs

Three current and former Deep Springs faculty members have books set to come out this year.

**L. Jackson Newell DS56** has completed *On the Edge: The Saga of Lucien L. Nunn and Deep Springs College*. The University of Utah Press will release it in the spring of 2015. Five hundred pages in length, it will include four maps and about forty historic and contemporary photographs. Since they left Deep Springs in 2004, Jack and Linda conducted archival research, historical site visits, and alumni interviews that took them from New York to California several times. He wrote the manuscript over the last several years. It includes seven chapters on L.L. Nunn, a chapter on the geology, archeology and human habitation of Deep Springs Valley, and eight chapters on the history of the college since Nunn's death in 1925.

Jennifer Rapp has completed her book, *Ordinary Oblivion & the Self Unmoored* (Fordham University Press), which presents an account of forgetting and a re-reading of Plato centered on the idea that ordinary forms of oblivion in a life are essential for change, knowledge, and truer seeing beyond the self. Ordinary moments of oblivion both saturate and fissure a life, as well as make possible the decomposing and generative processes of reading required

— and risked — by Plato's texts. Through these processes the soul becomes forged, such that, argues Rapp, the religious dimension of Plato's philosophy rests not in metaphysics but arises from the texts themselves. In contrast to dominant threads in contemporary moral philosophy that regard Plato as antithetical to present humanistic values, Rapp considers how Plato — not Aristotle — crafted texts specially attuned to the fertile fragilities distinctive to human life.

Joel Schlosser has completed his book, *What Would Socrates Do?* (Cambridge University Press) which speaks to contemporary concerns with democratic citizenship, civic engagement, and political education. The main purposes of the book are twofold: first, to challenge the received opinion about Socrates by showing how his activities in democratic Athens involved productively challenging the extant political consensus; and second, to imagine alternative forms of political engagement inspired by Socrates that can productively address problems in today's political life. This examination speaks to "the way we live now" but introduces radically new ways of considering the present by excavating the compelling example of Socrates from the past.

# Farewell to Long-Term Faculty

## Kenneth Cardwell

Brother Kenneth Cardwell first taught at Deep Springs as a visiting faculty member in the Spring of 2010, teaching the course “It’s Our Fault: Geology of Deep Springs Valley.” He has served as the Dean, managing the academic affairs of the college, since 2010. Although he had administrative experience prior to Deep Springs, he found transfer counseling to be a new and exciting experience. A lifelong student of the liberal arts, Brother Kenneth taught popular courses ranging from geology to Ulysses, Biblical Hermeneutics to pure rhetoric (his own field of study).

It was in the Biblical Hermeneutics class that Brother Kenneth unveiled some of his independent academic work of the last 20 years: an inquiry into what kinds of arithmetical knowledge might have been common at the time the Gospel of Mark was written. “All the scholarship so far has been concerned with words, but they neglect that the people of that time were, indeed, numerate,” he points out. “Most of the people who look at numbers in the Bible are looking for secret codes, and that’s driven the scholars away. But I don’t have to worry about the opinions of my colleagues, this isn’t my field.”

“One day, I’m going to be famous,” he adds, smiling.

Brother Kenneth came to Deep Springs from St. Mary’s College in Moraga, California, where he taught courses both in and outside of his field of expertise for 25 years. He finds the latter especially rewarding, as he finds that when he is not in a position of authority he can learn alongside his students. After leaving the valley, he plans to return to St. Mary’s, where he will live in the community house of the Christian Brothers, his church order. The Christian Brothers are devoted to the education of the young and take a vow of gratuity (which is either not to charge students tuition or not to accept money for teaching, depending on whom you ask), so it is not surprising that one of them would have ended up at Deep Springs.

He has come to miss his

colleagues and family in the Bay Area. Still, he does not look back on his time here with regret but gratitude; he finds himself “rejuvenated” by his stay and hopes that, one day, he might come back (perhaps Term 6) as a short-term professor.

“There’s so much goodwill here. I think it’s the secret ingredient ApCom is looking for,” he notes. “Of course everyone talks about the students. Every teacher lives to work with talented youth in such a plastic stage of their lives. But I have to mention the faculty and staff: talented, lively, smart. And their spouses and children, too. Working with them, living with them, has been an unexpected treat.”

## Jennifer Rapp

Dr. Jennifer Rapp is the Robert Aird Chair in the Humanities at Deep Springs College. She came to Deep Springs with a background in religious studies and philosophy, and throughout the years students have found her to redefine what a seminar class can be and make. She has taught courses on Plato, religious texts, Chinese poetry, ethics, as well as literature courses on specific

authors including Tolstoy, Joyce and Kafka, and broader courses on topics of memory, race, and love. Jennifer may be best remembered for her experimental courses that defy boundaries and classifications. Courses of this kind included *The Senses, the Passions, & Being in the World; On Making; Being a Body; The Poetics of Presence and the Fugitive Sacred*; and currently *On Solitude, The Un-Public, and the Stillness of Vital Thought*. These courses are characterized by embodied practices that look to fuse rigorous text-based study with life off the page. Things like moonlight poetry readings, excursions to creeks and caves, performance pieces before the community, building, and meditations are worked alongside and into challenging texts. Jennifer is a master of guiding and designing this fusion of rigorous scholarship and embodied awareness, she has helped many uncover subtle-



Top to bottom: Jennifer Rapp, Brother Kenneth Cardwell, Joel Alden Schlosser.

ties of the self. Current and past Student Bodies are grateful for her years of service to the community.

After she leaves Deep Springs at the end of Term 5, Jennifer plans to go live her life. Most immediately, that will involve teaching at the Arete Project this summer. She then plans to base herself in the Eastern Sierra to finish her books in progress while developing a business in alternative education that will offer week-long programs called “A Week Apart.” The programs will incorporate her experience in innovative curricular design, yoga, and outdoor exploration.

## Joel Alden Schlosser

“It was my first Fall at Deep Springs. Amity, Brother Kenneth, and I were descending from hiking Mt. Nunn. We got lost in Slot Canyon as the sun was beginning to wane. We were not dressed for the evening cold and we only had some small flashlights. The hike got a little sketchy because our route was taking us along a cliff, which we couldn’t see the bottom of. When we did finally reach the bottom, it was much later than we’d intended. We began to walk home, but along the highway, as you know you can see so far in the valley, we saw four headlights. It took some time for them to reach us, both suburbans, out of which jumped the students and staff with stretchers, warm coffee, and snacks. They all noticed that we were late. I remember thinking, ‘This is pretty amazing. This isn’t just duty, it’s care.’”

Trained as a political theorist, Joel came to Deep Springs to learn about education, and now after four years, Joel is leaving to accept the post of Assistant Professor of Political Science at Bryn Mawr College. The manifold terms of human activity are not a mere fascination for Joel. Nor are they a mere duty. When I interviewed Joel for this article, I asked him what his apprehen-

sions about leaving the valley were. Joel, who’d of course asked for the questions in advance to give them their due reflection, answered decisively. “I’ve heard it said that ‘nothing you do out of the valley matters in the valley.’ Obviously this is false because of the pasts we bring with us when we join the community, but the truth is that none of you guys care for my academic work. This is healthy. When I move on, I worry about getting sucked into the game of academia because it can delude. The work itself doesn’t give you integrity.” Joel is also still considering whether to move to Philadelphia and commute to the college or live in the suburbs beside the campus. There is no on campus housing for faculty. “The city would be exciting but I worry of becoming distracted. I do not like the idea of living in the suburbs but the hope would be that I could find a community at the college. I worry that there isn’t one. But perhaps it’ll be my goal to make one.”

This is part of the deep conviction Joel has shared with the Deep Springs public. It’s part of the inimitable trace he’ll leave, even on the transient traditions of the valley. “I hope to share what I’ve learned here. Nowhere have I worked harder, nowhere have I had to account for myself, nowhere felt such intensity in return for my own.” Joel told me he is excited for the challenges he faces in his new work. He knows he will be forced to think even deeper about liberal education because we cannot be satisfied with the consumer model. This is what Joel will remember about Deep Springs. “It’s a care that’s really about the souls of each person, a care that leads you to stay up late in conversation, to read another book on top of your assignments with a student who’s isolated or stuck, a care to work with each other. I want to manifest this model, this sense of care. This strange idealism!”

Joel is the Julian Steward Chair in the Social Sciences at Deep Springs College. He will be departing at the end of Term 5.

## The Arete Project

This summer, the Arete Project will host its inaugural seminar for college-aged women. It will be the culmination of an independent collaborative effort between Deep Springs staff member Laura Marcus and alumnus **John Moriarty DSo5** which began during Laura’s time at Yale University. Modeled after Deep Springs, the two month itinerary will feature a class led by the outgoing DS Humanities Chair Jennifer Rapp; farm, garden and construction labor; and self-governance oriented around the organization of community life and the development of the Arete Project as an institution. Accommodations will be sparse during this initial program, as they were at the beginning of Deep Springs. Students will be housed in tent cabins and “provided with the materials and instruction necessary to construct their own bed frames,” according to the website. Eighteen women have been invited to participate, several of whom applied to Deep Springs in 2013. All participants are granted a scholarship covering all but \$500 of the program’s costs. In future years, donations will hopefully make it possible to run the program tuition-free.

After working tirelessly for two years as David Neidorf’s assistant, Laura will not be returning to Deep Springs next fall. Instead, she will be pursuing her Master’s at Cambridge University as a Gate Cambridge Scholar. We at Deep Springs wish her the best of luck!

*More information on the Arete Project is available at [www.AreteProject.org](http://www.AreteProject.org)*

# In Memoriam

## CALVIN CHAPMAN DS43

Calvin Chapman M.D. died on February 23, 2014, in Novato, California after 86 years of adventure and making the world a better place. Reared in Berkeley, California he attended Berkeley High. He came to Deep Springs with the entering class in the summer of 1943, but decided to return to Berkeley in the fall. He attended UC-Berkeley for a semester, and subsequently Yale University thanks to winning a scholarship competition from the 11 westernmost states and territories of Hawaii and Alaska. After graduation from Yale, he worked first as a lumberjack in southeast Alaska, then as an industrial engineer for Union Carbide and later for Boeing Aircraft Corporation.

In 1950 “Doc” (as he was affectionately known) met Imogene, a United Airlines stewardess and Denver native, on a blind date in Seattle, Washington. They married in 1956 and had five children. During their marriage, Doc graduated from University of Rochester with a Doctor of Medicine, became an Air Force lieutenant, and entered the School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas. Over the next 20-plus years, he worked as an Air Force flight surgeon, hospital commander, and command surgeon for the Air Force Security Service. One of the most rewarding duty tours was a year at Bien Hoa, Viet Nam. Working as dispensary commander and leading a volunteer medical service effort for Vietnamese villagers, Doc Chapman earned another nickname, “Jungle Doctor.” He personally treated over 20,000 Vietnamese while in country, during his off hours.

After retirement as a full colonel, Cal became a specialist in emergency medicine, becoming board-certified at age 60 and passing “the boards” again at 70. Working in emergency rooms, and directing hospital-wide emergency medicine programs, he provided ER care to thousands more people until the age of 75. At that point, he moved into “locus tenens” family practice, no longer working 24 hours straight or more (!), on ER shifts. Towns in which he worked included San Antonio, Sterling City, Weimar, Coleman, Abilene, Monahans, and Tenaha, all in Texas, a couple in Oklahoma, and the Lafayette, Indiana area.

Doc’s and Imogene’s five children all survive their parents, along with nine wonderful grandchildren. Imogene, a professional musician, passed away in 2012. Cal went back to work one last time at a family practice job in Indiana, finishing that stint in late May 2013. By his estimate, Doc provided medical care to more than 110,000 individual patients in his 55-year career. Known to his DS classmates as “Cal”, he is remembered as a good and gentle person - someone who embodied the Nunnian ideal of service throughout his life.

## PAUL DAVIS DS77

Paul Stanton Davis DS’77 died in Seattle, WA on January 10, 2014, of complications following cancer surgery. He was 54 years old.

Paul was born in Stamford, CT, and graduated from Greenwich High School. Seeking a change from his New England upbringing, Paul went west to Deep Springs. His preferred labor assignment was dairy boy; his pet project the construction of a solar heating system on the dairy barn’s roof for a solar energy class. He felt he gained the most from classes in composition and public speaking.

Technology’s power to transform individual lives and entire societies informed Paul’s interpretation of a life of service. When he transferred to Brown University in 1981, he planned an independent major, technology in society, combining courses in history, sociology, engineering, and computer science. In 1984, Paul bought an original Macintosh computer, and became an early believer in the possibilities of “personal” computers. Moving to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1986, Paul used his computer savvy to overhaul computerized subscriptions for the Whole Earth Review, and went on to work on the hypertext version of the Whole Earth Catalog. He worked at the Bay Area Discovery Museum, forming an interest in expanded computer use by non-profits. This led him to pursue a Master of Non-Profit Administration at the University of San Francisco.

In 1994, Paul became the first Mac software tester for a small start-up called Netscape, where his chosen title was ‘Empiricist.’ In 1999, former Netscape colleagues lured him to Seattle and Amazon.com, where he managed the team responsible for keeping the website running. That experience led to an eight-year hiatus from the tech industry, but in 2008, Paul joined data visualization start-up Tableau Software. He stayed through six years of rapid growth and a successful IPO. Tableau’s CTO described him as “the leader and heart and soul of the Server testing team.”

Paul showed extraordinary courage and perseverance in the face of illnesses that shaped, but never defined, his life. In 1981, he was diagnosed with an aggressive non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Radiation and chemotherapy were brutal – and lifesaving – but had devastating long-term side effects. In 2002, months after walking a marathon for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Paul developed chemotherapy-induced heart failure. His response was to train as a life coach, helping people living with chronic medical conditions. In 2004, he underwent surgery for a radiation-induced oral squamous cell carcinoma, which recurred in 2013. With his customary eloquence, heart and wit, Paul chronicled his battles with cancer at [nosmallplans.com/pvtsm/](http://nosmallplans.com/pvtsm/) and [nosmallplans.com/again/](http://nosmallplans.com/again/).

Paul was an avid cyclist, crossing the United States at 21, and recently, riding a power-assisted bicycle on Seattle’s hills. He took great pleasure in esoteric English folk dancing and straight-ahead jazz. He shouted the correct answers at Jeopardy contestants on TV, and delivered clever wordplay with a small, sly smile. Paul enjoyed tending a small flock of backyard chickens, and providing a lap for his favorite cat. He listened intently, argued brilliantly, gave generously. Paul was happily married to

Kimberly McKittrick, whom he met at Brown.

## CARLETON 'PETE' EVERETT DS48

We received word that Pete died June 9, 2013 in Hilton Head, SC. He was born in Scarsdale, New York and came to Deep Springs in summer of 1948. After one year, he transferred to Cornell University, where he obtained his degree in systems engineering. He taught engineering and business at Broome Community College in Binghamton, NY and Des Moines Community College. He was an avid reader and intellectually curious throughout his life. In retirement, he enjoyed tennis and jogging, and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

## NEWTON GARVER DS45

Newt Garver passed away on Feb. 8, 2014 after a long illness at his home in East Concord, New York. He was born in Buffalo in 1929 and came to Deep Springs in the summer of 1945.

Newt received an A.B. from Swarthmore, a B.Phil. from Oxford, and PhD. in Philosophy from Cornell. A member of Telluride Association, he served for three years on the board of directors in the late 1950s. He began his academic career as an instructor of English at the National College of Choueifat, Lebanon in 1954. Following stints as an instructor at Cornell and University of Minnesota, Newt joined the faculty at University of Buffalo in 1961, where he would teach for over 35 years. He was Professor of Philosophy, specializing in the study of ethics and policy; philosophy of language; Wittgenstein; and peace and conflict. He was appointed a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor in 1991.

He devoted his life to his beliefs in social justice, sometimes taking unpopular stands. In the early 1960s he was a co-founder of "Citizens Council on Human Relations" advocating racial integration and equality. As a young UB professor in 1964, he risked dismissal when he joined five other colleagues in refusing to sign a loyalty oath regarding what he would teach about the government. He became an active opponent of the Vietnam War, both through academic committees and also through his religious affiliations as a Quaker in the New York State Friends House. He remained active both socially and intellectually until very late in life. In his retirement, he worked on behalf of Bolivian Quakers, establishing an education fund to provide school supplies and resources to the impoverished community.

He visited Bolivia multiple times in support of the effort. His writings and personal pursuits can be found at his website [www.newtongarver.com](http://www.newtongarver.com). He leaves behind four children, five grandchildren and his beloved wife of more than 50 years, Anneliese.

## JOHN B. HAYS DS54

John Bruce Hays died on Jan 3, 2014 in Corvallis, Oregon. He was 76 years old. John was born in Springfield, Illinois and later moved to Southern California where he graduated from Monro-

via High School. He turned down a Naval ROTC scholarship to Stanford University in order to attend Deep Springs, arriving in the summer of 1954. John subsequently attended the University of New Mexico on an ROTC scholarship where he majored in chemistry, math and social life, and met Judith Gumm. The couple married in 1961 while John was honoring his obligation to the U.S. Navy, serving three years on a minesweeper.

Science called to John, so he resigned his commission and enrolled in the physical chemistry graduate program at the University of California, San Diego. During the first years of graduate school, he continued in the Naval Reserve as an officer. He earned a doctorate in physical chemistry in 1967 and did post-doctoral research at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He joined the faculty at the University of Maryland, earning the position of full professor. However, he always wanted to return to the West and in 1987 became Chairman of the Agricultural Chemistry Department at Oregon State University.

John was elected Fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science in 2001. He trained many undergraduate and graduate students and was one of the founding fathers of the BioResource Research (BRR) program at Oregon State University. In recognition of his achievements as a scientist and a teacher, the Department of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology has established the John and Judy Hays Scholarship Fund for Undergraduate Research Training.

He later resigned as chairman in order to pursue his research full time. John was an invited speaker and session chair for many scientific conferences, particularly Gordon Conferences, where he was appreciated as one of the most avid and articulate discussants. He served as Chair of the 2008 Gordon Conference on "DNA damage, Mutation and Cancer" in Ventura, California, and a tribute in his honor was offered at the 2014 Conference. John was internationally recognized as an expert in mammalian and plant DNA repair. He continued his research as professor emeritus after retiring from OSU in 2010. He love classical music and could identify almost any piece after hearing just a portion of it. A sports enthusiast, John was particularly fond of pickup basketball, where he made many good friends. After his knees objected, he became an avid bicyclist who could go the distance. He was active in the Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan, where he pursued his interest in social justice. John enjoyed fine wine, Camp Sherman and the Metolius River. A family man, he was happy spending time with his cousins and grandchildren.

## KEN MAHONY DS43

Kenneth Stevens Mahony, 88, passed away March 1, 2014 at home in Moodus, Connecticut, with his loving wife of 61 years, Anna (Harrison) Mahony, by his side. Born Feb. 17, 1926 in Miami, FL, He was raised on Peaks Island, Portland, ME; and would later spend many memorable summers there with his wife and children. After leaving Deep Springs, Ken served proudly with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He earned his Master's degree in Business Administration from New York University and went on to work as a controller in the insurance

industry for many years before his retirement.

## NORRIS SMITH DS45

“Norrey” died February 5, 2014 in Wallingford, CT. He was born in San Francisco in 1929 and grew up in Palo Alto. Norris left high school at the age of 16 to study at Deep Springs. After two years, he transferred with a scholarship to Cornell University, graduating 1951 with a B.A. in Government and Cultural Anthropology. When the Korean War began, Norris joined the Air Force and was assigned to Chinese language study. He was a Chinese interpreter during the peace negotiations at Panmunjom in 1952-53. He left the Air Force in 1954 with an honorable discharge and with a grant from the Ford Foundation went on to complete a master’s degree in East Asian studies at Harvard.

Norris joined the U.S. Foreign Service and for 10 years held various posts in East Asia, including service in Laos, Viet Nam and Thailand. He returned to Washington D.C. to study Japanese and subsequently spent five years in Tokyo, where he was responsible for educational exchanges, a network of libraries, and other cultural programs. He was then a student at the National War College in Washington, D.C. Norris spoke three foreign languages, Chinese, Japanese and French.

Later, in Beijing, he was Minister Counselor for press and cultural affairs. He helped to revive the educational and artistic and commercial relations that were suspended in the 1950’s. In 1971, Norris left the Foreign Service and joined the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory where he was responsible for public relations and worked as spokesman and senior editor for the lab’s news bureau. He later collaborated with Sidney Crain in 1987 writing a history titled, “The Supercomputing Era”. He resigned from Lawrence Livermore Lab to found and edit a new magazine, “Super Computing Review”. In 1989, Norris began writing full time about computers and the Internet.

Norris married Mary Jane Sainte-Marie in Laos. They had two sons and two daughters. In 1992, Norris and his first wife were divorced. He married again in 1998, to Martha K. Hanen. In 2005 they moved to a retirement community where Norris founded, and continued to write for, The Writers’ Circle.

## FRANK A. WALKER DS52

We learned recently that Frank Walker passed away on May 1, 2013 in Louisville, Kentucky. He died peacefully in his sleep with his wife of fifty-five years, Rosina Neidich Walker, at his side. He was 79 years old. Dr. Walker was born in San Francisco and came to Deep Springs in the summer of 1952.

Following Deep Springs, Frank completed undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley, then graduated from medical school at McGill University in Montreal, where he met and married Rosina. He later pursued a Ph.D. in genetics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was also a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Walker practiced medicine in underserved communities, multiple states, and several countries, including Canada and Saudi Arabia. As a researcher, he published many articles in prominent journals on causes of mental retardation. He lobbied through articles and testimony for screening of newborns for causes of mental retardation. He was also active in matters of public health, particularly in the prevention of lead poisoning.

Dr. Walker held teaching positions at multiple universities, including Medical College of Wisconsin, where he was also the director of the Department of Metabolic and Genetic Disorders at Milwaukee’s Children’s Hospital. After his research career, Dr. Walker practiced pediatrics. Following retirement from private practice, he contributed to research on metabolic disorders and served on the institutional review board for University of Louisville and Bellarmine University.

Dr. Walker was a man of great spirit and courage. Though he was never athletic, after being severely injured in a car accident in 2009, he fought through multiple setbacks in his determination to walk again – which he did. He was a Christian who practiced his faith by using his knowledge to help others and provide for those he loved. “For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.” Psalm 48:14



# Alumni News

## Gabriel Culbert DS92

Last year, Gabriel received a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award and began a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University School of Medicine. He has since moved to Jakarta, Indonesia and begun to work with colleagues at the University of Indonesia. His research involves interviewing HIV-infected male prisoners and former prisoners. In order to improve public health in Indonesia, the results of the study will ultimately be used in making policy recommendations.

## Dan Fulwiler DS85

Dan married Greg Sabetta in October. Attending the wedding were many Deep Springers including Doug Pascover DS85, Stephen Longmire DS85, Joel Cadbury DS85, Random Turner-Jones DS85, and Richard Ziglar DS84.

## Nathan Deuel DS97

With his wife Kelly McEvers, correspondent for NPR, and their daughter Loretta, age four, Nathan has recently moved to Los Angeles after living in the Middle East for five years. His time abroad provided fodder for personal essays, now collected for the first time and being published as *Friday Was the Bomb* (2014, Dzanc). The book depicts his experience of being a husband and father against the backdrop of political turmoil: the end of US involvement in Iraq, the Arab Spring, and war in Syria.

## Lane Sell DSO3

In Brooklyn, Lane has just reopened Shoestring Press, a print-making workshop run from the basement of a storefront. The

press provides workspace for artists, puts on gallery shows, hosts performances, and serves as a home away from home for Deep Springers such as James Wilson DSO3 and Eamon O'Connor DSO6. Lane says that he would be happy to hear from those interested in visiting or interning at Shoestring Press.

## Brendan Taaffe DS91

Brendan is still living in southern Vermont where he has recently released another album, "Can't Hold the Wheel," with his band The New Line. He describes the new one as a mix of old-time music and afropop. He spends a third of the year touring and the rest at home, working as a composer and riding his bike.

## Erik Mueggler DS80

Erik's book, *The Paper Road: Archive and Experience in the Botanical Exploration of West China and Tibet* (2011, University of California Press) was awarded the 2013 Julian Steward Prize for best monograph in environmental anthropology by the Anthropology and Environment Section of the American Anthropological Association. The award is named for Julian Steward, member of the first Deep Springs class in 1917.

## Michael Birnbaum DSO4

After three years in Berlin, Michael is moving in April to become the Moscow bureau chief of the Washington Post. He expects to be there about three years. He hopes to develop a fine understanding of the Russian winter and to learn the language well enough to read Tolstoy in the original.





Just after Thanksgiving, a new member of the Deep Springs community appeared. Zelda had apparently been abandoned in the desert, and wandered onto campus shortly before a snowstorm. She quickly grew out of her initial skittishness, and developed a love of riding in the farm truck. The initial suspicion that Zelda was pregnant was soon confirmed, as she gave birth to a litter of eight in late January. The pups are growing quickly and have recently mastered the difficult task of walking. Some may be adopted by students and staff, with the rest given to a local animal shelter or pet shop.

*The Communications Committee consists of Philippe Chlenski DS12 (Chair), Jackson Melnick DS12, John Henry Stuart DS12, William Nicholas Barton DS13, William Dominic Jones DS13, Isaac Urner DS13, and Shelby MacLeish.*