

Deep Springs College

Alumni Newsletter • Spring 2015



Academic Update

by Thomas Thongmee DS14

In her second semester as the Herbert Reich Chair of the Natural Sciences, **Michele Lanan** offers “The Chemistry of Food.” The course introduces students to organic chemistry with lectures and labs relating to food. Each student will create his own recipe, using scientific principles.

In addition, Michele has paired up with previous Reich Chair and current dean **Amity Wilczek** for the field course “Vertebrates of the Valley.” Students study the biology of the fauna around the ranch and valley through hands-on fieldwork with animals in their habitats.

Social Sciences professor **Jennifer Smith** leads two classes this spring. The first is an upper-level political science course in her research area – “Comparative Democracies in the Modern World.” This course combines Jenny’s expertise in her field with day-to-day developments

in modern world politics.

Jenny’s second offering is “Logic,” an introductory course in which students study formal symbolic logic and analyze its application in a variety of disciplines.

Caroline Schaumann is visiting for a semester from the German Studies department at Emory to teach two courses in the humanities. Her course on “The Age of Goethe” treads carefully through the German poet’s catalog. The course will progress from shorter works like *The Sorrows of Young Werther* and *Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship* to his epic *Faust I and II*.

An avid climber and mountaineer, Caroline will also teach “Mountains of the Mind,” an exploration of the role of mountains within the collective psyche. The course follows the historical development of concepts such as the wilderness and the sublime before culminating in a reading of *The Magic Mountain*.

Tom Miller DS04 returns for his second semester in the valley as a visiting professor for the seminar “Classic French Thinkers.” The writing-intensive class focuses on canonical authors of multiple genres. Students meditate on works by Montaigne, Descartes, Molière, Racine, Pascal, and others.

James Clayson, professor emeritus at The American University of Paris, is visiting for a semester to offer the experimental course “Visual Modeling, Visual Thinking.” Using James’ own textbook written specifically for this class, students learn the programming language Python as a gateway to explorations within visual science and visual modeling.

Finally, Director of Operations **Padriac MacLeish DS99** will teach his perennial “Auto Mechanics” class, in which students combine theory and practice to learn the basics of vehicle maintenance and repair.



Michele Lanan and students from “Vertebrates of the Valley” study the gait of Utah, the horse.



A Long Journey to Coeducation at Deep Springs

by Dave Hitz DS80, Chairman of the Trustees of Deep Springs

In December, I shared the good news that we won our case in lower court, but I warned that we could be delayed by several years if the opposition appealed. It looks like delay is our fate. Unfortunately, the Court of Appeal in Riverside, where our case will be heard, has a backlog of several years. The most hopeful estimate is one year, but three years is more realistic. We have no choice but to be patient. In Hamlet, Shakespeare listed “the law’s delays” as one of the ills of life that one must simply bear. Perhaps there is consolation in knowing that generations before us have shared this same frustration.

Many people have asked whether the two sides could come to some kind of agreement that would allow the college to move forward peacefully to its second century of operations. To be honest, I don’t know, but I would love that outcome if it’s possible. Over

the last few months, the college has reached out to the opposition by offering to discuss possible paths to a negotiated resolution. So far we have received no response.

In late March, the opposition filed a motion, (posted under the coeducation tab on our website), asking that the court order Deep Springs to pay over \$1.3 million for legal services that have been provided without charge to the opposing trustees. Trust law does allow a trustee to spend money on legal services “to benefit the trust”, but we do not believe that losing an expensive legal battle against the majority of trustees is a benefit to the trust. Once again, the court will decide.

In the end, I remain optimistic. In the lower court, we won on three of our five legal arguments. It only takes one, so we are well positioned for the appeal.



Nathan Wheeler DS13 harvests arugula from the garden's main hoop house.

News from the Farm and the Library: Introducing Noah Beyeler and Gwen Von Klan

by Lewis Ho DS13



This Fall, the Deep Springs community welcomed **Noah Beyeler DS03** and **Gwen von Klan** into their roles as farm/maintenance manager and librarian/registrar respectively.

After graduating from Deep Springs, Noah made a four-year stop in Antarctica to do construction. There, he helped erect radio telescopes designed to map the galaxy. Later, he earned his Bachelors from University of California-Berkeley. Noah was inspired to return to Deep Springs after his experiences at Polyface Farms in Virginia. Noah felt that Polyface's innovative and sustainable methods – exalted by Michael Pollan in *The Omnivore's Dilemma* – were worth bringing back to Deep Springs. Noah says that not much has changed since he was a student here ten years ago, which is a “testament to the staff who are here.”

Since arriving, Noah and his student labor crew (nicknamed “Noah’s Ark”) have begun rebuilding the small-animal livestock operation. His long-term goal is to raise all the eggs and meat consumed by the community. Early steps toward this goal include doubling the size of the laying hen flock and preparing to raise broiler chickens. He has built a new hoop house to replace the chicken coop in the winter and a portable shelter for grazing the fields in the summer. Additionally, the acquisition of a boar named Caesar has allowed for the impregnation of two sows. One has already farrowed her piglets and the other is expecting later in the spring. Eight piglets acquired separately have meanwhile grown prodigiously. In between, Noah has found time to rebuild the BH porch, re-roof the dairy, and construct a vegetable wash-station at the garden.

Gwen joins us after working with an organic food distributor and managing a retail co-op. She and Noah met while both attending Berkeley. She has quickly settled into life at Deep Springs, and can often be found at Community Game Night or making ice cream in the BH basement. She shares Noah’s passion for environmental sustainability, commuting by bike from Henderson Station.

As librarian, she has been leading her own mini-revolution. In addition to integrating the Wolin Collection (donated last year by political philosopher Sheldon S. Wolin), Gwen and the student librarians have embarked upon an inventory overhaul and relabeling project. The daunting stacks of unsorted material have now mostly found their proper place on the shelves. Gwen has also worked to find the best outlet for culled books in order to generate extra revenue for the college. Much appreciated technical advice has been periodically provided by Nancy Willard, a library consultant based in June Lake.

As registrar, Gwen has helped relieve much of the stress caused by transfer applications, thanks to her organizational acumen. You may have also seen her work in the monthly “News from the Valley” updates.

Gwen will be leaving in August to pursue a Masters in city planning at University of Southern California.

A Word with the Professors

by Thomas Thongmee DS14

Dr. Jennifer Smith and Dr. Michele Lanan – professors of social sciences and natural sciences respectively – have been settling into life at Deep Springs over the course of this year. By training, Jennifer is a political scientist, having extensively researched the role of political parties in Europe; Michele is a biologist specializing in the study of ant societies. When not leading challenging classes or lip-syncing to Katy Perry, the two are also serving on ApCom. We asked them both a few questions to learn more about them and their experience with the college so far.

Where are you from, and how did you come to Deep Springs?

JS: I grew up in Lexington, Kentucky, though it felt important at the time that my family wasn't "from" there (my mother is from Berkeley; my dad is from Scotland). I taught most recently at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, and before that at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. I've always hoped to find a teaching-focused position where my range of interests would be a strength, and I remember Deep Springs from my own time with the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*, so I was excited to see the job ad. But the short reason I'm here is that CurCom listed the job through the American Political Science Association, and then they called me.

ML: I grew up in Colorado, at-

tended college in California, and have most recently been living in Tucson, Arizona. I didn't know much about Deep Springs until I read a job advertisement, did some background research, and thought it sounded too good to be true.

Imagine you had been dispatched by a committee of your professional colleagues to conduct research at Deep Springs. What would you study?

JS: My grant proposal would be titled "Participatory Democracy Under Conditions of Geographic Isolation and Gender Exclusivity: A Field Experiment". I'll need to divide the SB into two randomly-assigned groups to actually conduct the field experiment, so certain practical barriers remain to initiating the first stage of the investigation. My efforts to locate a principal informant for the ethnographic piece of the research have also been frustratingly slow, so I am occupying myself with participant observation and gradual assembly of background data.

ML: I would investigate the collective foraging behavior of ants inhabiting the main circle area in order to determine how the spatial and temporal distribution of food influences the spatial organization of trail networks. While I was at it, I would also investigate the collective behavior of the Deep Springs Student Body and the emergent properties of their interactions at the community level. Areas of fo-



Jennifer Smith(above) and Michele Lanan(below)



cus might include the efficiency of decision-making strategies (top-down structures, quorum-sensing, consensus) and the persistence and transmission of verbal and nonverbal cues across multiple cohorts of students. In a second line of inquiry, I would conduct a metagenomic study to determine whether the epidermal microbiomes of newly arrived first-years converge over time, and what environmental, social, and agricultural sources contribute most to horizontal acquisition of new microbes.

A Word with the Professors, cont.

What are some things you enjoy doing outside your role in the Deep Springs community?

JS: Right now I'm deeply invested in whether the Kentucky basketball team can complete its undefeated season. I'm also reading Mark Helprin's *Winter's Tale* and a number of philosophy-type books to accompany my current "Logic" course. If it had gotten cold enough this winter, I would have liked to organize some impromptu curling on the Upper Res. I learned to curl living in Wisconsin, and that's one thing I definitely miss.

ML: I enjoy playing old-time fiddle, hiking and camping, drawing, painting, and building stuff.

If a polar bear and a shark were fighting in a neutral jellylike substance, what does your professional back-

ground suggest about which would win, and why?

JS: Polar bears and sharks seem likely to have single-peaked, straightforwardly transitive preference orderings, which makes it tempting to approach this conflict from a rationalist perspective. But that lands us in the rationalists' puzzle about violent disputes: If each contender could reduce its net losses by negotiating a settlement in advance of the conflict, why enter the jellylike substance in the first place? Maybe this isn't a perfect-information environment. Or maybe both animals are constrained by the socially-constructed norms in which the shark/polar bear dyad is embedded, in which case I predict the polar bear will win.

ML: Our battle involves two large vertebrates, one from a mostly terrestrial habitat and one from a marine habitat. I will assume that

the "jellylike" description of the substrate implies a higher viscosity than the atmosphere of Earth. At room temperature the viscosity of air is about 1.8×10^{-5} kg/(m*s) while water is substantially more viscous, about 8.9×10^{-4} kg/(m*s). Marine vertebrates such as sharks exhibit a highly streamlined body shape that reduces friction and improves maneuverability in this viscous environment. Although polar bears are adept swimmers, the shark will have a significant advantage in terms of maneuverability in our jellylike substance. Sharks also appear to have a greater mouth to surface area ratio, suggesting that even if both animals were colliding randomly the shark would be more likely to get the first bite. Depending on the nature of our jellylike substance, however, it is entirely possible that both animals would asphyxiate before the winner could be determined.



Michele examines a frozen spring at the lake corrals, not a neutral jelly-like medium.

Learning from Telluride

by Tom Miller DS04

The transition from being a student at Deep Springs to life in the outside world is hard. How does one preserve or recreate the sense of community found at the college? And how does one begin to honor the commitment incurred at Deep Springs to live a life of service – even before one has chosen, let alone embarked upon, a particular career? For myself and many other Deep Springs alumni, involvement in the Telluride Association has been part of the answer to both of those questions. It has given us an opportunity to stay both in touch with each other and involved in running Nunnian educational projects.

Founded by Nunn in 1911 to bring together graduates of his “primary branches” throughout the western United States, the Telluride Association is the college’s older and only remaining Nunnian sibling. Today the Association is an educational non-profit, run by a large volunteer board, that sponsors free academic summer programs for high school students and scholarship houses for both undergraduate and graduate students at Cornell University and the University of Michigan.

Deep Springs and Telluride currently enjoy informal but strong personal links on the basis of shared values like service and democracy (values sometimes interpreted in stimulatingly different ways). Four alumni of Telluride’s summer programs for high school juniors (known as TASP, for short) are currently enrolled as students at Deep Springs, and recent Deep Springs faculty members like **Katie**



Peterson, Charles Grimes, and **Justin Kim** have also taught seminars for TASP. After graduation, many college alumni have worked as TASP factotums; this summer, **Pablo Uribe** and **Tanner Horst**, both **DS12**, will do so.

Other Deep Springs alumni have joined the Association as members (roughly equivalent to trustees) as I did in 2007, one year after graduating from the college. Telluride currently has a total of eighty-eight members, mostly in their twenties or thirties. Of these, fourteen are Deep Springers, all but one having joined in the last ten years, frequently with no prior experience of Telluride’s own programs. Telluride has allowed us to continue our experiential Nunnian education in a range of spheres familiar from Deep Springs – recruiting and reading student applications, interviewing and hiring faculty, and evaluating participation in a self-governing residential community – as well as others not usually open to people

our age, including dealing with lawyers and university administrators and managing the investment of a large endowment.

In summer of 2015, Telluride is expanding its Sophomore Seminar (TASS, for short), to a new site at Cornell University (in addition to maintaining existing sites at Indiana University and the University of Michigan). TASS, founded in 1993, is an academic summer program for rising high school juniors, with recruitment targeted towards students of color. The TASS seminars, taught by university faculty, have a focus on African-American/Africana studies. **Kufre Ekpenyong DS09** will be a TASS factotum at the Michigan location this summer.

The opportunity for expanding TASS brought with it the challenge of improving recruitment to get a larger applicant pool. Beyond the usual targeted mailings, Telluride members and volunteers used social media and reached out personally to high school guidance counselors; in the end, they succeeded in attracting a record number of just under four hundred applications for fifty-four places. As Deep Springs also works to attract more applicants from groups historically underserved by or excluded from educational institutions, there are promising opportunities for discussion and cooperation.

In addition to his eight years as a member, Tom served as President of the Telluride Association from 2012-2014.



Long Weekend in the White Mountains

by Isaac Price-Slade DS14

It was only when Will leaped off a boulder, landed awkwardly, and sprained his ankle that I realized truly how isolated we were. In an instant, we had discovered very personal stakes in a logistical challenge that I had managed to ignore for our first thirty hours in the wilderness. How would we get back to the college? There was no way Will was going to walk out.

We had been following Wyman Creek away from Cow

Camp back towards the desert floor, and found ourselves at the bottom of a gully just south of Iron Mountain. After his fall, we moved Will into the shade, where he said (completely lucidly) that he'd kill someone if he had to pay the bill for a helicopter. Water was consumed in small sips. Bryce, the most experienced outdoorsman of the group, wrapped the ankle, and we hatched a plan. It was clear that someone was going to have to go for help.

Bryce was to take care of Will as I walked out to our Jeep, parked near the base of Wyman Canyon, to drive back to the college.

This was alright with me, except for the fact that Will had been the primary navigator the day before, and I had very little experience reading topographical maps. I left most of our gear with Bryce and Will, taking just the purified water we had left. After going over the route with Will, I zipped compass, map, and pen in my hip pocket and set out toward Iron Mountain at 1:00 pm.

Although Will was not in any immediate danger, I felt an extreme sense of urgency. I kept at as fast a pace as possible without endangering my own ankles. Every time I encountered some landmark from the previous day's travels, I would write the time and place on my hand in pen. At 4:30 I arrived, thoroughly exhausted, at the Jeep. The battery was dead.



Left to right: Isaac Price-Slade, William Ehlers, and Bryce Snyder, all of DS14, as they begin their hike in Wyman Canyon.

I didn't have any energy to waste dwelling in frustration, so I promptly began the long walk out of Wyman. By this time it was getting dark, and having consumed the last of my water supply hours ago, dehydration was beginning to set in. The prospect of a quick nap on the side of the road was becoming more and more enticing, but I forced such dangerous temptations out of my mind. All I had to do was make it to Henderson Station and borrow a phone.

I was stumbling through a minefield of Russian Thistle and cacti, but I knew exactly where I was going. After eternities, I arrived at Chef Marc Mora's front door at Henderson, and within minutes, Janice Hunter came to pick me up in the flatbed. Someone later said that the challenge of a rescue mission was just what the community needed, and I agree in the sense that the hours following my return to civilization were an opportunity to revel in the speed and coordination with which we were able to mobilize; the mo-

ment that Janice and I walked into the BH that night, students and staff were ready to act.

On my map I showed Janice, Noah, and Padriac exactly where Will and Bryce were stuck, and the particulars of potential action plans were hashed out as students began to organize resources. Lewis packed food for the would-be rescue party while others collected backpacking gear and notified professors of the situation so that they could cancel classes if necessary.

Eventually, David Neidorf made the decision to call the local volunteer search and rescue team instead of a staff-led rescue mission. Calling in the SAR team was our best option because a storm was coming. Had a large portion of the staff and student body (as well as an ATV and possibly a horse) gotten stuck in the snow up Wyman, we would have created a significantly more dangerous situation. Former ranch manager Geoff Pope, still residing in Bishop, agreed to fly over Bryce and Will's location in his plane in order to provide the

search and rescue team with additional information, and Janice accompanied the team to help them navigate through the Whites.

Falling asleep that night, I was amazed by how controlled the whole situation felt. With the help of the Inyo County Search and Rescue unit (and their ATVs), a bedraggled looking Bryce and Will emerged safe and sound from the flatbed truck sometime the next evening.

Our adventure certainly came with its share of "teachable moments," and we worked through these in a community meeting the following week. For me, though, the most meaningful takeaway from the experience has been a greater appreciation for this community on a practical level. Deep Springers work well together, a testament to the vitality of our connections to one another. We are always ready to face adversity, logistical or otherwise, because we are ready to do it together.



Left: Will, with a sprained ankle, waits for help. Above: the Inyo County Search and Rescue team arrives in their all-terrain vehicle.

As the current class of second-years begins to finalize plans for the near future, we decided to get into contact with recent Deep Springs graduates to see how they've been spending their time.

Yale continues to be the most popular choice for Deep Springers finishing their undergraduate education – currently there are ten in attendance. The Yale cohort has these updates to report:

Brendan Bashan-Sullivan DS10, Rhys Dubin DS11, Caleb Hoffman DS11, Cory Myers DS10, and Ben Shaver DS10 are sharing a house in New Haven.

Brendan is finishing a BA in architecture. He says: "I spent this past summer first in Istanbul, then backpacked through Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan drawing the brutal Soviet architecture left after the fall of communism. I can offer advice to any DSers who are planning to do Silk Road travels, but who would do that?"

Caleb is taking a semester off this spring before returning to Yale in the fall to finish his degree in the humanities. His summer will be spent at Deep Springs, working on small construction projections. He is planning to apply to medical school after graduation.

Cory will graduate in May with a degree in philosophy. He has taken a shine to New Haven and will work in the city for the next year while applying for graduate school.

Bennet Bergman DS11 hopes to graduate in December with a degree in creative writing. "I'm writing poetry—very fortunate to have

a friend and mentor in Louise Glück, who just won the National Book Award for her latest collection. She's advising me on my thesis, which will be a manuscript of poems."

Pablo Uribe DS12 plans to be a comparative literature major with a focus on Spanish literature. "Intellectually, I've been most excited by a few education-related courses I've taken. I'm looking forward to being one of the factota for TASP at Cornell this summer."

Elsewhere, graduates have pursued different paths. Many are continuing their studies at other universities. Some have taken a gap year or three, delving into work or travel.

Nate Sibinga DS07 has just received the Fulbright Scholarship to

spend a year studying in Norway. He will be working at a lab that researches sustainable feed for farmed fish. As many wild populations become overfished, Nate reports, it is increasingly important to find an ecologically sound way to raise fish in captivity.

Christian Cain DS09 lives in Seattle, working in a job training/life-skills program called Seattle Youth Garden Works. As part of the program, homeless youth run and staff two urban farms in Seattle, helping to sell the produce at local farmers markets.

Kufre Ekpenyong DS09 matriculated at Brigham Young University after Deep Springs, earning a BA in art history this spring. He will spend the summer working as a staffer for the TASS at Cornell.

News from Recent Alumni

Edited by Shelby Macleish



Left to right: Christian Vlcek DS13, Lewis Ho DS13, and Matthew Zianni DS14 at the lake.

Edward Pimintel DS09 is also at BYU, studying biochemistry after finishing a two-year mission for the Church of Latter Day Saints in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Tim McGinnis DS09 is currently at Oxford studying Economic and Social History as a Rhodes Scholar. Last year he worked with the Wellbody Alliance in Boston.

Tim Henderson DS10 will graduate from SUNY Buffalo in May with a degree in English.

Keenan Lantz DS11 began attending Shimer College in Chicago during the spring semester. Keenan was awarded the Dangerous Optimist's Scholarship, a two-year full tuition scholarship for a spring transfer student who will change the world.

Nick Marino DS11 is currently studying Spanish and teaching English in Buenos Aires. He will stay in Argentina for a while before traveling through Bolivia or Ecuador, planning eventually to return to the states to finish his education.

Tanner Horst DS12 recently graduated from Bowdoin College, where he majored in government/political theory with a minor in ancient Greek. He will be back at Deep Springs for a few months to lead the irrigation team, after which he will spend the summer working as a factotum for the TASP seminar at Michigan.

Bach Tong DS12 is studying at Bard, majoring in Literature with an expected graduation date of May 2017. This summer, he will spend a

month in Tours, France learning French, and next year will further this effort by studying abroad in Aix-En-Provence.

Jackson Melnick DS12 is currently studying at Brown, working toward a concentration in contemplative literature. "The idea came out of putting Marx's idea of dialectical materialism in dialogue with the power of contemplative meditation; can meditation change consciousness no matter the material situation of the meditator?" Jackson also has recorded a collection of his songs and formed a band called the Near Eternities while helping launch an audio magazine at Brown called Now Here This (www.nowherethis.org).

Zachary Robinson DS12 is currently at Stanford, sharing a room with fellow cowboy **Abdramane Diabate DS12**. Zach is studying mathematical and computational science. He hopes to graduate at the end of next year and to work at a consulting firm. On campus, he is involved in the co-ed business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi.

Lucas Tse DS12 is taking a year off school to spend more time with family, experience more of the world, and prepare himself internally for another few fruitful years of study. Over the summer, he worked as the farm assistant at Deep Springs. He then spent six weeks on the road, seeing the rest of the United States. He is currently working and interning throughout mainland China and Hong Kong, doing everything from waiting tables to compiling oral history projects.



*Ethan Reischman DS14
labors in the woodshop.*

Jacob Greenberg DS12 worked for four months as a line cook at an Italian restaurant in Los Angeles before returning to Vassar to finish his degree. He continues to explore the questions of how one ought to live in this world of trouble, trauma, and estrangement. "I'm appreciating the irony that Deep Springs left me more femme and embodied, more caring and empathetic, and more lost than before." Jacob hopes to study in Paris this summer before applying to grad programs in the fall.

Jonathan Deborst DS12 is living in Olympia, Washington with his fiancée Ginna. He currently works at a food co-op, which in Jonathan's words "has an uncanny resemblance to some parts of Deep Springs in terms of meetings and coordinating responsibility, self-governance, accountability, moving around in labor..." Jonathan is also designing a cob cottage to begin constructing in May, planning in the long-term to start a farm on the same property with a few meat animals, a dairy cow, and a very large garden. He plans to attend Evergreen State College next fall.

Other Alumni News



Jackson Newell DS56, former Deep Springs President, has recently seen his book published by University of Utah Press. Titled *The Electric Edge of Academe: The Saga of Lucien L. Nunn and Deep Springs College*, the history chronicles L.L. Nunn's background in the American west and his establishment of Deep Springs. Jack, with assistance from his wife **Linda**, examines in great detail the successes and trials of the college, the Student Body, and the faculty and staff. The book includes a foreword by **William Vollmann DS77**. You can order author-signed copies of the book directly from Deep Springs by sending \$40 to the Office Cowboy at Deep Springs, HC72 Box 45001, Dyer, NV 89010.

Jack is Professor Emeritus of Educational Leadership at the University of Utah, where he also served as dean of liberal education for sixteen years.

A fixture in local politics in San Francisco and Northern California for over twenty years, **James Stearns DS79** has "closed up shop" for the foreseeable future. Jim is closing his successful political consulting business to pursue other

interests and spend time with his children before they leave home for college. Jim's office in San Francisco has provided numerous opportunities over the years for young Deep Springs alumni to learn more about retail politics.

Tom Miller DS04 received his doctorate in classics from Princeton this winter. His dissertation was entitled "Plato's Doctrine of the Immortality of the Soul". He has been teaching at Deep Springs this year, serving on ComCom, and advocating that students spend more time in the great outdoors.

Lee Talbot DS48 remains on faculty at George Mason University teaching graduate courses in environmental science and policy. He also continues to serve as a senior environmental adviser to the World Bank, U.N. and various governments. In 2014, this involved two visits to Laos with his biologist/explorer wife, **Marty**. Lee says, "Each visit I present my recom-

mendations to the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Ministers. One of the benefits of the Lao work is that my direct contacts with the top of government assures special status and access to closed areas, and has meant that my recommendations are almost always acted upon and quickly." Lee has also recently advised the the President's Malaria Initiative and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In July and August, Lee and Marty went climbing and hiking in the Sierra Nevada, as they do every year. They have also been recently invited to speak on their careers in exploration at an Explorers Club event at the National Press Club. Lee also races his car at national and international events in the eastern U.S. and Canada, and reports that he usually wins. Between teaching, racing, hiking, and speaking engagements, Lee is planning trips this year to Laos, Costa Rica (with Curt Karplus DS48), the Galapagos, and Machu Picchu.

Alumni Events

1980s Alumni Reunion –Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25, 2015

1970s Alumni Reunion –Labor Day weekend, September 5-7, 2015

In Memoriam



Edwin Joseph Wesely DS45
died peacefully on February 15 of this year. Bob Gatje DS44, a contemporary and long-time friend of Ed's, shares his reflections:

Ed Wesely was one of the Brooklyn Technites from the 1940s who left high school after three years in order to spend two years at Deep Springs before being drafted. Ed lived in uptown Manhattan where his father and uncles were

successful commercial building contractors. (He used to joke that one of their specialties was “pigeon-proofing” ornate classical façades.) On coming to America, they had found that Italians had crowded the Slovaks out of their shoe-making trade.

At Deep Springs, I was the Applications Committee Chairman who recommended Ed’s admission to Director Si Whitney. When Ed arrived in the summer of 1945, I remember someone of great good humor whose New York accent was stronger than mine.

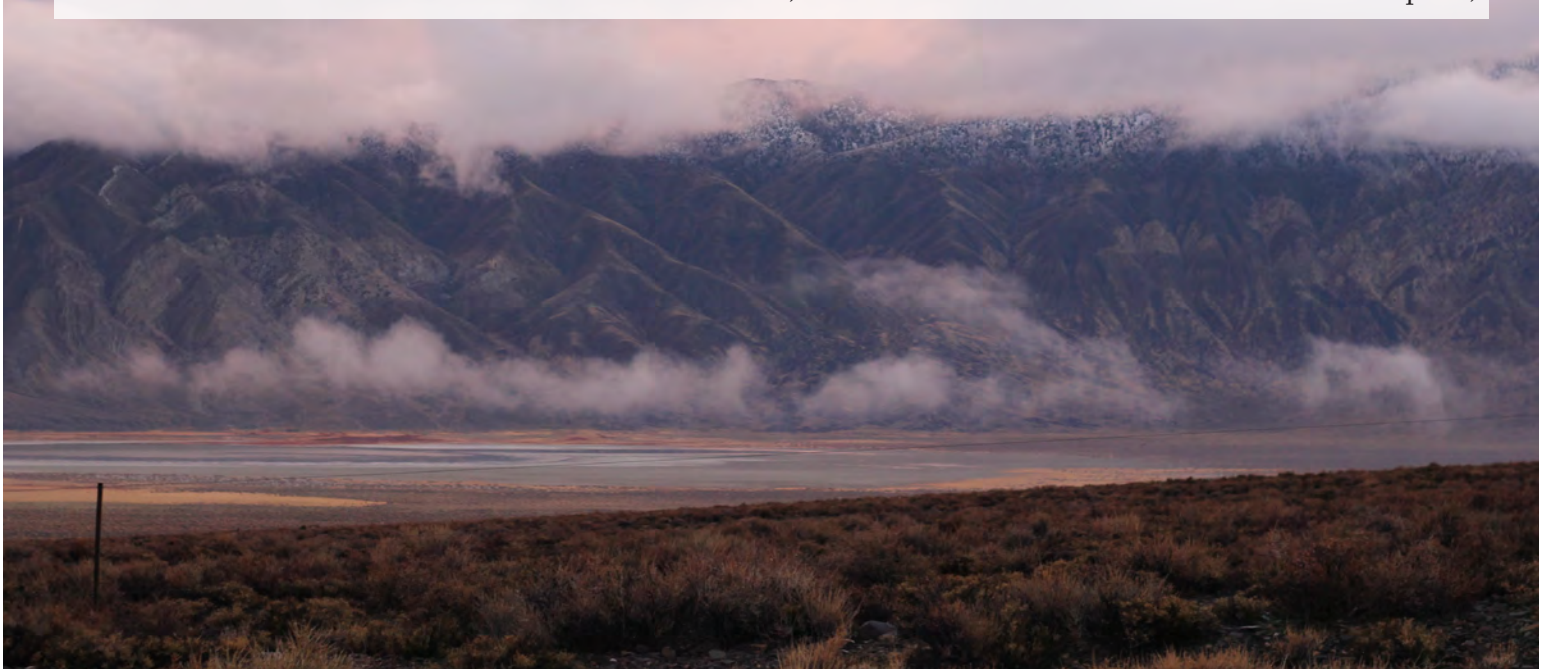
We both entered Telluride House in 1947. I was fresh out of the army and he made the Nunnian move directly from DS to Cornell. The House in those days was dominated by older men returning from real military service and an aesthetic clique that looked down on those who were not planning an academic life. Ed was a good student but he seemed more interested in the fact that his “genes were jouncing” over a girl in his Government class (who eventually married Barber Conable TA46, President of the House and later President of the World Bank.)

After graduation from Cornell in 1949, Ed married

Yolanda Piles, one of two Brazilian twins who claimed to have successfully switched on a double date between Ed and Dick Feynman TA47. (Bob Richter TA47 says “Landa” and Guida had played the same trick on him at a night-club in the blizzard of 1947.) Yolanda is mother of two daughters – Marissa and Adrienne TASP73 – and Marissa has one daughter. The marriage ended in 1983.

Entering the advertising business, the wit and charm that had always marked Ed suggested a hugely profitable career that, after careful review, he turned down. But, in three years he had earned enough money to pay for most of his tuition at Columbia Law School, from which he graduated with honors in 1954. After two years as a Federal Prosecutor in New York City, he joined the prestigious New York law firm Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam, & Roberts. He made partner seven years later in 1964 and spent 37 years with them, Becoming Chief Litigating Partner for the firm before retiring in 2001.

Ed was a great story-teller and he loved to recount the details of the great “Salad Oil Scandal” that almost ruined American Express,



In Memoriam, cont.

a client of his firm. Tino De Angeles, a fantastic swindler, borrowed enormous amounts of money based on vats and ships filled with water and topped with just enough oil to fool the inspectors. By the time the lawsuits were in full swing just about every major law firm in New York and Washington was involved on one side or the other. Ed was very proud of the fact that his distinguished peers chose him to speak for all of them in settling the case – now a classic in all the law-school text books.

He served as a Special Master in many Federal court cases, acting as a judge. In the mid-1990s, the best known required of him to apportion the funds provided by PanAm and many insurance carriers for the families of those killed in the December 1988 bombing of PanAm flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Bill vanden Heuvel DS46 appointed Ed to represent the Board of the International Rescue Committee on the Board of CARE in 1962. Over 12 years, Ed became the principal spokesman for

CARE, serving as President and Chairman of its Board. He was co-founder of CARE International and roamed the earth checking on their activities and keeping their not-for-profit administrative costs to a much-praised minimum. He was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and received the Foreign Press Association World Humanitarian Award in 1988.

The Trustees of Deep Springs asked Ed to join the Board in 1992. He served two terms through 2000, a very challenging time when the school was rebuilding itself under the leadership of Dick Cornelison DS43 and Jack Newell DS56. Also, in 1992, Ed married Marcy Brownson, an investment professional and former university dean. They visited Deep Springs frequently together. As illness began to take its toll in 2006, Marcy's role was one of dedicated caretaker to Ed. He died quietly at his home in Manhattan.

Edwin Joseph Wesely was awarded the Deep Springs Medal in 2003.

Henry Jameson DS43, passed away on August 19, 2014, after a brief illness. He was born in Indiana in 1927 and grew up in Indianapolis and Milwaukee. Because of World War II, he was able to attend Deep Springs as a high school student. He very much valued his education and experience at Deep Spring and made many lifelong friends. Among the various jobs he performed at Deep Springs was managing the post office. As a student, he also had the opportunity to explore California and visited Yosemite National Park for the first time. His final visit to Yosemite was in 2012.

Following graduation from Deep Springs, Henry served in the Navy V-12 program and graduated from Purdue University in 1946 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He subsequently received his MBA from Cornell University and also studied economics at Harvard University. After several years in business, he resumed his education at Union Theological Seminary and became a Presbyterian minister for the next 12 years. Following that, he returned to the business sector and ended his career as corporate



economist for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. From 1965 until his death, he lived in the Akron, Ohio area.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Jane, who died in 1968, and his second wife, Dorothy, who died in 2007. He is survived by his daughters Martha Jameson and Helen Jameson.

Jon Shotola DS97 died suddenly at his home in Chicago on January 22 of this year. He was 35.

After Deep Springs, Jon completed his BA in cognitive science at Brown University. He became a private pilot and flight instructor. Jon's classmates at Deep Springs remember him as a spirited debater and a brilliant, kind, hilarious and generous friend, one who especially treasured intellectual pursuit, cooking, and hiking. Jon was noted for his thoroughness in Public Speaking and a special knack for serving as master of ceremonies when it was his turn. He always strived to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. One of Jon's classmates put it well: "Jon is deeply missed by me and so many others. I will always cherish the time we spent together."



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Information

The Alumni Newsletter is edited by the Communications Committee. Current members are **Nick Jones DS13** (Chair), **Nick Barton DS13**, **Thomas Thongmee DS14**, **Shelby Macleish** (staff adviser) and **Tom Miller DS04** (faculty adviser). For this issue, photography was provided by **Bryce Snyder DS14** and other community members.

If you have feedback or suggestions for future newsletters, please contact us.

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Pranav Bhatnagar DS14 with a visiting pug.