

# DEEP SPRINGS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2012

# FALL SHORT-TERM FACULTY

## RICHARD DORE

Our visiting professor in mathematics, Richard Dore, is a graduate student working on his PhD thesis at the University of California, Berkeley in the field of set theory. Although he was born and raised in Philadelphia, he also spent several years near Paris before completing his undergraduate education at Carnegie-Mellon University. At Berkeley, he has taught several undergraduate courses in mathematics while working on his thesis, but this is his first time teaching at another institution. Between classes, he sometimes travels back to Berkeley to continue his thesis research, but that hardly takes away from his involvement with *Proofs from the Book*, his class.

The course, as he puts it, is concerned with Paul Erdos's Platonic "book" compiling the most perfect mathematical proofs. Although the class is grounded in the book of the same name, Richard is enjoying the flexibility afforded by his full control over the syllabus (for the first time in his career) and works hard at making his class much more than a regular textbook course. The elegant and curious proofs contained within corroborate his lifelong fascination with mathematics, so he finds the course just as much a learning experience for him as he hopes it is for his students. Although working closely with this book has been rewarding, he's also glad to be teaching something a little bit more "out of the box" than his usual fare.

When Richard applied to teach here, he felt that he knew very little about Deep Springs and was unsure whether he would be a good fit in the community. He has not regretted his decision, and reports the institution exceeding his expectations: the students, he remarks, are not only unique and intelligent, but they also lack the "pre-professional attitude" that he found so frustrating in his previous teaching experience. On top of that, he is impressed with the "remarkably laid-back attitudes" that students manage to maintain in spite of the intellectual and physical rigors of Deep Springs.

He also recalls, with a good-humored grin, being apprehensive about the quality of food at the college. For him, the abundance of fresh garden vegetables, Deep Springs meat and, most importantly, lovingly-prepared meals might just be the most unexpected upside to his stay here. However, there's been a lot more to his stay than good cooking: over the last two terms, Richard has been getting acquainted with the geography and the sensations in the valley, and "doing a lot of observing." Although he finds it difficult to single out a burning desire he would like to fulfill before leaving, he feels that there is still a lot left for him to experience - for example, Janice Hunter's horsemanship class, of which Richard is a devout attendee.



## BRIGHDE MULLINS

Brighde came from the city. On break from USC, where she is a professor of writing and director of a creative writing program, the desert surprised her with its tranquility - a peace she feared would grow boring. "I didn't really know what to expect, but I knew that it was in the desert and I thought the students would be dedicated, so it seemed like a fertile place to write and read and work on my play. I've had an interest in altruism and I want to write something about the alternative impulses in people. So something like cruelty, the opposite, and how it works in literature in art, fascinate me right now. Really, though I'm excited for the solitude."

Brighde is nonetheless a part of the community. She has led a wealth of movie screenings and other gatherings, and participates on many other occasions. "It's been wonderful to see such a committed group of passionate people, all so diurnal, everyone being there, being each other's mirrors, just there for each other. Also, all the aspects of running a ranch, going from pregnancy testing to class, is a constant surprise!"

Her workshop reflects her exuberance, and has a contagious energy. Leaping from famous authors' quotes to personal experiences in the American playwriting scene, Brighde examines treatments of cruelty and compassion in a broad range of literature. "What the consideration of cruelty does is give us tools to think and write about our responsibility for their behavior and how to understand the actions of others. Literature is really the best way to understand people's behavior. It isn't just about cruelty, which could be re-







ally overwhelming to focus on alone. We're going to look at compassion also, in the second term, even though usually both are happening in any given piece. We've been reading poetry by Anne Carson and Sylvia Plath and we're going to read Kafka and Beckett. We just watched *The Crying Game*, a movie by Neil Jordan, which is about patriotism, gendered identity, and the confused categories in which humans find themselves."

Brighde has plans for the rest of her time here as well as what she hopes to contribute to the students of Deep Springs. "I want to get up to the Druid, swim in the lower reservoir, feed the calves, finish my play, and leave behind as much of a writing community as I can, so that students will keep reading each other's works and work they find exciting, one that lasts where they really help each other grow."

The community adores every quirk and every chance to chat with Brighde, and everyone will miss her when she leaves at the end of the semester. Her play, a study of slave narratives through a look at the life of Phillis Wheatley, for which she received a Guggenheim Fellowship to write, will undoubtedly have some Deep Springers in the audience.

## RONALD MORTENSEN

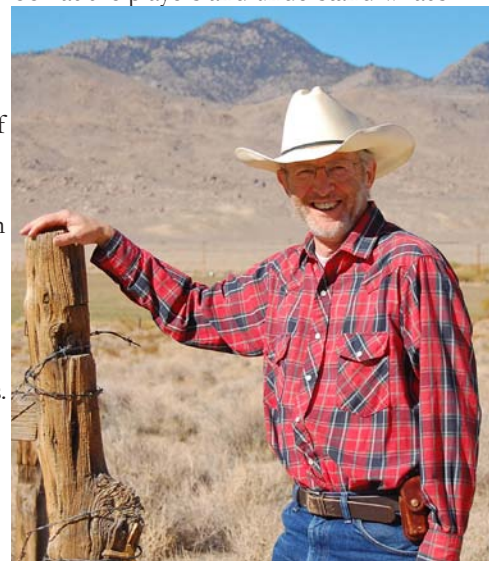
Ron taught at Deep Springs in the spring of 2010 and is very excited to return to the Valley. "My grandkids came to visit me when I was here last, and they demanded that I get back here and teach again. I loved the first experience. The first time I heard about Deep Springs, I was looking for teaching positions while working in Senegal. Really, it's the quality of the students that makes this place what it is. Where else can you teach graduate level class to undergraduates?"

Ron has been working for the Foreign Service for over three decades, and the benefits of both his experience and travel make his class - a study of possible consensus-based public policy paradigms - enthrall his students. "I'm coming from Salt Lake City, Utah but I'm just back from Africa where I was working as a Foreign Service officer, responding to a food security crisis with USAID (US Agency for International Development). I was based in Senegal but we work in Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Cameroon, Chad, and the Gambia."

His hopes for this semester, and the hopes of the students - who Ron insists must run the class as his partners - are ambitious. "We look into the theory behind the formulation of policy, not just the process. We're trying to understand how a consensual and cooperative paradigm could be developed for domestic and foreign policy in the U.S. We want to look at the players and understand what's broken. I hope to work with the guys and come up with a new paradigm for policy in the U.S. in a time of deadlock - in an age where the old paradigms and policies just aren't working. We might even draft some policies and send them off! It's also a look 'beyond the fence line' toward how the real world goes about solving these problems. As a sort of simulation, I hope to open their imaginations to careers and ways of getting involved in helping make the changes that need to be made when they're choosing careers."

When not in the classroom, Ron will undoubtedly involve himself with the ranch even more than he has in his first weeks here - he has spent time in the butcher shop, riding across the valley on cattle drives, and on the shooting range, teaching a majority of the student body in a gun-safety course. "I want to learn to ride, and help the butcher out as much as I can. Really what you want to do is learn everything you can about the operation here. I was raised on a ranch, so it's exciting to get to come here after being overseas. I'm also excited about giving some shooting instruction for the kids that are interested, some safety and competency and maybe even some competitive skills!"

Ron has become a dear member of this community and undoubtedly inspired a few Deep Springers to consider the opportunities of the Foreign Service.





## NEW DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

We are pleased to welcome Jill Lawrence to the Deep Springs community. She arrived late in June to fill the position of Director of Operations. This new staff position oversees all of the college's non-academic business, except for the fundraising office. She also works directly with staff and students in the labor program.

Jill moved to the United States some 20 years ago, after managing and teaching in the Sports and Leisure Studies department at Hopwood Hall Community College, Rochdale, England. She studied physical education and sociology at Bingley College, a small liberal arts school in Yorkshire, and later earned a Masters Degree in social science with a focus on women's studies at Bradford University.

After several years of traveling and climbing in the states, she worked with Outward Bound in both instructional and administrative capacities. Her latest position was as the Program Director of Outward Bound Denver, managing all aspects required for program delivery. She had long been aware of Deep Springs, but grew increasingly involved with the college while serving on the Transition Committee.

During her time on the committee, Jill was impressed by the work going on here, and was happy to join the community. She was drawn to the intense student involvement in all three pillars, commenting, "it's exciting to be able to see them

in which students prepare for lives of service, but also serve the community by thinking of the communal good beyond their personal needs, and consider how to make life better for the community.

Her experience in education, especially working with small communities in remote locations, has served her well. A grounded and practical person, she helps balance out the occasionally abstract intellectual dialogue and idealism. As Director of Operations, she seeks to build the interpersonal relationships necessary in a community this size – she appreciates being able to talk to staff and students and working with her hands, instead of just writing policies. She sees her position as figuring out how best to put things and people together, using a blend of problem solving and interpersonal connections to make it all work as effectively as possible.

Jill hopes to streamline processes within the labor program to make them more effective, and to inspire accountability in students, no matter their labor position. She has been deeply impressed with the staff here, and knows that they rely on students to complete their responsibilities. She wants the staff to "achieve their full potential by having a committed group of students working with them."

In her first months here, Jill has been especially excited to learn about and participate in the ranch program, and to learn from others with more knowledge, history, and perspective. Coming from Britain, she knew nothing of ranch life before arriving here. Jill admits that part of her excitement about the work here is "the added bonus of the mystique of the West."

Over the summer, Jill led several camping trips, both shorter overnights around the valley and a longer backpacking trip in the Sierras. Recently, she has led numerous rock-climbing trips. She enjoys helping students discover what they are capable of, and seeing the excitement of students who have never done such activities.

Jill is always on the move, helping around the ranch, exploring the valley, and meeting with staff and students, yet will make the time to just sit down and chat or watch over the community pack of dogs. We appreciate her commitment, generosity, and endless enthusiasm, everyday reminders of what it means to live in community.



in action over the long-term, how the students learn and grow over a two-year period, both intellectually and personally. They learn through experiencing the consequences of their actions and the responsibilities they undertake." She likes the model of education here,



# NEW BOARDING HOUSE MANAGER

Donna Blagdan arrived in early June to fill the Boarding House (BH) Manager position; we are happy to have her in the Valley.

Donna has long enjoyed cooking for her friends and colleagues, and began pursuing the culinary arts as a career after



attending the New England Culinary Institute in 2007. Prior to coming to Deep Springs, she was the cook at the Southern Dharma, a small Buddhist retreat center in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Donna has quickly become an integral part of our community. She says she “can’t get enough solitude,” and never tires of the view out her back window at Henderson station, a mile and

a half down the highway from campus. Despite living off the main circle, she is always approachable in the kitchen and has been hosting meditation sessions for the community.

Donna appreciates working closely with the ranch, dairy, baker, preserver, butcher, and garden to supply the BH with fresh and clean produce. Although she was a vegan cook at

Southern Dharma, she has embraced working with the student butcher – one of the first things she did on campus was attend a pig slaughter.

She has a vision of the BH as the hearth of the campus, and the many labor positions that contribute to feeding the community as an “opportunity for students to put service right in the front of their work, instead of just being an idea or ideal – service in action.” She sees her job as serving the community, and hopes that students will do likewise, saying, “the work is more rewarding if it is motivated by a desire to serve.”

Donna plans to run the BH much like the previous BH manager, **Jonathan “Dewey” DeWeese DS07**: “I inherited a superlative program from Dewey, and aspire to keep up his standards.” She does have a few small changes in mind, such as having more all-vegetarian meals, especially in light of the eight vegetarian students.

She also sees room to cultivate a sense of stewardship here, holding students to a high standard of cleanliness and instilling a deeper awareness of the resources we use – money, food, labor, and time – and implementing progressive practices aimed at reducing waste and encouraging responsible consumption. She has made the BH budget transparent and easily accessible, seeking more student input on the food she purchases. Deep Springs provides a particularly promising environment for such efforts; with its isolation from the dominant culture of consumerism, and limited channels of distribution, there’s an opportunity to experiment and get students excited about new ways of thinking about food. She wants community members to be more aware about their consumption and waste.

We appreciate the composure, skill, and, of course, delicious cooking that Donna contributes to the college.





# NEW FARM ASSISTANT



Even as the seasons change, even as a fresh desert breeze blows through the valley, some things – such as tending to the fields of alfalfa surrounding the college – remain the same. Here at Deep Springs, the growing and working cycles of the summer season were blessed with a new impetus of determination and hard work, thanks to the farm assistant **Harper Keehn DS10.**

The Farm Assistant position has not been around for some years, but through a process involving the students, staff, and faculty, the community decided that it would be a good idea to implement it again. Harper was chosen in the spring to fill the position. In previous years, the 150 acres of alfalfa fields had proven to be a heavy burden on the team

of students working the farm; Harper's presence lightened the work of four harvests, machine maintenance, irrigation repair, and myriad other tasks around the farm.

Harper infused the agricultural effort at Deep Springs with energy and spirit, working closely with students and with **Adam Nyborg DS97**, the farm manager. He especially helped with mechanic work and operating tractors during the harvests, sometimes working 16-hour days. All aspects of the farm reflected his efforts. As Adam commented, "He was a great help for the farm team students, and also for me."

The Deep Springs farm provides a pedagogical experience for the students involved with it, supplies the ranching operation, and strives towards sustainable practices. Harper wrapped his mind around these issues, seeking to balance the pragmatics of running an efficient and productive farm with ideals of sustainability. With the onslaught of Dodder, an invasive vine weed with no roots, and after futile attempts to quell its spread with manpower, knives, and shovels, Harper struggled with the decision of whether to use chemicals or not, just one example of his deliberate and mindful attitude.

Harper was also a great friend and help to the community. He provided an example of goodwill towards, and care for, the people around him, as well as dedication to his work.

Whether engaged in disciplining his puppy Lola or conversation with the new student body, Harper epitomized the personal and communal integrity sought for at Deep Springs.

"I learned a lot, not least of which was the ability to hold my mood together, not getting too angry or too happy when something would go right or wrong. I was 85 percent close to tears 65 percent of the time," says Harper. He undertook impressive responsibilities on the farm, and his personal growth this summer – as he describes it, "a dense and fertile period of learning" – was clear to everyone in the Valley.



# NEW OFFICE MANAGER

Laura Marcus joined the Deep Springs community early in September, filling the Office Manager position. She will be in the Valley for the remainder of this academic year, assisting with recruiting the first coeducational class and with general administrative work.

Laura graduated from Yale University in 2010, with a bachelor's degree in Intellectual History. Since then, she has worked with the Conservation Council of Nations, an environmental nonprofit in Washington, D.C., and with the Park Service at Yosemite and Glacier National Parks, as an interpretive ranger and in search and rescue.

In high school, Laura wanted to attend Deep Springs; since then, she has never stopped thinking about it. During her senior year at Yale, she decided to found a school based on Nunian principles but that would admit women. She has undertaken this project in conjunction with **John Moriarty DS05**. As a part of her research for that project, Laura visited the valley last spring to observe how the college functions firsthand.

Laura says she

was, and is, drawn to “both the idea and practice of living in a robust community,” the emphasis on meaningful service, and the “vibrant intellectual life” present at Deep Springs. Now a part of that community, she further appreciates the interaction, communication, and cooperation between staff, faculty, and students.

Laura has quickly integrated herself into the community. She can often be found horseback riding, working in the kitchen and garden, and hiking around the Valley. We have all appreciated the delicious breads and pumpkin butter that she has shared with us. Laura has also launched an online forum for female applicants, part of her ongoing work in recruiting the first coeducational class. Answering their questions and facilitating their interactions, she is “really optimistic about the quality of this incoming class.”

While here, she looks forward to exploring the valley further, spending more time in the Sierra, improving her horseback riding ability, and “helping to recruit an amazing class and getting coeducation off to a good start.”

Laura will return to Glacier National Park in May, and eventually hopes to study literary or intellectual history in graduate school. Though she will not be here to welcome the first coeducational class, she remains deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to Deep Springs College and to be present at such an exciting time in the school's history.

## COMMUNITY WISH LIST:

- Cleats
- Sturdy work clothes
- Dress clothes
- Funds for a leatherworking class to build new ranch saddles
- Record player
- Used mountain bikes, bike repair tools and parts, or donations towards a bike fund
- Lightweight roto-tiller for the new greenhouse





# CLASS OF 2012



Three years of college did not go to waste on ruggedly handsome **John Tanner Horst**, one of three transfers this year. Between his enthusiasm for the classics and his knowledge of “three and a half” languages, not including the Latin “on the way,” it should hardly come as a surprise that he participated in a “Homerathon” on the Bowdoin quad, while his disarming accent belies his seriousness about academics. Tanner isn’t all work and no play, though – he is a serious connoisseur of a good game of ping pong or a delectable bratwurst and has frequently been known to crack a wry joke on the SB whiteboards.

Tall, bearded and hip to the rhythms of life in Los Angeles, **Pablo Uribe** never ceases to amaze with his musical abilities: laying down some soulful sax, sharing in his impressive library of music or simply reciting his own poetry with his deep, sultry voice. His favorite things in life are music, puns, drinking liquids, sports and (sometimes) people, in that order. Although his gentle good nature has prompted some members of the SB to begin calling him “teddy bear,” he has also been known to lay the smack down on some dirty dishes as a member of our newest BH crew.



Arguably the most compassionate member of the SB, **Bach Tong** is a born R-Commer and our social justice all-star. He is always prepared to lend a helping hand or listen to his classmates’ problems. Don’t be fooled, though: he can get down like nobody’s business. Without having missed a single boogie to date, he keeps the rest of us sweating to keep up as he works himself into a frenzy dancing to his favorite Katy Perry. Some of Bach’s other distinguishing features include ravenous appetite (especially for Sriracha sauce), spontaneous bursts of song and dance, close relationships with the larger Deep Springs community, and impeccable work ethic.

On many evenings, **John Stuart** sits on the dorm porch in a pensive mood. Born in Sieraville, CA, but not necessarily identifying with a single place, John’s critical mind is an example to us all. His strong, grounded, comical, and occasionally hyperbolic arguments remind us to keep questioning ourselves, the societies we come from, and the ‘truths’ we are told, for from this curiosity comes better service. Without conversing with him, you might only notice his jokes, his passion for work and the outdoors, and his enthusiasm for a bit of healthy recklessness. Part of John’s goal at Deep Springs is to better share and put into action his strong political visions, making for passionate discourse.







Born and raised on the grim and frostbitten streets of Chicago, **Philippe Chlenski** nevertheless maintains a sunny disposition – with his encouraging demeanor, he serves as a constant reminder of the beauty of everyday life. With a sense of humor marked in equal parts by witty quip, obscure reference, and “drive-by non-sequitur,” he never fails to make all around him smile. You will rarely find him disinterested in anything, from cleaning the Bonepile to speaking during SB meetings to fixing countless technical problems as our new Frodo. He also has a superhuman grasp of the Chicago Manual of Style, no doubt a mark of his pedigree, and is our go-to man for peer editing.

Talking a thousand words a minute, **Zach Robinson's** fast working mind and tongue reflect his passionate nature. His two years at Dartmouth helped him develop both a well-articulated ethos and some wonderful dread-locks. As he sits in the Boarding House cutting apples for jam and applesauce, he is always conversing with someone, with a charming smile and infectious laugh. His statistical and logical mind does not conflict with his care and compassion for people. He embodies the best of both calculating and caring, equally willing to talk, or to stay up until all hours of the night hitting the books in the library.



**Miles Mitchell's** beautiful, wide smile speaks for itself. He often acts as the internal conscience of the Student Body. With humility and strength, Miles shares his thoughts on how we could do better, love better, and give of ourselves better. He is an avid soccer player, despite the fact that he hardly played soccer before coming to the valley; every game he plays, he improves drastically. He served as dairy boy during the summer, overseeing the birth of twin calves – Carly and Augustine – and tirelessly providing fresh milk for the community. Recently, he assumed the mantle of Athletic Director, and enthusiastically encourages all of us to work hard, and work out hard.

The spirit and stories that exude from **Jackson Melnick** tie themselves well into his impulse to experience beauty everywhere he goes. Growing up in Crested Butte, a small community in the mountains of Colorado, instilled an urge in Jackson to make it clear to everyone that roots and a sense of home are not only possible, but necessary. His hugs are deep, his efforts on the soccer field commendable, and his pursuit of deep relationships encouraging. Walking around campus with a knit sweater or dapper cap, leather moccasins, and spectacles, he has wisdom and style. Every Saturday night, you can find Jackson on the dorm porch, leading a weekly jam session with his guitar and euphonious voice.



**Jonathan de Borst** is veritably an international citizen. Born in Ecuador, he is coming to Deep Springs from the European School in Costa Rica - where his parents are activists - after living for some time in Florida. Jonathan plays music, soccer, loves to hike and wrestle, and took a leadership role on Farm Team, even as a first year. He always pushes discussion towards action and passion, and contributes his global perspective to every class. Jonathan hopes to travel after Deep Springs to help understand the world and help however he can.

**Abdermane Diabate** gave up a career in the Malian military to come to Deep Springs. A graduate of the African Leadership Academy, Abdermane charms the whole valley with his sincerity and motivational chants. As more of his exploits emerge from beneath his humble character, the rest of us have all begun to wonder what exactly we've been doing with our lives. A leader on Farm Team, Abdermane continues to set incredible goals for himself, including learning to play piano, ride horses, and reading the entirety of the 1400-page Political and Moral Philosophy textbook. Abdermane speaks eight languages and probably has a hundred girlfriends across the globe.



Representing the few and proud Math and Science students, **Saarthak Gupta** grounds class discussion in fact, reason, and a deep understanding of Classical Economics. Saying he is ready to move on from his years at Illinois Math and Science Academy, he tackles public policy, rhetoric and auto mechanics without fear, while still finding time for a study of proofs. He is regularly featured in SB for being hilarious throughout the week. Saarthak manages many roles in SB as historian, archivist, and Academic Affairs trustee; he's also a dedicated CurCom member, undoubtedly scheming to bring "useful" classes to Deep Springs.



Vassar College wasn't enough for **Jacob Greenberg**, so after taking an overload of philosophy classes there, he transferred to Deep Springs to continue his relentless assault on Western Philosophy. With the best looking 5 o'clock shadow, he is a gourmet chef - we considered conscripting him as head-chef indefinitely. Jacob also purchased a rifle and regularly practices with 2nd AmendmentCom and gets as much extra horse riding in as he can. Jacob shares everything and never lets a question go without pulverizing it from every angle, making him invaluable in every class and in SB business.



**Lucas Tse**, hailing from faraway Hong Kong, acts, sounds and dresses like the high school chorus teacher you wish you had. Even though it's only been three months since his arrival, he already runs the risk of having checked out every book from the school library. Whence all this extra reading time? For the first time in his life, Lucas has begun sleeping for fewer than 8 hours a day - a switch that has been very much aided by his dutiful work on line moves in the wee hours of the morning as a newly-minted farm teamer.





# FALL SEMESTER COURSES

As usual, the course offerings for the first semester of the 2012-13 academic year cover a broad spectrum representative of the diverse intellectual interests of the student body and faculty. Teaching this semester are visiting writer Brighde Mullins, visiting professors Richard Dore and Ronald Mortensen, Mechanic Padraic MacLeish, Dean Kenneth Cardwell, President David Neidorf, and long-term professors Amity Wilczek and Jennifer Rapp. Long-term professor Joel Schlosser is taking the semester off after leading a very successful summer seminar with visiting professor Richard Mahon.

**Cruelty and Compassion** (Brighde Mullins) looks at aesthetic investigations of violence and cruelty in contemporary theater, fiction and poetry. The course also delves into depictions of the aforementioned topics in visual and performance art. Writers under consideration include Kafka, Beckett, Saphire, Plath, and Sontag, among others.

**Proofs from the Book** (Richard Dore) explores mathematical proofs that go beyond functional needs and enter into the realm of the elegant and ingenious. The goal of the class is to give students the ability to appreciate the inherent beauty of these mathematical works. The main text is *Proofs from the Book*, by Martin Aigner and Gunter Ziegler.

**Public Policy** (Ronald W. Mortensen) looks at the important role that politics and economic theory play in developing public policy (domestic and foreign) in the broadest sense of the term, and what happens when existing structures and paradigms no longer provide a framework for policy. The course draws on the foundations of Western political thought as well as contemporary events to explore the topic, with the intention of eventually drafting a possible solution to the current deadlock.

**Remembrance, Forgetting & the Places Between** (Jennifer Rapp) looks at the way in which remembrance and nostalgia can be piqued through experiences of change, specifically through the lens of Deep Springs and its contrast with the outside world – the central theme one of engagement with the place and character of memory/remembrance in a life. Texts include Greek myths and other religious texts, literary classics, memoir, and poetry.

**Aristotle's Ethics** (Jennifer Rapp and David Neidorf) exclusively focuses on one of the seminal texts in the Western

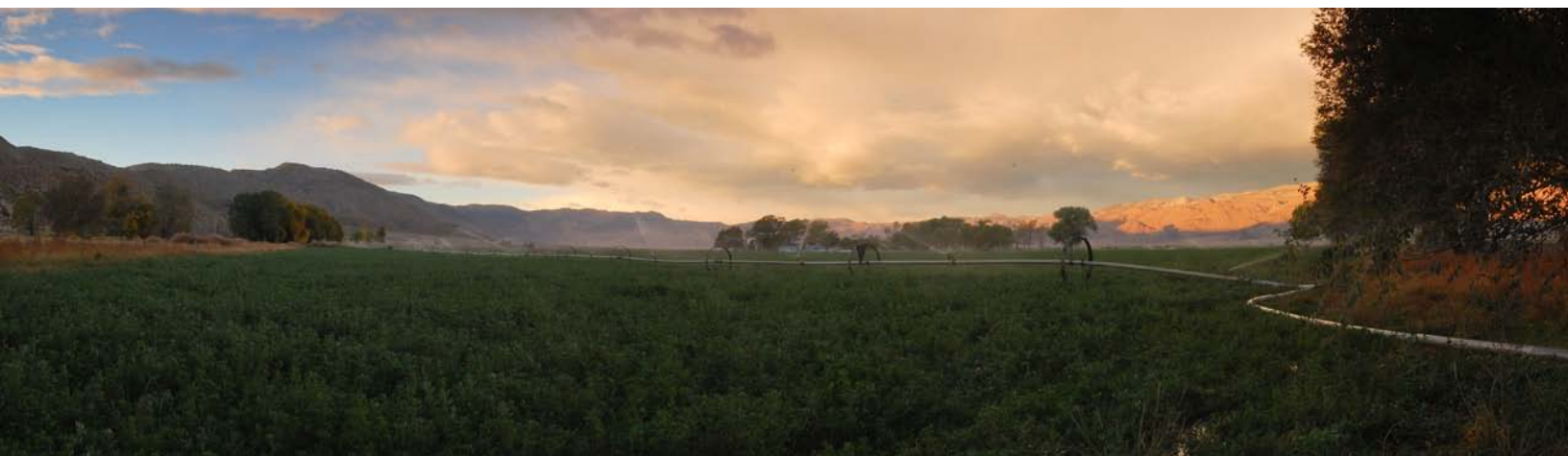
philosophical canon. Throughout the semester, students will have the opportunity to grapple with the text in an intense way, with the understanding that working with a single, classic philosophical text is an especially fruitful endeavor.

**People and Plants** (Amity Wilczek) explores the complex ways in which plants and people have coevolved and interacted. The course covers the basics of plant biology in the context in human society. The class will also focus on current and historical plant usage in the Deep Springs area, from the practices of the Paiute tribe to current agricultural methods.

**Genes in Conflict** (Amity Wilczek) addresses important questions relating to our most basic biology: What are the characteristics that differentiate us from our closest relatives? When did humans populate the different areas of the earth? The class will also discuss how cultural and environmental influences have shaped the divergence of human population and human adaptation, as well as new applications of genetic knowledge such as gene therapy and personal medicine.

**Rhetoric Then and Now** (Kenneth Cardwell) investigates the history and study of rhetoric from its beginnings in 5th century Athens to the present day. Students have the opportunity to consider some of the classics in rhetorical theory through an exploration of Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Pericles as well as more modern thinkers such as Churchill and Lincoln.

**Introduction to Auto Mechanics** (Padraic MacLeish) teaches students a basic and working knowledge of automobile maintenance and technology. The course has a heavy emphasis on practical lab work with ranch vehicles, giving students hands-on experience with the subject.



# NATIONAL RESOURCE COUNCIL GRANTS

Over the past five years, several projects have been conducted at Deep Springs with the steadfast and much-appreciated help of Rob Pearce of the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a long-time member of the interagency Deep Springs Resource Management Team. This year, with help from Dean Kenneth Cardwell, garden manager Shelby MacLeish, and former office manager **Matthew Mandelkern DS07**, the college undertook three new improvements to the physical plant with funding from the NRC: a greenhouse for the garden, a fence that runs alongside Highway 168 from one end of the valley to the other, and the recent restoration of the lower reservoir.

## GREENHOUSE

This year, the college was able to secure funding to build a new greenhouse for our garden. Work on the structure began in early July at the start of the 2012-13 academic year. Labor Commissioner **Bennet Bergman DS11** kicked off construction with a labor party during term one. During this event, students, faculty and staff all helped establish the basic structure of the building, including the semi-circular hoops and rafters that form the skeleton of the greenhouse. Term two has seen the general labor crew and the mechanic's assistants (when taking time off from helping **Padraic MacLeish DS99** fix farm vehicles) hard at work filling in the structure, improving the foundation, and generally reinforcing the building itself. Finishing touches included stretching heavy plastic sheeting over the hoops to form the actual walls of the greenhouse, and using a rototiller to turn the ground underneath the structure. The project was completed on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

This structure will serve as a nursery for seedlings during the cold months, supplementing our current greenhouse. The first benefit is the added space – the new greenhouse is nearly

1800 square feet. Perhaps even more importantly is the added insulation that will come from the newly built structure.

While we are currently able to extend our growing season for some vegetables, with the new greenhouse, we will be able to continue to cultivate hardy vegetables such as plants in the brassicae family, including broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, and cauliflower well after the first frosts of winter. Additionally, we will be able to grow leafy greens such as lettuce and arugula much later into the season than was previously possible.

Not only is the new greenhouse useful in a very practical way, but many of the students and staff who have assisted with it have attested to the enjoyable nature of the work. GL crew members along with the gardeners have remarked on how much fun they had spending time with Elias and Ada (the children of Padraic and Shelby). And nobody can argue with the pure pleasure that comes from swinging around on huge metal hoops. Labor is fun!

## NEW ELECTRIC FENCE

Janice Hunter, our new ranch manager, brings her passion for improving grazing practices to Deep Springs. Currently, she is overseeing the completion of an electric fence initiated by Ken Mitchell, the previous manager. It will soon run along the North side of Highway 168 in the valley.

Work began last year, and by the beginning of September, the fence had been completed on the south (college) side of the valley. The General Labor crew, aided by the cowboys, finished the north side at the end of term two. Most of the work involved stringing miles of electrical wire through the harsh desert and digging fence posts through the dense layer of caliche (compacted clay that lies just under the topsoil). However, the work was rewarding: students have





explained that they have enjoyed creating something that will be a permanent part of college infrastructure, and one that will greatly assist with the work of the ranch.

The fence will allow the college to utilize more areas on the north side of campus. Previously, because of concerns about liability and losing cattle to automobile accidents, the cows were restricted to certain fenced-off areas in particular parts of the valley. The freedom that the new fence creates will benefit both the operation itself and the environment of the valley: The additional areas opened up to grazing will allow us to rotate cattle more quickly throughout the valley, reducing our impact in any given area.

We are grateful to Janice and the students for the construction of this fence and eagerly await her next project. With hard work, careful planning, and aid from NRCS, we hope to see a more sustainable and efficient ranching operation.



*Students gather squash, one of many harvests this fall*

Funding available through the NRCS has been a great help to the college, and Dean Kenneth Cardwell is currently working to get funding for several more projects over the coming years. Previously, the NRCS provided funding for the renovation of the lower reservoir, including dredging and removing much of the vegetation from around the banks. Currently, several more applications are in the works, and we hope to have many more opportunities to improve our infrastructure.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Gary Sadler DS41** lives in Santa Rosa, California, enjoying reasonably good health, and finally reading books on his “must read someday” list. He follows the political scene closely, and writes, “Surely the need for young men and women to devote their lives to service is as great today as when L.L. first spoke of it.” Also, he notes, “Erik Pell and I may be the only members of our class of ’41 who are still around. Erik has been quite ill for some time. I’m sure he would be glad to hear from those who know him.” Erik’s e-mail is [epell@rochester.rr.com](mailto:epell@rochester.rr.com).

**David Abel DS74** published three new books this spring: *Float* (Chax Press), a collection of collage texts spanning twenty-five years of work; *Tether* (Bare bone books), a chapbook of poems; and *Carrier* (c\_L Books), a sequence of “hypergraphic” visual pieces. In the next six weeks, he’ll be winding up a six-month series of readings on both coasts

with events in Reno, San Francisco, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and Seattle. He would welcome correspondence, and/or a visit from anyone passing through Portland, Oregon (where he continues to pursue editing, bookselling, teaching, and curating); write him at [david@thetextgarage.com](mailto:david@thetextgarage.com) (also for details of the readings, and information about how to obtain the new books).

After close to 7 years at Princeton, **Joel Smith DS83** moved to New York and into a newly created position, curator of photography at the Morgan Library & Museum.

**Sunshine Mathon DS91** is still living in Austin, TX, and still working for a nonprofit affordable housing provider as the Design and Development Director. Currently, he is working on a fantastic downtown affordable housing project, the first in Austin since 45 years ago. He has two children: Kestrel,



seven months old, and Indigo, five years old. He just built a new home, and has been enjoying the departure of the summer heat by biking most days.

Earlier this year, **John Fort DS99** launched Re:Solutions, a consulting firm that helps organizations improve their internal and external collaborative processes. Drawing on his experience with partnership facilitation, conflict resolution, and improv theater (Shout out to Vertigogo) John specializes in experiential workshops that help clients understand and overcome the barriers to productive collaborations with co-workers, clients, partners, and adversaries.

For the last several years **Alex Rothman DS02** has focused on a project hybridizing poetry and comics. He recently overhauled his website to showcase new work, and just self-published a chapbook collecting the first batch of installments. Please check it all out at [www.versequential.com](http://www.versequential.com).

**Noah Rosenblum DS03** is still in school, but at least he gets to travel. This coming year he expects to be in India for the fall, Italy for the winter, and Germany and France for the spring and summer. If you're nearby, do be in touch; he'd love to visit.

Former mountain cowboy **Bryce Kellogg DS05** is back on the range: this time in a remote corner of Ethiopia, studying the behavior of the guassa gelada monkeys. He has traded his cowboy hat for the standard safari hat, a cap which presents an outline the monkeys recognize as non-threatening. "I have learned to identify our Geladas with certainty and ease," Bryce wrote this July in a satellite-internet missive, "except some juveniles who are basically featureless." When not watching the monkeys, and when not being watched in turn by tawny eagles, hyenas, and Ethiopian and African Wolves, Bryce is applying for graduate programs for next year.



*Jill Lawrence leads students on a hike in the Sierras*

## IN MEMORIAM

### Jane Breiseth

Jane Breiseth passed away in Ticonderoga NY on June 16 after a long battle with cancer. She was the wife of Christopher Breiseth and worked by his side from 1980--1983 at Deep Springs while Chris was president of the college.

Jane was born in Ticonderoga, NY, in 1940 and received her B.A. in English and M.A. in Education from Cornell University. She was a devoted mother of three girls, Abigail, Erica, and Lydia, as well as teacher, hostess, first lady and wife. In addition to life at Deep Springs, she was an indispensable partner to Chris during his tenure in academia and public service in Williamstown, MA, Springfield, IL, Wilkes-Barre, PA and Hyde Park, NY. Jane considered her greatest accomplishment to be the lives her children are leading.

Students who knew Jane speak unfailingly of her humane and humanizing presence at Deep Springs. The entire Breiseth family greatly influenced Deep Springs students of the early 1980s; we are deeply sorry for their loss.

### Fogger Dunagan

Fomer Ranch Manager Fogger Dunagan died last April at the ripe old age of 100. Fogger served as Deep Springs' Ranch Manager in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and was beloved by many a DS student. **Vern Penner DS57** shares these words:

"Fogger Dunagan was a giant of a man for me not in stature or weight but for those values which have served me

well over the past half century. He epitomized hard work and thrift, treated everyone like family and equals, and personified a pioneer spirit which was truly ennobling. As ranch manager and cowboy, he never talked down to any newbie student on horseback, nor was he critical of the dumbass stunts all of us Deep Springers occasionally pulled. His cowboying skills were legendary.

His stories of life in Texas in the early 20th century were as good and authentic as any I've read by Cormac McCarthy. He was not a loud guy even though his nickname came from his early reputation for "foggin up dust." His friendliness and kindness were so big they filled the corral and his modesty was a welcome trait in an increasingly immodest world. He inspired in me a self-reliance that's kept me afloat during a dozen overseas tours. No crisis was too severe for Fogger that he couldn't ease the pain or difficulty with a little infectious humor. I spent my final year and a half with Fogger and, by the time I left Deep Springs, I didn't have many role models. Except for Fogger.

Fogger Dunagan lived 100 years, six months and 16 days and, as a fellow Deep Springer said, 'after Fogger was born, they broke the mold.' That says it all."

### Dan Ihara DS64

We are sorry to note that Dan Ihara passed away last March at age 64, due to complications from atypical Parkinson's Disease. A third-generation Japanese-American, "Dan-



ny” was born in Cleveland, Ohio and grew up in Gardena, California before entering Deep Springs in the fall of 1964.

At Deep Springs, where his main interest was in the study of literature, he also served as student body president.

Danny went on to complete studies at UC Berkeley, where he received conscientious objector status during the height of the Vietnam War. After graduate studies he settled with his wife Nancy in Humboldt County, where he lived for over 40 years, teaching both economics and international development at Humboldt State University. Danny was deeply committed to solving the crisis of global climate change, a topic at the center of his doctoral dissertation. In pursuit of this commitment he also served the university as Director of its Center for Environmental Economic Development.

Danny was an active alumnus of Deep Springs, and two years ago he organized a combined reunion and memorial ceremony to allow his classmates at Deep Springs to mark together the 40th anniversary of the death of **David Mossner DS63**, who in June 1970 became the only Deep Springer killed in action in Vietnam. This memorial was Danny’s last trip to Deep Springs.

### Jeff Lustig

Jeff Lustig died in June at age 68, after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. Jeff was for forty years a returning visiting professor at Deep Springs. From his first visit in the winter of 1970 to his last in the spring of 2011, he made a habit of befriending Deep Springers long after they had left the valley; asking after them, talking to them, reading and commenting on their work, and hosting them at his home in Berkeley.

Together with Jack Schaar (who had taught Jeff as a graduate student), Jeff taught many summer seminars in the 70s and 80’s, and he provided many students their first exposure to intellectual community and inquiry at Deep Springs. One student wrote that Jeff “marked my class and my generation of students. I remember all his comments to me over the years -- in class, on papers, in the BH and in his home. I can’t think of any teacher who had more of an effect.” Current Deep Springs president David Neidorf first visited to Deep Springs along with Jeff, and they taught together in six summer seminars in the 90’s and 2000’s.

Jeff’s love of Deep Springs was a constant over forty years, but it wasn’t his only vocation. He taught at several universities, retiring from the State University of California at Sacramento. But wherever he went, he got involved with practical politics and organized efforts to improve institutions and empower the disempowered, working over the years as a union organizer, broadsheet editor, founder of the California Studies Association, and most recently as editor of *Remaking California: Reclaiming the Public Good*, a volume of essays on ways to reform the hamstrung state government in California. Jeff was a practical idealist of the old school formed by working-class virtues; he never gave up on making things better, and was always willing to start over on the slow, difficult, piece-by-piece work that practical action requires.

Jeff was a conversational raconteur and an arch observer

of human affairs, at once sympathetic and deft in his observations and endlessly delighted by the variety of human character and action. When not working to help change social conditions that he found dumb, short-sighted, or selfish, he loved telling stories and talking to friends about how to understand those stories. He was an enthusiastic promoter of friends and students, and he often found things to admire (or condemn) that less engaged imaginations had missed. Another former student wrote us that “we never realized just how good class could be until the summer, when Jeff Lustig and Jack Schaar came in to take control of things with the Summer Seminar -- on Community and Authority, as I recollect. Part of what worked was long conversations deep at night in the Boardinghouse, or at work (Jeff was always up for a GL work crew). It was Jeff who fascinated: droll, sarcastic, direct, well-read but never doctrinaire, he was what we needed, the requisite breath of fresh air, and on occasion, the wind of correction.”

Deep Springs is grateful for Jeff’s many contributions over the years. He is already greatly missed. In the words of one alumnus, “he was a teacher, a friend, and an inspiration.”

### C. Vaughn Stelzenmuller DS44

C. Vaughn Stelzenmuller died Sept. 15, 2012 in Mountain Brook, Alabama, at age 84. A native of Alabama, he attended Deep Springs College and later graduated from Cornell and Cornell Law School. After the war he served in the U.S. Army Reserve and the Alabama National Guard, retiring with the rank of colonel. He was a senior partner at the law firm of Burr and Forman in Birmingham, Alabama, and was active in many civic service organizations and causes throughout his community.

### Eunice Thomas

Deep Springs mourns the loss of Eunice McIntosh Whitney, 1919 - 2012, who passed away suddenly and peacefully after returning home from dinner out with her family. Eunice Whitney lived at Deep Springs from 1942-1948. She remained a life-long supporter of the college, and continued to be held in great affection and respect by alumni of that period.

Eunice’s husband **Simon Whitney DS19** served as Dean/Director of the college during their residence together in the valley. Her daughter, Eunice Whitney (Beth) Thomas, served Deep Springs as Trustee from 2004 through 2012. Eunice arrived at Deep Springs in 1942 at the age of 22.

While there she endured the tensions and deprivations of the war years with grace and without outward stress. **Bob Gatje DS44** commented that “we were all so lucky to be at DS at the time when it had Eunice. Our experience was greatly enriched by her presence and grace.” Bob added that Eunice kept in touch with the students she knew for years afterwards.

In a 2011 interview, Eunice commented: “How lucky Si and I were, and the students, to be at Deep Springs in the forties. There were some great students, some great times.”

# THE ARTS AT DEEP SPRINGS

The new school year brings a renewed intensity of artistic pursuit to the valley. Between reading groups, sports, movie nights, and lots of extracurricular cooking, it's hard to believe just how much time for creative endeavors Deep Springers manage to scrounge up. Here are a few favorites:

Our long-time music teacher, Dick Dawson, returns after a year-long hiatus, offering lessons in piano, voice, and just about any other instrument imaginable. On Thursdays, the main building comes to life with the sounds of gingerly rehearsing students, but the music scene hardly ends there.

**Lucas Tse DS12** and **Caleb Hoffman DS11**, our vocalists *par excellence*, have already found, in each other, half of their upcoming jazz quartet.

Other common threads can be found stretched taut over fretboards. Far more than just the ever-popular communal guitars, **Jackson Melnick DS12**'s mandolin during Saturday Night Sessions and **Matt Marsico DS11**'s performances of his unique blend of hardcore-influenced indie rock contribute to this motley crew of instruments. **Isaac Stafstrom DS11**

and **Bennet Bergman DS11** bring some much-needed bluegrass twang to the table with their virtuoso banjo playing.

A culture of visual arts still persists, even as our new class replaces many of the graduates of last year's drawing class. Indeed, our first-years have not failed to add their talents to the mix, which has naturally bled into self-governance: doodles are now commonplace both on the SB bulletin- and whiteboards in the dorm.

Students have also branched out into many unique and unexpected endeavors: **Padraic Macleish DS99**, for example, is teaching a leatherworking class this semester, while NRA-certified Ron Mortensen, FSO teaches the SB his extremely popular marksmanship course. After such intense activities, it's no surprise that Donna Blagdan's Sunday meditation sessions (called SitCom) and Jennifer Rapp's Sunday yoga classes are popular destinations for students looking to unwind, while other students choose to wind up some yarn in Deep Springs's ever-growing knitting circle.