

# WORLD STUDIES XI

## Eisenhower College Alumni Association Newsletter

FALL 2001

### DEAR ALUMNI:

I originally started thinking about my note to you just after the reunion this year, but I thought I would wait to write to you once I came back

from my vacation and a weeklong trade show in Chicago. I thought if I wrote to you after vacation (I had a chance to spend it on the big island of Hawaii), that it would be very positive, jovial, and laid back after having so much fun diving, snorkeling with pilot whales, and touring the island. Almost as soon as I came back, I flew to Chicago for work. Little did I know that while in Chicago, our lives would change forevermore. Needless to say, I'm speaking of the tragedies that occurred on September 11.

Last fall I wrote about the unusual time in our political history after the presidential election, and I knew we would have had an overactive, enlightened campus discussing all the repercussions from such an election. Now, a year later, we have different ramifications—not only affecting our own unique and caring country, but also probably affecting the rest of the world for future generations. I know that most of us will always remember the date September 11, 2001, and where we were on that day. I hope that the Eisenhower family will continue to remain intact, as we are a very special family. Right now I could use some of the reassurance of being back on campus with everyone, thinking and dreaming of all the wonderful ideologies that we were exposed to as students at Ike. I'd like to think that not all

our dreams are shattered and that we will continue to strive to grow in our hearts and minds, making the world a better place. My thoughts and prayers go out to all.

At this year's Eisenhower reunion, alumni, faculty, and dear friends had a wonderful time. We were able to award Dixie Dougan Widmer with the Founders Award, and our Distinguished Alumni Award went to Jim Yarrington '76, who also happened to be our guest speaker at the dinner. John Carey '81 gave a great mini-JIST on crime scene analysis in the post-O.J. era. Roger Carey '83, Gigi Carnes '81, and Janice DeLucia-Waack '83 have all signed up now as new board members. It will be great to have some fresh ideas and get our batteries recharged for our association. Gigi has also agreed to head up our memorabilia committee, which will provide some much-needed guidance. With her museum experience, she will be able to help us get the ball rolling for proper archiving of all that is in the alumni room.

As always, I thank all of you for your continued support by donating funds, attending the reunions, and keeping us informed as to where you are. Thanks especially to the dedicated board members, alumni, and faculty who keep me inspired. Eisenhower will always have a special place in my heart and life—surely one of the “best of times.” I only hope we don't have to experience the “worst of times.”

Your faithful Ikester,  
Caroline E. Simmons '78  
Chair, ECAA, Inc.

### Notes From The Class Of '76 Reunion:

Please forgive me if this article is too much of a personal view of a reunion. I could write a list of who showed up, what they wore, what was said, or the mood or the weather of the weekend. (“Summer snow squalls scudded across the Seneca Falls skyline...”) But I won't. I'm going to write some observations that struck me about a few old friends in particular.

Dave Bottar '76 and Patti Paolotto '77 were there during the day with their teenaged son and daughter. Even though I get to Syracuse at least once a year, I don't think I've seen them since their children were babies. Dave and Patti haven't changed much—either that or my eyes don't work as well as they did 25 years ago. But what really struck me was how much their children look like both of them simultaneously. Yes, I know nature is supposed to work that way, but it rarely seems to do that.

Tim Tormey '76 made a brief appearance with a local elected official in tow—I believe her name was Sue Sauvageau. He was trying to convince everyone that his correct title was now “monsignor.” I don't think even the class of '81—which started after we all graduated—was fooled.

Janet Fry '76 came in from Ann Arbor with her new beau, whose name escapes me (sorry, Janet, names always escape me). They are clearly very happy together, and I can't even tell you how much pleasure it gives me to see

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Right: Class of '76ers gather at reunion 2001. See more reunion photos on page six.



## ALUMNI NEWS

### 1972

We have updated contact information for JOANNA ERICKSON PAGANO of 42003 Worth, Chapel Hill, NC 27517; jepster@msn.com.

In 1997, ROBERT PAGANO (140 Concord Rd., Lincoln, MA 01773; bob\_pagano@monitor.com) sold interests in Pagano, Schenck & Kay Advertising, Boston, and became SVP at Mullen Advertising, a division of Interpublic. In 1999, he joined anyday.com as chief marketing officer and sold the company to Palm Computing six months later. In October 2000, he joined Monitor Group Consulting and is focusing his efforts on marketing and brand strategy for fortune global 500 companies.

### 1973

WHIT BETTS and JARRE BARNES BETTS reside at 1924 Perkins St., Bristol, CT 06010. Whit is director of the annual fund at Rewbrook School in West Hartford, and Jarre is an administrative assistant at the Main St. Community Foundation in Bristol. Their e-mail accounts are whitbetts@home.com and jbetts@home.com.

Please note this new address information for STEPHEN J. BUONOMO of 12 Bowditch St., Peabody, MA 01960; weezer51@junio.com.

In January, ELIZABETH APPLEQUEST COE (2179 Greensboro Rd., Washington, GA 30673) reported that she was doing well after undergoing a bone marrow transplant at Emory two-and-a-half years ago for breast cancer. She continues to work part time in family practice, serves on the Medical Association of Georgia's Board of Directors, is the Wilkes City Medical Association's secretary/treasurer, runs a Hispanic indigent health clinic, and home schools her daughter. Now living on a farm—"and loving it!"—Elizabeth keeps in touch with JAY SIGSBY, who has an eight-year-old son, and NATALIE NISWAUDER '73, and would like to hear news about UCHENNA OBI '75, CARLOS MORALES '72, and Dr. JOHN MOEN.

DIANNE WALTZ FREDERICKS reports a new address of 130 Cramer Rd., Little Falls, NY 13365.

JOAN LOCKWOOD now receives e-mail at lockwynn2@home.com. Her home address is 194 Boone Rd. SE, #77, Salem, OR 97306.

On November 26, MARGARET K. McMILLION was sworn in as new U.S. ambassador to Rwanda. Attending the ceremony was STEVE SUDDABY '76. Margaret departed for Kigali on December 4, and she expected to be posted for three years. Her new addresses are: Diplomatic pouch, Amembassy Kigali, 2210 Kigali Place, Department of State, Washington, D.C., 20521-2210, or international mail, BP 28, Avenue de la Revolution, Kigali, RWANDA. Her e-mail address will remain mkmcmillion@aol.com for the time being. Because of the anthrax scare, the department's diplomatic pouch facilities for unclassified mail are closed. Therefore, the international or e-mail addresses are probably the best bets to reach her.

In June, PETER ZUCCONI completed 25 years of teaching, the last 23 of which were at Shalom Christian Academy near Chambersburg, where Peter worked with learning disabled students. The Zucconis keep in touch with BRAD PURDY '73, JOAN REFFLER PURDY '72, and ALICE SCHIFFLER NELSON '75 and invite other correspondence at 8175 Oakdale Rd., Orrstown, PA 17244; pzucconi@shalomca.com.

### 1974

EDWARD D. HERSH is still parks and recreation director with the City of Pearland but has moved to 1603 Dixie Hill Court, Pearland, TX 77581 (hershesh@flash.net). In December of 2000, Dr. and Mrs. RICHARD CHU spent the day with the Hersh family in Houston. "We had a wonderful time catching up on EC news," writes Ed, "We toured Pearland's major Hindu temple—almost like a throwback to World Studies! The Chus and Hershes dined at the finest Pearland restaurant, Gringas, then picked oranges, grapefruit, and lemons at Jamson's Orchard in Pearland before going to NASA. Shellie and the Hersh boys were amazed at some of the stories they learned about me during my younger days at EC, but that was over 25 years ago, so I could laugh with them!"

In his job at V.A. Medical Center, DEAN A. LITTLE moved from urgent care/ER to the department of psychiatry, where he will be working with patients in the center's post traumatic stress disorder program. Write to Dean at 530 Huntinggreen Dr., Asheville, NC 28804-1114.

### 1975

LISE BLANCHARD DUCREY (3 rue Angélique-Verien, Neuilly-sur-Seine, FRANCE; pierre\_lise.ducrey@wanadoo.fr)

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## Notes From The Class Of '76 Reunion:

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such a dear friend so happy.

Jim Yarrington '76 and I have seen little of each other since the first few years after leaving Eisenhower in 1976. We'd been in the same suite for three years, were in each other's weddings, and even got food poisoning together when I visited Jim in grad school. Since those first few years, we'd usually only kept in contact via Christmas cards. Jim has been a successful architect in Rochester for a number of years, but I'd never been around much to see any of his work. For this reunion, I cajoled him into being our after-dinner speaker and he agreed to talk about architecture and his work in particular.

The Jim I knew at Eisenhower was multi-talented—he composed music, painted, sang, wrote, and excelled at history. I'd always wondered how these many talents would manifest themselves in his architecture—and whether I'd be able to figure it out if given the chance. He showed us slides of a number of examples of his work, and the spark that makes his work distinctive became clear. Jim does wonderful things with light! His designs admit light into his buildings in ways that make them more interesting and more pleasant to be in. One of his Rochester churches has a light, airy feeling to it, as if one were worshipping outdoors. A renovation to an office building, to which he added a skylight to bring light into interior office spaces, was so successful that the owners decided to keep it for their own offices rather than renting it out.

I must admit we had a small turnout from the class of '76 at our reunion—but it was much better than it had been five years earlier. I am pleased to tell you, however, that the board of directors decided that this year's Distinguished Alumni Award be given to Jim Yarrington. Unlike past years, since we knew he'd be there, we had the luxury of keeping the recipient in the dark until the actual award was made at the banquet.

Steve Suddaby '76



Moving? Let us know, too. Send us your new address.

## It's A Wonderful Town—Welcome To Seneca Falls, Where Bedford Falls Just May Have Come To Life

Article and photos by Ron Bernthal. Originally published in the Sunday, November 26, 2000, edition of the Chicago Tribune. Copyright 2000, The Tribune Company.

**T**wo years ago, when President Clinton and his wife visited Seneca Falls during a summer vacation in the Finger Lakes region of New York, press reports described their visit to the Women's Rights National Historical Park that, along with the National Women's Hall of Fame and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Home, make Seneca Falls somewhat of an icon for the women's rights movement.

But missing from news accounts of that visit was the relationship between Seneca Falls and the fictional town of Bedford Falls in the classic Frank Capra film *It's a Wonderful Life*. The film, starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed, is watched by millions every year around Christmas time, and the scenes of Bedford Falls and the characters in the film are as familiar to us as our own hometown and family.

After the film was released, in 1946, no one paid much attention to what real life town, if any, influenced director Capra in his choice of story or set design. The film is based on a two-page outline called *The Greatest Gift*, which was written in 1939 by Philip Van Doren Stern (and published as a short story in 1943), but Capra rewrote the short outline into a screenplay, and *It's a Wonderful Life* was filmed in California, on RKO's four-acre Encino Ranch studio in 1946.

The set included 75 buildings and a 300-foot "Main Street." Even the winter scenes were shot using artificial snow. Although the dance floor scene (when it opens up over a swimming pool) was filmed at Beverly Hills High School, audiences around the country just assumed that Bedford Falls was supposed to be a fictional town somewhere in the northeast.

But after the release of the film, rumors began circulating in upstate New York that there were too many similarities between Bedford Falls and Seneca Falls. Quietly, and without confirmation from Capra, residents of Seneca Falls started talking, spreading the word that their little village of 10,000 people just had to be the inspiration behind the film. Here are some of the comparisons between the two towns. You decide: Is there any truth to the rumor, or is it just...coincidence?

■ Seneca Falls, like Bedford Falls, is an upstate New York mill town. We know Bedford Falls must have been in New York State because of the film dialog references to Buffalo, Rochester, Binghamton and getting the bank examiner "to Elmira before



Photo by Ron Bernthal.

*George Bailey Lane leads to the Trestle Bridge in Seneca Falls, perhaps the same bridge George Bailey jumped from.*

midnight."

■ A train ran through Seneca Falls in the 1940s, just as it does in the film. The present-day Seneca Falls village office and police station are located in the old train station, which looks very similar to the Bedford Falls station where George meets his brother.

■ The trestle bridge on Bridge Street in Seneca Falls looks exactly like the bridge that George Bailey jumps from in the film. In April 1917, Antonio Varacalli, a resident of Seneca Falls, jumped off the bridge to save the life of a young woman who fell into the Seneca River. The woman lived, but Varacalli died of exposure.

■ The Bedford Falls high school was dedicated in 1927, the same year as the original Mynderse Academy in Seneca Falls, which is now an office building on Academy Square.

■ Part of downtown Seneca Falls at one time had a grassy median dividing Main Street, like Bedford Falls.

■ Cayuga Street in Seneca Falls has many Victorian-era homes, and the one across the street from the current Seneca Falls Historical Society looks very much like the home George and Mary moved into on their wedding night.

■ In the film, the Bailey Savings and Loan Association

builds low-cost housing in an area called Bailey Park. In real life, 19th Century factory owner John Rumsey helped immigrant workers in Seneca Falls by lending them money and building low-cost housing in a neighborhood that is still called Rumseyville.

■ A local Seneca Falls businessman named Norman J. Gould owned Gould Pumps, and in the late 1800s and early 1900s was one of the richest men in town, controlling much of the economic and political activities in Seneca Falls, much as Mr. Potter did in Bedford Falls. The company still exists.

There are more similarities, but the most revealing is the fact that Capra did visit Seneca Falls on more than one occasion, several years before the film was made. Capra had relatives in nearby Auburn, N.Y., and would travel the few miles to Seneca Falls to visit an Italian barber (there are many Italians living in Seneca Falls, as there were in Bedford Falls).

Seneca Falls resident Tommy Bellissimi, 74, remembers Capra dropping in for haircuts and sharing conversations about their former homes in Italy.

The town, of course, is enthusiastic about attracting *Wonderful Life* fans to Seneca Falls and has renamed several streets around the trestle bridge—George Bailey Lane, Clarence Street, Bedford Falls Boulevard, Angel Avenue. CNN and CBS did stories on the town during the 50th anniversary celebration of the film in 1996.

For the most part, however, few tourists visit Seneca Falls for Bedford Falls. Most, like the Clintons, come because of the town's connection to the women's movement.

But for movie buffs, there is nothing quite like standing on the trestle bridge over the Seneca River and reliving the last scene of the film, when Zuzu says, "Daddy, teacher says that whenever a bell rings, an angel gets its wings."



Photo by Ron Bernthal.

*Bailey's It's A Wonderful Life ice cream shop in Seneca Falls.*

## ALUMNI NEWS

*(Continued from page two)*

was sorry to have missed her 25th class reunion, but she celebrated by seeing BETH MARKHAM CILLUFFO '75, BRUCE BENEDICT '75, and Bruce's wife, MELANIE GEHEN '75, during a stateside visit. "It's great to see them all and watch our kids grow up together (at least a couple days during the year)," writes Lise.

DONALD A. OFFINGER is a manager in environmental programs at Pitney Bowes, Inc. Say hello at 10 Scott St., Norwalk, CT 06851-2406; danoffinger@juno.com.

NICHOLAS D. OWENS can be reached at 11609 Deborah Dr., Potomac, MD 20854; nicholas.d.owens@saic.com.

### 1976

Our apologies to JOE COLLERD for incorrectly noting in the fall 2000 issue that he is the father of two. Joe and Therese—now married more than 20 years—have three children, Bartley (16), David (12), and Margaret (15), who keep the house "crazy and loud." Visit the Collerds at 10130 Courtyards Place W, Jacksonville, FL 32256-7161, or e-mail them at jfcollerd@aol.com or at jcollerd@visus.jnj.com.

TERESA MOLESKI ICHNIEWSKI resides at 10408 Huntley Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902 (tgich@his.com).

ERIC T. NATOLI (100 Tower St., Apt. 208, Hudson, MA 01749; big\_e\_54@hotmail.com) is a senior staff scientist at Bayer Corporation, where he manages the technical development, support, and marketing of gene expression products for drug discovery and research. He is also enrolled in the graduate bioinformatics program at Northeastern University. In his spare time, Eric serves as a board member for the little league and Babe Ruth programs and is a certified baseball umpire. This fall, Eric's oldest, Kenneth, is attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and his youngest, Matthew, entered high school.

We have a new address for JOHN R. SEEGER of 52 Amesport Landing, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.

STEVEN C. SUDDABY (8362 Glastonbury Court, Annandale, VA 22003; suddaby@msn.com) received a Christmas card from DIONIS and GARY MONTROWL '74 with their new address of 2219 Cedar Cove Court, Reston, VA 20191.

SHARON PARRY SYKES works as a school social worker in the nearby, rural Argyle Central School District. Sherry and husband Albert celebrated their 25th anniversary with a wonderful trip to Paris and Iceland and keep busy with children Jon (17), Jenny (14), and Kevin (9). Write to Sharon at 3 Jackson Ave., Greenwich, NY 12834; sykes\_s@argylecsd.org or spsykes@nycap.rr.com.

SALLY WOLBERG has made her home in the NYC tri-state area for the last 15 years. She works as an addictions counselor at a local agency and would love to hear from any classmates in the area at 457 Main St., Metuchen, NJ 08840; sararina40@aol.com.

### 1977

RYMN J. PARSONS specializes in environmental law in the office of the general counsel of the Navy. Reach him at 1052 Chatmoss Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464; parsonsr@pwnorva.navy.mil.

### 1978

CYNTHIA GEORGIA GRACE (formerly CYNTHIA ANN O'CONNOR McDONALD) earned her master's degree in counseling from UVM in May of 2000 and now works full time as a substance-abuse counselor. She also is working toward licensure as a clinical mental health counselor and a certified alcohol drug counselor. Cynthia has been divorced from JEFF McDONALD '77 since May and welcomes contact from alumni and faculty at 42 Vine St., Burlington, VT 05401; spicerac@together.net.

After 12 years, PAMELA ROMEO HAVENS left Cayuga Community College at the end of April to take the position of director of stewardship at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. Reach Pam at her new address of 245 Oxford Rd., #17C, New Hartford, NY 13413; phavens@hamilton.edu.

CATHERINE MOURKAS KASTNER would like to locate KAREN SMITH, who left Ike after her sophomore year. In the class of 1980, Karen came from Manchester, Massachusetts, and attended Katherine Gibbs business school after leaving Ike. If you can help Cathy, contact her at 1023 Morning Glory Court, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762; forckone@aol.com.

Say hello to KATHLEEN JENNINGS NEUHARTH at 2608 Crown Crest Lane, La Jolla, CA 92037; kitty@etsearch.com.

ROBERT O'CONNOR resides at 10

Leaward Way, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. He is president of Bropak, Inc. (breboc@aol.com).

### 1980

MARY CRANNELL MARSDEN can be reached at P.O. Box 3720, Arlington, VA 22203.

DENNIS KAZMIERCZAK works for Adelphia Communications in Buffalo, operating the City of Buffalo's governmental and educational cable access channel. He planned to attend the University of Buffalo to pursue a master's degree in humanities this fall. Dennis keeps in touch with TRED BURCH '80, SUZANNE SHEPARD '80, and PAM ROMEO HAVENS '78 and would like to hear from other Ikesters at 278 Crowley Ave., Buffalo, NY 14207; denniswk@buffnet.net.

REBECCA WIAANT MCGINNIS has moved to 10204 Haywood Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20902. She is China programs coordinator for the Institute for Global Chinese Affairs at the University of Maryland (rm165@umail.umd.edu).

### 1981

JOHN CAREY and CHRISTINE MORSE CAREY '82 write, "After 16 years of raising children and in-home day care, Chris decided to finish her master's degree and seek full-time employment as an elementary school teacher. The evening classes have not been easy with help (or lack thereof) from children Drew (16), Ashley (12), and Adam (8). John is still a senior investigator with the New York State Police in charge of the crime scene unit, which is exciting work considering all the developments in DNA and forensics." Get in touch with the Careys at 12 Bigelow Ave., Amsterdam, NY 12010; jcarey02@nycap.rr.com or jcarey@troopers.state.ny.us.

DAVID GOODWIN, who works with Tandy Corp., and DEBRA PETHYBRIDGE GOODWIN, a physician assistant, have moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania (327 Hopewell Dr., 18104), and love it. Debra has been "quilting long distance" with CAROL PORTER BITZER '81, and the Goodwins still have their annual New Year's blow out with KEN PADUCH '81. E-mail Deb at ddkinpa@aol.com.

DAVID C. HART is with USInternetworking, Inc. Reach him at 155 Fifty Acre Way, Carlisle, MA 01741; david.hart@usi.net.

Please note this new address for R.

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## Dixie Dougan Widmer Honored With 2001 Founders Award

**T**his year at the reunion we were very proud to present Dixie Dougan Widmer with the 2001 Founders Award. Dixie has been part of the Eisenhower family since the beginning as a member of the charter faculty. Dixie was always there for us a teacher, coach, head resident, and friend. Dixie can also lay claim to a very special membership of the Eisenhower family—a member of “lose your shoes in the mud” group before they had real sidewalks!

Dixie started coaching women's tennis and coed bowling in the charter class' first year and went on from there to her favorites—teaching courses in swimming, water safety, canoeing, and, of course, sailing. Some of the trophies we have in our alumni room are from our sailing team, all thanks to Dixie's wonderful, albeit sometimes wet, tutelage. She was instrumental in developing the waterfront and its activities with her husband, Frank.

In all of her years at Eisenhower, Dixie took particular pride in the graduation of the charter class, when she carried the school mace. She was proud of the accomplishments of the class members and also proud to play a role in getting them to that point. She continued beyond that to be a friend of all the alumni and, when possible, to attend our alumni functions. We truly had a great time at the reunion banquet dinner and were happy to have Dixie's friends with us when we presented her with the award.



*Dixie Dougan  
Widmer with  
husband Frank.*

## Two Receive Eisenhower Alumni Scholarships For Genome Essays

**K**imberly Marsh of 3370 Pepper Road, Bluff Point, New York, is the first recipient of this year's Eisenhower College Alumni Scholarship. For her essay, *Mapping the Human Genome*, she received \$600.

Kimberly is a graduate of Penn Yan Academy, class of 2001. During her four years she was an active member of Natural Helpers, the jazz, concert, and marching bands, junior varsity volleyball, synchronized swimming, and band council.

Kimberly also participated in the Penn Yan Youth Partnership for Health Program, leadership conferences, academic excellence day, the prom committee, and she was an active volunteer in Habitat for Humanity, Camp Good Days and Special Times, Interact, and Celebrate Service,

Celebrate Yates. She worked as a synchronized swimming coach and as an aide in nursery care at her church. Kimberly also was a member of 4-H and planned to attend William and Mary Colleges this fall.

Kimberly is the daughter of Charles and Judy Marsh of Bluff Point, New York. Judy Commerton Marsh is a graduate of Eisenhower College, class of 1973.

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**L**ynn E. Dixon is the second recipient of the Eisenhower College Alumni Scholarship award. For her essay, also on the human genome, she received \$400.

Lynn is a 2001 honors graduate of Avon Central School. A participant in the Advanced Placement Program at Avon, she also earned college credit in Spanish and

biology at Genesee Community College.

Lynn was an active member of the Avon varsity volleyball team, senior high school chorus, announcers club, National Honor Society, and Project Close Up in Washington, D.C., and worked part time at the Avon Inn.

Lynn planned to attend St. John Fisher College this fall, where she hopes to pursue a career in public relations or marketing.

Lynn is the daughter of charter class member David Dixon of Avon, New York. According to the *1997 Eisenhower Alumni Directory*, David works as a systems engineer for Azatar Computer Systems.

## ALUMNI NEWS

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SCOTT KELLER of 627 Blue Ash Dr. SE, Kentwood, MI 49548; kellerrs@wnj.com.

DONNA SIERGIEJ has moved to 3113 Campus NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106.

**1982**

DAVID C. BARBER reports a new address of 242 Alobe Ave., Union, NJ

07083; dave@kosmic.org.

We have an updated address for MARY BLISS HOLT of 20 Leavitt St., Hingham, MA 02043.

DENISE RUGGERI MURRAY and husband Bill welcomed a daughter, Jocelyn Rose, to the family on June 12. Big brothers Joe (4) and John (2) are thrilled with their little sister. Send best wishes to the Murrys at 216 Lowell St., Wakefield, MA 01880; d.r.murray@worldnet.att.net.

**1983**

In 2000, landscape painter and environmentalist R. BYRON BREESE earned the excellence in teaching award from Elmira College, where he was a lecturer in philosophy and religion at the time; traveled to Sri Lanka to research 20th-century art and religion; and became the U.S. representative to the sixth annual George Keyt Foundation of International Artists' camp. Activities this year have included a one-person show at the Waters Gallery, Elmira College, an art show at the Second Annual Diversity Festival in Waverly, Pennsylvania, and the start of a Ph.D. program in visual arts and religion at Graduate Theo-

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# ECAA REUNION



**August 3-5,  
2001**



## ALUMNI NEWS

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logical Union in Berkley, California. In addition, Byron has two more years until retirement from the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Keep in touch at 33 Richmond Rd., #201, San Anselmo, CA 94960.

Please note this new address for GANINE GAMBALE of 52 Hudson Place, Weekawken, NJ 07087; ganine@aol.com.

E-mail THERESA KNIERIEMEN LARSON at tlarson@cox.rr.com. She resides at 7654 Northern Oaks Court, Springfield, VA 22153.

ALAYNE WOOD enjoys being back in a university setting—especially working in

an international environment—as program development coordinator at Emory College Language Center in Atlanta. Alayne also moonlights as a fitness instructor and works as manager/promoter for a close friend who is a touring singer/songwriter. Alayne is contemplating a move back to France, but for now lives at 1045 Rosedale Rd., Atlanta, GA 30306 (alaynej@hotmail.com).

## 1984

In January, KAREN MUNZE BAKER (837 Red Oak Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309; rudenheimer@hotmail.com) and husband Brian celebrated the birth of daughter Emily Rose. Brother Casey (2) is thrilled to have a playmate, which he demonstrates by attempting to spring-launch her out of her bouncy seat! Karen is on leave from her job

at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and sends best wishes to YASUHIKO KAMAKURA '81 for his new job at the International Labor Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

After “leaving” former New York Governor Mario Cuomo’s office after the 1994 election, KAREN CARPENTER-PALUMBO (5 Meadowbrook Dr., #19, Slingerlands, NY 12159) stayed on as deputy commissioner for children and families in the New York State Office of Mental Health. In December of 1996, she became one of the highest-ranking Cuomo officials still employed in New York state government. Now, Karen is executive vice president at Capital District Physicians Health Plan, a mid-sized non-profit HMO, where she oversees all government programs and lobbying

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## Going Home, Again...And Again

**D**riving along the shores of Cayuga Lake one evening in late spring, it struck me that this was a leisurely ride I wouldn't have the opportunity to enjoy much longer. Having recently accepted a new job at Hamilton College, relocation was in the wind—and I was soon to leave my beloved Finger Lakes behind.

A similar opportunity had brought me back to the area 12 years before. I had returned to the Finger Lakes after 11 years back home in the North Country of New York state—something I had longed to do since graduating from Eisenhower. Once I'd come back, however, I found myself surrounded by ghosts.

The first nine months, as I settled into my new life alone (Steve was finishing school in the north), I found I spent a lot of time replaying old memories—pondering things left unsaid and undone, friendships that had evaporated over the years, people who had been lost, footings that had been destroyed. The campus remained dead, although a rebirth appeared forthcoming—not what we had dreamed and hope for, but it would, ultimately, allow for a “homecoming” of sorts. And, surrounded by the distant past, I couldn't help but reflect on the recent past, the present, and the future.

When I arrived at EC in the fall of 1974, nearly 300 miles away from home (a dramatic distance for an old “homebody”), I didn't really know what I was seeking or what to expect. I dreamed of a career in journalism and the chance to prove that I could make it on my own. Without my support system close at hand, learning to depend on myself was going to be a challenge. I needed to grow—and grow up—perhaps more so than some of my classmates who sat scattered throughout the Delavan Theatre to listen to “How to Survive Academically at Eisenhower.” I have this recollection of us being instructed to “look to your right...now look to your left...only one in three of you will be here in four years.” It was daunting...how much so became clear after a visit to the bookstore (then located in the basement of the library), which yielded a shopping bag full of books, which complemented World Studies I...to say nothing of the workload for my writing and literature electives.

Four years later, I felt both lucky and blessed. I had survived, as had 73 of my classmates, and now, with graduation, I was, regrettably, moving on.

More than a decade later, I sat in my apartment in Auburn reflecting on words that Elaine Theismeyer had penned in my senior yearbook, “I shall expect to see your byline in *The New York Times*, about five years from now.” I also recalled how some of my friends had been certain that my future would be somehow tied up with

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sports or athletics. Still others felt that, no matter what, my life would be “spirited,” I guess because they could remember hearing my voice reverberate off the walls of first, the tin gym, and then later, the athletic center, on countless occasions.

After a few years back in the Finger Lakes, I realized that in “coming home,” I would have to face who I had been throughout my Eisenhower years and who I was now. My Eisenhower experience had brought with it so many hopes, dreams, plans...and I had often felt as if, in the years since, I had strayed far off the path I had intended to follow—and that I also felt others had anticipated I would follow. I wondered and fretted over how those who had known me “then” would react to who I was “now.” Had I let myself down, and in so doing, let them down as well?

In 1974 I had come to the Finger Lakes—for the first time—to grow up. It became clear on that evening in the spring of 2001 that returning to the Finger Lakes had forced me to grow up yet again. Over the 12 years that I was “home,” I came to realize that there were two things I had always excelled at: supporting and encouraging other people's efforts and writing. While the media and public relations/publications path that ultimately became my livelihood was as far afield of Fenway Park and *The New York Times* as I could get, it had managed to make reasonably good use of my strengths. And, along the way, I had developed a love for a new sport (hockey), had put the love of learning awakened at EC to good use (earning two additional degrees), and was fortunate to serve the alumni association in a variety of capacities. And while none of this may have been the path that I or others had expected I might trod in 1978, I had fared well, nonetheless, having left a trail of accomplishments and accolades behind me and taking numerous fond memories and friendships along with me. My return home helped me to become comfortable with my own “road less taken,” to further appreciate my Eisenhower education and experiences, and to understand that they had, indeed, served me well. They were a testament to those with whom I had shared

the adventure.

And now I have come “home” once more, this time in a different sense. In recent years, my fondest professional hope has been to have the opportunity to return to an environment that would mirror that which had such a profound impact on my life. As in choosing to attend Eisenhower so many years ago, despite the difficulties plaguing the college at that point in its history, deciding to accept my new position, despite the hassles of relocating my family, was the best possible choice I could make.

My employment at Hamilton is especially poignant. When I was considering undergraduate study, Kirkland College (Hamilton's sister institution, which has since been absorbed) was initially my first choice. (I suspect that my brother being a Hamilton grad had some inadvertent influence on my thinking.) I visited the Kirkland and Eisenhower campuses and interviewed with their respective admissions personnel. Within a few days of each other (in the middle of March, no less). There was never any question, after those initial visits, that Eisenhower had replaced Kirkland as my college of choice. (As it turned out, Kirkland didn't want me either!) It was a choice from which I never wavered and, despite all that's happened since, have never regretted.

Life has a way of coming full circle it seems. Here I am now on the Hamilton campus as director of stewardship...writing like I've never written before (well, maybe once, for four years, give or take a summer or two...), and reveling in the stimulating environment that I remember so well at another small, private, four-year, liberal arts college. I suspect, too, that before this tenure is over, I may well add that “elusive” Hamilton degree to my portfolio. However, there is a more important charge at hand.

Children have a way of simplifying your world. Not too long ago my daughter, Stephanie, posed the following question to me: “Mommy, if you could do anything, *anything*, what would it be?” After I gave her the usual answer about how much I liked my new job, etc., she kept pressing the issue, obviously trying to pin down my dream. And so, I finally gave in and responded, “I'd write a book.” To which she replied, “Well, if that's what you really want to do, then just do it!”

Her answer was as simple and as poignant as the dreams I had dared to dream nearly 25 years ago. My final reply to her was, “I think I just might!” Stay tuned—you may even find you recognize some of my characters!

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## ALUMNI NEWS

(Continued from page six)

efforts. Karen is also busy with two "great kids"—Kyle (4) and Kyra (14 months)—celebrated 12 years of marriage with husband Bob, and keeps in touch with MAUREEN COEN '84, JIM and TRACEY COOK '84, and MIKE STERTHOUS '83, who is an attorney in Albany and "still has great legs!" Karen would like to get e-mail from any other Ikesters in Albany at kcarpent@cdph.com.

LISA REDOLPHY SIEGEL resides at 306 Summit Hall Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20877. E-mail her at dabugs@erols.com or lsiegel@oc.fda.gov.

### 1985

"Aloha, from the big island of Hawaii," pens CRISTINA SALAT, who runs an artist retreat, Kulana, and continues to freelance within the book industry and work with emerging writers. "The deep dive of coming here, dealing with 'unfinished' property in completing the main house and first cabin for the artist retreat/homeland of Kulana, then beginning to structure its function as a simple-yet-beautiful-yet-inexpensive place that welcomes other creative and spiritual journeyers, has included things like plumbing, exhaustion, visiting caretakers, learning and growing, electricity, shipping, building, unexpected illness, land care, crafting community guidelines, miracles, more growth...and the amazing slow-but-sure progress of starting to provide (and experience!) a freedom in daily life that was desired. In the midst of the hardest phases of all this I received copies of the new edition of my long ago children's novel, *Living In Secret*, along with *Higher Learning* from Prentice Hall, plus bibliographies I was interviewed for ages ago, and the sketches for the illustrations of my first-ever picture book, *Peanut's Emergency*, were due in from the publisher. Perhaps this island will call you one day to come replenish...If so, I look forward to welcoming you to this place." Cristina can be reached at the following new address: POB 190, Volcano, HI 96785."

### Faculty

DONALD S. ALLEN (2976 Route 89, Seneca Falls, NY 13148) passes along the sad news that the wife of Eisenhower faculty member BOB BARNETT, Joan, died this summer in Richmond, Virginia. Send condolences to Bob at 1808 Poplar Green, Richmond, VA 23233. Don also writes:

"ANNE MCGINNIS KERR, wife of BILL KERR, died on April 22. Class of '80 president BECKY WIAANT MCGINNIS attended the Seneca Falls Historical Society's annual dinner held at the new SF County Clubhouse. JIM TROISI was a discussion leader at a 2001 Great Decisions program co-sponsored by Seneca Falls Rotary and the Women's Rights National Historical Park. SHEILA LUTZ '81 brought Easter dinner to her mother and KAY ALLEN, who were roommates in Geneva General Hospital on that day. Sheila lives in Romulus. All Eisenhower alumni should know that KEN PADGETT has retired as president of NYCC and that his successor is Dr. Frank Nicchi. Ken and Mary Ann have been in Florida. I have translated a book in Indonesian language, *Kembara Trada Beraklir* (Travels Are Not Over), by a distinguished Indonesian lady, Herawati Diah."

WALTER MAY retired in August after 26 years at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Write to Walter at 1520 S. Summit, Sioux Falls, SD 57105; may@may.org.

DANIEL J. PETRIZZI resides at 473 S. Main St., Geneva, NY 14456.

### Staff

DAVID L. DRESSER writes, "News of my retirement has been greatly exaggerated. Judy and I continue to be gainfully employed at Ithaca College." Keep in touch with David at 7302 Wyers Point Rd., Ovid, NY 14521; ddresser@ithaca.edu.

### In Memoriam— George V. Walsh

We regret to report the death of former faculty member GEORGE V. WALSH on November 8, 2001. George suffered from Parkinson's disease and had spent the last two years at home in bed. His wife, Kathy (who completed a BS, MS, and Ph.D. in nursing after they moved to Maryland), was with him when he died, and she said his final hours were peaceful. A memorial service was held on November 21 in Maryland. Upon hearing the sad news, Steve Suddaby '76 recalled an insightful comment he overheard during the last reunion that George, for all his intelligence, was probably genuinely perplexed about why he was so popular with us—he was one in a million.

### Deceased

We regret to report the death of

DANA G. FISHER '75

STEVEN C. LESPERANCE '74  
March 4, 2001

GEORGE V. WALSH  
November 8, 2001

### Mark Your Calendars For These Dates:

**REUNION 2002:**  
August 2, 3, 4

**REUNION 2003:**  
August 1, 2, 3

**REUNION 2004:**  
August 6, 7, 8

**SEE YOU THERE!**

## WORLD STUDIES XI

Published regularly by the Eisenhower College Alumni Association, Inc. (ECAA, Inc.), for alumni, former faculty and staff, and friends of Eisenhower College. Articles, photographs, news, and address information are welcome at all times. Send all correspondence to ECAA, Inc., Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.