

## IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

*Marilyn Ewing*

Administrative Assistant, Upperclass Deans Office

by James Burger

**Fly fishing** is something that *Marilyn Ewing* enjoys very much. So much so that she and her husband, Mark (class of '59), ran the Lyme Angler shop, in downtown Hanover, for nearly six years. "We both loved sailing and fishing, and it was great to turn our interests into a business," she tells me. Mark had been a competitive yachtsman, winning the Bermuda Cup, and Marilyn "learned early how to appreciate hunting and fishing from my grandparents. Fly fishing has taken Mark and me to beautiful places. Standing in a stream and enjoying the wilderness is great fun, listening to the water rush by and imagining for a moment what lies beneath the surface. Simply appreciating nature brings me great pleasure and fishing is one way to do that."



PHOTO: JAMES BURGER

**"Our overall goal is to enhance and build upon all that we have available here at Dartmouth."**

**Originally from** South Dakota, she also lived in rural Maine before coming to New Hampshire and opening the shop, which was later sold. In 1992, Ewing joined the Volunteer Services department at DHMC as the Volunteer Coordinator, and she has been in her current position at the College, Administrative Assistant in the Upperclass Deans Office, working with Sylvia Langford and Carolynne Krusi, since 1999.

**In November** of 2002, Ewing, Cindy Kendall, Julie Ratico, and Diana "DeeDee" Samuels attended the *Support Services as Supportive Services* conference at Bryn Mawr College. They were very inspired by the event, particularly guest speaker Barbara Nearon, and began preparing to hold such a conference at Dartmouth College. Working with the Dean of the College Office, the Office of Human Resources, the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity, the Office of Pluralism and Leadership, the Office of Student Life, and the Provost's Office, the four led their first conference, *Awareness and Enrichment: The Role of Support Staff as Educators*, in August, 2003.

**At the** *Awareness and Enrichment* conference, attendees participated in a survey designed to elicit areas of interest and importance to staff. Principal among these were "personal and professional development" and "building more community across campus". A sub-group was then formed to act on the survey results, consequently meeting with Barbara Johnson, Acting Associate Vice President for Human Resources. "I think that Barbara identified with our interests and initiative. Her experience, leadership, and support have been empowering to us all," recalls Ewing.

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**An all-day** retreat was held in the summer of 2004—from that was born the HR and Staff Partnership, which recently held an Information Reception to further promote the group’s initiatives and to welcome volunteers. Currently, a core team of ten (including Johnson and James Burger, HR’s Communications Manager) meets monthly to plan and to discuss ongoing and future projects.

**“It’s important** to identify opportunities,” says Ewing, “and that’s what the Partnership is all about. Our overall goal is to enhance and build upon all that we have available to us here at Dartmouth.” The group, which has had a Web site since November and maintains a BlitzBulletin account as well, plans on holding its first major outreach event in the fall. Based on the overwhelming interest, it will focus on opportunities for career development.

**When asked** what she likes best about working at the College, Ewing doesn’t hesitate for a second: “Being a resource for students, being a source of encouragement. Helping them make their time here successful. And I work with some wonderful people!” Not surprisingly, she brings the same enthusiasm and determination to her work with the HR and Staff Partnership—and, one suspects, to fly fishing!



**To learn more about the HR and Staff Partnership, visit their Web site at <[www.dartmouth.edu/~hrs/partnership/index.html](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~hrs/partnership/index.html)> or their Blitz Bulletin at <HR & Staff Partnership>. The group can be reached via e-mail at <[hr.staff.partnership@dartmouth.edu](mailto:hr.staff.partnership@dartmouth.edu)>.**

***The third annual Support Staff Conference was held on Thursday, August 4, in Collis Common Ground. For more information, contact DeeDee Samuels at <[diana.s.samuels@dartmouth.edu](mailto:diana.s.samuels@dartmouth.edu)>.***