



Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
6092 Wentworth, Room 203
Hanover, NH 03755-3526

Alumni Association Newsletter Spring 1999

Interview with Barbara Pringle

by S.X. Graham '93



Barbara and I met in the new MALS office on the first floor of Wentworth Hall. The offices were bright and well designed, hardly resembling the former class-

rooms that had been there. We briefly discussed this wonderful new use of space, and then began the interview.

S.X.- Well, basically we want to know who you are. Very often people who are high profile and of a dynamic personality assume that they are known. Let's start with your background. Where were you born?

Barbara- I was born in New York City. My parents were from Jamaica, from the Caribbean. I lived in New York for all my life, except when I lived at Swathmore College- until I came here. I went to Hunter College where I got a degree in Zoology, and I went to NYU where I got my master's degree in Human Sexual Behavior and Family Life Education.

I was originally pre-med., but I got married at 19 and that was the end of pre-med. I had my first child at 20... I have a son and a daughter, and five stepchildren. I have grandchildren. I have three granddaughters, and five grandsons, including step-grandsons.

S.X. - I won't ask you why you got married at 19...

Barbara- Because I was stupid...and young. All I wanted to do was to be married.

S.X.- Did you work, once you got out of college?

Barbara-Yes, I taught school in New York and worked in the Department of

Psychiatry at Jacoby Hospital, and then worked at the Department of Psychiatry at Harlem Hospital for Columbia, and that's where I worked until I came here.

S.X.-And when you came here, did you see an ad in the newspaper for the MALS job, or, how did it come about?

Barbara- When I came here [Hanover], I came here because I was married ...to a new husband. When I first came I worked as a deputy affirmative action officer, and after I'd done that for a while, that's when I went to Dick's House. I stayed counseling at Dick's House until I came to the MALS program.

S.X.- You must have been very excited about this job.

Barbara- I knew the woman who had been in this position a time before and I thought it might be interesting. The MALS program was having hard times. That was thirteen years ago. The director had left and it was just.... The status of the program in the institution was very unclear. It did not have the recognition. It had gone through some administrative upheavals.

S.X.-When you arrived, did you have a vision, did you have an idea, or did you pick up pieces and then...?

Barbara- Well, Laurie Snell hired me. He was the new Chair, and the two of us had a vision, together, on what we were going to do with MALS. We didn't talk about it, we didn't know that we had a vision until we got to know each other, and we just went ahead and we made MALS a full-time program. We diversified the student population. It had been just for summers only, almost 90% teachers, and it was almost totally white...and we said, this will not do in this day and age. We just started to change it.

S.X.- So the vision became diversified...

Barbara- We hoped to make it, in the eyes of the institution, a real academic graduate program, and I think we've done that. We really wanted it to achieve graduate status in the institution. At that time we reported to the Provost. Now we report to the Dean of Graduate Studies, as all other graduate programs do.

S.X.- What surprised you the most when you came into the program? Or what has surprised you along the way?

Barbara- Surprises are hard work. I'm not sure what you mean by surprise. The thing that I know that I was very unhappy about was the homogeneity, or how homogeneous the student population was. It was all the prep school, teachers, white, women, upper middle class, upper class...the majority.

S.X.- Was there much funding?

Barbara- The financial aid was not working in the way that it should have. The program was not encouraging to people who could not afford to come to the program. The funding has expanded, but so has the program.

S.X.- I understand that some of that has changed recently...that they no longer give full tuition scholarships.

Barbara- They won't let me do that anymore. I can only give three-quarters.

Continued on page 2...

<i>Interview With Barbara Pringle</i>Pg. 1
<i>President's Message</i>Pg. 3
<i>News From the M.A.L.S. Program</i>Pg. 4

cont...

S.X.- That eliminates a lot of people.

Barbara- Good people. And there's no reason for it, because full tuition doesn't mean that there aren't expenses involved with coming to Dartmouth. Anyone that comes here, and especially comes here to live, they have to pay room, board- they have to pay for their books, they have to pay their way. Some even have to pay to cover their expenses at home at the same time.

S.X.- I appreciate what you're saying about diversity and homogeneity. Has anything been the most difficult? Something that's been just monumental?

Barbara- I think the most difficult thing is to achieve the recognition from the institution of really, what this program offers, and what it stands for. But it has gotten better. I feel that it will continue to grow with the administration, with the Dean of Graduate Studies, and with the President that we have.

S.X.- They are much more aware of the program?

Barbara- Yes. Yes, and our students are doing all kinds of things. We never had students who...or very rarely, had students going on to other degrees. But that's because we had teachers. Now, every graduate year we have students going on to Ph.D. programs. Some students are going on to law school, going on to medical school. We've had students going on to MFA programs.

S.X.- Do you see any future for a Liberal Studies Ph.D.?

Barbara- Not at Dartmouth, but there is talk about that within the national Association, which is the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs.

S.X.- Any hope?

Barbara- Who knows? The whole idea of interdisciplinary education is growing. There's a possibility.

S.X.- What changes would you make [in the MALS program]? If you had one more opportunity?

Barbara- I'd like to see a place for us. I'd like us to have a dorm that we could use, that we would know that we have, and I'd like to have a meeting place for us. I'd like to have a home. I'd like us to have a place where we could have a lounge with mailboxes, where people could meet to talk, and where our students could live. I'd like to have a residential home for our students, because we have students who come from all over the world now. We've had a contract for three years with the International University in Moscow. They have six students who come to us for nine months, and the donor for the program has extended it for another three years.

But you asked me what else I'd like to do. I'd like to be able to add a few more courses to the curriculum; more variety of graduate courses to the program. And, I'd like to see more female faculty members from Dartmouth in the program.

S.X.- What about you. What has most influenced you in your life? A driving force...

Barbara- I've been a counselor for a long time, worked in psychiatry for a long time, worked with people, and now I've been an administrator. I guess I'd have to say that the most important thing, that driving force in my mind has been helping people to succeed in their life and in the direction that they want to go. It is important to me to build self-confidence in people when you know that they can succeed.

S.X.- And that really is the basis for the MALS program. You really are propelling people to different levels.

Barbara- Yes, yes. I think that really has been a motivating thing, assisting people, helping people to succeed in their lives in the way they want to go.

S.X.- Which portends what for your future? Are you really retiring, or do you have things up your sleeve or...?

Barbara- I don't have anything up my sleeve. I really am retiring, but I can't imagine that I'm going to sit in a rocking chair. I don't know what I'm going to do. I'm not going to do anything for six months. I've worked since I was nineteen. That's long; a lot

of years. I don't know what I'm going to do. I'm going to do something, and I'm going to travel.

S.X.- So, will there be a Barbara Pringle book? Her life and times?

Barbara- I want to do that. I've had an interesting life, yes, a very interesting life.

S.X.- I'm sure many of us would love to read it. I'm sure it would be fascinating. Any final words?

Barbara- I hope that the MALS program will continue with the caliber of students that we've had, and that the alumni council will grow and strengthen. We need their support to make sure that the program continues. We need their monetary support, because money talks. But we also need their support in being involved. What they do has to grow.

Thank you Barbara for a wonderful interview. We wish you a productive and satisfying retirement.

M.A.L.S. Alumni Web Site

The Alumni Council has created a web site to provide current information on the activities of the Association and its members. The site also includes links to other Dartmouth College web pages.

The URL is:

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~malsalum>

Please take a look at the new site and pass along your ideas on what it should include. And let us know where you are and what you're doing so we can include this information in the "Alumni notes" section. Email your ideas and information to Michael.Beahan@dartmouth.edu

Attention! Submissions Requested!

This is your newsletter. The staff of the Alumni Association Newsletter welcomes letters of comment as well as submissions of short pieces on opinion, fiction, poetry or non-fiction. Please send:

Fiction & Poetry to:

Maureen Zock
65 Highland Street
Ashland, NH 03217

All Other Submissions to:

Susan X. Graham, Editor
M.A.L.S. Newsletter
351 Tute Hill
Lyndonville, VT 05851
grahams@mail.lsc.vsc.edu

President's Message

Thoughts on Life Long Learning

Lately, I've been thinking about what it means to be a "life long learner." Is it someone who continues to take college courses long after graduation? Is it someone who always has a book (or books) they are in the middle of reading? Is it someone who is open to life, to new experiences, to thinking new thoughts?

Then there's the other side of the question; if we are always open to new thoughts, can we have a stable belief system that is our centered core?

Have you ever had the experience of meeting someone, who, even though they touched your life only briefly, taught you something particularly profound and significant? One such person, for me, was a professor from my undergraduate years.

I'll never forget the image of the 6'5" tall, broad-shouldered professor standing in front of class; legs spread akimbo, arms straight down by his sides, fists clenched, and all the muscles of his body held tautly. In this rigid, unforgiving posture, he said, "If this is how you hold on to what you think you know, you will miss your education, and, possibly, your lives." He then had the audacity to suggest that students interested only in having their current views confirmed make an immediate exit, vacating a seat that could be occupied by a student with thirst. A thirst for wonderment, a thirst for doubt, a thirst for learning something they had never thought to think before.

A thirst for wonderment? Yes, this is a basic, isn't it, for thinking? And there is so much to truly be amazed about.

A thirst for doubt? This is the tough one, for me, because I have come to conclusions about certain things. Am I stuck in my opinions? At least for those things I question and doubt, perhaps, I can rest some, because they are conclusions reached out of contemplation. The professor may have been referring to those sticky things that we so tightly grasp; doubting them never enters our minds.

A thirst for thinking what we've never dared think before? This one is my favorite. It is my favorite because I love the feeling of realization. To suddenly comprehend a problem or someone else's point of view; to have a new bit of knowledge fit with previous bits of information and have it make sense in a way that we know intrinsically to be a better form of thought, is a glorious experience.

Lifelong learners are thirsty! So, to all of you thirsty M.A.L.S. graduates, grab your favorite "drink" and enjoy quenching your thirst.



Jay Huntington '93
President, M.A.L.S. Alumni Council
E-mail: jayhunting@aol.com

The annual M.A.L.S. alumni luncheon meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21st, at the Hanover Inn. There will be a speaker (to be announced). The cost is \$10. Hope to see you there!

Uncle Phil's Not-So-Difficult Trivia

By: Phil Privitera '93

1. Of the 50 United States, which is the only state that is one syllable long?
2. What is the only letter that does not appear in the spelling of any of the United States?
3. Geographically, what is the eastern-most United State?
4. In American baseball, how many "outs" are in one "inning"?

Bonus Question...

5. How many letters are in the Hawaiian alphabet? (Some choices: 3, 13, 23, or 33)

ANSWERS:
1. Maine
2. The letter "Q"
3. Alaska. Geographically speaking Alaska is also the Northern-most and Western-most United State.
4. 6 outs...three for each side.
5. 13.

News From the M.A.L.S. Program
By Sharon C. Greene '97

On Sunday, June 13, 1999, the 229th Dartmouth College Commencement exercises will take place on the Green, rain or shine. Thirty-two candidates from the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program will receive degrees. A reception for graduates and their guests will be held at the Faculty Lounge in the Hopkins Center, immediately following the ceremonies. The reception is an annual event sponsored by the M.A.L.S. Alumni Council.

Summer term classes begin on June 22, and among the offerings are some familiar favorites and some interesting new courses. One course, in particular, is in concert with this year's Summer Symposium theme: Globalization in the New Millennium. George Demko and Misagh Parsa will be teaching A Global Landscape of Development and Well-Being. The course explores the way in which "Old geopolitics is giving way to a much more complex interaction of

economic, geographic, sociological and psychological processes in a totally new global context of intense and rapid interconnections." Two additional courses, Democratic Values: The Challenge of Democratic Ideals (James B. Murphy and Richard O. Brooks) and Latin America and the Caribbean: Race, Discourse, and the Origin of the Americas (Raúl Bueno-Chávez and Keith L. Walker), look at the reconfiguration of the world, past and present, through an examination of political, socio-economic, cultural, and/or psychological constructs.

For students interested in literature, art, and the social sciences, there are a number of alternative choices:

Modes of Writing (Craig Nova); Victorian Novels and the City (Patricia McKee); Surrealism: Beyond Poetry and Painting (Katherine Conley and Jim Jordan); and The Masculine Mystique: Constructions of Manhood in the 20th Century (Andrew Garrod and Peter Travis). As reflected by the curriculum,

it promises to be another highly stimulating and academically challenging summer.

Gail Osherenko, Senior Fellow, Dickie Center Institute of Arctic Studies is this year's Summer Symposium Coordinator. The lectures begin on July 7 and continue for six weeks. The public is invited to attend.

July 7
To be announced.

July 14
To be announced.

July 21-Labor and Working Conditions
Richard P. Applebaum, Ph.D. Sociology, Director, Institute for Social Behavioral, and Economic Research (ISBER), Co-Director, Center of Global Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara.

MALS
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
6092 Wentworth, Room 203
Hanover, NH 03755-3526

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DARTMOUTH
COLLEGE
