MALS Quarterly

COMBINED VOICES OF CURRENT STUDENTS AND ALUMNI
FALL 2005
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Special thanks to all our contributors for their patience, effort, creativity, and, most importantly, their time.

Meghan Julian
MALS Quarterly Editor

Cover: Untitled, Hsing-Tien Temple, Taipei, Taiwan by Mei-Yen Su
A captain in the U.S. Army, Rob Meine is rarely asked to recite his name, rank, and serial number as a full-time graduate student at Dartmouth. After spending more than 700 days deployed as a combat intelligence officer in Afghanistan and Iraq, Meine is pursuing another form of Army business – advancing his education.

"In the military, education is everything," Meine contends. "You can only spend so much time fighting." Meine's career provides a good example of how career soldiers are encouraged to alternate between battlefield assignments and the classroom. He holds a B.A in political science from the University of California, San Diego, and a J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law. At Dartmouth, the fourteen-year Army veteran is busy finishing course requirements for his MALS degree and collecting data for his thesis.

And he has spent plenty of time on the battlefield as well.

In March 2002 he was part of a command and control unit sent to Afghanistan to support the effort to seal off the border with Pakistan. "It was a known infiltration route for Taliban fighters," Meine says. He served in a joint military intelligence unit that collected "signal" transmissions, imagery, and some "human" intelligence to support the mission of interdicting the flow of enemy fighters. "We thought we'd only be there a few months," Meine recalls. But then the insurgency mounted and soldiers began to have their tours extended. He was there until January 2004, when he was finally rotated out.

"There were many of us who had been deployed for almost two years in two war zones," Meine says. His unit was pushing 700 days. "Once you reach that number of days they pretty much have to bring you home."

He found working 18-hour days for seven months in Iraq to be professionally rewarding and personally stimulating. "Iraq was an intelligence-driven war," Meine says. "My superiors saw me as someone who enabled their success." He was awarded the Bronze Star for his efforts in Afghanistan and the Meritorious Service Medal for his command in Iraq.

While still in the combat zone Meine received an e-mail and then a satellite phone call about his interest in becoming an instructor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. This was a position he had originally requested in 1998. The person making the inquiry at West Point had majored in cognitive psychology at Dartmouth and recommended that
Meine look into graduate programs there. At about the same time the MALS program at Dartmouth initiated a concentration in Cognitive Studies and Meine decided to apply.

Although he took the GRE while home on a seven-day leave at Fayetteville State University near the Fort Bragg army post in North Carolina, he still had to use a satellite phone to talk to former MALS administrative assistant Bev Mazzilli about his application. “I was afraid of using the mail because you could never be sure about what might happen to it and miss the deadlines,” Meine says.

Dartmouth was considered a “high-dollar” school and Meine had to compete with other officers for the limited funds that were available to attend costlier institutions. Going to a less expensive school would have been less competitive. In the end, he was accepted to Dartmouth and approved for the additional money.

He is working on an empirical study of the cognitive activities that govern self-control; more specifically, the study focuses on what accounts for the difference between our public and private sense of self. In his research he is asking the question, “Do people behave contrary to the norms they exhibit in public forums when they act anonymously? And if they do what drives that departure cognitively?”

Meine is working with Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences Jay Hull on his thesis and will be one of the first MALS students to graduate with a concentration in Cognitive Studies. After receiving his degree in June, he will become an instructor at West Point, teaching introductory psychology the first year and then elective courses in psychology the following year.

The MALS program offered a great opportunity to tailor a science-oriented course of study with interdisciplinary work. He feels that the opportunity to take classes outside his discipline supports the Army’s goal of wanting well-rounded officers. “A truly interdisciplinary experience is beneficial from a life perspective,” Meine says, adding that the time he is getting to spend with his family while studying at Dartmouth is “priceless.”

In this present day world of mass uncertainty there is one MALS Alumni who is strong and steady and stays the course. It could be said that John Tansey, MALS ’95, is not only a mentor for Dartmouth students, but is also an exemplary role model for the Dartmouth community.

At Dartmouth, John has held the position of Executive Director for Off-Campus Programs since January of 2003, after joining the office as its Administrative Officer in July of 2001. In years past he held a number of other positions at Dartmouth, including a brief stint at the Institute for Security Technology Studies, and several years at the Office of Grants and Contracts (1987-1995), now called the Office of Sponsored Projects.

As the Executive Director for Off-Campus Programs, John has the tremendous responsibility of managing Dartmouth College’s more than forty foreign and domestic study programs and twelve exchange programs. This involves providing support to faculty program directors and the more than six hundred students per year who are involved in the College’s programs, which are located in more than twenty countries around the globe.

It’s likely that the MALS Program had a powerful effect on John’s penchant for a career in managing global operations, at least on the Dartmouth front. For example, John’s MALS thesis was about

(Tansey continued on page 7)
Mei-Yen Su began taking photographs when she was 16. Taking photos is her commitment of emotion. Most of her works are natural sceneries or artificial objects because she prefers things to be simple. This does not mean that she does not photograph human figures, however, but objects such as stones, houses, raindrops, and skies never cheat and disguise. Moreover, those objects signify honesty. She can think, observe, and endow them with new meanings by her viewpoint.

Mei-Yen prefers to use black and white photos to show lights and shadows which are objects that she photographs all the time. Using black and white images to reveal the bright and colorful world is difficult. However, black and white images also evince more emotions and distances. For Mei-Yen, her image is an attitude, a concern, and also the way she expresses herself. Photography gives her the freedom to free herself.

The places shown in the photographs are:
1. Hsin-Tien Temple, Taipei, Taiwan: One of Taiwan’s most famous and important temples, established in 1967. Known as godfather temple, due to the sacrifice of a brave man who kept faith, it is also known as good for business protection.
2. Shin-Fen-Liao Waterfall, Taipei, Taiwan: Shin-Fen-Liao Waterfall is formed by the riverbed fault of Keelung River. It is the widest waterfall in Taiwan.
3. Jioufen, Taipei, Taiwan: Jioufen is a mountain city and it was famous for its discovery of gold. After World War II, the gold ran out and now for visitors, Jioufen is a place of nostalgia.
Just about everyone in Alaska knows about the “Alaska Grown” t-shirts. They were originally made by the Mat-Su Valley farmers’ co-op, with their logo – an image of the state of Alaska and the words “Alaska Grown” – emblazoned on the front. I was eighteen when my sixteen-year-old sister first brought one home. It was an epiphany for me: those two words that described me so well, and the idea that I could walk around with it all on display.

But back in Anchorage, I need only look up along a main boulevard for the differences to become instantly clear. Rows of heavy, rocky peaks line the eastern horizon, at once formidable and lush, startling and comforting.

I remember now, that old feeling of living at the edge of the world. It is at times uncomfortable, but at others, utterly forgotten. To be Alaskan is to know both feelings well. Sometimes our unique position seems strange to us, and sometimes not. In this way, we find ourselves simultaneously inside and outside the mainstream of American culture. We juggle incompatible worldviews – Native Alaskan beliefs, the mythology of the Frontier, contemporary American cultural trends, and the contributions of immigrant communities from Asia and Latin America. We end up defining ourselves as much by the ways we are excluded from the American psyche as by the ways it includes us.

It may seem odd to think of being more or less Alaskan – either you are or you’re not. Yet it makes more sense in terms of the Frontier idea that only the strong survive. From that comes the belief that you must prove yourself before you can be Alaskan. I think this is motivated partly by simple vanity. But more significantly, it is where we came from, and because it is such a powerful cultural machine, we find ourselves always answering back to it.

So also are we pained to know that it rarely hears us. We travel two thousand miles eastward to discover we are still “Out West.” Our pride hinges on our insignificance. We find our own ideas of ourselves lost within outsiders’ ideas of what the Last Frontier means, although in many ways it means the same things to us. In this confusion, we feel invisible – to ourselves as much as to anyone else.
Yet there is also a point at which worldviews converge, or at least are overtaken by something more pressing - the demands Alaska makes on those who live here. In this place of geographic and climactic extremes, the environment endlessly asserts itself as the lowest common denominator in our lives. An Alaskan year spans a succession of drastic changes, and the forbidding distances make it difficult to turn away from this seasonality. In many small towns jobs are virtually nonexistent half the year. Even in the cities, the winter darkness and cold are restrictive. On the other hand, in the summer's endless daylight our interminable spaces afford us freedoms few other places can offer. We accommodate ourselves to this by living somewhat opportunistically, with a seize-the-day mentality that touches all aspects of life.

So environmental demands become truths to live by. Alaskan teenagers apply these truths to all manner of outdoor activities, in which bravado and ignorance create adventure or disaster. I have strolled in sandals over a glacier with hidden crevasses into which people have fallen and been lost. I have petted a wild moose (I was fifteen), and I once yelled at a bear that was blocking my path on a hiking trail. “Go away, Bear!” I said. “Get out of my way!” It did. Clearly, none of this is defensible by rational means. But it worked. And it made an Alaskan out of me.

It should be no surprise then, that we carry our Alaskan pride to extremes, too. But this is probably more a product of external forces than internal conditions, including both the aspects of our own lives that reach outside of Alaska, and the ways outside forces continue to shape the state. As tourism booms, we have watched our identity as a state become less about us than about the people who come to visit us. And we have seen in this phenomenon echoes of our own (or our parents') arrivals with the oil boom, the fishing boom, the logging boom, and even the Gold Rush. In this, we see the precariousness of our own claim on this land, and with it, our sense of who we are.

But there is also a strength in the vision invoked by Alaskan pride, and a purity I sometimes envy. Almost everyone who lives here chose this place above all others. They see themselves as living the Alaskan version of the American Dream, the mythos of the Last Frontier, updated. Implicit in this Alaskan Dream is the belief that we deserve what we work for, whether or not our claim to it conflicts with others' claims, because our work and sacrifices legitimize those claims. Maybe Alaskans rely too much on this belief. Either way, I think it explains our characteristic hesitancy to share our resources, and our identity.

I once yelled at a bear that was blocking my path on a hiking trail. “Go away, Bear!” I said. “Get out of my way!” It did. Right?

Maybe it sounds like I don't belong here (for instance, complaining about Alaska is a big no-no.). I'm truly not sure. Maybe I'm less Alaskan than I like to think. I didn't even choose this place - it just happened to me. And in terms of lifestyle, if not longevity, the newcomers' story is my story too. Outside influences, which always seem to make Alaska less Alaskan, are more apparent in my hometown than anywhere else in the state - the city of Anchorage. It is often said here that the best thing about Anchorage is that it is near Alaska. Its size has disconnected it so much from the vast surrounding wilderness that life in Anchorage can be somewhat independent of that wilderness.

Because of this, it is a sort of borderland where lifestyles converge in odd ways. For me, this meant that whenever I gutted fish or shot beer cans with my dad's pistol, I still lived a typical suburban life during the school year, complete with gymnastics practice, school dances, football games, and shopping at the mall. This has always made me a little uneasy with the idea of calling myself Alaskan.

There are so many Alaskan things I've never done, never seen. I feel like a perpetual outsider. But then, being Alaskan seems to be all about various ways of dwelling on the outside, so that sensibility may be the most Alaskan thing about me.

Alumni, please verify your information with the Dartmouth Alumni Office:

http://alumni.dartmouth.edu/

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"Regional Inequality and Policy Analysis in the Philippines: The Case of Cebu Province, 1980-1990." When asked to name one of the MALS faculty professors that had a great influence for him when he was a MALS student, he stated, “I owe much to Professor George Demko for guiding me through the MALS program. I enrolled in three courses with Professor Demko, ‘Demography’ and two independent study courses that focused on regional economic development issues. George also served as my thesis advisor and, in general, kept me moving towards the finish line.”
Altug Akay

Altug Akay was born in Istanbul, Turkey in 1983. He moved to the US three years later. He lived in New Jersey with his parents until they moved to New Hampshire. He attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Currently, he is pursuing the Globalization Studies discipline of MALS. He is concentrating on Globalization Studies because he has traveled throughout much of the world, including China and Japan during the summer. What he has learned is that the world is becoming increasingly smaller. He wants to understand the world in which globalization is increasingly affecting our daily lives and policies.

Dana Altshuler

For the past four years, Dana Altshuler has worked as a high school social studies teacher. Before arriving at Dartmouth she taught in an urban school in New Haven, Connecticut. Teaching has afforded her many opportunities to develop her interests in the field of human conflict. For the past two years, she attended the Holocaust Educators Workshop at the University of Hartford. Additionally, she participated in a lecture series offered through the Holocaust Education and Prejudice Reduction Program of Greater New Haven, a program that provides teachers the opportunity to meet with experts in the field of Genocide Studies. In 2004, she was awarded a grant on behalf of the English Speaking Union to serve as a representative for New Haven Public Schools in a study-abroad program at Exeter College. This past summer she attended the Yale New Haven Teachers Institute, which afforded her the opportunity to conduct research exploring the impact of the Holocaust on the GLBT community of Nazi Germany. By attending the MALS program and concentrating in Globalization Studies, she hopes to further explore identity and human conflict, and to use knowledge she gains here to produce history curricula that implement teaching methods for a more peaceful world.

Abdramane Issa Boubacar

Issa Abdramane graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 2005 with a degree in Economics. He is interested in exploring the links between transnational companies and globalization. He will look at different related aspects of the situation such as the international institutions that are serving as vehicles to these multinationals, labor in the international economy, and public policy and the power of the corporation in the global economy. Besides these plans, his interests lie in reading, reading, and more reading. Issa is really excited to be part of the MALS community.

Timothy Benson

Tim joins the MALS program after spending the last five years teaching English at a private school in northeast Pennsylvania. Although the position was supposed to be a one-year appointment, he is grateful his stay lasted far longer than expected. This point is highlighted by the fact that he met his future wife, Elizabeth, two years ago while they were both faculty members. Highlights of his teaching career include his development of several different English electives, including Environmental Literature and Journalism. Additionally, teaching allowed Tim time in the summer to pursue his other passion, fly fishing. He has spent the last several summers as a fly fishing guide in Wyoming and Montana.

Tim was drawn to the MALS program for its interdisciplinary approach and wide range of courses. He will likely pursue a creative writing concentration though he also has a strong interest in cultural studies. Although he has not ruled out teaching again, it is likely that the skills and knowledge he gains during his time at MALS will lead him another direction. Tim lives in Post Mills, Vermont, with Elizabeth and their brown Labrador, Brooks.
Michael Cook is from Seattle, Washington. He graduated from the University of Washington in 2003 with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies focusing in Culture, Literature, and the Arts. He also received a minor in Human Rights, a fairly new program at the time, but worthwhile and timely nonetheless. He chose the MALS program because it would build on the foundation that he began during his work as an undergrad. While focusing in Cultural Studies, Michael is also interested in Global Studies, as the two have many overlying issues and concerns in their respective disciplines.

Beyond school, Michael enjoys playing and watching soccer, running, reading, writing, and playing poker. He is looking forward to what the MALS program has to offer and generating discussion with fellow colleagues.

Laura Grey graduated in 2002 from Dartmouth with a B.A. in Studio Art. She stayed here for one year following graduation, and worked as an intern for the Studio Art Department and Hopkins Center Design Studio. She fell in love with the art of graphic design during this time, and moved to Chicago to pursue more course work in design at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She worked as a designer at the Chicago Tribune for a year before returning to Hanover in June 2005 to a full-time position at the Hopkins Center Design Studio. She hopes to study design in the context of literature within the structure of the MALS program.

Laura Grey

Katie Johnston moved to Vermont on a full-time basis a little over a year ago and is in the process of defying anyone who said she couldn’t stand more than two Vermont winters. Prior to her full-time residency, she commuted between Boston and Vermont for two years, alternately sampling the great variety of restaurants and cafes immediately available within a ten-minute walk from her dorm and delighting in home-cooked fresh foods. After a brief succession of jobs last year, she decided she wanted to go back to school, but, reluctant to leave her picturesque location, she was committed to going somewhere local. At present she resides on a horse farm with many (26) animals (horses, dogs, cats, bunnies), and a family of four.

Katherine Johnston

Kenny Logan grew up in Freehold, New Jersey, now a sprawling suburb that to his parents seemed like the countryside when they immigrated from Glasgow, Scotland. He graduated from Kenyon College in 1996 and, after backpacking through the Scottish Highlands, New Zealand, and the American West, he settled in Vermont, where he teaches natural history and high school English. In 2004, convinced he should give city life one more try, he studied and taught in Barcelona, Spain. As a MALS student, he hopes to examine the teaching of ethics and literacy in secondary schools. Currently, he lives on the Ompom-
Zsuzsanna Mitro

Zsuzsanna is very excited about being at Dartmouth. She grew up in rural Hungary, but the pursuit of education has taken her farther and farther away from her hometown.

She started speaking English at the age of 10 and her passion for learning, reading, and encountering cultural experience through languages gave her the incentive to pursue a degree in English Language and Literature at ELTE University, Budapest.

With her M.A., she wanted to teach because the more she felt her knowledge growing the more she had an urge to share it and also put it to the test of always evolving perspectives. She graduated in 1999 and has been exploring ever since.

The reason why Zsuzsanna did not settle down around her family and become a translator or a teacher is because, although she's close to them, she also loves to engage in challenges with an open mind and an open heart. One of them was to come to the United States, but Dartmouth, she knows, is going to open a whole new chapter in her life.

She will sing you a Hungarian song or tell a joke (and explain it) if you ask her because she loves people, music, and laughter amongst so many other things in life.

Alexis Mourenza

Alexis Mourenza was born and raised in San Luis Obispo, California. After spending some time in Olympia, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, she returned to California and completed her B.A. in Philosophy with a concentration in Ethics and Public Policy and a minor in Art History at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Although she had the option of going directly into a graduate program in Philosophy, Alexis chose to take the opportunity that the MALS program will offer her to examine a variety of disciplines and topics before going on to a Ph.D. program. She is looking forward to buying jackets for her dogs this winter.

Yafei Sun

Yafei Sun is from Beijing, China. Before she came to the United States, she was a senior journalist of Southern Weekend, which is a nationwide weekly newspaper with a good reputation in China. She covered political and legal issues, especially international relations. She received her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Sichuan University, both in journalism. She used to work in the local media, including the local daily newspaper and local TV station as an editor in Sichuan Province. In 2002 she traveled to Beijing and worked in China Newsweek as a political reporter, which is the biggest newsweekly in China.

In early 2003, she established a news TV program called “China Legal Report”. This is a half-hour daily TV program broadcast in over 40 local TV networks. As a chief editor, she worked there for a couple of months, and then she went to Southern Weekend to cover political reports. She also had a part-time job in CCTV (China Centre TV Station) as a creative editor, which is the biggest TV station in China.

In 2004, she won a fellowship from UC Berkeley and went there to do research as a media fellow. She stayed at the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley for one academic year. She has come to Dartmouth to focus on Globalization Studies because she needs to renovate and extend her knowledge system. She enjoys her studies and she believes they will be helpful for her journalistic job.

Amanda Silva

Amanda Silva graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2004 with a double B.A. in International Studies and Political Science. She finds it odd to be back in a state that she should call home but never has. Born in Manchester twenty-four years ago, it was not long before Amanda left New Hampshire and began moving around extensively with her family, due to her father’s occupa-
tion with UPS. Relocation brought her to various cities around the United States and abroad. She revisited many Asian locales last summer with her sister Ali, while they were both Semester at Sea students. Travel is an important part of Amanda's life and perhaps the greatest influence in who she is and what she would like to become.

Amanda is looking forward to her experience with MALS, a program that offers all the diversity she was fortunate to be surrounded by while growing up. She is currently working as a teaching assistant for Dartmouth's writing department, helping students improve their writing, while hopefully sharpening her skills in the process. While she has not decided on her MALS concentration, Amanda's ideal career would combine her love of writing and her love of travel. She has no doubt that Dartmouth's MALS program will help her realize her goals.

Matthew Sturdevant

Matthew Sturdevant comes to the MALS creative writing program after six years as a journalist working for newspapers in Caribou, Maine, Glens Falls, N.Y., and most recently Corpus Christi, Texas. Forever the nomad, Matt grew up in East Aurora, outside Buffalo, N.Y., and has lived in Montana, Texas, Maine, all parts of Upstate New York and now New Hampshire. He worked his way through college as a short-order cook, janitor and baker, and spent five summers as a whitewater canoe guide in northern Maine.

After college he was a therapy aide at a locked facility for people with acute mental illness. He hopes the MALS program will broaden his sense of the complex factors that shape the human experience.

Mei-Yen Su

Mei-Yen Su is from Taipei City, Taiwan. She has been interested in Art and Design since she was a child. Her favorite artists are Piet Mondrian, Gustav Klimt, Georgia O'Keeffe, Michael Parkes, Ansel Adams and Lois Greenfield. She won many contests in photography, graphic design and advertising while studying at Fu-Hsin Trade and Arts School.

Mei-Yen has always been passionate about photography, and she was one of the editors of LOOK Movie Magazine in Taiwan from 1997 to 2002. After a hard-working year in a cram school, she successfully changed her major to Geography and was admitted to the best teacher's college in Taiwan.

Mei-Yen has studied French and Italian and has a French Language Proficiency Certificate. She has been to Hawaii, New York City, Poland, and Mainland China, and has written articles based on her travel experiences and how they inspired her.

From 2001 to 2005, Mei-Yen was a Geography teacher in junior high school. After these years, she found her present position unsatisfactory and realized that continuous learning is very important for self-development. The areas she would like to explore and learn more about are visual culture, urban culture, modern art and literature, and global issues.

Jonathan Sylvia

Jonathan Sylvia has been employed at Dartmouth College for over six years. In his role as the Fiscal Officer for the Off-Campus Programs Office, he manages program budgets, and provides a wide array of administrative, financial, and logistical support services to program faculty directors.

Prior to his role in Off-Campus Programs, Jonathan gained experience in the administration of higher education programs at various colleges in the realm of financial aid. He also acquired considerable knowledge of accounting and financial controls while employed as an internal auditor and later a management auditor with various financial services institutions based in California. A significant highlight of his career was the time that Jonathan was associated with a Relief and Development agency based in Quetta, Pakistan. While working with Afghans, Pakistanis, and the international community, he was able to broaden his understanding and sensitivity to the unique challenges of an international environment through his role as Financial Manager for Mercy Corps International in Quetta, Pakistan.

Jonathan holds a B.A. in Business Administration (Finance) from California State University, Fullerton, and a B.S. in Business Administration (Accounting) from Franklin Pierce College. He anticipates broadening his education through

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Dr. Amy Allen planned a conference on Critical Social Theory, which was held at Dartmouth the weekend of November 4th. Her main research project at the moment is a book entitled The Politics of Our Selves: Power, Autonomy and Gender in Contemporary Critical Theory, which will be published by Columbia University Press. The book is about the relationship between power and autonomy in the constitution of subjectivity; it draws on work by Michel Foucault, Judith Butler, and Jurgen Habermas. A version of one of the chapters of that book has just been accepted for publication in a journal called Continental Philosophy Review; the article/chapter is titled “Dependency, Subordination, and Recognition: On Judith Butler's Theory of Subjectivity.” She also recently presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy; the paper was Angela Davis's work on prison abolition, and it was entitled “Justice and Reconciliation: The Death of the Prison.”

Dr. Denise Anthony’s recent research has focused on such topics within economic sociology as relationships between low-income entrepreneurs in micro-credit borrowing groups. She is also exploring how trust affects communication and security in the digital environment of the Internet. Not too long ago, she began working with researchers at Dartmouth's Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences to examine variation in patient preferences and hospital utilization norms across regions with differing levels of health care intensity. Earlier this year one of her papers was published in American Sociological Review, “Cooperation in Micro-Credit Borrowing Groups: Identity, Sanctions and Reciprocity in the Production of Collective Good.”

Dr. George Demko’s most recent publication is the section on “Population” in the just published Encyclopedia of New England, Yale University Press, 2005. He is currently working on two books, tentatively titled Landscapes of Murder: The Locus Operandi of Crime Fiction and The Why of Where: Geography that Matters. Both are specific research projects related to his continuing work in crime fiction and popularizing geography.

Dr. Ronald Edsforth is currently writing a book that is tentatively titled The War Against War: A World History of Peace Politics.

Dr. Harvey Frommer is under contract to write what is being billed as “the definitive book” on the 1927 New York Yankees, the greatest baseball team of all time. His research is focused on the interpersonal relationship of New York City, the Yankees, and what was happening during that year. He recently completed research that led to the publication of two new books: Sports Junkie’s Book of Trivia, Terms, and Lingo and Old Time Baseball: The National Pasttime in the Gilded Age.

Dr. Myrna Frommer is working on some travel pieces dealing with the north of France – specifically the beaches of Normandy and Montrieul, where Victor Hugo began writing his masterpiece, Les Misérables. Over the winter, both Professors Frommer have two research-based trips planned: In Argentina, they will interview for an oral history-based article on the Jews of Buenos Aires, and in Spain they will travel to cities in the “Red de Juderías de España” to explore evidence of pre-expulsion Sephardic life and culture and contemporary efforts to uncover and promote the nation's Sephardic heritage.

Dr. Cecilia Gaposchkin is a medieval historian who works on, broadly speaking, late medieval cultural history in France, and more specifically, King Louis IX, a thirteenth century king who was canonized. She is finishing a book on the Memorialization of Saint Louis (IX) of France (d. 1270, canonized 1297) right now, and she is doing a fair amount of conference speaking and presentations on various aspects of Louis IX, his reign, and his sanctity. This autumn, she is working on a paper on ideal kingship as represented in fourteenth-century sermons written to honor him. She is also editing an unpublished vita (life) of Louis IX, Gloriosissimi Regis, which she is currently in the process of translating with Dr. Phyllis Katz, another MALS professor and a classicist. Upcoming conference presentations, sessions, and engagements include the 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies, the Medieval Academy, a Saint Louis University Symposium, and a Davis Seminar at Princeton University.

Much of Dr. Jay Hull's current research investigates the role of conscious and non-conscious processes in self-regulation. Recent research has shown that many aspects of people’s everyday lives are affected by factors that are outside of their awareness. If you get a bad feeling about someone you just met, does that feeling follow a lot of conscious thought about the person’s good and bad qualities, or do you just get a “bad feeling”? Similarly, why did you trust the salesperson with your credit card? Like the movie you just saw? After the fact, we can point to various causes, but are those the real reasons we felt or acted the way we did or are we basically responding first and rationalizing our response afterwards?

In his research, he utilizes subliminal cues, cues presented in such a manner that participants in the experiments cannot say whether they saw anything at all. He can even see portions of their brains that are involved in “seeing” the sublimi-
nal angry-relax cues even though participants claim to have seen nothing at all. Most interesting to him is the fact that people who have more elaborated views of themselves (self-concepts) are most likely to show these effects. Much of his current research is devoted to determining how, why, and under what conditions these types of effects are most likely to occur.

Dr. Phyllis Katz has just completed a paper entitled "Teaching Ovid's Elegiac Love," which will appear in the journal Classical World next Spring. She is co-author of a book on poems of Ovid in the AP Syllabus to accompany the Ovid text for the AP, now in its fourth printing. She is currently fine-tuning the paper "Educating Paula: a Proposed Curriculum for Raising a Fourth-Century Christian Infant" that she presented at the Constructions of Childhood in the Ancient World conference at Dartmouth in 2003. The paper will appear in a conference volume published in the journal Hesperia. In addition, she is working with Professor Cecilia Gaposchkin on the translation of an unpublished life of Louis the IX, Gloriosissimi Regis.

Since the acceptance of Professor Sydney Lea's eighth book of poems, Ghost Pain, which appeared last spring, he has generated a new book of poems, which he is preparing to send off to his publisher. The new collection is more directly "political" than any he is written. He is also at work on a novel, which already exists in draft but needs substantial revision. The novel is his winter project. In addition, he is gathering the critical opinions, of three decades, which he has delivered as talks, essays and reviews, into a book-length manuscript. His literary connections outside the U.S. continue to engage him, as well. He is collaborating with translator Marjan Strojan to ready a selection of his poetry to be published in the coming March in Slovenia, and is co-authoring and anthologizing a group of African wisdom tales with his Zambian colleague Morgan Chipopu.

His second nonfiction book, A LittleWildness, will shortly be published. It is a first-person chronicle of three successive, random days of rambling off-trail through the woods of Vermont. It is laced with amateur naturalism, memory, speculation on literature, especially poetry, and perhaps above all how literature and his daily explorations of the woods are, for him, inextricably bound together.

Dr. Alan Lelchuk's new novel concerns Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Jews in Budapest in 1944, and was murdered in a Moscow prison in 1947. It is a contemporary novel, but attempts to include the real history into the fiction. Interestingly, with the aid of a Fulbright, he has been doing some final research on what may have actually happened to Wallenberg.

Dr. Patricia McKee's current research focuses on how identities of race and class are formed in Victorian fiction, specifically on the psychic dimensions of character as these are differentiated by race and class. She also works on metropolitan identity in nineteenth-century British fiction and on American culture in the work of writers such as James and Morrison.

Dr. Misagh Parsa is currently at work on a book manuscript on democratization in South Korea, Indonesia, and Iran. It is a Sociological analysis that examines the role of the state and all major social classes and collectivities in the democratization process.

Professor Bill Phillips is currently working on two screenplays. Light Leaks is about a 25-year-old woman who lives in a nice apartment in an abandoned subway tunnel beneath Manhattan. She's getting a doctorate in Urban Archaeology from NYU and hopes to turn much of the space below into housing for the homeless. PoBiz is a story about the underbelly of the poetry business, complete with the many types of characters you might expect to find in and around the poetry world. Kiran Misra '07 is a Presidential Scholar this year helping him with the research. Five years ago he started a four-year project called Damn Athafalaya (a river that runs parallel to the Mississippi) about, of all things, New Orleans flooding.

Drawing on six years of research, Professor Tom Powers is writing his most recent book, The Killing of Crazy Horse, a nonfiction, narrative account of the circumstances which led to the fatal wounding of the Oglala chief in September 1877 while the U.S. Army attempted to place him under arrest at Camp Robinson, Nebraska. He became interested in the story about ten years ago during a visit to the Little Big Horn national battlefield, where Crazy Horse was a principal leader in the fight which wiped out five companies of U.S. cavalry and inflicted one of the most traumatic military defeats ever suffered by the United States. Existing accounts of the chief's killing were rich but incomplete; Professor Powers thought he knew where to find some of the missing pieces, and he sensed that this event shared deep similarities with other, more recent episodes in U.S. history. In each case secrecy obscured not only the motives behind conflict, but the means chosen to remove an enemy.

But that still leaves the question: why was Crazy Horse killed? The answers are to be found in the events of the last four months of Crazy Horse's life. For those who look they are apparent in the personal histories of the men involved, in the failures of communication between Lakota and English speakers, in the jealousies among Sioux chiefs, in the over-confidence and arrogance of junior military officers, in the pride and obduracy of senior military officers, in the impatience of expedient government officials, in the attachment of Indians to their own country, in the anger aroused by the military prowess of Crazy Horse, and in white fears of the wild, the untamable, and the unpredictable - the big three being pride, anger and fear.

Dr. Priscilla Sears is writing a nonfiction work about her travels and work in Bosnia for several years following the (Faculty continued on page 26)
MALS by focusing on international relationships in the globalization track.

Tian Tian

Tian Tian is from Beijing, China. She majored in English Language and Literature for her undergraduate study and received her Bachelor’s degree from Capital Normal University in 2005. She chose the MALS program in Dartmouth College because she is interested in studying culture though her track in the program is General Studies. She plans to take courses in both Cultural Studies and Creative Writing. Her hobbies include reading, writing, watching films, and listening to music (as they are related to culture). She is looking forward to being part of the MALS community.

Sandra van Ginhoven

Sandra van Ginhoven was born in Lima, Peru, where she completed her undergraduate education in quantitative economics and carried out academic research on topics such as information technology, foreign investment, competitiveness, and trade liberalization, and their effects on the economic development of Peru and the Latin American region. In The Netherlands, where her family is originally from, she continued those research activities, and later joined the finance division of a global corporation.

While living in Europe, she also dedicated time to travel, and exposed herself to different cultures, languages, and art, the latter being a very important aspect in her life. Deep down, she has always been torn between art and science, and is now embarked on exploring the areas where these two intersect.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE DEADLINE!

FEBRUARY 1, 2006, is the deadline to submit proposals to the Curriculum Committee for projects commencing in the spring term. The following proposals should be submitted at this time:

- Independent Study proposals
- Thesis proposals
- Symposium substitute petitions
- Requests for thesis research funding

Poetry

MRI

Think of the beach
she said  he closes his eyes
descending down between waves
of nausea spilling across his chest
fluttering frightened body
slipping down
into the black hollow
metallic hole echoes
drumming fear beating
stones against his brain
loud steady blows

his hand wraps tighter
around an ocean rock salt
melting into his palm
he imagines it spreading
pulsing he cries
eyes open dark
metal tubing squeezing
stealing air away
from a scream caught
by the edge of a thought:

Think of the beach
she said  he closes his eyes
trembling he slides away
into the pounding dark mouth
beating his brain into wind
he squeezes his rock  a balm
blowing from home  eyes swimming.

by Jessica Carvalho
AGLSP 2005: All Right, Just Not Intended For Us
By Dave Norman

"You are here to bring wisdom alive! That is the only thing that can save education!" Episcopalian minister Matthew Fox said during his keynote address at the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs (AGLSP) conference on October 6th, 2005. Bring wisdom alive to save education, indeed - a noble goal, especially considering his audience of college professors and Masters of (Arts in) Liberal Studies administrators.

The speech kicked off the yearly meeting of staff and faculty from MLS and MALS programs across the country. Somewhere shy of two hundred professors and administrators - and five current students, of which the Dartmouth contingent was four - convened within the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis, Minnesota. From Dartmouth came Luma Ateya, Rob Meine, Kiara Vigil-Malek, and the author.

We came to take advantage of the Symposium Substitute option, which holds that we may attend a conference relevant to our MALS studies in place of taking the Summer Symposium lecture series a second time. Another option includes a Research Methods course during the summer term, but the idea of a four-day conference seemed more appealing; especially since the MALS department offers partial reimbursement for attendance-related costs to go to approved conferences.

The theme for this year’s AGLSP conference was “Creativity and Innovation: The New Story,” which should have been amended to include the word “teaching” somewhere. We were virtually alone in a sea of faculty and staff. This could have facilitated comparative discussions about programs at other schools and the approaches our own MALS faculty take to innovative teaching, but in my experience and those related anecdotally by several others, this unfortunately did not happen. The talk around the dinner table at the opening speech was jovial, but like small talk throughout the conference, inessential. Then Minister Fox took the stage to provide the evening’s entertainment.

Friday saw more down to earth speeches as the attendees filtered into “breakout sessions” where current M(A)LS professors presented their theories on teaching, or, in the case of Dixie Tate from Rollins College, something else entirely. Tate’s presentation on “Seeing the Sea in a Different Light” had nothing to do with “Creativity and Innovation: The New Story,” but rather about the plight of endangered ocean ecosystems.

Other presentations were more intuitive, given the presenters (teaching staff) and attendees (more teaching staff). The kooky inventor (complete with a polka dot bowtie) presenting at Fred Amram’s “Coaching for Applied Creativity” session notwithstanding, many lecturers professionally discussed how to creatively teach innovative interdisciplinary courses. Several professors presented on specific courses they offer, going over the books they use, their teaching theories, and the concerns they face from the faculty side of the post-graduate classroom.

Some of these presentations were enlightening, and I gained insight into how to run a creative writing course that engaged students through field trips to “natural places that inspired the writers we study.” However, the value of that perspective to a student (for I teach no classes in which to apply these lessons) was arguably slight. This was echoed by several other students and tacitly acknowledged as a mismatch of our intentions versus the reality of students inflicting a teachers’ conference.

Saturday morning opened on a business meeting, followed by a round table discussion (held around a long, rectangular table with an intimidating distance between panel and audience) that discussed the structure of thesis seminars and their equivalents. “We don’t want our students wandering lost in the desert,” one professor from Hamline University commented, before outlining their program. They floated good ideas on improving, balancing, and structuring thesis and equivalent seminars. The discussion seemed quite valuable for professors who work with students of various preparedness levels and disparate interests.

Dartmouth was represented by its four sons and daughters of MALS, but none of our professors. Not too long ago the AGLSP came to Dartmouth, yet none of our professors attended this year’s conference, owing, likely, to the rigors of our abbreviated academic terms and their professional lives atop them - it’s hard to get away when you have so many irons in the fire.

The AGLSP conference was not aimed at the students, but the faculty. For what it was, a faculty conference for the exchange of professional ideas loosely focused around a central topic, it was a success. It was all right - it just wasn’t intended for us.
Ian Isherwood has a background in politics usually found in men beyond his age. From working as a staffer under a congressional representative, back in time through working for a state politician, graduating with a B.A. in history from Gettysburg College in 2000, he has long shown an interest in understanding and working with American politics. He was born just outside of Pittsburgh in the town of Sewickley, and currently makes his home in the Sachem Village area of Hanover with his wife Samantha.

What is your professional background?
I worked for PBS in Pittsburgh on a documentary film as my first job, and then went into local politics working for a state representative and then a member of Congress before coming up to MALS in the summer of 2004. We came up to Hanover because of the MALS Program.

You are currently an ethics trainer in MALS - how did you get into that?
Lauren Clarke put out an e-mail asking people if they were interested in being a trainer, and I was interested. I suppose I am interested in ethics, not as a career field or the high theory of the discipline, but more of just a normal everyday interest in why people do stupid, or even bad, things. Working in politics I think heightens a sense of these kinds of issues.

What work do you do with Graduate Student Affairs?
I work with the Graduate Studies office and with the Graduate Student Council. They call me the Graduate Activities Coordinator; I help plan events for the Graduate Student Council, do a little bit of web posting and write-ups of events, and general office work for the Graduate Studies office.

Beyond graduate studies and programs, what are your other interests?
I have a natural interest in politics - I have been drawn to politics since I was a little kid, wearing tragic argyle sweater vests and reading articles in the National Review that I didn't understand.

Have there been any noticeable differences in day-to-day life since you moved to Sachem Village in Hanover?
Everything is different up here. Sam and I lived either in, or close to, Pittsburgh for four years. I miss the amenities that a city has - and even in a place as physically and mentally old as Pittsburgh there still is a certain vibrancy of living in a city. I think the combination of having more free time (being a grad student) and living in a beautiful, but small town, has made this seem more severe than it is. We are happy here.

What made you decide to enroll in the MALS program, and why are you concentrating in Creative Writing?
Because this is what I came to do. It is a good program at a good school that lets you do what you want to do. I had an interest in the way politics plays out - the people involved - the personal, human, side of the game.

Are your Thesis and Independent Study topics related to politics?
My Independent Study was a series of nonfiction pieces. I was writing different forms of nonfiction along the lines of opinion pieces found in the press. It was practice for writing a column.

My Thesis is in fiction - novella form - and it has something to do with politics. As I said, what I am interested in are the personalities in politics, so I am writing from the bottom rung on a Senate campaign a fictionalized account of the very basics of running for and winning public office.

I was a little kid, wearing tragic argyle sweater vests and reading articles in the National Review that I didn't understand.
Women of Invention: A Review of The Passion of Artemisia

By Kathleen Fortin

The Passion of Artemisia by Susan Vreeland
Penguin Group, 2002

In Susan Vreeland's first novel, Girl in Hyacinth Blue (Penguin: New York, 1999), she created fictional accounts of the lives of the multiple owners of Dutch master Johannes Vermeer's actual painting of the same name. The Passion of Artemisia is another superb example of Vreeland's ability to seamlessly blend historical fact with fiction into a mesmerizing story.

The first woman admitted to Italy's Accademia dell'Arte in Florence, Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1653) is the subject of Vreeland's latest novel of historical fiction. When new admissions to membership in the Academy of Art were announced one day in 1615, Artemisia's name echoed throughout the room, followed by shouts of a Florentine accented "Bravissima!" This same exclamation goes to Susan Vreeland, not only for introducing the reader to Artemisia Gentileschi, but for offering an intimately imagined view of the woman behind her art. Quoting Virginia Woolf in her Introduction, Vreeland says, "Women's history is to be invented - to be discovered and made up."

Born in Rome, raised by Catholic nuns after her mother's death, Artemisia was raped at age 17 by her father's friend, then betrayed by her father, who continued to befriend her rapist. She marries Pietro, a painter whose jealousy of the success of her artistic talent leads him to conduct an affair with his model. Artemisia leaves him, continues to paint, and alone raises their child, a daughter named Palmira.

Research, Vreeland says, provided the depth and authority necessary to the book. Well known and documented in the annals of art history, Susanna, Woman Playing a Lute, Judith, and Lucrezia, titles of Artemisia's actual works of art, are referenced in Vreeland's book. In addition, characters in The Passion of Artemisia are historically factual. Artemisia's father, Orazio Gentileschi, also a painter, was a friend of the famous artist Michelangelo da Caravaggio. Astronomer Galileo Galilei was Artemisia's friend. One of her patrons was Cosimo di Medici, a member of the ruling family of Florence.

The extraordinary adversities experienced by Artemisia manifested themselves in Artemisia's paintings which patrons of the day called invenzione: an inventive, expressive singularity. Instead of painting a repetitious Judith, the heroine who saved the Jewish people, with a delicate body, angelic face and passive stance, like all other male artists were doing, her invenzione resulted in a broad chested Judith with strong arms and a countenance ready for battle.

Vreeland's beautifully written novel provides a finely created portrait of a historical figure, and, in the end, also deserves to be called invenzione.

Note: For those interested in reading more about Artemisia, see Artemisia, written in Italian in 1947 by Anna Banti, recently translated by Shirley Caracciolo, published by Bison Books in 2003.
I am pleased to report that the Dartmouth MALS Alumni Council held a wonderful Homecoming Reception on October 21, 2005 at the Jaffe-Friede Gallery in the Hopkins Center. The MALS Gala Reception was organized in conjunction with the MALS program office and ASGAAD in an effort to bring Dartmouth graduate students and graduate alumni together for an excellent evening of food, spirits, and fine art. At the conclusion of the two hour affair, a number of enthusiastic MALS Alumni were joined by current MALS students in carrying the newly tailored MALS banner that was prepared especially for Dartmouth Night’s Torchlight Parade. The festive parade wound its way through the streets of Hanover before concluding in the Dartmouth green. The parade was followed by the annual lighting of the Dartmouth Night Bonfire. While the Torchlight Parade has been a longstanding tradition of the Dartmouth Homecoming experience, this year was the inaugural year that the MALS Alumni Council assembled an official banner and a generous compliment of passionate Alumni participants. The Alumni Council hopes that MALS Alumni will participate in the Torchlight Parade again and that this year’s activities mark the start of a tradition that is observed for many future years. In the final analysis, the evening was a fantastic success!

— Benjamin B. Bolger ’04

Photographs courtesy of Benjamin B. Bolger ’04.
Roland Adams, Jr. is the Director of Media Relations in the Dartmouth Public Affairs Office. He received a bachelor’s degree in journalism at The University of Texas at Austin in 1975. His MALS degree was granted in 1998 after he completed work on his thesis, “International Migration: Oxymoron or the Only Option?” His professional life is focused on working with media at all levels (local/area, regional, national and international) on behalf of the College, presenting Dartmouth news and feature stories to them, fielding questions they have and serving as a spokesperson for the College. His leisure pursuits include playing trumpet in the Lyme (NH) Town Band, serving on the Community Advisory Board of Vermont Public Radio, and participating in a local book discussion group.

His advice to MALS students:
At the earliest possible moment, browse the library’s collection of all previous MALS theses that were filed and accepted. Begin planning what you want your thesis to look like when it goes into that collection. While both my thesis and my overall experience in the program were very satisfying, I went through a lot of quite avoidable anxiety along the way because I didn’t understand the principle of time-allocation and because I didn’t realize until very late that there was a whole range of available models to look at that can help you envision one of your own that you’ll be pleased with and proud of.

Frank Anthony earned his bachelor’s degree in Minnesota, the MALS degree from Dartmouth, and his Ph.D. from Florida State. Graduating from MALS in 1984, he took a vow to write a poem nightly, from his dreams. This led to the birth of the BRIK, a new form that is 13 lines long by 22 characters/ spaces wide, in Courier font, a rectangle. Several hundred have been published, mostly on the Internet. Post institutions, Dr. Anthony and his wife, Sue, have spent twenty years planning the activities of www.newenglandwriters.org. During these years of contests, conferences and anthologies, many Dartmouth professors helped bring many fine writers to fruition.

For poets, writers, and MALSers of the future, Dr. Anthony suggests:
For me, Dartmouth and MALS gave me a profession and future I would not have dreamed possible twenty years ago. Commit yourself to something and dedicate your life to getting the impossible, serendipitous reality.

Interested in establishing lifelong links between MALS alumni and the College, Michael Beahan serves as president of the MALS Alumni Council. As a student he worked with Barbara Kreiger and wrote a creative thesis, completing his degree in 1997. He continues to be interested in writing and is participating in a writers group comprising current MALS students and alums. He did his undergraduate work at Penn State University in political science and then entered the U.S. Air Force where he spent five years. His assignments included a combat tour during the Vietnam War flying in an airborne command post over Laos and a two-year tour in Okinawa as a photo interpreter in an RF-4 Phantom squadron. At present he is the director of the Jones Media Center in the Library and a liaison to the MALS program. Prior to coming to Dartmouth in 1992, he worked as director of media services at Princeton University. His wife, Virginia, teaches photography in the Studio Art Department at Dartmouth. They live in Lyme Center, NH.

His advice to MALS students: During your first term at Dartmouth, learn about all the resources available free or at reduced rates to students, such as the Hopkins Center film and performing arts series, varsity athletic contests, and recreational opportunities including the Dartmouth Skiway, X-Country Ski Center, and Outing Club.

Born in Michigan, Benjamin B. Bolger completed his A.B. at The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He was an Intern in the Clinton White House, West Wing’s Press Office. He has completed graduate degrees in sociology at Oxford and politics and sociology at Cambridge. Upon his return to the United States, he earned graduate degrees in education at Stanford and Teachers College. He also holds degrees from Columbia University in real estate development and Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design in urban planning and real estate. He also completed the MALS degree at Dartmouth College in 2004, and a degree in Development Studies from Brown University. He has engaged in academic work relating to a real estate redevelopment master planning project in China. He has won the Princeton University public speaking competition. In the past several years, he has taught at a number of colleges and universities in New England. Serving at a Teaching Fellow, he has won the Derek Bok Award for Teaching Excellence at Harvard University. At present, he lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and enjoys his return to a family tree farm in Michigan.

Benjamin’s advice to MALS students: The interdisciplinary course offerings are one of the quintessential assets of the MALS program; therefore, I urge students to maximize their experience at Dartmouth by participating in these uncommon learning experiences.

Lured to Dartmouth by the unlimited opportunities of the MALS Program, Judy Chypre left her successful middle
Hope comes in strange places, like a playground in Gulfport, Alabama. I watched a little girl playing on a mangled swing-set outside the Mississippi Central Elementary School, her smile a beautiful counterpoint to the destruction around her. She sailed high above a downed tree limb, then backwards towards the school-come-Red Cross hurricane shelter, smiling all the way. I pushed a gate to the playground open with my notebook – in case there were any live wires touching the fence in the tall grass – and walked up to the school. She waved, and I waved, then I walked quietly inside the shelter.

That was on September 5th, exactly one week after Hurricane Katrina flung the Gulf Coast into the ocean; tractor trailers were still bobbing like bathtub toys in the surf. The MALS Quarterly was on the scene in Gulfport, Mississippi, to see what the major news sources were missing, like the largest organized non-military relief convoy in the country, which came in from Vermont. What the MQ found was as uplifting as it was disturbing: a city shredded, supplies squandered, and the smiles of survivors glad despite circumstances for the tiniest of comforts.

New Orleans received the most news coverage... but Mississippi received the most initial damage. I suppose there’s not much news where there’s not much left standing; Gulfport was razed. HOPE Worldwide called Hurricane Katrina “The worst natural disaster in US history,” but in terms of human death, the Galveston Hurricane of 1900 (6,000 estimated deaths) was worse; in adjusted-for-inflation financial terms, Katrina ranks on par with the San Francisco Earthquake (and fire) of 1906. But hands down, Katrina was the worst natural disaster here in America in our lifetimes.

And what followed her August 29th landfall was quite possibly the largest outpouring of charity and public support for natural disaster relief in America, ever. The wake of displaced lives and ruined dreams the hurricane left enduring stories of hope and compassion. One was that of Vermonters and Upper Valley residents on both sides of the Connecticut River. This is the story of the Hurricane Relief Convoy of 2005, a forty-three truck convoy that drove over three thousand miles roundtrip from Vermont to Mississippi to bring food, water, and hope to those who needed it most.

**Heeding the Call**

Vermont governor Jim Douglas rallied donors on Wednesday, August 31st, after initial reports said the damage down south was worse than expected. The state Emergency Management Agency put together, literally overnight, a series of collection points for supply donations.

Vermont Commissioner of Public Safety Kerry Sleeper arranged security for the volunteer convoy: eight State Troopers, and special clemency from state Highway Departments for the drivers to bypass scales, drive longer than their legal limit of eight hours a day, and load heavier than the usual limits. Everything was balanced between safety and expediency, a balance the drivers appreciated. To a man they welcomed the chance to prove their mettle with this tough run straight through every big city on the way.

The drivers mustered September 3rd at Brattleboro, VT, trucks coming in from as far north as Rouses Point. Three trucks came down from White River Junction carrying water, pet food, canned goods, and clothing collected from the Hanover/W RJ/Lebanon area. They met up with four cruisers and one sweaty MQ journalist who jogged five miles up the interstate from a parking lot to meet them. Clayton Lockamy, a Terry Hill driver from Eden Mills, Vermont, took a liking to me and invited me to ride along in his big rig. “Just don’t touch nothin’,“ he cautioned.

I climbed into the passenger side of his eighteen-wheeler, every country-western trucker song I knew playing on top of each other in my head. The scratch of Clayton’s cigarette lighter cut through the cacophony as he lit a Winston. “You smoke?” Nope. “Good,” he said, exhaling his first drag. “It’s bad for you.” He donned a pair of driving gloves and oversized sunglasses, turned the engine over with a whinny, and leaned against the door.
We pulled out a few minutes later as truck number eight in a convoy of forty-three. In motion, the convoy stretched well over a mile from nose to tail.

**Life on the Road**

We ate in blue haze at truck stops, everything tasting of cigarette smoke and grease. At night we curled up on racks in the sleeper cabs. This is how so many of the drivers live — breakfast in Roanoke, dinner in Atlanta, showering every now and again at truck stops.

They like it, or they wouldn’t do it. Clayton says he’s an independent guy, and between his stories and the way he calmly switches the CB radio off when he stops caring about the meaningless chatter, I agree. He chose to be a trucker because they spend most of their careers alone on the road, in command of their trucks and their schedules. “If I have three days to go from Vermont to Kansas, and I make it in two,” he explained, “that third day is mine.”

And it creates drama when a smoky in a tiny green “four wheeler” starts tending the herd like a sheepdog. The CB radios fairly glowed from hot tempers of forty-three different men unaccustomed to following orders. That the convoy arrived on time and mostly intact is nothing short of a miracle — one they privately acknowledged during our night in Gulfport.

There in the parking lot of an old grocery store, surrounded by damaged buildings and idling trucks, we settled in for a short rest. The Mississippi night was strangely serene, at least until the distant pop-pop reminded us that looters prowled the blacked-out disaster area. Then came the cra-cra-crack of National Guard M16 rifles. It was comforting — at least we were well protected.

**Hurricane Shelter**

We woke to a strangely quiet city, Guardsmen directing only light traffic in the streets. The truckers congregated for a briefing. The officers acquired a map of the Points Of Distribution (PODs) scattered throughout the city and surrounding townships, and dispatched their cruisers to find roads free from severe damage — where downed trees and power lines had been cleared and massive trucks could get through.

I arranged a ride back to Brattleboro with Bill Baptie, then hopped across the street to the Mississippi Central Elementary School.

The air inside the long, dark, cluttered halls was not fully ripe — the sweat and the must, the mold and the rot had not matured. But it was coming. The shelter’s director said they served more than three hundred people daily, many of them in residence. We walked the halls, stepping quietly around bedraggled men sleeping with their heads on plastic bags full of clothes, children’s colorful artwork dangling precariously from bulletin boards above them. Families, women, the elderly, and children were given the classrooms while unattached gentlemen occupied the hallways.

I spoke with a grandmother and her daughter. The daughter was sick and kept to her improvised bed, but smiled when I wished her well. The grandmother spoke at length about hearing from family members, some of whom were on buses headed to Texas. “It just so good to hear e’rybody a’ight,” she said with a smile. She didn’t think of herself as a woman with nothing left, even as she sat in a muggy classroom surrounded by the last of her possessions. Rather, she smiled that her family was all right and at the certainty that she would see them again, even if she didn’t know where or when.

(Mississippi continued on page 22)
MALSToday

Student Achievements

**MALST Student Wins Screenwriting Prize**

Craig Tiede, a MALST student who took FS33, "Writing for the Screen I," in Fall of 2004, won 2nd prize in Final Draft’s Big Break screenwriting contest. It was announced October 12, 2005. There were 3,500 entrants in the contest sponsored by the scriptwriting software company. Craig entered Zoo Day, which he workedshopped in FS33. He was flown out to Los Angeles and met with agents and executives. He’s being asked to show the script to studio heads. It will be forwarded to producers and he’s hoping it will be optioned. He was also interested in popular culture.

**Two MALST Students Attend the Media Stardom Conference in Plymouth, NH**

The conference I attended in October was the Media Stardom Conference at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, New Hampshire. I presented a paper titled, “Brooke Valentine’s Girl Fight: Pop-rap, Female Empowerment and the American Experience.” Early stages of the paper came from my Introduction to Cultural Studies Class with Dr. Don Pease and Dr. Patricia McKee, but it evolved a lot since then. The paper is about a pop-rap song titled “Girl Fight” and its social and cultural implications. I looked at feminist theory and the role of the modern feminist woman who, I argued, brought feminism full-circle in this post-feminist era and was able to play the “man’s” game in order to gain power and success. I also looked at female violence and its role in modern American youth culture.

The presenting experience was really interesting. I read the paper then fielded questions from other participants. It was great to interact and network with academics from across the country who were also interested in popular culture.

— Submitted by Lauren Gifford

**Distribution**

Trucks went to the Hood Dairy plant “south of the railroad tracks,” where a storm surge sent Gulf waters ripping through the industrial areas and seaside neighborhoods. Other trucks went to FEMA stations, Red Cross shelters, and neighborhood PODs — they scattered to cover the many square miles of destruction. On a tour south of the tracks that

(Mississippi continued from page 21)
morning, in a short bus provided by the Gulfport PD, we saw buildings leveled by winds and waves.

The front wall of a haberdashery was ripped off by winds over one-hundred-fifty miles an hour, while hats on a rack inside were left completely unmolested. Everywhere were signs threatening looters with Southern justice, and teams of volunteer “searchers” in blue helmets looking for bodies.

The Troopers called for Bill’s truck in the afternoon. We drove to Lizana, a distant township where supplies were being distributed from the volunteer fire station, passing a small POD where refugees were making a run on their supplies, but we kept on rolling.

The fire station refused our load. “We have enough water,” they said, “bring us food.” Bill’s truck carried only water, and he tried to convince them that they would quickly expend whatever stock they had. They still refused our load, telling us not where we were needed, but to simply “go away.”

A local sheriff urged us to follow him. Again we passed small PODs with growing lines, on our way to a FEMA station with eighteen other parked trucks. The sheriff deposited us in their lot, where we were told to wait to be unloaded. A high barbwire-topped fence surrounded the lot, keeping refugees from the supplies, or it would have, had anyone been around in that part of the back country.

The trucks just sat there. I walked up to a guard who was playing, bored, with the rear sight on his Glock handgun. “How long are we supposed to sit here?” He looked up and thought a moment, fingering the gun, and said “Well, some ‘em been here a day or two a’eady.”

A FEMA official magically appeared at our original staging area and tried to direct the trucks to FEMA sites, while the Red Cross grabbed as many loads as they could. The Lizana POD, a local effort, turned us away.

Our Troopers found us and brought us back to where we started that morning, where our flats of bottled water were unloaded beside a dozen other truckloads of water and canned goods. The supplies would be meted out over the coming weeks, guarded until then by the National Guard and local police. While we were unloading, I cast a long glance across the road to the hurricane shelter.

At the edge of the parking lot was a pile of pizza boxes from the night before, when the State Troopers went to a volunteer shelter and brought back pizza for the cops. I found fried chicken for the drivers from a Pizza Hut trailer set up just blocks away. There in a pile was dinner for two families, dumped onto the pavement and run over by someone’s tires. A hundred yards away was a school full of hungry hurricane victims.

Governor Douglas estimated 4,000,000 pounds of supplies were moved by the convoy.

Folks down there don’t have much left anymore, and mismanagement of relief efforts early on didn’t help. Much of what they have, though, came from complete strangers in the mountains of Vermont and New Hampshire. More than water and canned beans, those trucks carried a message of support, of goodwill.

The donors didn’t have to care, the drivers didn’t have to volunteer, but they did. The hope they gave echoed in the grandmother’s words. It glowed in that little girl’s smile, that girl swinging on a mangled swing set in a ravaged town who still found reason to laugh and play in the sun. Hope is the best supply that convoy brought.

Bill and I returned to Brattleboro without incident. The truckers left as they finished, offloading their cargoes and then dispatching to pick up loads to bring home and make some money.

We pulled into town on Wednesday evening, some 3,300 miles under our tires. I’d second-hand smoked about two cartons of Winstons and Marlboros, and seen a new side of America: life as it looks from high above the four wheelers in those trucks with whom we all share the road. As I sat down to a bowl of baked beans and brisket at Brattleboro’s only BBQ joint, I thought about the city we left behind.

If you are interested in writing an article about a current or upcoming MALS event, a news piece, a book review, or a student/faculty/alumni profile piece, please blitz your ideas to Mals.Quarterly@dartmouth.edu.

The Quarterly also welcomes all original submissions of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and art work from current MALS students and Alumni.
At the end of every term, the MALS Alumni Council and the MALS department join together to throw a little party. Students, faculty, and alumni gather at the Dartmouth Outing Club to unwind and chat about the quarter’s challenges and their upcoming plans, both academic and social.

Photographs by Tyler Harmon.

Wole Ojurongbe ’07, MALS Administrator, and Julian Coleman (son of Lauren Clarke, Executive Director)

Jesse Dwyer ’06, Njihia Mbitiru ’07, Joe Bobrowskas ’07

MALS students enjoying an early dinner.

Illana Grallert ’07 and her daughter, Hannah Silverstein ’07, and Zsuzsanna Mitro ’07

Bettina and Rob Meine ’06 and their son hang out with Lauren Clarke, MALS Executive Director, and Effie Cummings ’06
Walter Pineda ’07 and Dave Norman ’06

Tyler Harmon, MALS Administrative Assistant, and friend

Kevin Arnold, MALS Work-Study

Luma Ateya ’07

MALs students, faculty, and alumni gathered on the back porch of the Dartmouth Outing Club.
This academic year, Dr. Dirk Vandewalle currently is on a Fulbright Regional Research Grant in the Arab Gulf, stationed in Dubai at the Gulf Research Center, from where he will be traveling to Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. Dartmouth also awarded him a Prestigious Grant to allow him to accept the Fulbright. The project he is working on is on economic reform and development in the Arab Gulf States. His primary interest is in figuring out how oil exporters in the Arab Gulf deal with economic development and reform. He will be doing research primarily by interviewing economic decision makers in the different countries, but he will also be participating in conferences on related matters, including a conference in Dubai this month on political reform in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. He will also give a number of seminars at universities in the region.

He completed research in Libya earlier this year, and his next book, A History of Modern Libya, is being published by Cambridge University Press in February 2006.

Dr. Dorothy Wallace has several math projects on the cooker, among them a paper on ways of factoring integer matrices that could lead to some useful cryp-tology. She is also working on new projects involving math education through CCEN — the Center for Cognitive and Educational Neuroscience. We will be convening focus groups of local teachers to discuss pressure groups in the K12 math curriculum. She is also involved with Open Calculus — a free online resource for independent study of calculus.

Dr. Keith L. Walker is continuing his work in Francophone literary culture but now in periods much earlier than the twentieth century. Focusing on a French Caribbean Black, Le Chevalier de Saint George, a virtuoso violinist, composer, and European fencing champion, his present project is a study of Black Caribbean intellectual and aesthetic engagement from 1750 to 1885.

Alumni, please verify your information with the Dartmouth Alumni Office:
http://alumni.dartmouth.edu/

When you did the Oxford summer program, what did you study? I took a class on scriptwriting and one on general fiction writing. It was fantastic.

What kinds of differences did you notice between Dartmouth College and Oxford? I don’t think anywhere in the world compares to Oxford. Oxford is one of those unique cities that had developed over seven hundred years. Oxford is one of those unique cities that had developed over seven hundred years. Oxford doesn’t make sense if you are used to living in rust belt America, where great old buildings are trashed in favor of new office parks.

The classes were great but the best part of Oxford is just walking around — oh, and meeting new people. Although Oxford is Oxford and all, Dartmouth has better student amenities here. On the flip side, their pubs are cooler. It all evens out.

What advice do you have for incoming, or current, MALS students? Go to as many talks, shows, and events as you can. Also, if you have been meaning to read something your whole life and haven’t read it yet, then sit down with a cup of coffee and get to it. Soak up all you can here because the college really does a lot for students.

Judy’s advice to MALS student: Enjoy and treasure every day on campus.

Melinda Evans graduated from the University of Colorado many years ago and from the MALS program in 2002 after completing her non-fiction creative writing thesis titled “Standing Still.” A compilation of essays focused on a recently acquired rural lifestyle on a small sheep farm in Vermont, she traced her emerging connections to the landscape, in contrast with her previous career as a professional modern dancer. Meanwhile, she has resumed dancing. She teaches modern dance at Dartmouth through the Hopkins Center Dance Program. Her flock of Navajo-Churro sheep continues to increase. How could she have known that a day in her life in the Upper Valley would include standing...
in manure in the barn, familiarity with
the habits of sheep, hours of teaching and
rehearsing dance in the Straus Dance
Studio in the Berry Gym, and attending
performances or lectures on campus?
Certainly, a rich life, and very inter-
disciplinary.

Her advice to MALS students:
I would encourage all MALS students to
take advantage of the very reasonably
priced performing arts series at the Hop-
kins Center.

A neighbor told Joan Kersey about the
MALS program at Dartmouth. She was
very interested but wary of going to
graduate school as it had been more years
than she wanted to think about since she
graduated from college.

She had weathered a divorce. Her chil-
dren were grown. Her financial needs
were great. It was time to take a new
look at life and do something she could
enjoy and that might help her find a job.
She had always wanted to study art his-
tory and she had a background in journal-
ism.

To get her feet wet and to see if she
could still do college level work, she
went to a summer session sponsored by
the University of Wyoming where she
took classes in American Art History and
Western United States History. Her fellow students were graduate students from universities throughout the United
States and Canada. She surprised herself.
She survived!

She returned to the Upper Valley,
bought a dictionary of acronyms and en-
rolled in the MALS program. She has
never been sorry. The program gave her
the opportunity to explore new interests
and expand her knowledge on life-long
interests. She graduated in 1996 after
completing her thesis, “Seasons and Sur-
vival.” The flexibility of the program is
the fuel for continued learning.

Her advice to MALS students: I believe
that MALS gives the student the oppor-
tunity to observe the broad knowledge of
others while pursuing personal academic
goals.

Phyllis Nemhauser graduated with a
bachelor’s degree from Friends World
College and concentrated in creative
writing in the MALS program. She
graduated from Dartmouth in 2003 and
her thesis was an animated film entitled
"Fiction Memoir of a Painter." She
works in the Baker Berry and Sherman
libraries and continues to write and
draw. She is working on a series of short
films that she would like to distribute
over the Internet.

Her advice to new students:
Never give up and ask lots of questions.
You may not find an answer to the ques-
tion, but you will have direction (like the
speed of light).

Nancy Silliman graduated with a
bachelor’s in Art History from Dart-
mouth in 1995, and then continued her
education at the college in the MALS
program. For her thesis, she did ten oil
paintings for a two-act play that she
wrote, called "A Different Destiny,"
about domestic violence. She paints and
exhibits, writes poetry and does read-
ings, works for the Dartmouth Studio
Art Department and supports the MALS
Program, along with her colleagues, as
Vice-President of the MALS Alumni
Council Board. The Program continues
in its excellence, especially through the
efforts of its chair, Don Pease, and Lau-
ren Clarke, its Director. Members of
the staff Wole Ojurongbe and Tyler
Harmon are invaluable in the smooth
running of the department.

Her advice to MALS students:
Pick a mentor from the prodigious MALS
faculty. It could be the most important
thing you do for yourself throughout your
career as a MALS student and beyond.

Nermina Zildzo received a B.A. in Art
History from Zagreb University, in
Croatia (ex-Yugoslavia). She immigrated
to the USA in 1995, after she couldn’t go
back from a conference held in Philadel-
phia on violence on women, where she
reported on mass rapes of Muslim
woman in Bosnia. That was after living
for three years in the war zone, in be-
sieged Sarajevo. She came to Dart-
mouth, where she works at the Baker-
Berry Library, thanks to the invitation of
Professor Lynda Boose, whom she met at
the above-mentioned conference in
Philadelphia. Before the war she worked
as a curator of the National Gallery of
Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo. She
started the MALS program with the idea
of updating her intellectual skills and
with the hope of finding a way of trans-
ferring her professional being to the new
country. Her thesis was about the war
and its aftermath, told in the form of a
documentary: Forget Sarajevo.