Interview with Lauren Clark
Executive Director–MALS Prog.
by Jay Huntington

It is our pleasure to introduce you to the new Executive Director for the MALS Program, Lauren Clark. Lauren and her three-year-old son Julian are living in Lyme, New Hampshire.

Jay Huntington: Lauren, thank you for taking the time to be interviewed for the alumni newsletter. Can you tell us something about yourself, what you were doing and where you were living prior to coming here so that our readers can get to know you?

LC: Yes, I was living in Washington D.C., and working for the American Council for International Education.

JH: Can you elaborate some on what your former organization does, and what your duties were there?

LC: ACIE is a private, educational association that manages educational grants given by the U.S. government, foreign governments, and some private organizations. These fellowships funded students from high school through graduate school to study and live in other countries, both for cultural immersion as well as degree-oriented study.

JH: With that background you certainly bring a great deal of experience to your job here as Executive Director. What do you think is the greatest challenge you face here at Dartmouth?

LC: Finding a way to apply my experience to benefit the program. I have worked for other graduate schools (Johns Hopkins and Wharton), in admissions and student affairs, and want to find a way to apply the different facets of my experience to my job here. I have also been a classroom teacher and worked for other non-profits, so I feel a real bond with many of the MALS students and alums in terms of their professional backgrounds.

JH: What about the interdisciplinary aspect of MALS. What are your views on interdisciplinary education?

LC: Well, as you probably know, interdisciplinary education is not a tradition in most parts of the world – particularly in those societies where a significant percentage of students continue to the post-graduate level.

JH: Does that mean then that we can expect to see more international students in the program?

LC: Yes, I’d like to echo the remarks of Don Pease, the incoming chairperson, from the recent annual alumni luncheon, by saying that we are very dedicated to a diverse student body in the program – which includes international students. It would be an irony to have an interdisciplinary program that failed to represent diverse cultures, ideas and belief systems.

JH: Is it correct that recruitment will continue to include minorities?

LC: Yes, this is an important source of diversity, as well, defined not only in terms of ethnicity, but also perspective and life experience.

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The man had his 95th birthday April 5th 1999. He could not recall much about that, but he can tell you in some detail about the time, as a young man, when he was a tutor for the young King of Siam.

With great modesty, and a total sense of dignity, he confesses how important it was then to refrain from sexual activity thereby avoiding a serious, unusual disease. The unfailing respect for the female body is part of his charm.

One cannot fail to see the weight this gentleman of 95, dressed in business suit, has of the world on his shoulders. He is the utmost picture of dignity and contentment. Although his wife Betty, as constant companion of over half a century, passed on several years ago, Richard has adapted to a solitary life of assisted living in Kendal at Hanover. It fits his world of “order, dignity and charm.”

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Richard Eberhart’s poem “The Groundhog” is a metaphysical statement that will live on, through the centuries, so long as there is an anthology to remind students of the major poets.

Probably one of the most decorated poets in this country, Eberhart has received the Pulitzer Prize for poetry, the Bollingen Prize, the National Book Award and many of the other prizes awarded for poetic excellence. His recent prize: April fifth he was 95. It seems, however, our many visits since 1985 have vanished. Time has stood still for one of the great gentlemen of poetry, Richard Eberhart.
President’s Message

As the new president of the M.A.L.S. Alumni Council it is a pleasure to say hello to all of you out there in alumni land. Life in Hanover and the Upper Valley is good, especially this time of year. I hope you have fond memories of your summer(s) at Dartmouth.

I feel fortunate to follow Jay Huntington as Council president. For the past few years Jay has done so much to invigorate the Council and to reach out to alumni. I would also like to thank Jane Rawley ’94, Christine Hawkins ’76, Nancy Iott ’92, and Maureen Zock ’94, who have completed their terms on the Council. This group has contributed much time and energy to the work of the Council, and been instrumental in organizing the annual post-Commencement reception for M.A.L.S. graduates. Their hard work and dedication will be missed. And thanks to Prof. Gus DeMaggio who will be stepping down as chair in September. He has been a good friend and mentor throughout his tenure as chair.

The M.A.L.S program and council will be entering the new millennium under new leadership. Professor Donald Pease will become chair of the program in September, and as you will see elsewhere in the newsletter, Lauren Clarke has become the new executive director. The class of 1997 is well represented on the new council. The new officers are Sharon Greene ’97, Vice President and Pat Wetherall ’97, Secretary. Colby Bent ’82 has agreed to continue as treasurer. Other new council members are Roland Adams, Claire Tumulty Brown ’97, Judy Chypre ’99, Margaret Montgomery ’99, Phil Privitera ’99, Nancy Silliman ’96, and Jane Welsh ’98.

As I hope you’ve noticed the newsletter is coming out on time and looking better than ever. Thanks to Susan Graham for this. The newsletter now has an electronic companion, a web site, which you can find at the following URL: http://www.dartmouth.edu/~malsalum/

We hope to use both of these tools to reach more of you with timely information about the Association, the program and activities at Dartmouth. Professor Pease assures me that he will be calling on the Council and alumni more generally to assist with recruiting new students and getting the word out about M.A.L.S at Dartmouth. He also has some exciting plans for raising the program’s stature and visibility on campus and throughout academe. We’re anxious to work with him and with Lauren on all these great ideas.

Please don’t hesitate to provide your thoughts on the work of the Council and the Association. I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best from the Hanover Plain.

Michael Beahan ’97
President

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 and All Other Submissions to: Susan X. Graham, Editor M.A.L.S. Newsletter 351 Tute Hill Lyndonville, VT 05851 grahams@mail.lsc.rsc.edu

News of Alumni

Deborah M. Prum’s (M.A.L.S. ’82) book Rats, Bulls, and Flying Machines: A History of the Renaissance and Reformation recently has been released. Written for 11 to 14 year olds, the book is a humorous and anecdotal account of the Renaissance and Reformation.

For several years, the Alumni Council of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program has been offering grants to current students, who are working on scholarly or creative theses. The grants can be an amount up to a total of $300.00, and must be used to defray expenses associated with research, writing, and production. They are awarded twice each year, with applications due in the Program office by January 1 and June 1. Recipients are notified following the next bi-monthly meeting of the Council.

Following the M.A.L.S. Alumni Association annual meeting on July 18, 1999, grants were awarded to two students—Christine Greenaugh and Allison P. Twomey. Christine Greenaugh's grant is to help toward expenses for recording her thesis concert, and Allison Twomey's is to advance research on the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda. Ms. Twomey is currently working on a video script, and will be traveling to Chile to interview people who knew the controversial poet. She also intends to film his homes, which, she suggests, reflect his style and passions.

The above mentioned are two among six grants awarded by the Alumni Council since the first of the year. A grant also went to Lori Ladd Brown for her work on linguistics. Using the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC), developed by Pennebaker and Stanley Rosenberg, M.D., of Dartmouth, she planned to study how the ability to write about a previously unexpressed trauma develops over time.

Alexander B. Hernández-Siegel was awarded a grant for research that focuses on the Latino/a undergraduate experience at Yale, Brown, and Harvard Universities. Combining quantitative data and qualitative information gleaned from interviews with students, Hernández-Siegel hoped to bring both scholarly and personal dimensions to the subject of support systems for minority students at Ivy League institutions.

The cost of building a weir was underwritten, in part, by a grant from the M.A.L.S. Alumni Council. In completing her structure, Jeannie Kornfeld hoped to determine the flow in Copperas Brook prior to collecting samples of sulfate and iron concentrations and measuring pH levels each month for a year. Copperas Brook is the primary source of acid mine drainage entering the west branch of the Ompomponoosuc River, and with the help of the Elizabeth Copper Mine Study Group, she proposed to design a rem-education plan for the acid mine drainage.

"e-race-ing universality, Signifyin(g) the national animal: contemporary African American drama and the (re)staging of the cultural symbolic" is the title of Brec Cooke's thesis. Drawing on literary criticism, political philosophy, and drama, Cooke proposed to produce a "semiotically oriented intervention into the racial politics of contemporary culture." Toward that end, the unpublished four-play manuscript, We, by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Charles Fuller, will be mined for its potential contribution to Cooke's theory and criticism. The play, previously held by the famed Negro Ensemble Company, is in the Schomburg Center of Research in the Black Arts in Harlem. Cooke hoped to travel to the Center to view its holdings.