Dear Fellow Bates Alumni,

The Alumni Council is pleased to share our Autumn 2012 newsletter with you. We hope these articles jog fond memories, encourage you to stay engaged, and pique your curiosity to explore other aspects of our rich Bates history and community. We welcome our new Alumni Council President, Jennifer Lemkin Bouchard ’99, and bid farewell to Past President, Roland Davis ’92.

There is a lot of excitement in the air as President A. Clayton Spencer has begun her term in office. We wish her the best and offer her our insights and good efforts on behalf of Bates. As the presiding body of the alumni association, please draw upon us! Alumni Council members continue to be involved in fundraising for the Bates Fund and are thrilled with the recent campaign’s success, particularly the attainment of a 55% participation rate among solicitable alumni. The Council looks forward to convening in October for a weekend full of activities (including our regularly scheduled Council meetings). The naming ceremony for the Peter J. Gomes Chapel is scheduled for Thursday, October 25. The inauguration of Clayton Spencer is scheduled for Friday, October 26. And what is a Homecoming without football and other sporting and cultural events. Come up for the festivities and celebration!

We are here for you. We want to engage you with the profound offerings of Bates and our alumni community. We hope to meet you in your communities and/or on campus in Lewiston. Take a look at the Calendar of Events in this issue. Refer to the Bates website for news taking place on campus and among our alumni spread throughout the world. As always, we want to hear from you. Our contact information is noted in the Alumni Council roster at the end of the newsletter.

At your service,
The Bates College Alumni Council

THE VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: A WEEKEND TO GET EXCITED ABOUT!

Jennifer Lemkin Bouchard ’99
Alumni Council President

For the past few years, Bates alumni volunteers have gathered together over a weekend in May to get updated on what’s going on at Bates, plan for upcoming reunions, learn how to become more effective volunteers, and celebrate exceptional work on behalf of Bates. This year, the Alumni Council was proud to host this exciting and inspiring weekend.

We kicked off the Summit with a reception on Friday evening May 4th in the Muskie Archives for those who were early arrivals to campus, as well as for the alumni in the greater Lewiston/Auburn area. The formal program for the Summit took place throughout the day on Saturday May 5th, starting with a casual breakfast with Trustees in the Perry Atrium of Pettengill Hall. Attendees then continued
downstairs to Keck Classroom for the keynote address from former Bates faculty member and renowned furniture maker Thomas Moser.

Invigorated from Moser’s story of taking chances and eventually becoming the founder and President of Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers, Summit attendees then moved into various elective sessions. There were updates from various College offices and staff, including Admissions, Faculty, and Advancement. There were sessions geared to help alumni volunteers “make the ask” when helping out with the Bates Fund, as well as how to better lead and inspire other volunteers. The Bobcats of the Last Decade — the BOLD alumni — had an opportunity to brainstorm. Those with upcoming Reunions met in breakout sessions to work with Advancement staff and begin planning for these future events. Many attendees chose to share a wonderful lunch with graduating seniors and enjoyed hearing their impromptu anecdotes about their experiences at Bates and their thoughts on graduation and plans to stay connected to the College.

The meetings wrapped up with a panel featuring Interim President Nancy Cable, Dean of the Faculty Pam Baker, Dean of Students Tedd Goundie, and Director of Athletics Kevin McHugh. This panel addressing the current life of the College was followed by the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner. At this event, the volunteers had the opportunity to hear from President-elect Clayton Spencer and to acknowledge the recipients of Bates’ annual Bates’ Best awards. These awards recognize Bates volunteers who have made significant contributions to the alumni community and who continue to inspire us.

The Volunteer Leadership Summit is a great opportunity to work with other dedicated alumni, meet with College faculty and staff, and get excited about being a Bobcat alum. The Alumni Council would love to see you back on campus for the Summit next May!

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**MEMORIES AND COMMEMORATION:**
**WHEN THE BOBCATS BROKE THE LOSING STREAK FORTY YEARS AGO**

Ira Waldman ’73, P’08,’11
Alumni Council member

“WE DID IT!” So announced the Bates Student following the Bates football team’s 17-14 victory over Division II American International College on October 21, 1972, at historic Garcelon Field. Sporting a then New England record 25-game losing streak, the “never say die” Bobcat gridironers confronted their most formidable foe (one who had beaten them, 35-7, 62-14 and 45-3 in the previous three meetings), and were coming off of a 35-8 beating handed out by Worcester Tech. And in a quirk of scheduling, it was Parents Weekend as well. To say that the odds were against hearing Hathorn ring that day was an enormous understatement.

But it was to be. As suggested before the game by Associated Press reporter Sandy Padwe in his article on the streak, “this Saturday, Bates plays American International. You never can tell.” As reported by Milton Richman, the chief sports editor for United Press International, after the Worcester Tech game, “[t]he players then called a meeting among themselves and agreed they’d had enough. They said nobody could possibly be that bad, not even them. Moreover, they were going to go out the following Saturday and beat American International — finally win one, not for the Gipper, the coach or their little kid sister, but by God, for themselves.”

Forty years later, it feels like yesterday. Things like this do not happen in real life to real people. Sure, the 1969 Mets won the World Series. Buster Douglas really beat Mike Tyson. The U.S. Olympic Hockey Team did beat the Russians and the Fins to

The game was close all the way. AIC took a quick 7-0 lead on the first drive of the game. Following a subsequent AIC fumble, Bates drove deep into AIC territory where it was 4th and goal from the 4. Instead of kicking a field goal, Coach Hatch showing confidence in the offense, sent in a play action pass that David Dysenchuk completed to me. Ralph Bayek missed the extra point and AIC led 7-6. A stellar defensive effort caused an AIC fumble, recovered by Whip Halliday, and following runs by Brian McDonald to set things up, Chris Ham blasted in for the score. Bates led 12-7 and lined up for the extra point, but Coach Hatch called for a fake and Bob Lastowski, the holder, reared up and fired a strike to me in the end zone. Bates 14, AIC 7. Half time. Unbelievable.

As the score was announced at the Lewiston High School, more fans flooded Garcelon Field to see if Bates could pull off the upset of the year in New England College Football. Fans were lined up five deep around the field. Following a Bates drive that stalled at the AIC 36-yard line, AIC drove down the field and scored. Bates 14, AIC 14. Another Bates drive stalled, AIC is driving again, but Biff Moriarty intercepts and Bates starts to drive down the field as time starts winding down in the fourth quarter. Spurred on by the crowd, the cheerleaders and the marching band (yes, Bates had cheerleaders and a band), Ham carries six times, Dysenchuk completes a pass to co-captain Steve Eldridge inside the AIC 10-yard line. A run, an incompletion, third down and 5 to go for the score, a pass into the end zone — Complete! But no, the referee says the ball is trapped. Fourth down. As described in the Bates Student, “Enter Ralph Bayek and Bob Lastowski. The crowd hushed expectantly! The snap. Set. Kick. It’s up. GOOD!! Pandemonium again! Bates 17, AIC 14.”

But the game was not over. AIC took the kickoff and marched down the field. And marched as time ticked away. Two minutes to go, third down and 5 on the Bates 27. Pass incomplete. Fourth down and 5. Bates players holding hands on the sideline. Parents, siblings, students, alumni, fans, holding their breaths in the stands. The AIC quarterback drops back to pass. A man is wide open at the first down marker. The pass. It’s low. The AIC player reaches down and catches it and is tackled. First down AIC. No wait. Did he catch it or trap it? The officials huddle on the field. Tick, Tick, Tick. Finally the head official turns to the opposite end zone and signals first down Bates! Hysteria and tears reigned as David Dysenchuk led the offense in running out the clock.

The dedication of the players on this team to rise to an occasion that many thought was impossible, was and always will be a special moment in Bates College history. It was an achievement that everyone connected with Bates was truly proud of, for those lucky enough to have been there, an almost existential experience. As Coach Bob Hatch was quoted by Joe Concannon in the Boston Globe “It was a big crowd and everybody was pretty excited. It was Parent’s Weekend and I’ve never seen anything like this before. Not even when we knocked off Maine a long time ago. We had mothers of players on the squad climbing over snow fences in their fur coats to run out and congratulate their sons. The fences are 14 feet high.” Well, maybe they weren’t that high…..

As ABC Sports put it, “the victory bell rang loud and long October 21 and the parties and celebrations lasted into the evening. And for the seniors [Bill Connelly, Roscoe Lee, Guy Roberge, Andy Card, Joe Burke, Ralph Bayek, Steve Eldridge, Ira Waldman], most of whom played in three winning football games during their freshman year, there was a tremendous sense of relief.”

As a co-captain of that Bates football team, all I can say is that it was — and is — one of most meaningful experiences of my life. I suspect that this is also true for all of the players on that team, from the freshman to the seniors, perhaps even more so for the underclassman, who, knowing what it meant to the seniors, played their hearts out. Although winning is not everything (as Coach Bob Flynn told us “The wins and losses aren’t nearly as important as what kind of man you become.”), it was a relief for the entire Bates community. And as Coach Hatch was quoted by ABC Sports, “I could have gotten out a few years ago…I could have gone back to Boston University as an assistant. But I decided to stay. There’s something about the atmosphere at Bates, the life in the community, the life on campus…” Isn’t that the truth?
At Homecoming on October 27, 2012, the 40th anniversary of the AIC victory, Bates College will celebrate and honor the achievement of the 1972 Football team. Mark your calendars for an event not to be missed as Bates welcomes back the team, the cheerleaders and the band to honor this remarkable and legendary feat.

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**GREATNESS REVEALED: DISCOVERING OUR HIDDEN TREASURES**

*Jerry Donahoe '82*  
Alumni Council member

As I took my seat following the Gospel, I was not expecting to hear *Bates* mentioned in my rector’s sermon entitled “The Hidden Wholeness: Clergy, Laity, and Life in Christ”. But it was. Woven throughout The Reverend Dr. Nancy Lee Jose’s sermon was a discussion of a twentieth century theologian and social activist. And as she started into her description of this honorable individual, she nodded to me and to a parishioner from ’07 in the row behind me, and noted that her subject was “a Bates graduate.” His name was William Stringfellow.

I had never heard of William Stringfellow. Could she have had made a mistake? Perhaps he was a Colby grad? As soon as the parish coffee hour was over, I drove home, signed on to my computer and Googled him. Up pops the Wikipedia listing as well as a number of other webpages. I soon discovered one William Stringfellow, Bates Class of 1949, and one intriguing character.

The Bates website proved to be full of information on this remarkable man’s life. As noted in the website, William Stringfellow “was a man whose life and work are of inestimable significance to the movements for justice and peace in this country and throughout the world. His several books and countless addresses have together formed a significant chapter in the unofficial canon of the American peace movement, informing and guiding such people as Daniel and Philip Berrigan, Thomas Gumbleton, Dorothy Day, and many others. In the icon of Stringfellow, commissioned by his friend and brother prophet, Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J., he is depicted with the Bible opened in his heart to Deuteronomy 30:14: ‘The word is in your mouth and in your heart so that you can do it.’ Surely, he was a man who ‘did’ the Word of God, enacting its prophetic charge through his commitment to those who are marginalized in this world and through his opposition to all social structures that contribute to their oppression. Stringfellow insisted that the maintenance of institutions and systems that perpetuate violence of any kind is idolatry, a worship of the ‘Power of Death’ instead of the ultimate power of God.”

In my review of our website, I learned that President Don Harward noted Stringfellow’s achievements in his April 7, 1999, Founders’ Day Convocation address at Bates College. In 2001, Bates inaugurated the William Stringfellow Awards for Peace and Justice to honor the witness and legacy of William Stringfellow. Each year, the Bates College Multifaith Chaplaincy recognizes the achievements of both a Maine citizen and a Bates College student whose lives and work have been dedicated to the promotion of peace and justice. “Like Stringfellow himself, award winners are
distinguished by their courageous and sustained commitment to redressing the systemic, root causes of violence and social injustice, and by their dedication to engaging and opposing ‘the powers and principalities’ of this world.’

Most impressive. There — on the webpage in front of me — were names of accomplished young alumni following, in their own way, in the footsteps of the Bates grad from the Class of 1949. I had not known that Bates honored its students with this annual award. I began to wonder how many other awards and awardees existed of which and of whom I was unaware. I had volunteered steadily and headed back to Bates many times over the years. And had attended dinners at which stars of athletic prowess were honored for their successes. But I had not heard of this award or awardees, perhaps they were celebrated in a quieter way. I wanted to know more.

I asked the Alumni Office to provide me a list of all Bates awards, descriptions, and awardees. The Office made an inquiry to the Dean of Students Office and a list was provided. How I wish this information was better shared and recognized among alumni! These honors and honorees are worth celebrating. As I read the description of these awards, I was overcome by the legacy of greatness at Bates. Greatness in our midst that we alum often don’t learn about. It’s humbling. These awards commemorate members of the Bates community and honor high ideals in academic achievement (in dozens of disciplines), community service, moral leadership, debate, public speaking, improvement in public speaking, promotion of international understanding, further education in graduate school, accessibility to further education in graduate school, creative writing, dramatic arts, dance, dormitory spirit, and in the case of the Stringfellow award, peace and justice. These awards are made to students about to go out into the world with sharp minds and a will to do great things. I can only wish them a life of happiness, lofty goals, and challenges met. Use your skills to better our society. Resolve our ills. And for the rest of us, the same wishes and a charge to discover and celebrate these wonderful treasures among us, now and in the days to come.

This icon of peace activist, human rights lawyer, and theologian William Stringfellow hangs in the Bates Chapel.

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**NO LONGER A DORM: MEMORIES OF “THE BILL”**

**Bill Young ’64, P’91**

Although Bates was a non Greek campus from its founding, the good residents of Roger Bill initiated a fraternity in the 1960 to 1964 era. Rho Beta Phi had its own flag and hearse to take the good brothers to the Chuck Wagon, Lou’s, the Goose and other fine eating establishments in the Lewiston area. Given the condition of the hearse we tended to keep it close to campus unless another Rho Beta Phi brother had a car and could follow it. The drawback was the number of moon shots (or if you prefer — pressed hams) the chase car had to endure during the trip.

Then there were the classic Siamese fighting fish challenges between Roger Bill’s Cassius Clay and Parker’s Sonny Liston. The basement of the Bill was frequently filled with supporters of both fish.

Other sporting events took place in the Bill but due to the nature of the venue and the sporting event spectators were limited. There was hall hockey
played with pucks and hockey sticks. Rules called for the puck to stay below the waist level of the players but often an over-enthusiastic slap shot was known to take out a hanging hall lamp globe. Fortunately no one’s teeth were taken out.

And when enough players could be assembled there were classic slow motion football games. While resembling a rugby scrum more than a football run, players had to maintain a slow motion while executing blocks and tackles as the runner likewise sought to run though the hall in slow motion. The referee was charged with judging if any player moved faster than what could be judged slow motion. Passes were difficult to execute and like hockey slap shots were often the cause of damage assessments rising as lamp globes intercepted the ball.

But there was a strong brotherhood among the brothers of Rho Beta Phi, which was evidenced on winter Saturday nights. Sometime around 11:30 p.m., when most of the guys had been chased out of the women dorm lounges or had managed to get back from Lou’s or the Goose, a head count was taken by those who had remained sober. When people were declared missing, search parties would go out checking the snow banks around the Bill to pull out the guys who had mistakenly decided to sleep on the fluffy white stuff rather than come inside.

Yes, The Bill of the early 1960s was a unique place and will be remembered fondly by most of its inhabitants.

Editor Note: Bill Young was kind to contribute this article prior to the recent close of his second term on the Alumni Council. Bill adds that he was a Roger Bill inhabitant from September 1960 to January 1964. He notes, “I was sent off campus after getting married in December 1963. I could not bring my new wife into the Bill and I suspect she would not have come anyway.” And from Gretchen Davis’ husband Jerry Davis ’61: “I was in Roger Bill my senior year 1960-61. It housed the administration on the first floor. Prexy's office was directly below our room and we could hear him on the phone and occasionally we provided ambient noise at the same time he was talking…. Roger Bill was unique in that it was a small dorm by itself on campus. We all bonded well there. As I recall we had members of all classes living there. Early in the school year we decided to [plan] a dorm party [for] late in the final semester…[and] to fund it with [returnable] bottles [that were consumed during the year]. [Another] incident I can remember about Roger Bill….. [During] the 1960-61 winter of my senior year, streaking was quite popular. A freshman (name known but for embarrassment reasons not cited) in our dorm thought it would be cool (temperatures were in the 20s) to run around the campus in sneakers only. Dorm mates encouraged this. Off went the streaker only to return frozen and find the dorm doors locked and the hallway lights out. Much door pounding and shouting ensued along with riotous laughter!! After a suitable interval of time he was readmitted.”

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS — DATES TO REMEMBER!**

Parents and Families Weekend: October 5–7, 2012  
Dedication of the Peter J. Gomes Memorial Chapel: October 25, 2012  
Inauguration of A. Clayton Spencer: October 26, 2012  
Homecoming Weekend: October 26–28, 2012  
Alumni Council on Campus/AC Meetings: January 24–27, 2013  
Mount David Summit: March 29, 2013  
Alumni Council on Campus/AC Meetings: May 2–5, 2013  
Volunteer Leadership Summit: May 3–4, 2013  
Commencement: May 26, 2013  
Reunion: June 7–9, 2013  
Alumni College: June 2013, TBA  
Bates Dance Festival: July/August 2013, TBA

For more information, please see www.bates.edu/alumni/
ALUMNI COUNCIL ROSTER

“The purpose of the Alumni Association shall be to establish and perpetuate fellowship among the alumni and mutually helpful relationships between them and the College, and to unite all alumni in supporting the College, promoting its welfare, and encouraging education as a way of life through ties to the College.” — from the Bates Alumni Association By-Laws

The Bates Alumni Council is the presiding body of the Bates Alumni Association, and we are here to serve you and invite you into a deeper relationship with our alma mater! For questions and comments, please contact us. The Alumni Council is at your service!

John Amols ’72 Charlotte, NC (704) 651-8611 jamols@glenwoodco.com
Vaibhav Bajpai ’07 New York, NY (207) 577-8425 vaibhavbajpai85@gmail.com
Jennifer Lemkin Bouchard ’99 Bloomingdale, IL (630) 924-1664 jennifer_bouchard@hotmail.com
Robert Cramer ’79 Dedham, MA (617) 513-0634 rob.cramer@rbccm.com
Gretchen Shorter Davis ’61 Topsham, ME (207) 725-8811 norxloon@aol.com
Roland Davis ’92 Concord, MA (207) 212-9354 roland.davis.92@gmail.com

President

Immediate Past President

Robert Cramer ’79

Gretchen Shorter Davis ’61

Immediate Past President

Gerard P. Donahoe Jr. ’82

Melanie Mala Ghosh ’93

Lawrence Handerhan ’05

Liam Leduc Clarke ’98

College Key Seat

Renee Leduc Clarke ’98

Michael R. Lieber ’92 Vice President

Elaine Makas ’67

Judith Lanouette Nicholson’67

Katherine Doocy Overbye’81

Graham Proud ’08

Lisa A. Romeo ’88

JoAnne Brambley Stillmnn ’80

Ira Waldman ’73, P’08,’11

Alexander Wood ’66, P’95

Washington, DC (202) 543-1339 mainescape@aol.com
Washington, DC (202) 291-3351 ldlc639@yahoo.com
Washington, DC (202) 291-3351 rleducclarke@gmail.com
Washington, DC (202) 291-3351 rleducclarke@gmail.com
Washington, DC (847) 256-2879 michael.lieber@icemiller.com
Washington, DC (202) 291-3351 rleducclarke@gmail.com
Wilmette, IL (847) 256-2879 michael.lieber@icemiller.com
Lewiston, ME (207) 784-5726 makas@maine.edu
Merrimack, NH (603) 594-9084 judlannic@hotmail.com
Simsbury, CT (860) 833-8825 koverby@westminster-school.org
New York, NY (570) 259-0939 graham.proud@gmail.com
Brighton, MA (617) 733-0008 romeoli@aol.com
Jenkintown, PA (215) 572-8029 stillmnn@comcast.net
Playa del Ray, CA (310) 823-1420 iwaldman@coxcastle.com
Boston, MA (201) 961-2436 awwood@mit.edu