Dear Fellow Bates Alumni,

The Alumni Council is pleased to share our Autumn 2011 newsletter with you. We hope that you find it informative and that it encourages you to remain connected to Bates. These articles are wide-ranging -- from news on the multi-cultural front to a plug for attending reunions, from an update on a new network for LGBT alumni to a personal account of an AC member with children who have made their own paths at Bates. And a profile of our new Alumni Council President, Roland Davis ’92.

There is a lot of excitement in the air as our Trustees and its Presidential Search Committee assess where Bates has been, where it wants it to go, and considers candidates to become the college’s next President. The Alumni Council has provided its insight to the President of the Board of Trustees and our Trustee liaison on the Presidential Search Committee. We wish them well in these considerable efforts.

We enjoy meeting you and hearing from you! 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. As always, our contact information is noted in the Alumni Council roster at the end of the newsletter.

Best Wishes,
The Bates College Alumni Council

**REFLECTING AND BUILDING ON MULTICULTURAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE BATES COMMUNITY**

Renee Leduc Clarke ’98
Alumni Council member

For many Bates alums of the 1990s, the Multicultural Center and the student organizations affiliated with it were a significant part of their experience on campus. My time at Bates was accented by the political and social justice activism that I pursued on and off campus. From actively campaigning for equal rights in referendum campaigns in Maine to protesting actions of the Bates administration on “Coming Out Day” at Lane Hall in the mid-1990s, the life learning from these experiences continues to influence the advocacy that I engage in as part of my environmental policy career today.

As a member of the Bates Alumni Council with a growing perspective of the broader Bates community on and off campus, I am concerned about the lack of diversity of alums among those
most engaged in the alumni community. This issue came even more into focus during the summer of 2010 when the Bates Administration made some significant changes to the Multicultural Center, changing its name to the Office of Intercultural Education and realigning certain key diversity functions on campus. The lack of communication and engagement of the broader Bates community, including alumni, in these decisions may have negatively impacted attempts to further engage alumni most connected to the Multicultural Center, particularly those from the 1990s.

These changes were a topic of ongoing discussion for the Bates Alumni Council, which led to the creation of an Alumni Council subcommittee on multicultural engagement. This subcommittee is pleased to be working in partnership with a new member of the Bates Alumni and Parent Engagement staff, Anecia O’Carroll, who joined Bates in the fall of 2010 to work to more fully engage the full diversity of Bates alumni, including alumni of color, international alumni and first-generation college attendees.

Bates is currently sponsoring a listening tour in major cities around the country to engage with multicultural and international alumni across the decades. The tour has already come to New York City, Atlanta and Washington, DC in the past few months, and there are sessions planned for other cities as well as on campus at Homecoming and Parents and Family Weekend in the next few months.

The recent listening tour event in Washington, DC was one of the best Bates events I have attended since graduation. There was a fantastic mix of alumni present, ranging from some who graduated in the 1960s to one student who will start at Bates this fall, and every decade in between. The event was moderated by Dean James Reese, who had a major role in encouraging many to attend. Alums present ranged from those who frequently participate in Bates events or come to campus, to some who had never attended a Bates event since they graduated. But engagement takes many forms, and it is clear from the more than two hours of spirited discussion at the event that all those present had life impacting experiences on campus, Bates friendships that still endured, and diverse ways in which they want to give back.

I am pleased that great momentum for multicultural alumni engagement is coming from the leadership of Anecia O’Carroll, Dean James Reese, and others on campus. The Alumni Council is committed to continued engagement as well, particularly through the leadership of the Multicultural Engagement subcommittee. While mindful of some troubling incidents and decisions in the past on the Bates campus, I am pleased that the opportunities for engagement with the Bates community are broadening. I am hopeful that the opportunities to engage a wider diversity of Bates alumni in all matters of the College will continue to grow.

The Alumni Council and its Multicultural Engagement subcommittee are interested in hearing your ideas and feedback. Please contact Melanie Mala Ghosh ’93, Larry Handerhan ’05, Jerry Donahoe ’82 or me using the contact information included in this newsletter. Be sure to explore and “like” the “Diversity Matters at Bates” page on Facebook as well.

BATES PRIDE: A NEW ORGANIZATION FOR LGBT ALUMS AND ALLIES

Larry Handerhan ’05
Alumni Council member

The Bates College LGBT alumni community is finally getting organized. In 2010, a group of alumni created Bates PRIDE, an advocacy and networking forum for LGBT alumni and their allies. It has the full support of the College and is dedicated to supporting LGBT students on campus, providing LGBT-centric programming, and helping to elevate the voice of the LGBT alumni community. The group is inclusive for all and seeks to engage the entire Bates community in its advocacy of civil rights and social justice.
What does this mean exactly? So far, the group has held three events: a mixer at Reunion 2010, a panel discussion at Homecoming 2010, and a NYC-area Happy Hour this past summer. In October 2011, the group will be sponsoring an event in Boston. Bates PRIDE is working closely with OUTFront leadership to support current students. The group is also looking for ways that LGBT Batesies can tell their story – coming out or otherwise – and will be sponsoring an oral history project to that end.

These efforts come as the college community is making an integrated effort to better address the needs of LGBT students, faculty, staff, and alumni. This spring, the college launched a Gender and Sexuality Resource Page to serve as a clearinghouse related to college procedures and the rights of students:

(www.bates.edu/noexcuse/gender-sexuality-resources)

OUTFront also sponsored the first-ever Pride Festival in May 2011 that culminated in a highly-publicized athlete-ally pledge signing event.

The work has just started, and we are looking for interested alumni to help make the Bates LGBT community more visible and increase the awareness of the larger community around these issues.

Interested in Bates PRIDE? Join our email list by contacting me at Larry.Handerhan@gmail.com.

You can find Bates PRIDE on Facebook (search “Bates Alumni Pride”) and on the Web (www.bates.edu/bates-pride.xml)

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**A BATES PRIDE: SHARING THE LEGACY**

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

I am a proud Bates alumnus, but am an even prouder Bates parent -- having parented two kids who became new Bates alumni during the past 3 years (and I wish I had more, but that’s another story). While my time at Bates prepared me well for law school and life after that, I never really dreamed that my experience, the family trips to Maine, and the kids’ understanding of the Bates experience would ultimately result in Bates becoming the #1 choice of my daughter, Shayna ’08, and my son, Ethan ’11.

I loved Bates from the moment I had my interview with the then Associate Dean of Admissions Ralph Davis in NYC. I was sold and - sight unseen - Bates became my first choice. On that September plane ride on Northeast Airlines from Newark Airport to Lewiston/Auburn with Erich Glanz ’73 and Roscoe Lee ’73 (they carried the same football playbook I held), we wondered what possessed us to want to spend four years in Lewiston, Maine. But I was not disappointed ever during my four years through football and the AIC victory, softball in the “old” Gray Cage, Sadie Hawkins Day, beating UMO in basketball at the Pit senior year, great professors, thesis, and comprehensive exams (ok, not comprehensive exams). And though Bates may have changed in several physical ways, the feeling remains the same. Returning for Bates events, both as an alumnus and parent, and seeing Chick Leahy, Bob Flynn, Web Harrison (on the athletic side) and Professor John Cole (on the academic side), as well as all of the new friends I have made over the years, is always a pleasure and reminds me of the many favorite people whom we have lost in recent years, whom I cherish and miss, like Professor John Tagliabue, Bob Hatch and Milt Lindholm. They also greatly influenced my life.

What possessed Shayna and Ethan to choose Bates? Warm weather Southern California kids? As Shayna once said, “Dad, I’m applying to Bates so I can write about you in the essay, but I’m not going to a college smaller than my high school and in cold weather.” Fair enough. But an April trip after her admission to a snowy, sleeting, cold Maine (the result of the death of my wife Laurie’s father), and
a night (and then a second night) spent on campus with the soccer team propelled Bates shockingly (to Laurie and me) to the top of her list. Ethan, we knew, was a small-school environment student-athlete, despite attending a huge Los Angeles high school. After visiting several UC’s, he realized that small was best for him. After narrowing it down to Bates and Occidental, a late April visit to Bates (and the influence of his sister) convinced him to choose Bates.

My stories could fill a book. I could not have been prouder of the accomplishments of both. Better said, I am never as happy as when I think about the great experiences they had at Bates in athletics, academics and just plain old socializing with wonderful friends. Shayna, having not played softball since high school, joined the team her junior year and not only became a fairly successful pitcher but, one day my cell phone rang and Steve Brown ’69 excitedly “advised” me that Shayna had just hit a home run. Ethan, who was knocked out of his soccer career by mono as a sophomore, was convinced by his roommates to try track and field, and ultimately broke the Bates indoor and outdoor records in the shot put. He and his teammate David Pless became the first two Bates All-Americans in the shot put. Shayna, who can argue with the best, became a Philosophy major and Religion minor. Ethan, with an interest in the sciences and humanities, created his own major based on Public Health and Society. Shayna explored all that New England had to offer; Ethan was content to be on campus – and in Commons.

Parents and Family Weekends are special moments for Bates parents, but particularly special for Bates alumni parents. So much to do and all very well done. Most enjoyable is the Friday night a cappella concert - not to be missed. Little did we know that after three years of attending the concerts with Shayna - and Ethan in tow - that we would receive a phone call from Ethan during his freshman year advising us that, not only did he try out for the Crosstones, but he was selected. And four more years of a cappella concerts were in store, but this time made particularly special with our family performer (many performances of the group can be found on YouTube, especially if you search on my channel – irawaldman). The Bates Experience – something very special.

Just writing about my experiences at Bates, personally and through my children, makes me tear up. While my seven-year run of Parents and Family Weekends has come to a close, new vistas certainly remain as I guide Shayna and Ethan through Bates alumni life. Given their experience, I may not need to provide much guidance. Shayna already has plans to send her children (when she has them) to Bates. And a new legacy tradition is born.
Perhaps it is because our world moves so much faster these days, crises seem so much greater, and people so rarely have a chance to slow down and enjoy each other for a weekend that we all should give the notion of attending a reunion some renewed consideration. A weekend in Maine, on campus, in a setting both familiar and new.

But with classmates that perhaps we have not kept up with or ever really gotten to know?

Why not? Haven’t you found that the passing of years helps reveal the things we have in common? Age is the great equalizer (among other things!). Many of us have shared the same kind of life experiences, questions, fascinations, trials, and joys. Funny how folks you didn’t quite “get”, you may find so interesting now!

This past June, I attended Bates Reunion Weekend 2011 and loved it. I have attended and loved each of my Class of ’82 reunions since the 1980’s so why was this one any different? It was different because it wasn’t mine! I had no idea how fun an off-cycle reunion could be! Each of Reunion Weekend’s organized events and unorganized moments -- whether a class presentation, a campus construction tour, a meal, a reunion-wide party, or the late night “down time” in the dorm -- provided opportunities to touch base and reconnect with friends and acquaintances across the reuniting classes, as well as meet some folks for the very first time. It was so much fun seeing so many alumni whom I have met over the years as a student and as an alumni volunteer. I stayed in JB with the super Class of 1981. They could not have been more welcoming and fun to hang with. During those days and evenings, I had conversations with folks who were in totally different circles while at Bates. And we talked into the wee hours of Saturday and Sunday morning in the JB lounge.

A few days after getting back to DC from Reunion, I sent an email to fellow Alumni Council members to tell them how much fun the weekend was and to put in a plug for them to attend as many future annual reunions as possible. I think it is important for returning alumni to see us with our nametag and green Alumni Council ribbon and provide us with the opportunity to answer any of their questions on our role and Bates in general. We want to get the good word out on Bates and encourage folks to reengage with Bates on their own terms, in their own community, and in a way that makes sense to them. As I was recalling the weekend and pursuant dialogue, I thought, aah, I have a topic for our Autumn newsletter! I can still feel the excitement and glow from cheering on all the classes as they paraded by the President’s reviewing stand! Come back to Bates for Reunion Weekend 2012 in June 2012, or before!

Greetings from Maine! As I write this, the academic year is just getting underway here in Lewiston, with over 500 newly arrived students on campus. As an Associate Dean of Students at Bates, going into my tenth year, I have had the privilege of seeing many stellar and dynamic young people both enter the College and graduate from it. Each new year and each new class is truly exciting! I was once asked by a Trustee of the College if I thought my alumni status was an advantage in my work as a dean. My answer was a very clear yes. In turn, I think that my
work at the College has also been a distinct advantage in my involvement as an engaged volunteer for Bates. Not only has my role on campus granted me the opportunity to come to know hundreds of “emerging Bates alumni” and work to inspire in them the ethos of service and the importance of giving back; I have also gained an insider’s perspective of the day-to-day operations of the College and have used that knowledge to help alumni better understand some of the College’s decisions and the many changes that have taken place in recent years.

Change can be unsettling to all of us, even under the best of circumstances. Whether you have been back to campus recently or not, most of us are aware of some of these recent changes. For example, there are two new academic buildings that opened a few short weeks ago through the repurposing of both Roger Williams and Hedge halls. Admittedly, the idea that these buildings that were once two residences that I have very fond memories of makes me feel a bit uneasy; however, these buildings are truly spectacular and are providing the College with technologically advanced classrooms, much needed study spaces for students, and faculty offices. This is an example of much needed and positive change.

As I’m sure you are also aware, we are at a critical transitional period in the life of the College, with the departure of President Hansen, the appointment of Nancy Cable as interim President, and the presidential search committee’s task of finding a new leader for Bates who is inspiring and visionary. Truly a daunting task that will bring about even greater change, but a task that I am confident the committee will successfully accomplish with our interests in mind. Again, change can be unsettling, but this kind of change can also help to reinvigorate. It is my belief that these recent changes, as well as the changes yet to come, will reinvigorate all of us and help to deepen our connection to Bates. The College needs us, now more than ever, and I challenge all of us to bring our best intentions and our deepest commitment to bear in whatever way we are needed. If ever there was a time for alumni to have an impact on the life of the College, now is such a time.

If in my role as President of the Alumni Council, as a fellow alum, or as an employee of Bates I can be helpful to any of you in reconnecting or recommitting to the College, I hope that you won’t hesitate to ask. As we all know, Bates is already an extraordinary place. But I invite you all to step up in any way that you can, from small events to Herculean efforts, to help Bates to become the most extraordinary liberal arts college imaginable!

DATES TO REMEMBER!

Mount David Summit: March 2012
Volunteer Leadership Summit: May 4-5, 2012
Commencement: May 27, 2012
Reunion: June 8-10, 2012
Alumni College: June 10-12, 2012
Bates Dance Festival: July/August, 2012 TBA
Parents Weekend: October 5-7, 2012
Homecoming: October 26-27, 2012

For more information, please see http://home.bates.edu/alumni-life/events-programs/
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!

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