Dear Fellow Bates Alumni,

We hope the previous two newsletters have provided a good idea as to who we are, what we do, and how alumni can stay engaged with the Bates community throughout their lives. The Bates Alumni Council is here to assist in the development of meaningful relationships between the College and each of its alumni.

This edition tells you more about our alumni experiences and how we all can stay engaged with the Bates community from each and every one of our homes around the country and world. Being a Bates alum is about being a part of a special community. It’s about keeping old friends. It’s about making new friends from different generations of Batesies. It’s about working together with our time, treasure, and talent to assure that Bates is around for millennia to come, educating young minds, and contributing to make the world a better place.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. Council member contact information is provided at the back of this newsletter. Please reach out to us with your interests and concerns for Bates and thoughts on how you want to be engaged or reengaged! We are here for you!

Sincerely,

The Bates College Alumni Council

THE POWER AND PRESENCE OF THE BATES COMMUNITY

Eric Obeng ‘07
Alumni Council member

Since my graduation from Bates, I have truly come to appreciate the scope of its alumni network. As a student, I couldn’t image what life after Bates would look like —I really could not have predicted the level of alumni interaction I would have. With a small current enrollment of about 1,800 students, it’s hard to imagine that upwards of 32,000 alum have walked through the same campus, sat in the same classrooms, and slept in the same dorms as I once did. I made a ton of friends at Bates—and established even more friendships when I joined the Alumni Council.

Shortly after graduating in 2007, I attended as many Boston Bates Business Network events as possible. It was great for me, at the time, to learn from other Bates alumni’s post-graduation stories. I quickly realized that Bates was not only a college for students who wanted to attend graduate school or join the Peace Corps, but also a place that laid the groundwork for success in many walks of life. On any given night at a Bates networking event, I was surrounded by managing directors, professors and CEOs. If I wanted to learn about something, someone was there to teach me. I met several Bates alumni who shared their college stories and career
experiences when I started working in Boston at a financial services firm. Boston is well known as a hub for Bates alumni and it was not surprising to discover other Batesies there. I shared stories with some alumni who had never seen The Village (a “newer” Bates residential complex)! Living in Boston felt like an extension of the Bates community: alumni were seemingly around every corner—from the North End to the South End, from Back Bay to the Fenway. After living and working in Boston for almost two years, I packed my bags and headed west to San Francisco—where, fortunately, the Batesie presence is also felt.

From East Coast to West Coast, the presence of Bates alumni has helped me put my experience at the college into perspective. As a student, traveling to Old Port [from Campus] seemed like a million mile journey, and life after Bates also seemed to be an uncertain path. Over the last three years, however, I’ve learned one thing: No matter which city I live in, or company I work for, there’s always one constant: Batesies are just around the corner.

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**THE ROAD TAKEN: RELATIONSHIPS OF A LIFETIME**

JoAnne Brambley Stillmun ’80  
Alumni Council member

Driving along one of my usual routes the other day, reflecting on my homework question for this publication “What has Bates meant to me?”, I notice that the SUV in front of my SUV on our suburban Philadelphia street has the same Bates sticker on the back windshield as I have. Up in New England that happens frequently, but down here, the word “Bates” is mostly only spotted on my family's outerwear. Coincidentally, at the time I was driving to a local Starbucks to conduct an Alumni-in-Admission (AIA) interview with a local high school senior. That moment just highlighted that Bates, over these last thirty years, has been a garnet and gold (those were school colors when I was there...) thread woven in and out of so many aspects of my life. Now being a member of Bates Alumni Council, that influence is stronger than ever.

The most obvious influence the college imparted was academic, and one would be hard-pressed to locate any Bates grad who didn't agree that our level of education compares to none. I married a fellow 1980 grad, John Stillmun (we were introduced by that famous matchmaker, James Reese), who went on to Cornell Law School. John was awarded a Beinecke Memorial Scholarship at the end of his junior year at Bates. This three year full scholarship was brought to his attention by Professor Ernie Muller, who was then the chair of the history department. How fortunate for us that John was directed in this way - we all know that those college loans loom large over a good part of our early careers and to eliminate a large chunk of that was so important in our young marriage. John has used his degrees well, and has enjoyed a level of success as a lawyer that is quite satisfying to him. I also have enjoyed my career path as a teacher and a coach for the last 28 years. We are raising four children. Through the years, we've gone to reunions, vacationed with our Bates friends, their spouses and their growing families. I also interview a couple of students each fall and occasionally cover a
College Fair for AIA, and we contribute financially generally during our reunion year. Pretty standard Bates Alumni involvement, just keeping up enough with the College's happenings to conduct a decent interview and maybe answer a slightly more in-depth question from our alum friends (such as "Are they really knocking down Frye Street?" The answer is "No!") Then our friends from our Class of '80 started staring 50 years old in its graying, balding, wrinkled face. It wasn't always a pretty sight for me! It was around this time that Pat James '80 nominated me for Alumni Council. Pat was my first great friend at Bates, but became my lifelong best friend, moving with her son a few blocks away from our family, and sharing in our lives as family. Pat had been on Alumni Council for 3 years, and despite the fact that she and I were such good friends, and I thought I knew a reasonable amount about the college, I had no clue as to what/who/why/how the Council was, which meant when asked to join, it took me a week or two to reply. What did I have to offer this group? Yes, I am a major Bobcat when the subject comes up. Yes, I would love one of our children to go to Bates. Yes, I do a small number of things as an alum. But essentially, I am a suburban wife and mother just getting on with life. Through Pat's (and Bill Sweat's) encouragement I took the leap and said yes, I would join.

For me it really was a leap into the unknown, never having served on this type of Council before. But as it turns out, the Alumni Council is going through its mid-life crisis at just the same time as I am! I just retired from teaching at the same pre-school for 24 years, my kids are all in high school and college and although I am still coaching high school tennis most of the year, the question of what will I do with this next chapter in life is very real. Joining the Alumni Council has been a great start to my life's next chapter. First of all, the group of friends I have made on Council, from the Class of '61 to the Class of '09 has been a huge bonus. We really enjoy each other's company, making meetings that could be quite tedious actually fun. In the two years I have been on the Council, during our 3 weekend meetings per year, we have focused on really defining who we are, so that we can send that message out to you, our fellow Alumni. You are the reason the Council exists. It seems our biggest goal is to never again hear "I've never heard of a Bates Alumni Council" or "What do you do, exactly?" (my own first two responses when contacted by Alumni Council President Bill Sweat!) We are reaching out to current Bates students, recent grads, and the whole of the Alumni body to keep you informed, engaged and satisfied with the influence Bates has on us throughout our lives. The older we get the more truly appreciative I've become of the specialness of the Bates Community. Most profoundly, Bates has wrapped its garnet and gold treads around our family so warmly in helping us to process the sudden death of Pat James this summer. Her loss has touched so many lives... her son, mother, sisters and nieces and nephews of course, but the number of Bates faculty, staff and alumni contacting me and telling me of the influence Pat had in their lives is deeply touching and telling. Bates has in its rich and varied Community a quality and depth that is not found elsewhere. We, as the Bates College Alumni Council, wish to keep all of you in touch with those qualities which make each of us uniquely and specially Batesies.
A SHOUT OUT TO LEWISTON AREA ALUM!

Elaine Makas ‘67
Alumni Council Member

It’s funny the difference a few decades can make. Never did it occur to me when I graduated from Bates in 1967 that I would someday call Lewiston my home. In those days, there were “Batesies,” and there were “Townies,” and, even though there may have been a few Bates students from Lewiston or Auburn, their hometown was irrelevant since that student’s identity was based primarily on his or her attendance at Bates.

I never considered one group superior to the other – only different. I was clearly a Batesie (from Massachusetts), a part-time four-year visitor to “their” city – shopping at their stores, using their amenities (the movie theater, Lost Valley, the riding stables, etc.), eating once in awhile at their restaurants (especially Luiggi’s), and, yes, even visiting a local bar on occasion. I appreciated and respected the locals – the “Townies” – the same way that I have appreciated and respected the Londoners or the Parisians who welcomed me as a tourist to their fine cities.

I now have the luxury that many of my fellow alumni have not had of being a Townie, as well as a Batesie, and I have the luxury that many of my fellow Lewiston-area residents have not had of being a Batesie, as well as a Townie. It is the experience that I have gained from this “dual citizenship” that I wish to share with others.

Since returning to Lewiston in 1989, I have met a great many people who both live in the area and have a strong connection to Bates--as alumni, parents of Bates students, or current/former Bates faculty and staff. I like to consider us to be the “Local Bates Family.” Unfortunately, we have been a somewhat disorganized part of the family tree – not really dysfunctional, but certainly not as connected and functional as we could or should be. Many of us do not even know our local “brothers” and “sisters,” and many of us do not feel as welcome as we should be to the family homestead or at family events. It is true that we are invited to visit the campus for reunions and other alumni events, and, although we definitely enjoy reconnecting with Batesies from other parts of the country, we do not feel the special connection with Bates that we should experience as “nearby” relatives.

It is one of my greatest priorities as a Member of the Alumni Council to acknowledge and celebrate the Local Bates Family for the benefit of both this local group and Bates College. Our Lewiston/Auburn area family includes doctors, lawyers, teachers, politicians, business owners, bankers, media specialists, and many, many other accomplished and interesting individuals. Most, if not all of us, would welcome the opportunity to share our connections and our knowledge with current Bates students and faculty. I, for example, was contacted more frequently by Bates Career Development Services when I lived in Washington, DC, than I have been since returning to Lewiston!

By the same token, the Local Bates Family could benefit greatly from more encouragement to attend events on campus above and beyond the annual reunion and alumni weekends. I have suggested to Bates that the College should communicate directly with area alumni, for example, to come out in support of students at a
sports or theatrical event that may have low attendance because of midterms or finals.

And we, as the Local Bates Family, have a responsibility, too, in becoming more involved with our alma mater. A very appealing way that we can step up to the plate (pun intended) is to encourage one another to visit the beautiful new Bates dining hall. How about a special dessert get-together (a huge change from the mystery “foods of my Bates student days) to give us the opportunity to meet one another as well as current Batesies? I promise as a Member of the Alumni Council and as part of the Local Bates Family that I will work very hard to successfully reconnect this branch of the family tree to the rest of our Bates relatives.

A LITERARY RE-ENGAGEMENT WITH GENERATIONS OF ALUM

Lisa Romeo ‘88
Alumni Council Member

My re-engagement with Bates began twelve years after my graduation and has led to a wonderful new network of Bates friends from across the generations.

After finishing my Master’s degree in 2000, I responded to call to get involved with planning Boston Bates Club events and, later in the same year, an invitation for a “Book Club” meeting from the Bates Boston Alumnae Club. This club, founded in the 1800s, is the only all-women’s club in the Bates network and had been inactive for a few years despite its long history of offering enrichment activities to Bates alumnae.

There were only six of us that first night and we represented a snapshot of Bates women across the ages with two from the 1940’s, two from the 1960’s and two from the 1980’s. We were all excited about the potential of a Bates Book Club and I agreed to start off as the organizer for our meetings. We are now coming up on our 10th anniversary, and regularly have representation from all decades 1940-2000! One of the greatest benefits (besides great discussions about books with smart women) of this group has been the friendships we have developed with graduates from other eras. Despite our differences in background, work and family life, we all have a core “Batesie” quality of openness and intellectual curiosity which leads to spirited and respectful discussions (and occasional disagreements) about the books we’ve chosen to read. We’ve introduced each other to new genres of literature and muddled through difficult reads together, learning all the while.

Our meetings are interspersed with stories of beanies and bibs, Cultch and Sadie Hawkins, the “Shoe date” and Puddle Jump, Chase Hall dances and dorm rooms. In so many ways our experiences at Bates were shaped by our eras. I’ve learned that Bates men and women ate meals separately and had mandatory chapel until well into the 1960s. In the 1980s, dorms became coed by door but computers were just beginning to be household items. Today’s students live in a fully wired environment.

My work with the Boston Bates Club and the Alumnae Book Club led to membership in the College Key and eventually to becoming it’s President, which led me to serving on the Alumni Council, where again I find myself making more friends from other age groups. We spend four years on campus and the rest of our
lives as alumni, it’s comforting to know that the fellowship and learning that takes place as a member of the Bates community extends beyond the confines of campus.

(Note: If you’d like information on how to start a Bates Book Club in your area, please contact Lisa at romeoli@aol.com)

ALUMNI COUNCIL MEMBER PROFILE:
Gretchen Shorter Davis ‘61

My experience with Maine involved only family vacations until Sept. 1957 when I entered Bates. I had no idea my life would change from that moment and it’s been a good one ever since. The eight freshmen in Wilson House became very good friends and have continued to this day. Activities included birthday celebrations and many New Year's Eve gatherings on Martha's Vineyard. We also see other classmates at summer plays, lunches and mini-reunions.

I was the first one in my family to attend college and Bates was a great choice. Once there, I loved being involved with the campus and the many activities that were offered. I also worked in the Rand dining hall to help pay my expenses. I served as proctor my junior year, was elected as the president of the Women's Student Government (when that organization existed) in my senior year and to the Bates Key at graduation.

I married Charles "Jerry" Davis the year after graduation and was an elementary teacher for over 26 years. I took some time out for our children and earned my Master's Degree at Fairfield University in ‘88. During the 80's I was elected to the Alumni Council and enjoyed my trips to campus for those meetings. Jerry and I also were in charge of the Fairfield County (CT) Bates Club in those days and planned many activities in the area. We also hosted several lunches for new students in June of the year before they began their freshman year. We served as co-presidents of our class and then I became the Class Secretary - a job I still enjoy. We were able to retire early and chose Maine for our home. We've always looked forward to class reunions and have worked on all of them.

I was elected to the Board of Trustees the year Elaine arrived on campus and served a five year term with them. Since then, I have continued on the Board of the Bates-Morse Mountain Corporation and enjoy my involvement there. I was also asked to be on the Alumni Council once again and finished one three year term and have just started another. I work with some of the most dedicated alums on this council and always look forward to the meetings. Also, Jerry and I attend the Portland Bates Book Club as often as we can and were part of the organizational meetings of the Portland Business Network.

This year I am the co-chair of our 50th Gift Reunion Committee. We have always supported the college financially. Our donations fund scholarships and we have enjoyed meeting some of the recipients of our giving.

Perhaps because our classes in those years were smaller, I can picture each classmate as I receive news or talk to them on the phone. My experience is so positive and I fondly remember so many of the people who were there with me along the way. And my education was excellent. It has enhanced my life all these years. I am very proud to be a part of this Alumni Council.
DATES TO REMEMBER!

Reunion 2011  Friday-Sunday, June 10-12, 2011
Homecoming 2011  Friday-Saturday, September 23-24, 2011
Parents & Families Weekend 2011  Friday-Sunday, September 30-October 2, 2011

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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<td>Bloomingdale, IL</td>
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<td>Claire Bousquet Comstock ’80, P’10</td>
<td>Roslindale, MA</td>
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<td>Gretchen Shorter Davis ’61</td>
<td>Topsham, ME</td>
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<td>Roland Davis ’92, Vice-President</td>
<td>Auburn, ME</td>
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<td>Gerard P. Donahoe Jr. ’82</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
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<td>Melanie Mala Ghosh ’93</td>
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<td>Tanya Schwartz ’04</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
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<td>JoAnne Brambley Stillmun ’80</td>
<td>Jenkintown, PA</td>
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<td>William F. Sweat ’79, President</td>
<td>Dundee, OR</td>
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<td>Sunday L. Taylor ’73, P’05</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<td>Ira Waldman ’73, P’08,’11</td>
<td>Playa del Ray, CA</td>
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<td>William A. Young III ’64, P’91</td>
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