Fellow newsletter team member Andrew Klaber recently gave me a tour of the Morgan Library in New York, which features three impressive Gutenberg Bibles in its collection. The timing of the tour was fortuitous as we were just finalizing plans for an issue focusing on Marshalls in the book publishing industry. While electronic media and digital ‘on-demand’ printing provide just about anyone with access to publishing technology, the art of publishing books remains a rare skill. In this issue, Diana Coogle and Wallace Kaufman offer a fascinating glimpse into two of the industry’s legendary figures—Jonathan Galassi and Ed Victor.

The newsletter team always welcomes your feedback and content ideas. Please get in touch with us at newsletter@marshallscholars.org.

Nicholas T. Hartman, Managing Editor
On June 22nd the Association of Marshall Scholars held its annual meeting at Roosevelt House in New York City. The property, which often served as FDR’s NYC residence, was a fitting location. Roosevelt House is currently home to the Public Policy Institute at Hunter College.

After after alumni and friends of the Marshall Scholarship re-connected over lunch, the gathering moved downstairs into the lecture theater for the primary discussion forum titled “Marshalls in Diplomacy & Foreign Policy.” Following a few pieces of formal AMS business, including the election of new directors, the discussion panel filled the remainder of the afternoon.

The first panel session discussed “The Changing International Landscape and U.S. Foreign Policy.” Deputy Secretary of State William Burns (Oxford ’78) offered examples from his three decade career with the State Department. A subsequent group discussion session was moderated by Isobel Coleman (Oxford ’87), senior fellow for U.S. foreign policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. Coleman was recently profiled in the March 2013 edition of this newsletter.

The second session discussed “The Future of the Middle East and North Africa in the 21st Century” and was moderated by Andrew Klaber (‘04 Oxford)—who was also the overall coordinator for this year’s discussion panel. Speakers included Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of State Krishanti Vignarajah (’02 Oxford), Chair of the New York regional Marshall selection committee Ray Raymond, and HM Deputy Consul-General for the British Consulate in New York Nick Astbury.

Following the proceedings, alumni and friends of the Marshall Scholarship broke off into groups for informal dinners on a beautiful summer evening in the city.

In other news, the AMS Board recently established a new Digital Communications Committee to build upon the AMS’s previous social media presence (through LinkedIn and Twitter) and to oversee other online outreach efforts. The AMS asked new Board member Zachary D. Kaufman (Oxford ’02) to chair the committee; other committee members include Scott Grinsell (Oxford ’04), Sariah Khormae (Cambridge ’06), Mari Oye (Cambridge ’11), Betsy Scherzer (Cambridge ’07), and Jia Xu (LSE ’04).

The committee will present its preliminary plan at the AMS Board meeting on September 15. The plan includes reinvigorating the AMS presence on LinkedIn and Twitter, expanding social media outreach to include Facebook, and assisting in longer term efforts to revise and augment the AMS website. If you are interested in joining the Digital Communications Committee, please contact Zach at zachary.kaufman@aya.yale.edu.
An agent selling real estate, stocks, film rights, or a book extols the virtues and especially the value of the product as if purchase, then profit, were a no-brainer. When no one buys, only the very rare agent will use his or her own money to buy that sure thing. Ed Victor is that rare agent.

Case in point – Louise Fennell’s bestseller, *Dead Rich*, that might soon be a television series starring Joan Collins. Victor is a literary agent sometimes described in the mass media as the “über-agent” or “legendary.” Louise Fennell and husband Theo, “jeweler to the stars,” move in the highest strata of British society, among the “A-List” people. But when Victor began to send Fennell’s novel to publishers he collected 17 rejections.

Since starting the Ed Victor Literary Agency in 1976, Victor had represented authors and books selling millions of copies. He famously made authors and publishers much richer. He sold Eric Clapton’s 2007 memoir for a reported $4 million, then took on Peter Townshend and Keith Richards. Fennell’s novel, however, he could not sell. So he bought it himself. After all, he believed in it, and he had already started his own publishing house—Bedford Square Books—to publish in digital and paper format, out-of-print books he believed in but that no publisher wanted.

Victor told *Londoner’s Diary* in 2011 that he bought *Dead Rich* to show other publishers how wrong they were. He predicted, “. . . publishers will see what Bedford Square Books, just a pinprick, can do. I predict that this will be a mass-market book that will be bought up by those publishers by the end of the year.” And so it was that early the next year Simon and Schuster brought out a mass-market paperback of *Dead Rich* and chain store Tesco bought exclusive first distribution rights.
Victor sees a lot of manuscripts he doesn’t believe in, and they are from people he knows since he does not take unsolicited work. In an interview with The Telegraph in 2011 he said, “When I don’t like a book that’s been delivered to me I don’t – how should I put this – fake an orgasm.”

The corollary to this is his ability to inspire writers and develop their careers. His clients very often become personal friends. Fennell, on the eve of Dead Rich’s publication in February 2012 told the Daily Mail, “Ed Victor has been fantastic. I sent him the first 90 pages of my book and asked, ‘Shall I go on?’ When he rang me and said, ‘Louise, you have narrative drive’, it was the most exciting phone call of my life. I ran round the house screaming, ‘I’ve got narrative drive!’ in a way that was very annoying for my family.”

Another friend and client, food writer, television personality, and socialite Nigella Lawson, included Victor’s grilled steak recipe in her 2007 cookbook Nigella Express, calling it “Ed’s Tender Rump.”

Victor’s gamble on Fennell and on Bedford Square Books gave him new insight into the business he had been in since 1964. “Until I started putting my money where my mouth is – an agent’s job could be described as asking publishers to put their money where the agent’s mouth is! – I didn’t truly understand just what a tough business we are all in now.”

The Bronx-raised son of Russian immigrants, Victor has always been clear about his likes and dislikes. Victor’s father ran a camera store in New York after he and his wife left Russia in the 1920s before Lenin closed the doors. They spoke Russian to each other but seldom to their son, “they wanted me to grow as a nice little American boy.” Despite a home with few books and no great interest in literature, Victor says, “I discovered books very early and loved them.”

When he left Dartmouth College and entered Cambridge on a Marshall Scholarship in 1961, he had confidence in his map of the future. Like many Americans entering a British university with a bachelor’s degree, he had been told his undergraduate degree was not good enough to pursue a graduate degree in a British university. As an undergraduate, however, “I was completely bored.” He plead his case for graduate work, and Cambridge allowed him to go for an M.Litt. He believed he would return to the States, take a Ph.D. from Harvard, then join the “waiting Dartmouth faculty where I would wear a succession of tweed jackets with elbow patches until retirement.”

By the time he finished his degree, he knew he was not going to be an academic. From 1964 to 1972 he worked mainly in British publishing firms. In 1972 he moved to the Los Angeles office of American publisher Alfred Knopf and spent a few years there before returning to London and starting his own agency.

“When I went into the book publishing business in 1964, it was substantially the same business as it was in 1924.” Although the product had changed, notably with offset printing, paperbacks, and book
clubs, Victor says the chain of supply was unaltered: author to agent to publisher to bookseller to consumer. Agents also continued the two major functions established in the late 19th century—marketing manuscripts and developing authors’ careers. Victor did very well at both and could easily have retired long ago to enjoy his homes in England and the Hamptons of Long Island.

Even when a struggle with leukemia in the late 1990s led to pneumonia that almost killed him, he didn’t quit. He enjoyed his role in the world of books and the very busy social life that was part of his way of doing business—catching the latest cultural fashions, political intrigues, developments in business and science and the arts, and recruiting the people who did or could write about these things.

“Then, circa 2005, everything – and I mean everything – changed,” Victor recently wrote. “And it has been changing, day in and day out, ever since. What essentially happened was that the business suddenly transformed itself from a bricks and mortar sales and distribution model to an environment in which books were bought by consumers online – either as physical books or, as is increasingly the case, e-books. . . . One of the most striking of those changes has been the terrifying rise of Amazon.com – the all-devouring genie publishers let out of the bottle that has come back to haunt them with its monopolistic dominance.”

Amazon has also embraced two other changes that Victor sees as revolutions: the dizzying rise in the take-up of e-readers and the upturn in self-publishing – made possible by the new digital print and distribution technologies. Amazon’s Create Space and a host of other print-on-demand services now let anyone cheaply publish one or one hundred thousand copies of a book. Publishing one’s own book, once called vanity publishing, “has become a real and important branch of our industry.” Victor says, “If you have any doubts about that, you should examine the back story of the huge worldwide bestseller Fifty Shades of Grey.”

On-line selling, e-book readers, and self-publishing were the kind of disruptive storm that have sank many established businesses, but one of Victor’s great pleasures in life was exploring new ideas, and he had often proven his talent to foresee and adapt.

Thus, Bedford Square Books. Victor doesn’t see it so much as an agent taking over turf from publishers, as finding a new way to serve authors whose works print publishers don’t want. He began with out-of-print books. Bedford Square Books is all digital, mainly e-books. “We are decidedly not operating the outmoded business model of manufacturing books, shipping them in trucks down the highway to bricks and mortar bookstores and hoping that a few of them will stick to the walls and not be returned.”

Although Victor finds the large sums he once won for famous authors have considerably diminished, most authors can benefit by a bigger cut of the pie. “Publishers were paying 25% of net as their default position but it will go to 30, 35 or 40. I pay 50% of net to my authors.”

Victor may not have been the first agent to become a publisher, but he may have the highest profile, and his embrace of publishing has critics. At the 2011 Publishers Launch London conference, Peter Cox, a co-author with Linda McCartney, once controversial head of Britain’s Vegetarian Society and now a successful literary agent, was out for blood on the issue of agents as publishers. He called the agent-publisher condition “morally wrong” and there and elsewhere has all but called it illegal. At the conference, an agent from Victor’s firm suggested Cox didn’t understand, and Cox replied, “I met a fox at dusk the other day near my house, and he was heading toward my hen coop, and you know what, he said the same thing you’ve just said.”

Despite critics and detractors, Victor’s agency flourishes and in often delicately polite British society he is well liked. He has made the list of 1000 most influential Londoners and in 2013 GQ Magazine listed him among the UK’s 100 most influential people. Most days he wears tailored suits, not tweeds with leather elbow patches, nor is he thinking of retiring. Since surviving cancer, his wife installed a gym in their spare bedroom and Victor says he has never been more fit.

Looking back on his life, he recently wrote, “I’ve always lived a life where people have said, ‘Look at him. Who does he think he is?’ And who I think I am is someone living life to the brim.”
If you were an English major, your parents probably wailed at you, “But what can you do with a degree in English?” Probably, you wanted to be a writer, but they told you that you could as easily make a living as a writer as the kid down the street could play in the NBA. “You could teach,” they would add, resignedly.

Jonathan Galassi’s father, a Boston lawyer and an attorney for the US Department of Justice, wanted his son to become a law partner. But Jonathan Galassi chose to major in English.

What was he to do with his degree? After returning from his Marshall Scholarship at Cambridge in 1973, he taught expository writing briefly at Harvard. He liked teaching but didn’t want to “apprentice himself for years of discouraging study,” as he saw the job.
Might he become a poet? Studying poetry at Harvard with Robert Lowell and Elizabeth Bishop, he was already, according to his roommate and fellow 1971 Scholar, Marty Kaplan, an accomplished poet, but he didn’t have the “wild confidence” (yet) to make writing his career. Reading English at Christ College, Cambridge, was, for him, uninspiring.

Nonetheless, he had known since high school that his life would focus around literature, and at Cambridge, Kaplan says, Galassi completely immersed himself in literary Great Britain. He discovered Italian and was excited by lectures on Dante, but he didn’t know (yet) that Italian translation would be an aspect of his literary life. He was most influenced by the young poets and publishers he met at Cambridge and by his reading (Michael Holroyd’s Lytton Strachey and Julian Bell’s Virginia Woolf had just come out) as he gravitated towards the career he fell in love with: publishing.

“I was very alive to the romance of English publishing,” Galassi says about his years at Cambridge. “Publishing seemed dazzlingly glamorous and consequential.”

Publishing! The exclamation point indicates not only the enthusiasm and dedication with which Galassi embraced his career but also its brilliance and significance. He started with Houghton Mifflin, becoming head of its New York editorial office by the time he was 30, then worked as an editor at Random House for five years before being fired for what the publisher thought was an inability to find books with commercial potential. Galassi immediately proved that judgment wrong when he went to Farrar, Straus and Giroux, arguably the best literary publisher in the country (some would say there is no argument), and acquired Scott Turow’s Presumed Innocent, a book that fulfilled its commercial potential many times over. At FSG, Galassi rose from Editor through Executive Editor to his current position as President and Publisher, succeeding founder Roger Strauss.

Invariably described as “an old-fashioned gentleman” (Nathalie Handal, author of Guernica) or “the kind of old-fashioned publisher with the habits and temperament of a scholar and the wardrobe of a banker” (Charles McGrath, previously Editor of the New York Times Book Review section), Galassi believes that “great writing is what matters in the end.” He says that FSG’s responsibility is to believe in the importance of literature, its mission to enhance the dissemination of that literature, and its goal to publish not books but writers. Some of the writers Galassi has discovered include Lydia Davis, Jeffrey Eugenides, Jonathan Franzen, George Packer, and Alice McDermott. It is no wonder then, that he received the Maxwell E. Perkins Award (in 2008), given to an editor, publisher or agent who “has discovered, nurtured and championed writers of fiction in the US.”

Galassi is remarkably equable, maybe even cheerful, about the current state of publishing. E-books, he says, have energized a stagnating industry. Though they are here to stay, he sees that they are not dominating the reading experience as predicted and that many people, young and old, prefer printed books. His biggest concern is how we – or the publishing industry – will decide the worth of intellectual property.

Galassi’s dazzling career in publishing is an inspiration to any English major. “I’m an unvarnished, unapologetic believer in the enduring validity and viability of literary publishing,” he says. “It’s my religion and always has been.”

But Galassi’s example proves that publishing isn’t the only exciting career for an English major. Schooled in poetry and fluent in a second language, one could become, as Galassi did, a translator. Galassi’s first “victim” (his designation) was Eugenio Montale (1896-1981), a Nobel laureate often considered the greatest Italian lyric poet since Giacomo Leopardi (whom Galassi has also translated). After working for thirteen years on translation of various Montale works, Galassi published Collected Poems 1925-1954 in 1988. His translation was praised by the New York Times for remaining “faithful to the weird lexical discords in Montale’s writing, to its compactness, … verbal vigor, imaginative obscurity, [and]… discreet avoidance of rhyme.” Of all his achievements, Collected Poems is the one Galassi is most proud of. “I do think it made a real contribution, both artistic and scholarly,” he says.

For Galassi, translation is an exercise in making his own voice approximate what he hears in the poet he is reading. He calls translation “backbreaking work but recognizes that it is salutary for his own writing and “a way of being faithful to writers
I love, of trying to do something for them, however lamely.” That “however lamely” is the apologetic voice of all conscientious translators.

While working as a publisher and moonlighting as a translator, Galassi was also writing his own poetry, “diffidently but consistently,” he says, and gaining in confidence; he has published three collections of poems (1988, 2000, 2012). His career as a poet also includes a Guggenheim Fellowship, ten years as poetry editor for the Paris Review, and a stint as president of the Academy of American Poets.

Galassi describes his goal in writing poetry as heuristic: “To find myself out, to ‘express’ my own contradictions – no matter the subject at hand – and construct a coherent self I can live comfortably with.” He admits that this is impossible “because the writer’s constructed self is always disappointing, inaccurate, partial, inauthentic, outdated,” but this, he says, is what keeps him writing.

That heuristic goal is evident in his latest poetry collection, Left-handed, the story of a married, middle-aged man who falls in love with a younger man. “It’s about me,” Galassi says, frankly. After thirty years of committed marriage, Galassi fell in love with a young man eight or nine years ago. Although going through a divorce was “extremely painful” – for himself, his wife, and their two daughters – he now lives happily with a beloved male partner. “My self feels much more coherent to me today than ever before,” he says.

Reflecting on his earlier, less coherent state, Galassi recalls his two years at Cambridge a defining time of his life. It introduced him to travel and to a wider world. He became then and has remained a convinced internationalist. Spending time in London inspired him to live in New York, America’s metropolis. “It was a difficult time, in some ways,” he says about his Cambridge years, “quite lonely at the outset, but it stretched me in many ways. I’d say it was the capstone of my education, though it sent me away from academic life.”

As it turns out, choosing to be an English major has given Jonathan Galassi a number of options in his life. Poet, translator, publisher... master of words and literary worlds.

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Annina Burns works in the Office of the Director at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Washington DC. Annina’s portfolio involves acting as a congressional liaison working on chronic disease prevention programs involving the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and nutrition policy. She is on First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” obesity prevention Task Force and provides staff support for the program’s Dietary Guidelines 2015. Before coming to the CDC, Annina served as a Study Director at the Institute of Medicine for several studies on childhood obesity prevention and nutrition. She formerly worked for the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Annina received her BS in Nutritional Sciences from Penn State, MSc and PhD from the University of Oxford where she researched the emergence of obesity and the implications for public health. Annina was one of the founding members of the new AMS in 2006. She worked to rebuild the association and has served on the AMS board since 2007. She was previously Vice Chair 2008-2009, Director of Programs (2007-2009) and currently serves on the Governance committee.

Annina Burns (Oxford ’03)
Meet the Marshall Scholarship Class of 2013

The 2013 class of 34 scholars was selected from a pool of 943 applicants nominated by their undergraduate institutions. Look to our next issue for coverage of the send-off program and reception at the British Ambassador’s residence in Washington D.C.

Solomon Adler  
Wesleyan University

Solomon “Zully” Adler graduated first in his class from Wesleyan University with a BA in Modern European History. On campus, Zully helped edit the Historical Narratives journal, organized experimental concerts with the Underdog collective, and instructed students on typesetting and letterpress printing. Upon graduating, Zully travelled to fifteen countries as a Watson Fellow, studying independent music and print. Zully also runs Goaty Tapes, a cassette-based record label and edits House Rules, a journal dedicated to do-it-yourself media and community arts. As a Marshall Scholar, Zully will study Visual History at the Glasgow School of Art and the University of Oxford.

Ronald Allen  
United States Naval Academy

From Seattle, Washington, R. Quinton Allen graduated from the United States Naval Academy and received his commission in the United States Marine Corps in May of 2013. Quinton’s interests in financial literacy and Spanish have led him to the Dominican Republic and Chile for global service learning projects and cultural immersion. In addition to tutoring at a local middle school and having played Varsity Navy Sprint Football for four years, Quinton was the 19th Company Commander, responsible for the performance, morale and well-being of 150 Midshipmen. Quinton will pursue an MA in Public Policy from King’s College London.

Aditya Ashok  
Boston College

New Hampshire native Aditya Ashok graduated in 2012 from the Presidential Scholars Program at Boston College with degrees in History and Biology. A Truman Scholar, he has been involved in AIDS activism both at local and national levels. He has worked in the biology department at Boston College, the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, as well as the Harvard/MGH Center on Genomics, Vulnerable Populations and Health Disparities. Since graduating, Aditya has interned at the White House’s Office of National AIDS Policy and worked at the National Institutes of Health. He hopes to pursue a public service career improving our healthcare system.

Aditya Balasubramanian  
Harvard University

Aditya Balasubramanian studies history and economics at Harvard. His thesis explores market liberalism in India. He took last year off from Harvard to work at the Poverty Action Lab, investigating the effect of information campaigns on voter and politician behaviour in New Delhi slums. He has worked at an Argentine microfinance NGO, served as editor-in-chief of the Harvard International Review, and compiled the Harvard Crimson’s 50 Successful Harvard Application Essays book. He is research assistant to Amartya Sen and associate of the Harvard-Cambridge Center for History and Economics. He will pursue the MSc Econometrics and Mathematical Economics at the LSE.

Alexander Baron  
Washington University in St. Louis

Alex Baron earned degrees in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology and Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis. After graduating in 2010, he conducted education research in Taiwan’s Center for Education Research and Evaluation as a Henry Luce Scholar. Since returning to the United States in 2011, Alex has worked as a preschool and kindergarten teacher at a KIPP charter school in Washington DC, building on his previous teaching experiences at Phillips Exeter Academy summer school in 2009, St. Louis public schools in 2010, and Taipei public schools in 2011. He plans to study early childhood education and education policy at Oxford.

William Berdanier  
University of Texas at Austin

Born in Dallas, Texas and raised in Boulder, Colorado, William Berdanier graduated with honors degrees in Physics and Mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin in May 2013. A Goldwater Scholar, Will has researched theoretical condensed matter and plasma physics at Texas, the University of Wzburg and the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. Will is an avid violinist, having founded the Dean’s Scholars Honors Program String Quartet. As a Council Member for Dean’s Scholars, Will led the Advanced Placement tutoring outreach program and the Distinguished Lecture Series. He will pursue Part III of the Mathematical Tripos at Cambridge.
Benjamin Buchanan  
**Georgetown University**

New York City native Ben Buchanan graduated a year early from Georgetown University, majoring in Government and minoring in Arabic and English. He has also completed a masters degree in Security Studies and Technology Policy at Georgetown. He has interned at the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Counterterrorism Bureau of the New York Police Department, and the ABC News investigative team. At King’s College London, he will pursue a DPhil in War Studies, focusing on how cybersecurity impacts national strategy. Ben is also a volunteer EMT with the Georgetown Emergency Response Medical Service, an amateur videogame designer, and a fan of dogs, football, and Italian food.

Ethan Butler  
**University of Connecticut**

Connecticut native Ethan Butler graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Connecticut with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. An Udall Scholar, Portz Fellow and avid member of Engineers Without Borders, Ethan is passionate about working at the intersection of social and environmental justice. His University Scholar’s thesis was on an emerging water treatment technology for emergency and refugee camp relief. At Imperial College London, Ethan will pursue an MSc in Advanced Chemical Engineering. He hopes to develop novel appropriate technological solutions for water and energy issues in the developing world and empower local entrepreneurs to distribute these solutions.

Alexander Chaitoff  
**The Ohio State University**

Alexander Chaitoff graduated from The Ohio State University with degrees in microbiology and political science in May of 2013. A 2012 Truman Scholar, Alex is interested in understanding how social and cultural factors impact the delivery of health solutions to different groups. In addition to working towards this goal by leading various student groups, he co-founded the Pure Water Access Project, Inc. and conducts research at the Ohio State College of Public Health. Alex will be pursuing a Master of Public Health at the University of Sheffield before returning to the United States to attend medical school.

Jerod Coker  
**University of Oklahoma**

Jerod Coker, of McKinney, TX, graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a BA in Economics. He is a founding member of the Oklahoma Funding Accelerator, a non-profit organization focused on helping “unbankable” small businesses obtain funding. Over spring break he rebuilds houses that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Jerod is also a national ethics debater and plays guitar in rock bands. He will study for an MSc in Development Studies and an MSc in Economics and Philosophy at London School of Economics before returning to study for a JD at Harvard Law School.

Christopher Counts  
**Colorado State University**

Chris was raised in Arvada, Colorado and was a Boettcher Scholar at Colorado State University. He graduated with a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences and a B.A. in Anthropology in May 2013. At CSU he was involved with research examining HIV replication and served as the founder and President of Hygiene for Humanity. He has been involved with several public health projects in Tanzania and established a successful community-based health education program. Following completion of the Marshall Scholarship Chris will begin medical school and plans to be involved in research and global health as a physician.

Katelyn Davidson  
**United States Naval Academy**

Katie Davidson is from Orlando, Florida and graduated from the Naval Academy as a Surface Warfare Officer. An English major, she researched comic books’ influence on WWII. A fervent women’s rights activist, Katie designed a sociology project outside the Naval Academy curriculum that studies the portrayal of women leaders in the media. Katie is the first female editor of The Log, a student-run humor magazine dating back to 1913. She was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Defense University for her work on counterterrorism. Katie competes on the varsity swim team and hopes to swim the English Channel.

Stephanie Figgins  
**George Washington University**

Stephanie Figgins graduated from the George Washington University in 2011 with a BA in International Affairs and Economics. She spent her junior year in Cairo, Egypt as an Boren Scholar. After graduating, she studied Arabic in Morocco as a Critical Language Scholar. Then she moved back to Cairo to begin working as a journalist, covering Egyptian politics for Voice of America. She also did reporting from Libya. As a Marshall Scholar, Stephanie will pursue an MA in Postcolonial Culture and Global Policy at Goldsmiths and an MA in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at The School of Oriental and African Studies.
Ian Gibson graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy with a B.S. in Economics and a minor in Spanish. A Truman Scholar, Ian has an interest in microfinance and founded a non-profit corporation which raises financial capital for micro-loans. Recently, Ian studied Political Economy at the University of Hong Kong and attended the Aspen Institute as a Scholar Fellow. In his first year, he plans to pursue an MSc in International Political Economy from the London School of Economics. Ian aspires to serve as a Political Military Affairs Strategist working in economic development and humanitarian aid in Latin America.

Alexander Fullman graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Southern California with a B.A. in Political Science. Alex was the Editor-in-Chief of the USC Journal of Law and Society, advocated for human rights as a University Fellow with Jewish World Watch, and was a Presidential Fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress. Alex's research focuses on campaign finance and the Supreme Court. He plans to study Comparative Government at Oxford’s Department of Politics and International Relations. Alex has traveled to all seven continents and will attend law school after studying at Oxford.

Keith Hawkins, an Ohio native, graduated from Ohio University’s Honors Tutorial College with a B.S. in astrophysics and minors in Mathematics and African Studies. Keith, a John Templeton and Goldwater Scholar, studies a variety of topics in stellar astrophysics. He has co-authored three publications and has given more than 15 presentations on astronomy nationally. Outside of Astronomy, Keith is a student mentor, an avid biker, and a social activist. At the University of Cambridge, he will pursue a PhD in Astronomy and eventually, become an astrophysics professor doing ground-breaking research and inspiring the next generation of scientists.

Kenneth Hoehn hails from Canton, Georgia, and studied Biology at Duke University. His research interests over the past three years have included the mating behavior of fruit flies, chromosomal inversions, the evolutionary effects of nonsense mutations, sex-determining genes of coffin flies, and developing new techniques to study mass extinctions using fossil data. Ken was president of the Duke Secular Alliance, served as a teaching assistant for a computational genomics class, and taught a house course on bio-informatics; he is an A.B. Duke, Goldwater, and Byrd scholar who plans to pursue genomics research at the University of Oxford.

Shea Houlihan graduated with a degree in International Politics from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Originally from El Paso, Texas, Shea is a researcher who investigates emerging topics in refugee and forced migration studies. He has written a number of working papers on global counter-human trafficking governance, the evolution of the modern refugee regime, and the stretching of state responses to forced migrants. After working with world-class researchers at Georgetown and the University of Oxford, Shea went into the field to test the new concept of survival migration in Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia in summer 2012.

Hillary Hurd, of Richmond, Virginia, graduated from the University of Virginia with a dual degree in “Russian and East European Studies” and “Politics Honors” - an intensive, six-person tutorial program. A devout student of international relations, she has worked for Foreign Policy Magazine and serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Wilson Journal of International Affairs. Hillary is the student member of the University’s Board of Visitors and her honors include Dean’s List, the Raven Society, and the 2013 “Virginia Legend” award. Conversant in Spanish, Russian, French, and German, Hillary hopes to further her study of language and deepen her understanding of post-conflict rehabilitation in the UK. She will pursue master's degrees in International Relations and Politics at Cambridge and Peace and Conflict Studies at St. Andrews.

Dillon Liu, a native of Summit, New Jersey, graduated from Columbia University in May 2013 with a degree in applied physics. Through his research he has studied magnetic semiconductors for spintronics at LSU, magnetic reconnection in laboratory plasmas at Los Alamos, and entanglement in topological phases at UCLA. His research was supported by the National Science Foundation through REUs and by the Department of Energy with a National Undergraduate Fellowship. Dillon was involved on campus at Columbia as a community adviser and as a teaching assistant for Physics and Mathematics, including undergraduate quantum mechanics and introductory cryptography courses. In his spare time, he enjoys watching the New York Knicks, trying new foods, and lifting weights. Dillon will study for a DPhil in theoretical condensed matter physics at Oxford.
### Jennifer Mills  Northwestern University

Jennifer graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Northwestern University with degrees in Earth Science, Chemistry, and Integrated Science. A Goldwater and Hollings Scholar, Jennifer has devoted her academic career to environmental research, synthesizing novel materials for CO2 sequestration and studying the evolution of geochemical cycles during past periods of climate unrest. As a freshman, Jennifer cofounded and captained Northwestern’s first undergraduate NASA microgravity team. She enjoys vegetarian cooking, science outreach, playing basketball, and hiking whenever she gets the chance. Jennifer plans to study Earth Science at Cambridge and Global Environment and Climate Change Law at the University of Edinburgh.

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### Jessica Mason  New York University

Jessica Ann Mason double majored in Social Work and History at New York University. She was a Reynolds Scholar in Social Entrepreneurship, and won the Ashoka/Youth Venture “Be a Changemaker” challenge; both awards recognized her work with homeless youth. After graduating as NYU’s valedictorian, Mason directed relief efforts for an organization in Haiti. She currently works at YouTube, concentrating on communications for ‘YouTube for Good,’ a team that builds tools to support nonprofits, education, and free expression. As a Marshall Scholar, she plans to study Politics at the London School of Economics and Internet policy at Oxford.

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### Nicolas Montano  City University of New York – John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Nicolas Montano graduated in May with a degree in Psychology of Juvenile Delinquency and International Criminology. His research at John Jay College has focused on exposure to violence and aggression in adolescents, gender based warfare violence, and community perception of juvenile delinquency. He has worked with at risk youth in the South Bronx and interned with Common Justice, a Vera Institute of Justice Demonstration Project in Brooklyn. Nicolas has also done extensive work with Latino youth in New York through educational initiatives and volunteer programs. His interests include social policy, documentary filmmaking, photography, and Latin American literature.

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### Jonathan Naber  University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign

Jonathan Naber is the Field Director in Latin America for Illini Prosthetic Technologies (IPT), a nonprofit organization with the mission of developing and distributing affordable prosthetic arms to amputees living in poverty worldwide. He founded the organization in August 2008 while an engineering student and served as its President until January 2012, when he volunteered for his current mission in Central America. Jonathan recently founded the Amputados Unidos movement in Guatemala, which is an amputee support group that is growing in Latin America. Jonathan earned his BS in Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Illinois.

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### Jacob Nebel  Princeton University

Jake Nebel, of Winter Park, FL, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton with an A.B. in Philosophy and a certificate in Values and Public Life. His research has focused on our understanding of the good, the nature of obligation, and our duties to future generations. Passionate about philosophy’s contribution to moral progress, Jake has worked with international organizations dedicated to reducing global poverty, preventing catastrophic risks, and promoting high-impact ethical careers. He is a curriculum director at the nation’s largest institute for Lincoln-Douglas debate, and the Harvard National Invitational named its championship trophy in his honor. He served as president of his fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi, and has been to five Phish concerts. Jake plans to read for the BPhil at Oxford.

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### Alex Palmer  Harvard University

Alex Palmer graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College in 2012 with a degree in Social Studies and a language citation in Spanish. Selected for Phi Beta Kappa as a junior, Alex has been active in public service around the world. At Harvard, he co-founded the first undergraduate organization dedicated to reintegrating veterans. He has volunteered in Venezuela, Kenya, and the West Bank, and founded a non-profit that provides educational opportunities for children in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. Alex has also published articles on topics ranging from Kenyan politics to American global strategy, and he is an avid triathlete and documentary photographer.

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### Brittany Partridge  Abilene Christian University

Brittany Partridge, a Minnesota native, graduated from Abilene Christian University with a B.A. in Political Science. A Truman Scholar, she co-founded the Red Thread Movement, an international initiative combating human trafficking. Furthering her involvement in this issue, Brittany was a U.S. Department of State intern, Polaris Project fellow, and volunteered abroad with a Nepalese organization addressing trafficking in Southeast Asia. She has given presentations about human trafficking at multiple universities, including Princeton and Cornell, and contributed to CNN and mtvU’s anti-trafficking campaigns. She plans to study International Public Policy and Countering Organised Crime and Terrorism at University College London.
Spencer Smith  University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

Spencer Smith, of Holland, Michigan, earned a B.S. with highest distinction from the University of Michigan, where he studied economics and mathematics. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and won the Jonathan Ferrando Prize in economics for best undergraduate thesis and student. After graduation, Spencer moved to Washington, D.C., to work for the Brookings Institution and the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. He now works for the President’s Council of Economic Advisers at the White House. Spencer completed four triathlons this year. He plans to study economics at Oxford.

Rahul Rekhi  Rice University

Rahul graduated from Rice University with degrees in Bioengineering and Economics. A Goldwater and Truman Scholar, he has conducted biomedical research at Rice and MD Anderson in Houston, science/technology policy for NSF in Washington, healthcare policy with WHO in Geneva, and global health technology development in Malawi. Rahul serves as Senior Fellow in Health Policy for the Roosevelt Institute Campus Network, has designed award-winning medical devices, and teaches an undergraduate course on public policy. He also coauthored several peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, while presenting at numerous national/international conferences. Rahul plans to study Biomedical Engineering at Oxford and Health Policy at LSE.

Victoria Solomon  Princeton University

Victoria Solomon graduated from Princeton University with a B.S.E. in Electrical Engineering. She is collaborating with a foundation called Technology Against ALS to develop an affordable communication device for ALS patients. In 2009, Victoria coauthored Those People: Outsiders Welcomed to Manna on Main Street to tell the heartwarming stories of food pantry clients. A Coca-Cola Scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi, she enjoys walking backwards as a university tour guide, singing, juggling, and making people smile.

Elizabeth Stoker  Brandeis University

A native of Arlington, Texas, Liz graduated from Brandeis University with majors in English and sociology, and a minor in Near Eastern & Judaic studies. Liz’s primary focus is the formation of Christian ethical responses to issues surrounding disability, with special attention to Christian authors of late antiquity. Liz has served on the board of directors of a local homeless shelter and, in her freshman year, founded a program that provides hundreds of meals per month to homeless persons in Waltham. Liz has researched in Germany and Switzerland, and looks forward to earning an MPhil in Christian ethics at Oxford.

Jacob Tzegaegbe  Georgia Institute of Technology

Jacob Tzegaegbe, of Snellville, Georgia, is a 2011 graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. In May 2012, Jacob completed his M.S. in Civil Engineering conducting research on Bus Rapid Transit in African cities. He has been recognized as the National Society of Black Engineers Distinguished Undergraduate Engineer of the Year, Omicron Delta Kappa National Circle Leader of the Year, and was named 2011-2012 Mr. Georgia Tech. Jacob plans to pursue a PhD in Planning Studies at University College London while researching context-sensitive design for major transportation infrastructure projects in developing countries.

Bryan Vadheim  Montana State University - Bozeman

Bryan Vadheim graduated with majors in Chemical Engineering and Economics at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. A Montana native, Bryan has long been interested in natural resources, and during his undergraduate career Bryan became involved several projects focusing on water sanitation and policy. He hopes to continue combining engineering and economics by pursuing an MSc in Economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science, followed by an MSc in Water: Science and Governance at King’s College London. He aspires to use his graduate education to power further research into natural resource allocation in developing nations.

Nicholas Werle  Brown University

Nick Werle of Brooklyn, New York graduated magna cum laude from Brown University in 2010 with a double concentration in Physics and Modern Critical Philosophy. His research interests include the philosophy of physics, macroeconomics, the history of science, and financial economics. Nick taught middle school engineering programs, high school economics, and college writing before moving to the Manhattan District Attorney’s Major Economic Crimes Bureau as an investigative analyst. An advocate for financial market reform, Nick will pursue MSc degrees in Economic Policy at University College London and the Management and Regulation of Risk at the London School of Economics.
Next stop Mars?
Anne McClain (Bristol ‘02) was recently selected by NASA to join the Astronaut Training Program. McClain is a Major in the U.S. Army and a recent graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School.

Doshi Named Leading Figure in Artificial Intelligence
The IEEE has named Finale Doshi (Cambridge ‘07) as one of its “10 to Watch” in the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence. Doshi’s research interests include the healthcare applications of machine learning technologies.

Auguste Named Deputy Director of the NEC
President Obama appointed Byron Auguste (Oxford ‘89) to serve as Deputy Director of the National Economic Council. The NEC coordinates across government agencies to advise the President on national and international economic issues.

Sughrue Awarded Order of the British Empire
HM The Queen awarded Marie Sughrue (Scheffield ‘85) an OBE for her services to dance as. Sughrue, who was named on the Queen’s Birthday Honours List, is currently the Chief Executive and Executive Producer of the Scottish Ballet.

Oppenheimer Releases Critically Acclaimed Film
Joshua Oppenheimer (U of the Arts London ‘97) released The Act of Killing, his first motion picture. The film, which follows the murderous exploits of Indonesian death squad leaders, has received praise from critics and currently holds a very impressive 97% rating on Rotten Green Tomatoes.
Phyllis Piotrow
ppiotrow@jhuccp.org

Phyllis Piotrow is a newly elected official to the Budget Committee of New London, New Hampshire. Why would a retired professor run for political office for the first time at age 80? “Sounds crazy, but in fact I find that the issues our small town faces are often a microcosm of the issues our national government faces,” reports Phyllis. She finds herself confronted with questions like: Should they buy a new “muffin monster” (a garbage compactor) and $800,000 fire truck this year or next year? Does it cost more not to pave a dirt road this year if the price of asphalt is expected to go up next year? What percentage of town employees’ health and retirement benefits should tax payers cover? Should they pay for a full time police officer in their high school? Phyllis says they are dealing with thousands of dollars, not millions or billions,

Robert J. Gordon, 1962

My two years at Oxford in 1962-64 changed my interests and helped to create a successful career. I arrived at a small college, Corpus Christi in Oxford, in October 1962, interested in microeconomics – what made some firms more successful than others. I left Oxford in 1964 after two years of tutorials in PPE completely surprised by my “unviva’d first” but also with a new set of interests that were not flattering to Britain. How could the British economy be so far behind the American as of 1964? It was visible in every market, every home, every street. Suddenly I had become a macroeconomist fascinated with economic growth.

I was married to Julie Peyton in June of 1963 (we just celebrated our 50th anniversary), in the middle of the Marshall experience, and we set up house on the third floor of an Iffley Road triple-decker in the fall of 1963, with little money and less heat. We spent much of the first autumn of our marriage applying to grad school, and I wound up at MIT in economics and Julie chose Harvard in English.

After MIT grad school I pursued a tenure track career in economics first at the University of Chicago and then for the last 40 years at Northwestern. I arrived in the academic profession knowing a lot about it, as my father was a senior professor in economics at UC Berkeley. If you can make it past the torture of first-year graduate classes, which have become much more rigorous and mathematical since 1964, you can embark on a career of research, teaching, writing textbooks, giving speeches, and trying to make the world a better place. I’ve always thought of it as the ideal career combining security of employment together with ample opportunity for entrepreneurship.

People I meet in every walk of life seem surprised that at age 73 I have not retired. Retirement is not an option
but every decision made can add pennies to the property tax rate – the main source of revenue. “So,” Phyllis mentions, “of course we encourage those ‘faceless bureaucrats’ in Concord and Washington to help us out with grants and subsidies.”

As her Budget Committee can overrule the town staff and other elected officials, but the annual Town Meeting can overrule the Budget Committee, they need to make a good case for every penny. They also need to be sure their knowledgeable supporters show up on a cold New England night to vote. “It’s the basic challenge of governance,” says Phyllis.

She claims, “It was actually fun to run for office as it gave me an excuse to talk with strangers.” But now being greeted daily by so many people who know her name, Phyllis’ next challenge is learning all of their names!

1955

Robert Berdahl
berdahl143@aol.com

Len Wharton’s scientific work has been cited in three different Nobel acceptances in three separate fields. He has recently been working on industrial archeology on the causes and non-causes of pollution in the Passaic River of New Jersey, which is reportedly by some measures the second most polluted place in the United States. The Diamond Shamrock Chemical Company, the original producers of Agent Orange made the Passaic River home.

Len reports that his immediate family has happily increased 50% in the past couple of years with an additional son-and-daughter-in-law and grandchildren. One family lives in France providing a fine excuse to visit there.

Since I released a working paper with the startling conclusion that the US is currently transitioning from the 1891-2007 growth rate of 2.0 percent per year, to a future growth rate of real disposable income for the bottom 99% of the income distribution of a mere 0.2 percent, the world has started to pay attention. Just within the past week as I’m writing this, there have been featured articles in the UK Guardian and New York magazine explaining and assessing my bleak view of the future. The Wall Street Journal last December published an article that I wrote called “Innovation Won’t Save Us.”

My main current project is to reassess the growth in the American standard of living since the Civil War. In a book titled Beyond the Rainbow, to be published by the Princeton University Press, I am providing a new framework for assessing the multi-dimensional changes that uniquely altered the American standard of living in the 50 years between 1890 and 1940 far more than any time before or since.

My hobbies include an intense interest in airline management, which dates back to an unusual weather-related mishap in flying back from Berkeley home to Harvard in 1959. Early in the e-mail era in 1995 I founded an airline chat-group that somebody else later decided to call “bobnet.” Photography was an early hobby, as I became the self-appointed photographer of our family trips in my teens. The tradition has continued, and my web site has 325 photos of economists taken since 1967 (just google “photos of economists”)

Everyone at our age faces decisions about downsizing and future life. Julie and I find ourselves in a wonderful place, a large 1889 house overlooking a Lake Michigan beach in Evanston, the first suburb north of Chicago. Downsizing into an apartment is a non-starter – we are wedded to our garden and our two dogs. Our mantra, just past our 50th anniversary, is “no retirement and no downsizing.” This mantra is, of course, contingent upon our continued good health. We’ve both been lucky to wind up here less than a mile south of my office, and also a few miles north of Chicago’s riches of opera, symphony, 200 active live theater companies, and political intrigue.

1959

Jim Bernhard
jimbernhard@sbcglobal.net

Harold Branam and his wife Sandy now represent the Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) on the corporation of American Friends Service Committee. AFSC is committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian work in the United States and abroad. For relief work after World War II, AFSC and its British counterpart received the 1947 Nobel Peace Prize, in the same year that the Marshall Plan was established for similar purposes. In view of this shared history, Harold looks forward to seeing more stories in the Marshall Alumni Newsletter about work for social justice, peace, and humanitarian relief.

Jim Berdahl143@aol.com

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I have also had opportunity to engage in some government service. In 1996, I was appointed to the newly formed National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board established by Congress as an advisory body to the Office Educational Research and Improvement. From 2006 to 2012, I served on the National Science Board and led the Task Force on Merit Review to amend the criteria the National Science Foundation uses to evaluate research proposals.

My work has also allowed me to keep in touch with Oxford. Since 1986 the McDonnell Foundation has always had at least one active grant at Oxford. Our biggest effort was to support a Center in Cognitive Neuroscience which built upon Oxford’s outstanding and diverse neuroscience community. In 2002, I was invited to deliver the Herbert Spencer Lecture at Oxford. It marked my first return to the Exam Schools since late afternoon June 6, 1974. (Yes, I remember exactly.)

Since 2007, I have served as reader for the Midwest Region for Marshall Fellowships. I am amazed at the quality and sophistication of the current Marshall applicants. Almost all the candidates seem to have had some prior international experience as undergraduates. This is a positive development, as long as it is an indicator of the candidate’s quality, and not merely an indicator of privilege. Candidates now also seem to be more interested in policy, politics, and public service than in academic careers.

While times do change and the Marshall Commission and British government should establish the selection criteria, some of us older hands are sometimes concerned that the Marshalls might become too much like that other well-known scholarship for study in the UK. Both in the United Kingdom and the United States, there is an increasing, and maybe misplaced, emphasis on vocationalism in higher education. I say misplaced emphasis after reflecting on my Oxford experience and how it has contributed to my career. In the 1970s Oxford philosophy was very narrowly academic, which suited me just fine. However, I learned the value and importance of sound, valid arguments and was encouraged — sometimes forced — to think about diverse problems that I otherwise might have avoided. It helped me be both critical and open minded. These skills and attitudes have been invaluable. They are fundamental in evaluating research proposals, establishing research programs, and attempting to translate basic research into policy and practice. In comparison, a course of study on philanthropy and research administration would have been both dismal and useless.

I have been even more fortunate in my personal life. Lili and I were married in 1983. Since then she has pursued her interests first in architecture and now in ceramic art. With retirements on the horizon, we look forward to more travel and visiting our sons, John, a mathematician in Pasadena and Matt, a health finance consultant in Atlanta. A British friend once asked me which son was my favorite. If I was going to be stranded on a desert island which one would I want with me? That would depend, I told him, on whether I wanted to get off the island as quickly as possible or be as comfortable as possible while on the island.
Gar Alperovitz, the Lionel R. Bauman Professor of Political Economy at the University of Maryland, has published a new book, *What Then Must We Do?* (Chelsea Green Publishing). Subtitled “Straight Talk About the Next American Revolution,” it proposes a new economic system for the United States that is “not corporate capitalism, not state socialism, but something else entirely—and something entirely American.” More information is available at garalperovitz.com

**1966**

**Diane Coogle**  
coogle@uoregon.edu

Although technically retired, Jim Danziger taught three courses last fall on his fourth Semester at Sea voyage, traveling to 14 countries during nearly four months, including Brazil, Ghana, South Africa and Uruguay. He also taught a 300+ student political science course in spring at UC Irvine, and he is revising his political science textbook for a 12th edition. “I can’t believe it is still being read (I hope) by so many students in the US and abroad!” writes Jim. He adds that he still has time to travel and to hang out in Laguna Beach.

**1971**

**Jeff Kunz**  
jrmkunz@aol.com

After his Marshall at Edinburgh, Daniel Klessig went on to Harvard for his doctorate followed by a post doc with Nobel Laureate Jim Watson at Cold Spring Harbor, NY. Stints on the faculty with continued research success at Utah and Rutgers lead to his appointment directing the Boyce Thompson Institute at Cornell. He is retired from academic administration but continues his acclaimed bench research.

Dan reports: “I often think about how much I owe the faculty at Wisconsin for training and putting up with a greenhorn farm boy. The best training in my entire career came from UW-Madison and the molecular biology program at Edinburgh University as a Marshall Scholar. Now it is back to relearning cancer research to figure out how our two new aspirin targets contribute to cancer, to help decipher aspirin’s anticancer effects. It is hard to believe that this old plant molecular pathologist is writing a research proposal to the National Cancer Institute at 64. I was planning to retire about now!!! I’m not complaining, just thankful and trying to hold up to the 12–15 hour days right now. Picking mustard and planting trees and shrubs at our rural farm near Ithaca helps!”

**1985**

**Song Tan**  
sxt30@psu.edu

Leslie Lewis earned her BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Oxford in 1987. She attended the US Army Military Intelligence Officer Basic Course and served as an active duty officer with the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas. After leaving active duty in the Army, she was an Army wife and stay-at-home mom for twelve years, living all over the US and Germany. She earned her MS in Library and Information Science (Univ. of Pittsburgh, 2005) and has been a reference and instruction librarian at Duquesne University in the sexual health services for Hull and East Yorkshire. He spends about 80% of his time in the UK. When his wife retires in two years, they will spend half their time in Princeton and half in her retirement home on the Fife coast, seven miles south of St. Andrews.

James writes: “Having a Marshall Scholarship was a life-expanding opportunity for me. I had never been outside the US before. My tutor at Oxford encouraged me after a month to switch from a philosophy, politics, and economics (PPE) degree to a graduate degree in economics. I met an economics professor from Princeton who encouraged me to come to Princeton to work with Ansley Coale, and I did. I never left Princeton thereafter.”

**1966**

**Diane Coogle**  
coogle@uoregon.edu

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Pittsburgh ever since. She has two sons, Michael, 21, and David, 19.

1991

Stanley Chang
sschangca@yahoo.com

Stephen Kuebler is Associate Professor of Chemistry and Optics and Interim Assistant Vice President of Research at the University of Central Florida, the second largest school in the nation by student enrollment. His research group investigates the opto-electronic properties of nanoscale materials and devices and has been funded by the Petroleum Research Fund, Lockheed Martin, and National Science Foundation (2007 CAREER Award). He is active in educational outreach, leads the Orlando Section of the American Chemical Society (Chairman in 2012), and serves on the Atlanta Region Marshall Scholarship Selection Committee (since 2009). He is married to Kristen T. Brandt with two sons, Owen and Aaron.

Current Scholar News from the UK

By Becca Farnum

On Thursday 13 June, the 2012 class of Marshall Scholars teamed up with Goodenough College to host the inaugural conference of Interwoven, a new initiative to address the reality that in our world of ever-increasing specialization, interconnectivity is needed more than ever to understand and address shared challenges. Inspired by platforms like TED and the wide demand for higher-level discourse, Interwoven is about seeing deeper by seeing connections: in art, business, science, politics, and life.

The evening opened with a performance of “Come With Me”, an original poem by Marshall Scholar Garrett Turner. Mr. Turner invited attendees to join him on a journey through the world’s wonders, later introducing each speaker and topic. Attendees heard from academic and private sector leaders on a wide variety of topics. Mr. Joe Osnoss, Managing Director, Silver Lake Europe, spoke on the integration of information technology in multiple sectors; Mr. Ofer Deshe, Former Director of Strategy and Operations for Electronic Ink, discussed emotional product design; and Mr. Simon Schillebeex, Imperial College London, brought biological theories of evolution to bear on management theories of firms.

Marshall Scholars Christina Chang and Daphne Ezer spoke on the interdisciplinary nature of their research. Ms. Chang shared the collaborative nature of two research labs seeking to power the planet’s future through artificial photosynthesis. Ms. Ezer discussed how physics and computer science are useful tools in understanding genetic research on transcription factors.

The evening also included the premiere of a piece composed by Marshall Scholar Elizabeth Ogonek for guitar and violin, performed by 2012 scholars Michael Poll and Madalyn Parnas.

Further Interwoven events are in the works. In the meantime, the Interwoven website hosts a blog highlighting initiatives and news stories from around the world using multiple perspectives to solve problems. Please visit interwoven.co for more information.