

Spring 2014

# Marshall Alumni Newsletter

Capturing  
the  
Cosmos

# Editor's Letter



As we finalize this issue, the first episode of *Cosmos: A Personal Voyage* is hitting the airwaves. Assuming the printers and post office don't fail us, this follow-up to Carl Sagan's famous 1980 series should be in full swing as you're reading this. It's fitting that in this issue we feature the astrophotography of Bernard Miller and take a closer look at the man behind these amazing images. We often focus on alumni's careers and professional interest, and so we're glad to highlight some of the diverse interests that our community has outside the office.

Finally, this will be the last issue for two long serving members of our team: Alyssa Wechsler (Class Notes) and Bryan Leach (AMS News). We thank Alyssa and Bryan for their many hours of volunteered service in pulling together issues of the newsletter and shaping this ever evolving publication.

Nicholas T. Hartman, Managing Editor

## **Nicholas Hartman** Managing Editor

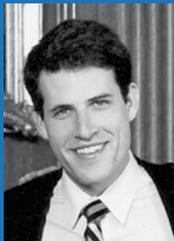
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# Contributors



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Cover photo: M42 – The Orion Nebula, by Bernard Miller (February 22-25 and March 22-23, 2012)

Newsletter design: Lara McCarron

# News from the AMS

By Bryan Leach (Oxford '00)

Marshall alumni have been active in events from coast to coast.

The Washington DC area alumni have continued their tradition of Small Group Dinners, each focusing on a different industry topic. The most recent focused on Science Policy, and featured remarks by Craig Schiffries (Oxford '80) and Anna Quider (Cambridge '07). Alumni in DC also carry on a tradition of regular Happy Hours which remains vibrant.

Not to be outdone, the Bay Area has played host to several events in the last quarter. In December, twenty Marshalls celebrated the holidays amidst sun-streaked views of the Castro at Clark Freshman's (Oxford '86) home. Attendees feasted on homemade mince pies and steaming hot popovers, some of which emerged from the oven in rather entertaining shapes, and toasted the year's end with freshly-mulled wine. All enjoyed catching up with friends old and new.

The British Consulate General in San Francisco kindly invited Bay Area Marshalls in science and technology fields to an "Innovation is GREAT" networking event, which

took place on March 6th. The gathering was in celebration of the ongoing ties between the United Kingdom and the Bay Area in the fields of science, technology, and innovation. Two leading British innovators were invited to join the Marshall alumni: Eben Upton (Founder, Raspberry Pi) and Simon Segars (CEO, ARM).

Scholars located in the Bay Area may join the Google Group for the AMS ([ams\\_sf@googlegroups.com](mailto:ams_sf@googlegroups.com)), to be kept abreast of upcoming springtime events.

Plans will soon be announced regarding the AMS Annual Meeting, which will be held this coming June in Washington DC. This is a change from recent years, in which it has been held in New York City, Boston, and San Francisco.

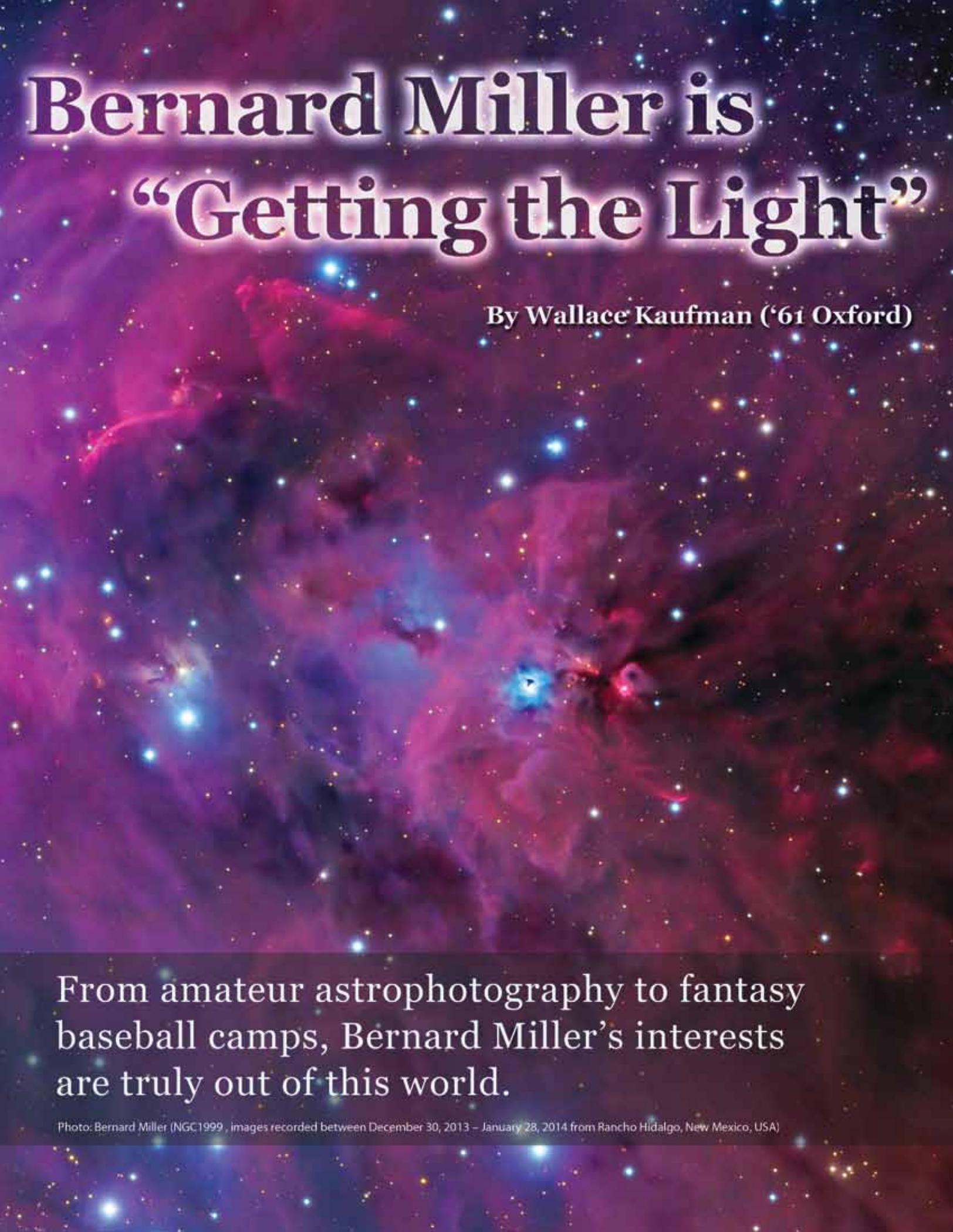
Since last writing, the AMS Board welcomed a new Board Member. Jennifer Kasten (Oxford '02) was elected to hold the Los Angeles seat. Jennifer received a master's degree in History of Medicine from Oxford and another master's degree in the control of infectious diseases from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Jennifer is also a graduate of Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons and the University of Kentucky.



Jackie Bass (Birmingham '00), Stephen DeBerry (Oxford '96) and Clark Freshman (Oxford '86)



Jud Campbell (LSE '06), Ben Heineike (Oxford '02), Tom Clarke (Oxford '07), Jacob Chacko (Oxford '00), and Jessica Lee (Oxford '05)



# Bernard Miller is “Getting the Light”

By Wallace Kaufman ('61 Oxford)

From amateur astrophotography to fantasy baseball camps, Bernard Miller's interests are truly out of this world.

Photo: Bernard Miller (NGC1999, images recorded between December 30, 2013 – January 28, 2014 from Rancho Hidalgo, New Mexico, USA)

**B**ackground research for an interview with a stranger is often like gathering the pieces of a puzzle and assembling them until a figure emerges. As my background research on Bernard Miller (Southampton/ Manchester '83) progressed, I began to see double, triple, more. So my first interview question was how one man could be so many things simultaneously: the software engineer with a stellar career at Synopsys, the man who feels his biblical duty is to teach people to lead economically sane lives, the former high school outfielder who spends a week each year training with the Arkansas Diamond Back major league baseball team, and the astrophotographer who has a personal observatory in darkest New Mexico from which he has taken acclaimed pictures of distant galaxies that have received hosiannas on Internet astronomy sites. And he is still living happily with the woman he married two days before flying to the UK in 1983 to begin his Marshall Scholarship at the University of Southampton. It's enough to make Walter Mitty cry.

Walter Mitty was James Thurber's archetype of the man with small talents and big dreams. Miller's answer to whether his varied interests are tied together was measured, "Kind of, some way." He is far more interested in talking about things and other people than about himself. Yet talking about things and others is his way of talking about himself. To stretch an old English proverb, for Miller wishes are horses and he's riding several and has one or two in the barn that may have to wait for retirement. When he took up astrophotography, his wife Janine was dubious. "I told her it was to keep me from becoming an alcoholic when I retired, so there was something in it for her."

When Miller's interest first turned to the heavens, Janine could hardly object since he was only helping their youngest son Benjamin with his middle school homework—identify in the sky 13 celestial objects. They looked up into the night sky. They looked where the objects were supposed to be. "I couldn't find anything."

They were living in Arizona where Bernard and Janine still live, and the clear desert skies are a boon to star gazers. "The local club had astronomy parties, and we went to one of those." Result: "Ben ticked off all 13 of them." Ben went on to other interests

and finally to study biochemistry at the University of Arizona, leaving Bernard with a telescope. The local club had a place 30 miles east of town at Boyce Thompson Arboretum. He bought a decent scope and began to take it out there once a month. The Arboretum wasn't an ideal location because the sky



Photo: Bernard Miller

Telescope inside Miller's remotely controlled observatory.

glow of Phoenix wiped out 10-30° of the night sky in the west, but Miller had enough sky to learn on.

One night someone showed him a camera mounted on a telescope, “and one thing led to another, and as I got into photography, I got into Yahoo groups.” That led to a local seminar on image processing at the University of Arizona conducted by Adam Block, a respected astrophotographer who used the telescope on 9,000 foot high Mt. Lemmon. At the seminar Miller watched a man from Georgia using his iPhone to open and close the roof of his distant observatory. After spending a week with this man in Atlanta and learning about his equipment and software, “I took the plunge and found a ranch in southern New Mexico that rented spaces for observatories, and I built one.” Miller now had a permanent observatory. It did not have a big white dome with a sliding panel and rotating platform. It is a

small, raw wooden shack, but the roof opens, and the big cities whose lights blot out stars were far beyond the horizon. “It’s as dark as you can get. It’s kind of like being on the far side of the moon.”

“It was one of the best things I’ve ever done,” Miller says. “I basically taught myself. I set up the telescope here in my office to test everything.” He worked out all the software and the controls so he could eventually operate his observatory from home. “It took me a good three months or more every weekend down there before I got the light.” For astrophotographers that phrase, “get the light”, means to take one’s first picture.

His first picture was M17, more poetically called the Swan Nebula, a huge mass of stars five to six thousand light years away. Miller now has a website, AZStarman, where anyone can (and thousands



Miller with his wife Janine, and sons Ben and Matt.

Photo courtesy of: Bernard Miller

do) see his pictures. <http://www.azstarman.net>. To get a sense of Miller's standing in the astrophotography community visit <http://astrogab.us/profile/BernardMiller> and read the oohs and aahs about his photograph of the Bode Galaxy 12 million light years from earth.

Although Miller has wide recognition among fellow photographers, he says he is still just "taking pretty pictures" but he would like to contribute to science. To take these pretty pictures, however, challenges his engineering skills. Miller took all the pictures on his site using remote control software from Arizona. "Once everything is turned on, I remote to the observatory. I tell the software what I want. It [his telescope] sits there all night taking pictures, and at the end of the night it shuts down and closes." That may be only the beginning of a single picture.

Astrophotographs are not a matter of point, focus, and shoot for 1/100th of a second, or even a full second. Miller often takes many exposures for many hours, sometimes every night for weeks or even over a period of months. And during that time his software must tell his telescope how to track one object, thousands or millions of light years away, as it appears, moves across our night skies, disappears toward daylight, then reappears each night in a slightly different position. Taking astrophotographs requires mastering the art of shooting long exposures of one moving object from another moving object. The pictures are at first black and white. Red, green, and blue filters transform them into the colors we see, and software combines all of the meticulously gathered information into the images on Miller's website.

Instead of going to the ranch and the observatory every weekend as he did at first, he now goes down once every two or three months for "well-baby checks." The quality of his pictures suggests to the uninitiated a large and expensive telescope. Miller's scope is a 5.5 inch diameter refractor. "With a good quality telescope and with decent equipment, you can take pictures as good as someone with a million dollar telescope." That is, if you also have Miller's other talents.

And that's where his night job and his day job come together. After a year at Southampton University, Miller says, "the program didn't turn out to be what

I thought it was." The Marshall Commission allowed him to transfer to Manchester University, which offered a computer science major, and he earned his master's degree there. His wife Janine started her radio career as an announcer on the airport intercom system; she now works as a radio announcer for evening classical music programs on KBAQ 89.5 FM in Arizona. Back in the US, when they couldn't find jobs in the same city, Miller went to work for General Electric Aerospace in Jersey City while Janine worked in Maryland and then Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. For two years they had a commuter marriage. Miller says, "I wouldn't recommend it, but it worked out."

Within a few years he had taken a position with Synopsys in Phoenix, Arizona. Now, instead of designing chips for operating radar, at Synopsys he was creating the CAD software that designs and simulates the chips. What Miller likes about his work is what he doesn't know. He says, "There's next to nothing I knew when I got out of college. I've had to relearn the whole thing. It's constant learning. We put out a new version of our tools every six months. You never quit going to school." And that's what he loves about his job. Synopsys promoted him to its management team, but he missed his role as a hands-on contributor to company products, and after five or six years he returned to design and testing, and post sales service.

Although he loves to have his hands deep in his work, he says in high school he never created science projects. "I was all over the place. I'm not one of these guys who were building radios and computers on their own. I just enjoyed learning. I was interested in thirty other things."

He still is, although he's now taking them on three or four at a time. When his two boys were in school staging musicals, Miller did tech support for cameras and lighting. He also served on the school's Board of Directors. As a member of the Sun Valley Community Church, he brings his math and management talent to Crown Financial Ministries, running work groups that teach people how to build a budget, get out of debt and stay out of financial trouble. "If you look at the Bible," Miller says, "it pretty much tells you to stay out of debt, live within your means, give to others. If you do

# Selections from Bernard Miller's Astrophotography Portfolio



Full lunar eclipse on December 21, 2010



The Horsehead Nebula (2011)



M81 Bode's Galaxy (2013)



M82 (2013)



M78 Nebulae (2013)



M20 Nebulae (2013)

Photos: Bernard Miller

that, life is good.” He’s also teaching from experience. “I’ve paid interest on a credit card twice. I lived in my first apartment for nine months with a bed and a dinette set. I saved up nine months to buy a living room set.”

His means now allow him not only to have his own observatory, but to fulfill his high school ambition of playing baseball with the pros. For seven years, the 55-year-old Miller has gone to a major league baseball camp in January. The first was with the Cardinals, the last six with the Arizona Diamondbacks Fantasy Baseball Camp in January. Miller pitched and played outfield in high school and says he could always hit a fast ball, but, “It’s the crooked ones that made me an engineer.” For him the camp “is a chance to be a kid again for a week, though granted, at the end of the week you can barely walk—your feet are moving but the scenery doesn’t change.” At a recent camp, a man of 76 pitched to the Diamondback pros. Miller says, “I want to show up and swing a bat at 76.”

What does his wife who once majored in music and who hosts classical music on radio think? “She wishes that the NY Philharmonic had a fantasy camp.”

Engineering is a kind of planning, and Miller at 55 is planning the rest of his life. During his Marshall years, he and Janine traveled throughout Europe — Athens, Greek Isles, Rome, Florence, Austria, Innsbruck, Nice, and throughout England. “Got the Europe bucket list done early in life.” Next year for their 30th anniversary they will go to Sydney, Australia, and on a cruise of New Zealand. For his celestial ambitions, he says, “Doing science is kind of the next step.” Measuring the varying intensity of stars interests him because the assembled data is used to understand the internal physics of stars. “That’s the next frontier” and a likely next step for him. “As time goes on there’s only so many pretty pictures you can take. It’s on my to do list.”

Then there’s music. He played the drums in high school, started to play the piano, “but life got in the way. Music has always been a big part of my life. That’s how we [he and Janine] got together. It’s a part of me that I enjoy but I never fully developed.”

Talk to Miller about the varied pieces of his life and you begin to see what ties them together—he loves



Photo courtesy of: Bernard Miller

### Miller at the Arizona Diamondbacks Fantasy Baseball Camp

to learn. It’s why he left Synopsys management and went back to creating software. It’s almost an addiction that will take him anywhere there’s an opportunity to learn. “Everyone is ignorant,” he says, “just about different things. How is a violin made? I don’t know. I would enjoy spending a day on a garbage truck. How does it work, where does the stuff go?”



# “British” Marshall Scholars



By Aroop Mukharj  
(’10 LSE and KCL)



On average, a handful of Marshall Scholars from each class return to the UK to work at some point during their careers. Some are temporarily posted to London on business, most find visiting professorships for a semester or two, and others drop in periodically as musicians, conductors, and fine artists for performances and shows. A smaller number stick around for the rest of their careers, and fewer still never make it home to the US in the first place.

Illustrations: [carmendorin/Bigstock.com](#) & [maigi/Shutterstock.com](#)

# An Oxford President

Keith Griffin (Oxford '60) is one of the scholars who stuck around. “In a way,” he jokes, “I am an example of what the Marshall Scholarship committees didn’t want.” It is true that the architects of the Marshall scheme did not envision Scholars to work long-term in the UK. But they devised the program at a time when international professions and travel abroad were not commonplace (Marshall Scholars were still traveling to the UK by boat for orientation until 1974<sup>1</sup>). And while the scholarship’s architects certainly hoped (but did not expect) Scholars would assume leadership positions in the US and spread the good word about the Brits, Marshall Scholars who have spent their careers in Great Britain have often made it *greater*.

Griffin graduated from Williams College in 1960, already married and with two daughters at the time. He along with W.N. Harrell Smith (Oxford '60 and chair of the Advisory Board of Marshall Scholars) were the first two Williams students to win the Marshall Scholarship, and both held their scholarships at Oxford (Griffin at Balliol College, Smith at Oriel College). Unlike most Marshall Scholars, however, Griffin had already received admission to Oxford

prior to his application for the scholarship and leveraged this fact in his interview. “I said, ‘Look, I have a place, will you please give me a scholarship?’” he recalls. “And it worked!”

Griffin’s biding academic passion is developmental economics. At Oxford, he trained under Paul Streeten, an Austrian economist, and Thomas Balogh (later Lord Balogh), who became a close cabinet advisor to Prime Minister Harold Wilson in his first administration. After two years at Oxford, Griffin continued on with a DPhil in Economics while accepting a two-year teaching contract at the University of Chile in Santiago. One year into his teaching contract, Balogh asked Griffin to join him in Algeria to advise the newly independent Algerian government on agriculture planning. Accepting the offer, Griffin put his Chile gig on hold, moved to Algeria for a year, and then came back to Chile to finish out his contract (as well as his thesis).

Griffin’s steady stream of publications in English and in Spanish as well as his unique experiences abroad during this significant period of decolonization caught the attention of his second alma mater. Griffin had long assumed he would return to the US to become a professor—that is precisely why he read for a DPhil—but Magdalen College offered him



The Great Tower of Magdalen College, Oxford. Built 1492-1509.

1. And even that change was somewhat accidental. In 1974 the group of Marshall Scholars were forced to travel by air for the first time when their sailing was unexpectedly cancelled (22nd Annual Report).

Photo: BasPhoto/Bigstock.com



Photo courtesy: Magdalen College, Oxford (original portrait by Michael Noakes)

Keith Griffin was President of Magdalen College, Oxford from 1979-1988

a teaching fellowship to return to the UK, which he accepted. The salary, he notes, was uncomfortably low, but he supplemented his income by consulting during the long vacations. During his several years as a tutor, his research took him around the globe as an adviser to USAID, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, and foreign governments ranging from Pakistan to El Salvador.

Griffin was elected President of Magdalen College, serving from 1979 to 1988, making him the first American to hold that office (though he did become a British citizen in 1981). Griffin assumed the presidency at a challenging period in Magdalen's history. Though one of the oldest and most beautiful colleges at Oxford, Magdalen had fallen on hard financial times, and Griffin's first initiative was to rebuild the endowment, which had been declining for several years.

Additionally, he launched a major modernization program to bring heating, plumbing and wir-

ing up to late 20th century standards, and strengthened the natural sciences. Lastly, in common with the whole of Oxford at the time, Griffin oversaw a major recruitment effort to diversify the application intake. For Magdalen, Griffin notes, this was especially important and difficult given its reputation as an aristocratic and elitist college. "It was a lot to do in nine years," he said. Following his presidency, Griffin left Oxford for the US to chair the Economics department at the University of California – Riverside, retiring in 2004.

Throughout his career in England, Griffin maintained an especially close relationship with the Marshall Scholarship. Not only did he and his wife, Dixie, entertain Marshall Scholars while they were in Oxford (over 20 Marshall Scholars were placed in Magdalen while he worked there), but in 1984 Griffin became the first Marshall Scholar to serve on the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission (MACC), the British government body that oversees the Scholarship program.<sup>2</sup>

Beginning with its inception in 1953, the MACC regularly debated the merits of a free choice of university versus a more even distribution across Brit-



Photo courtesy: Archives of Magdalen College, Oxford

President Griffin being presented with a Royal Crown Derby plate produced to commemorate the restoration of the Great Tower. Griffin is receiving the plate from Hugh Gibson, an old member of the College.

2. In 1959, Charles Whaley (Manchester '54) became the first Marshall Scholar to serve on a regional Selection Committee.

ish universities for incoming Scholars. As expressed in several of the annual reports in the 1950s and 60s, the British government consistently desired a broader dispersal of Marshall Scholars across so-called “provincial universities.” Officials believed that provincial universities would better expose Scholars to British life than would the Universities of Oxford, London, and Cambridge, which an overwhelming majority of Scholars elected to attend every year (and still do). During Griffin’s tenure on the MACC, this issue did not die, and though

he welcomed a scattering of Scholars at Magdalen, Griffin strongly favored free choice to achieve it. Doing otherwise, he felt, would artificially distort candidates’ preferences and hurt the scholarship program in the long run.

Elected the same year that Keith started on the MACC, Cindy Sughrue OBE (Sheffield ’85) was one such Scholar who, unlike most Scholars, attended a provincial university—the University of Sheffield. She also has yet to make it home to the US.

## From Boston to the Scottish Ballet

A Boston native and trained ballet dancer and instrumentalist, Cindy Sughrue lost her parents at the age of 16 and self-financed her way through college at Boston University. Inspired by her professor, Tony Barrand, a British scholar on traditional music and dance, Sughrue sought opportunities abroad to study ethnochoreology, the anthropology of dance. But funding was crucial, so this led her to apply for the Marshall Scholarship despite her somewhat atypical proposal to study traditional dance. “Dance? Why on earth, dance?” asked an aggressive BU astronomy professor during her university nomination interview.

“Why do you look at the stars?” Sughrue replied.

Sughrue’s actual Marshall interview was much easier, she recalls, despite the fact that she arrived soaking wet after she was caught en route in a torrential downpour without an umbrella. One year after her election, she arrived at the University of Sheffield and began work toward a PhD at the Cen-

Cindy Sughrue is the Chief Executive and Executive Producer of the Scottish Ballet. Sughrue was recently awarded an OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List.

Photo courtesy: Cindy Shughrue





Photo: Andy Ross (courtesy the Scottish Ballet)



Photo: Christina Riley (courtesy the Scottish Ballet)



Photo: Christina Riley (courtesy the Scottish Ballet)



Photo: Andy Ross (courtesy the Scottish Ballet)

Scenes from Christopher Hampson’s *Hansel & Gretel*, one of the Scottish Ballet’s most recent productions.

tre for English Cultural Tradition and Language, which has since shut its doors.

At Sheffield, Sughrue immersed herself completely in British culture. Sughrue’s academic project essentially required her to deeply engage and understand Yorkshire’s historical traditions. Her thesis was the first academic work to examine Long Sword Dancing, a regional ritual dance dating back to the 14th century. The project entailed extensive fieldwork, so over the course of her PhD, Sughrue’s social network developed outside of an academic student environment. She befriended members of the three major Long Sword Dance

teams, even starting a Ceilidh [Gaelic] band with a few of them (Sughrue played the tenor sax and pennywhistle).

“I cannot overstate the importance and impact that the Marshall Scholarship had on my life,” Sughrue says. Her far-flung adventures in Yorkshire gave her the confidence to live outside her comfort zone and rely on herself. It was also an opportunity to do something unusual. “The skills I developed doing that PhD, and doing it in a different country... it’s something that has absolutely formed me as a person in a way that nothing else would have done. It was transformational for me.”



Photo courtesy: Cindy Sughrue

Sughrue on Scotland's Beinn Eighe – Ruadh-stac Mòr (Gaelic translation: Big Red Stack)

In 1990, while finishing her thesis, Sughrue married a British geophysicist she had met at Sheffield, applied for “permanent leave to remain,” and moved to Edinburgh. Sughrue became the first paid member of staff at a local art gallery previously run by a collective of volunteers, tripling its income and staff in four years and upgrading its space. Though she and her husband separated a few years later, Sughrue stayed in Edinburgh and became General Manager at Dance Base, the National Centre for Dance, which hosts classes and performance and studio space. There too, Sughrue grew its staff by a factor of four and initiated a major capital project. “My first love was dance,” Sughrue says. “And I have always been inspired and energized by doing a job where I can see and make a difference.”

Following a seven-year stint at the Scottish Arts Council (what Sughrue calls her “National Service”), she moved to Scottish Ballet to become its Chief Executive and Executive Producer, a position she has held for nearly 10 years. Her dual role at Scottish ballet has allowed her to develop the business as well as be involved on the creative side.

However, like Griffin at Magdalen College, Sughrue took the helm at a time when the financial foundation of the Ballet was eroding and demanded immediate attention. Over the last ten years, Sughrue has increased annual turnover by £2 million in box office sales and new grants, and completed an £11 million building project for its new headquarters. She has also greatly expanded its international touring schedule. In January 2014, Sughrue was in Russia planning a several-week visit as part of the UK-Russia Year of Culture, and, in February, took the company to the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

Last December, Her Majesty the Queen invested Sughrue as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her services to dance in the United Kingdom. Sughrue joins the ranks of around a dozen Marshall Scholars so officially recognized, but she received the prize as a dual citizen, rather than just as an American—something the architects of the Marshall Scholarship may not have envisioned, but something, I imagine, they would have certainly welcomed.





# Transplant from the Sunshine State

*“I think in the old days, the nexus of weirdness ran through Southern California, and to a degree New York City. I think it’s changed so that every bizarre story in the country now has a Florida connection. I don’t know why, except it must be some inversion of magnetic poles or something,”—Carl Hiaasen*

By Katie Davidson (Cambridge ‘13)

There is a lot to answer for as a Florida native these days. If it’s not Trayvon Martin, Casey Anthony, the Barefoot Bandit, or something to do with treasure hunting, then it’s some crazy druggie eating someone’s face off Zombie-style.

When I met my class of Marshall Scholars, the first thing anyone said to me was, “Wow, I’ve never met anyone actually from Florida before! Do you vote?” Similarly, within the first few hours of being in Cambridge, another Florida native, a Harvard graduate, exclaimed, “It’s so awesome to meet another person to get out of Florida!”

Another blaringly abrasive aspect of my background is my commission in the United States military. Interestingly enough, I get more commentary on my status as a Floridian than on my status as an officer. That’s because Sunshine State does not elicit weak feelings; I find you either love it or you hate it. I happen to find myself in the former category. There are many transplants in Florida, but not too many “natives,” and I feel lucky to have real roots and strong connections there. It affects the way I work and my general attitude towards life. Stress? Why stress? There’s a beautiful sandy shore not thirty minutes away, and I checked the surf report: the waves look ride-able.

However, I must separate us from the general Southern states. Though we share a great deal of cultural similarities with the Old South, we simply are not of the same breed. For one thing, it’s warmer with a constant ocean breeze on both coasts, and the consistent amount of vitamin D keeps us in a generally happier mood. There are also a great deal more elderly people, including many areas with among the highest average ages in the country. However, there is much more to being a Floridian than a lot of old people and some sunshine.

Florida is a visitor’s state. We get many people coming in and out like political candidates during election season, various celebrities looking for an escape from California, and “snowbirds,” usually middle-aged Canadian, European, Midwestern, New Englander, or New Yorker couples looking to escape the cold for a weekend and named so due to the pale whiteness of their skin. You can usually spot these people because after a day or two, they change

to a brilliant shade of red. My only real experience with the British culture until I won the Marshall Scholarship was making fun of the sunburned British people with their wonderful accents and puzzling aversion to sunscreen. The British tourists were always my favorite.

Turning the tables, a Floridian abroad, I have found, is a separate experience from being an American abroad. The closest thing I can equate it to is being a Texan or a California Valley Girl abroad. There is a particular set of stereotypes and cultural oddities associated with Florida abroad in the United Kingdom. The biggest of which is “The Happiest Place on Earth.”

I cannot even begin to count the number of times I have heard, “Oh you’re from Florida? How close are you to Disney World?” It seems that in the United Kingdom, your existence as a human being is measured in your proximity to Mickey Mouse.

Sometimes I feel like I cheat in my ability to immediately get along with my British counterparts due to the inherent coolness of my home. As nice as Ohio, Rhode Island, Oregon or the like probably are, they simply do not have nearly the star (or should I say sun) power. And my relative ease of connecting with people has allowed me to make quicker and (hopefully) tighter friendships as a result because being from Florida is something they can relate to. No, Cambridge will never be as warm as, as sunny as, or as beachy as Florida. I always have an excuse to whine about the weather, which is fantastic, because I do that a lot.

Something Florida does not have is bustling academic rigor or an extensive history of learning and scholarship. Frankly, that is because it was unlivable until Willis Carrier invented the modern air conditioning unit in 1902. However, I don’t know that the generally escapist and laissez faire Floridian culture could foster the same academic environment as Cambridge. I believe that good work is being done in the state of Florida, but I would be kidding myself if I were to call it the intellectual epicenter of the South. It is not, and it knows that.

To keep with the Disney motif, I think some cosmic force keeps the *Jungle Book* song “Bare Necessities” on repeat within the state consciousness. Academia could not func-

tion on only the bare necessities. It needs busy bees to continue the fine pursuit of excellence. In Cambridge, it sounds more like “The British Bank (The Life I Lead)” from *Mary Poppins*. A rather more obscure song, but I think it much more fitting than picking the obvious *Peter Pan* theme. Cambridge beats to the tom tom of a snare. It’s precise and unyielding. My interpretation of “being English” is a sort of emotional bond over a dedication to tolerance, a stiff upper-lip, and a certain gentility of which this part of the United Kingdom is very proud.

Both lifestyles have their plusses and minuses, and it would do me well to take on the positive aspects of both to further develop myself as a human being. That being said, my personal Disney refrain sounds a lot like “A Whole New World” from *Aladdin*. This nation, this university, and this lifestyle are not familiar. I’ve seen dozens of princes and princesses walking around on Main Street U.S.A. in Disney World, but none of those experiences can hold a candle to seeing Prince William in St. John’s College Buttery. It’s a different world, “a new fantastic point of view.”

I certainly feel like I’ve set off on a new adventure in a land far away from Florida. I try to take a few moments every once in a while to realize the charmed life I lead because at the end of the day, the truest portrayal of Katie Davidson is surfboard in hand, sporting a well-earned tan and humming the tunes to *Disney’s Greatest Hits*.



## Add your memories to an upcoming book on the history of the Marshall Scholarship

Aroop Mukharji (LSE and KCL, 2010), one of our editors, is working on a history of the Marshall Scholarship and its impact on Anglo-American relations. If you have a story about how the UK has stayed with you — personally or professionally — please share it! His email address is: aroopm@gmail.com

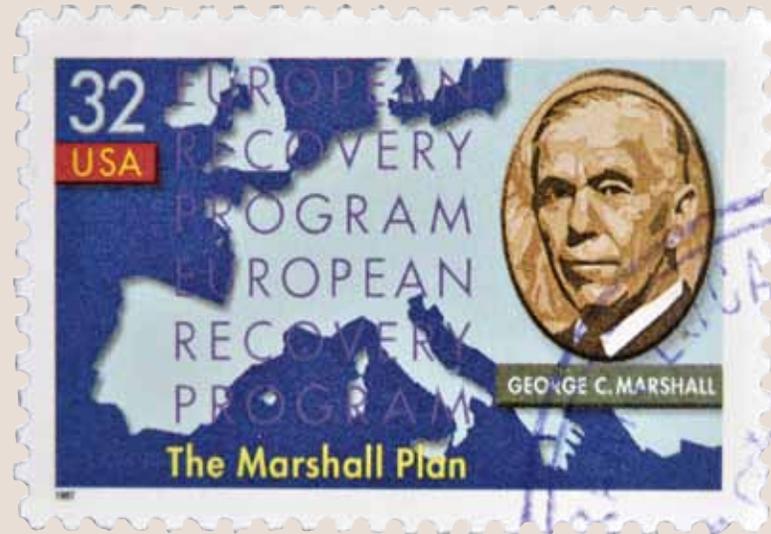


Image: neftali/bigstock.com

## Board Member Profile

Andrew is an investor at Paulson & Company, a multi-strategy hedge fund in New York. Since 2002 he has served as president and founder of Even Ground ([www.evengroundafrica.org](http://www.evengroundafrica.org)), an international non-profit organization that annually provides more than 750 children who have been orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in South Africa and Uganda with academic support, basic health care, and nutrition.

Andrew has served on the Association of Marshall Scholars Board since 2007; he is currently the Treasurer of the board and previously was the Secretary of the Board. He also serves or has served on the boards of the AEI Enterprise Club, Bowery Mission Young Philanthropists, Brookings Society, Echoing Green Social Investment Council, Harvard Law School Board of Overseers, Juilliard Club, Learning Matters, Magdalen Society, Morgan Library Young Fellows, New York Public Library Young Lions, Public Theater Young Partners, Truman Scholars Association, United Jewish Appeal – Young Wall Street, and Yale Alumni Fund.

Andrew resides in New York and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations Term Membership Program, Economic Club of New York, and New York State Bar.



Photo courtesy: Andrew Klaber

### Andrew Klaber (Oxford ‘04)

## 1954

### Phyllis Piotrow

(ppiotrow@jhucp.org)

**Alexei A. Maradudin** reports that since he last contributed to the Newsletter, he has continued his academic activities. His latest book, *Waves in Gradient Metamaterials*, co-authored with Prof. A.B. Shvartsburg from Moscow, Russia, was published in April 2013 by World Scientific.

Alexei also writes, “I am currently putting the finishing touches on a book I am co-editing (and contributing to) that will be published by Elsevier later this year. I presented an invited talk at the 4th International Symposium on Plasma Nanoscience in Asilomar, California, in August, 2013.” Alexei has also continued to serve on the board of the Laguna Beach Music Festival and on the advisory board of the Corona del Mar Baroque Festival. On a personal note, he and his wife Peggy enjoyed a delightful two weeks in Paris and Amsterdam with their daughter Claudia and their granddaughter Natalia in June 2013.

**Charles Whaley** relates that when his youngest grandson, William Archer, was very young, he told Charles that he was going to beat his academic record. Charles is happy to report that his grandson has most certainly done that. Charles’ grandson, while a senior at Windsor (VA) High School and while attending the Governor’s School for Science and Technology, already does security clearance work for NASA and will be going to Houston later this year to work on a project. Moreover and most happily, Charles’ grandson has been accepted as one of the first three in a highly competitive dual-degree program for a Bachelor of Arts in a cognitive science discipline and a Bachelor of Science in computer engineering at the

University of Pennsylvania. So maybe an important, unheralded benefit of Marshall Scholarships is the challenge it offers to the next generations to excel in their careers too.

**Harvey Wagner** reports that the aboriginal Australian art exhibit he helped to gather did well when shown at the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio as it had at the Hood Museum in Hanover, New Hampshire.

## 1955

### Robert Berdahl

(berdahl143@aol.com)

**Jane Baltzell** is Director of the Brooks Center for Spirituality in Denver and still teaches at the University of Denver. She is also writing the narrative for a documentary about a remarkable school in Albuquerque which dealt with contemporary sacred art in the 1970s and 1980s.

**Beverly Griffin** wrote the last chapter in a book on Burkitt’s Lymphoma. This topic was discussed at a meeting in Oxford noting the 50th anniversary of attention to the disease.

**James Langer** is lecturing on physics in Japan and is still Editor of the *Annual Review of Condensed Matter Physics*.

## 1957

### Susan Long Quainton

(slquainton@aol.com)

**Robert Cumming** writes that he is living in Davidson, North Carolina with his wife, novelist Rosa Shand. They enjoy writing poetry and working on green space preservation and rural low-income community development with their son and daughter-in-law, who are community organizers.

**Alar Toomre** reports that he recently returned from a very pleasant 10-day MIT alumni tour of Chile — conducted by a couple of real observational astronomers — to gawk at four of the sites of big-time optical or radio telescopes that have sprung up there (mainly with American, European or Japanese funding) in the past 2-3 decades. He writes, “and since I claim to be something of an astronomer myself, though of a theoretical sort, for me this was pretty much a busman’s holiday!”

**Bob Stoothoff** enjoys receiving the newsletter and invitations to Marshall Scholar meetings. Bob says, “This reminds me of one of my past selves (my postgraduate student self). Then there’s my Edinburgh self (nine years as lecturer in the Department of Logic and Metaphysics at Edinburgh University), followed by my University of Canterbury self (Professor of Philosophy for 24 years), and finally my present self: retired since 1995, editing *Cybereditions* until 2000, and now helping my son grow flowers commercially. It’s interesting (to me, anyway) how these selves differ, though mostly in trivial respects (e.g. my previous selves thought little of Schumann’s music, unlike my present self).”

## 1960

### Patrick Henry

(patrick1939@gmail.com)

Members of the Class of 1960, now mostly in the middle of our eighth decade, are doing what we’ve been doing or doing new things or enjoying the march of generations or simply staying alive.

**Jim Trefil** reports he is still professing physics at George Mason University and celebrating the recent arrival of

three new granddaughters.

**David Campbell** flat-lined, but was in hospital when it happened, and was “brought back—like Lazarus from the dead.” He has just completed his term as president of the Oxford Cambridge Society of Louisiana.

**Marty Budd** has had four audiences with the Pope in the last three years—two with Benedict XVI and two with Francis, including attending Francis’s inauguration by invitation. Marty was present on these occasions as an officer of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, the official Jewish dialogue partner with the Vatican. The consortium was formed at the request of the Vatican about 35 years ago to communicate more effectively a panoply of Jewish organizations.

**Patrick Henry** is in his seventh year as a monthly columnist (“Fourth Tuesday”) for the *St. Cloud Times* [MN], with a theme of “renewal of human community”—which gives him leeway to touch on many subjects. He was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Humanities Center. He delights in six grandsons and, as of January, a granddaughter.

## 1968

**Len Srnka**  
(lensrnka@comcast.net)

**Len Srnka** retired from Exxon-Mobil in late June 2013 after nearly



LEN SRNKA

34 years with the company, where his last assignment was Chief Research Geoscientist. He is now the first Professor of Practice at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego, and is a member of the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics. He is commuting from Houston to sunny southern California for a week each month while he and his wife Lissa house-hunt near San Diego (and get over the sticker shock!). Their daughter Charlotte is a first-year medical student at UT Southwestern in Dallas, and their youngest son Evan is a senior in aerospace engineering at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. Their eldest son Erik is the admissions manager for Meritas, a global K-12 private education corporation.

Len was elected to the Association of Marshall Scholars Board of Directors

last summer and is a member of the Governance and Development Committees. He is also the 1968 Class Secretary and the Marshall liaison for the British Consul-General in Houston.

**Jim Cunningham** writes: “This year brought little change in our lives but ushered in major transitions for sons Scott and Devon. In March Scott left his bond-trading firm and started a new firm (Falcon Square Capital) with his three partners Braxton Wall, Keaton Wright and Melissa Pendegrass. Devon graduated from East Carolina in May with a sports psychology degree and a 3.5 GPA. Although accepted into a PhD program at UNC-Greensboro in the fall, he started working at Scott’s firm in June as a fixed income ana-

lyst. Finally, saving the best and most exciting news for last, in late September Scott got engaged to a young lady from a great family.

My wife Jill continues to walk for exercise, read, take courses at Duke’s continuing education program (occasionally with me), and generally see a movie each week for a discussion group I moderate. I continue to play competitive bridge three times a week, racquetball, pickleball (google it—it’s sweeping the East Coast), golf, and occasionally tennis. I thought I was fit from the sports and bike riding until I took an exercise class and was wasted from about a minute of jumping jacks, a warm up back in the day which I could do easily for more than 30 minutes. In addition to the movies, I moderate a men’s group, which also meets a couple of times each month.”

1969

**William Lee**

(leewill@yu.edu)

A poem by **Joe Willing**

Old Sailor

Ten years away, roaming and battling,  
Beaching the boat in strange ports  
Where the townsfolk stare at you  
And you don't speak the lingo.

Friends, family, scattered like seeds,  
Wherever the wind took them.  
And equally well, the wind took me  
And blew me to the world's edge.

O I have a few more decades left,  
And I could spend them roaming,  
Swinging the mainsail out to the sea,  
As long as body and mind hold out.

Or lie up in some quiet harbour  
Where the old sea songs are sung,  
Near to the salt smell and the sand,  
And watch my grandchildren grow.

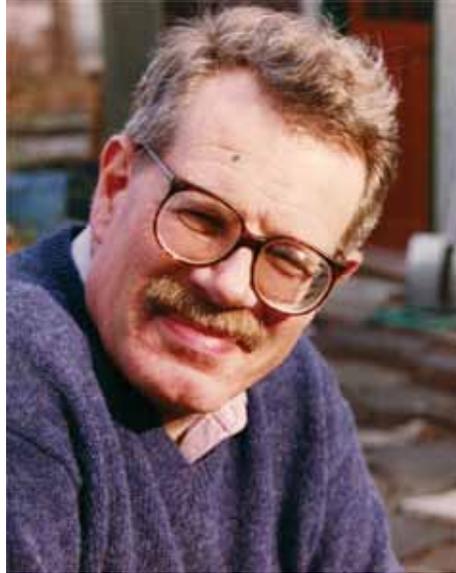
Who knows if what I've said or done  
Will last for long beyond my living?  
Memories are short, the blind poet sings  
And like as not the song's forgotten.

No matter. For I've had a journey  
On the crest of the waves, far beyond  
The sheltered waters or any world  
My youthful heart imagined.

Each year now, from here on out,  
Is a blessing, a gift from a god,  
As full of shining promise  
As the sun coming up over the sea.

Joe Willing

September 2009



**JOE WILLING**

1970

**Ted Gordon**

(ted@gortongroup.com)

**Ted Gorton** passed his Yachtmaster Advanced Navigation course and

is now gearing up for the practical course and exam in the grueling waters of the Ionian Sea, in May. Other than that, Ted writes that he is "currently in the early writing phase of my latest research project, the end of the Ottoman Empire in the Levant-time of the Armenian Genocide and of the carving up of the Middle East by Britain and France. Lots of exciting events, but time will tell whether they translate into any sort of book. Perhaps (cringe) a novel. Super-editor daughter Stephanie insists I keep hammering at a blog, a narcissistic exercise but apparently a must if you want to sell books on obscure themes. Though incredibly, my biography of a Druze prince [*Renaissance Emir*] who was strangled in 1635 has sold out and will appear in paperback in the US in April, just about covering my pencil expenses. Anyway masochists are wel-

**TED GORTON**



come to learn more at: <http://tjgorton.wordpress.com>”

**Chris Saricks** writes: “News mostly quotidian from here. In retirement I remain a Transportation and Parking Commissioner for our village (Downers Grove, IL), my wife Joyce has become the Audiobooks Editor for Booklist (American Libraries Association), and we are gearing up for the wedding of the first of our progeny in August. And I did make it onto my seventh continent last January. The attached shot was taken on an Antarctic ice shelf that subsequently was separated bodily from the main sheet by intrusive bow action of our cruise boat.”

**Richard Tyner** writes: “Maybe it would help us all reconnect if we shared where we are now and how we got here. Our group of Marshall Scholars did not really have much of a chance to see each other. It is pleasing to me that younger classes seem to have more interaction. It probably did not help that I went to Manchester for an MA (Econ), as no one ever came to Manchester!”

At any rate, after receiving the MA in December 1971, I came back to the US and was in the U.S. Army for three months training as a Second Lieutenant, fulfilling my ROTC commitment from my U of Iowa days. Then in the fall of 1972, I went to the LSE and finished a PhD in International Relations in January 1975. I returned to our farm in Iowa, interviewed for a few teaching jobs at universities and then decided to go to law school in 1976. I was accepted at Yale Law School and graduated in May 1979. I had spent one summer as a law clerk in Chicago and the next in New York, but after a couple of interview trips to San Francisco, I was hooked on the Left Coast and joined Morrison & Foerster (MoFo).



**CHRIS SARICKS**

It was a great law firm, and they soon acquired offices in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and London. All of us young associates wanted to go to London, no one wanted to go to Jeddah, but the Firm managed to convince me that, with my international background, I would love Saudi Arabia. So I went there in 1981 for a year, then London for the first half of 1982 and back to SF for the second half. In fact, I really liked the practice of law in Saudi Arabia, and ended up leaving MoFo (whose Saudi Office had separated) in 1983, spending most of my time in Jeddah and Riyadh with a couple of different firms from 1983 to 2009, most recently Fulbright & Jaworski, which I joined in 2007.

But things come full circle. Due to asthma issues which got worse as I got older, I am now back on my farm in Iowa, working from home for Ful-

bright & Jaworski, now in a combination with the English law firm Norton Rose. I get up at 5 am every morning to work with our Dubai and Riyadh offices, and travel to Dubai for a couple of months every year, in the spring and again in the fall, to stay current with clients.

I would like to be more active in the Association of Marshall Scholars, but Southwest Iowa (Shenandoah) is pretty remote. **Nancy Cox** (also from Iowa) can confirm this for you!

I would love to hear from all of you, since it is so much easier to stay in touch nowadays. Plus it will give Ted something to report as Class Secretary. We did not have emails when we were Marshall Scholars, so that can be our excuse for the long hiatus in our correspondence.”



PATTI WALDERMEIR

1971

**Jeff Kunz**  
(jrmkunz@aol.com)

**Michael Cadden** writes: “I’m currently serving as Chair of the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University, where I’ve been teaching dramatic literature, theater history, performance theory and criticism for over thirty years. The Lewis Center is the academic home of the Programs in Theater, Dance, Creative Writing, Visual Arts and the Princeton Atelier, so I am lucky enough to be swimming in the creative energy generated by our students, faculty and guest artists on a daily basis. My own work focuses on theater of the last 150 years or so – the playwrights of that period as well as revivals of the classics. For example, this spring break, I’ll be taking my “Shake-

speare 450” seminar to London and Stratford to study how Shakespeare continues to shape 21st century British theater, so my Marshall experience at Bristol – largely focused on theater-making and theatergoing – continues to feed my life.

On a personal note, in December, taking advantage of recent changes in federal and state law, I married my long-time partner Drake Baer at our home in Princeton. In September, we’ll stage a larger celebration with friends and family to commemorate our 25th Anniversary. (Church and state may see us as newlyweds, but we know the real deal!) Even though I also do gay studies – I taught Princeton’s first course in Gay and Lesbian Studies back in 1988 – I have nonetheless been surprised the recent pace of change. Many

of my gay peers died in the 1980s and 1990s. I’m happy to have lived to see this moment and sorry that they didn’t. On the other hand, many of them might have shared my ambivalence about the current movement’s emphasis on marriage, children and military service. First we’re asked to gentrify dying inner cities, then we’re asked to enliven a moribund military establishment, and now we’re asked to burnish the tarnished institution of marriage! How long before we’re declared a “model minority”?”

1978

**Bert Wells**  
(bwells@cov.com)

**Patti Waldmeir** writes from Gansu Province, China

Sleeping with yaks is apparently not on the list of things prohibited for foreign journalists living in China. Who knew?

On my recent sabbatical from my job as Shanghai bureau chief of the *Financial Times*, I trotted out to China’s remote Gansu province to spend a few days living in a tent at 12,000 feet with nomadic Tibetan yak herders.

I was followed every step of the way there, by an amiable guy young enough to be my grandson, but when I put foot to stirrup I was on my own: my security police detail carried my bags, dispensed advice on altitude sickness, and advised me to pack plenty of long johns. But sleeping on the floor in a tent with no running water or toilet? Protecting national security would not require such sacrifice, it seemed.

Think Sound of Music with yaks. I spent three days last November in a tent on the high grasslands, with heat

provided by yak-dung stove, eating yak jerky and yak-milk yogurt. The lady of the tent rose at dawn to scoop up the poop deposited the night before by yaks and spread it out to dry to use as fuel. I traipsed around behind her, feebly struggling to carry one heavy yak-pat while she carried a basketful.

And when I wasn't following her, a yak or a child was following me – especially when I left the tent to avail myself of the miles and miles of uninterrupted grassland that serve as the local toilet.

Next time I may invite the security detail along after all. It would be a great pleasure to put them on dung detail.

## 1979

### Tom Lupfer

(Tom.Lupfer@claritydesign.com)

**Beth Marcus** is the CEO and Founder of Playrific, which provides entertaining and educational apps to young consumers. Playrific is Beth's latest endeavor, having been involved with over 20 startups throughout her career and holding over 30 patents. Beth has a 9-year-old daughter who just so happens to be a Playrific enthusiast!

## 1992

### Christy Lorgen

(christylorgen@gmail.com)

**Elizabeth Harmer Dionne** is teaching at Wellesley College and Boston College while finishing her political science dissertation on special education and public law litigation.

## 1999

### Tad Heuer

(tadheuer@gmail.com)

**Jaremey McMullin** remains a Lecturer in the School of International

Relations at the University of St Andrews and has just published his first book, *Ex-Combatants and the Post-Conflict State: Challenges of Reintegration* (Palgrave Macmillan).

After twelve and a half years in Europe, **Lea Ruscio** finally moved back to the United States this past fall. She writes that she is now running Arts at the Armory, an arts center in Somerville, Massachusetts — “a big change from my last few jobs, but it's been great!”

While **Bertrall Ross** is still an Assistant Professor of Law at UC Berkeley School of Law, he is currently on leave and “in the very early stages of a book project on the Original Meaning of the Fifteenth Amendment” as a Law and Public Affairs Fellow at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School. He writes that “my wife Joy, son Solomon (6 years old) and I are living in Brooklyn and enjoying our return to the east coast, where snow (at least the first time it fell) seemed fun again.”

**Andrew Cohen** notes after studying seventeenth-century poetry at Oxford “I switched course and went to medical school at the University of Pennsylvania,” and that he is now a fellow in geriatric medicine at Yale. Perhaps more important, he writes that “on the heels of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act last summer, I proposed to my partner James, a conductor and singer.” Andrew and James were married in New York City on January 17.

From Oklahoma City, **Chris Stephens**



**CLIFFORD BENJAMIN HEINEIKE**

writes that he is still enjoying being an Assistant U.S. Attorney, where he “prosecutes white-collar and financial fraud, and dabbles in some appeals.” Chris notes that “Amy and I spend all our free time corralling Samuel, who will turn two in late March. He's constantly busy, but lots of fun.”

## 2002

### Esther Freeman

(esther.freeman@gmail.com)

Amy and **Ben Heineike** welcomed Clifford Benjamin Heineike on February 10th, 2014. Ben reports that Mom and baby are doing well.



ALYSSA WECHSLER

## 2006

### Dan Weeks

(dmweeks@gmail.com)

Many will be familiar with **Shadi Hamid's** prolific writings and media commentaries on US-Middle East relations as director of research at the Brookings Doha Center. Now, Shadi has taken up residence as a fellow with the Saban Center for Middle East Policy and recently published *Temptations of Power: Islamists and Illiberal Democracy in a New Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Meanwhile, our global peace-talker, **Jessica Ashooh**, has been shuttling between Abu Dhabi, where she works for the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Geneva where she is an active participant in the Syrian peace negotiations. Here's hoping she and Secretary of State Kerry and the other negotiators make headway in the second round – the Syrian people depend on it.

Closer to home, **Daniel Weeks** wrapped up a challenging set of poverty research tours by Greyhound bus through thirty American states on a Har-

vard Safra Center fellowship, and shared his findings on poverty and political disenfranchisement in a series for *The Atlantic* and other publications. Now back in New Hampshire, he is working to expand educational opportunity in low-income communities through City Year.

## 2008

### Ben Carmichael

(b.h.carmichael@gmail.com)

and

### Katie Huston

(katiehust@gmail.com)

In October, **Alyssa Wechsler** took a new job at the University of Wyoming. She is now the project coordinator of Food Dignity, an action research effort looking at what communities around the US need to develop and maintain sustainable and equitable local food systems. The project works with five community partners around the country, some focusing on inner-city food systems (East New York Farms in Brooklyn, NY), some working with ex-convicts in urban areas of low economic growth (Ashland/Cherryland, CA), and some with rural poverty (in particular, the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming). In her spare time, Alyssa frolics in the mountains and dreams of building and living in a “tiny house” with her six chickens and her dog Grady.

## Join the Class Notes Editorial Team

The Marshall Alumni Newsletter team is currently looking to add a class notes editor to the class notes team. This editor will work with two other editors and the class secretaries to compile the quarterly class notes from alumni. If you're interested in volunteering for this role please contact us at [newsletter@marshallscholarship.org](mailto:newsletter@marshallscholarship.org).

Contact Joan McCarthy with any questions about membership, updating your profile, or paying your dues

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