Esther Dyson, SP67, is a long-time catalyst of start-ups in information technology in the US and other markets, including Russia. On October 15, 2011, she will deliver the Keynote Address at Telluride’s Centennial Celebration in Ann Arbor, MI.

The Long Now Foundation’s biography of you notes that you’ve “devoted [your] life to discovering the inevitable and promoting the possible.” Do you think that’s a fair assessment? What would you say it is that you do exactly?

It’s accurate because I wrote it! I think my work is about understanding what’s going on in the world now. I hate the word “future,” because I am not predicting the future. I am trying to understand present dynamics, which help to understand the future, however it unfolds. “Possible” doesn’t mean inevitable, so action is important. In Russia’s so-called “Silicon Valley” project in Skolkovo, Russia, for example, if I can rally people to do the right things, then the project’s success becomes possible. But it’s certainly not inevitable—luck, courage, and insight will all make a difference.
But that doesn’t really answer your question! Officially, I am investing in start-ups—primarily having to do with the Internet in one way or another—Russia, space, and health. My major contribution is insight or advice, which is often not strategy. I say, “You need to get the sales and marketing people to work together.” Interpersonal issues and sheer management capabilities are crucial. Strategy is often overrated compared to execution.

When did you begin to have influence? When did people start listening to you? Was it about having money or something else?

Well, when I started as a 23-year-old reporter at Forbes, I had basically zero influence. But I could say “I am writing about you for Forbes,” and that opened a lot of doors and allowed me to meet a lot of interesting people. Then I worked on Wall Street for five years. During that time I met Ben Rosen, who was writing an influential newsletter about technology but also investing in start-ups. Ultimately, he became chairman of both Compaq and Lotus, two of the leading companies, so I took over writing the newsletter.

I had no money, so the newsletter business model was perfect—you got cash in advance from subscribers, and I used this cash to buy the newsletter from Ben. Over time, I delivered; I wrote things that turned out to be true, and people started listening.

Based on the Forbes job and the newsletter, I believed in the holy calling of journalism, that journalists shouldn’t be investors. I started a second newsletter on Central and Eastern Europe, and this led to access to people there. They were willing to speak to me because I could quote them in the newsletter.

Then one day a US investor offered me $1 million to invest in the region. I said, “No, I am a journalist… How much money did you say?” So I stopped the newsletter, which was losing money anyway, and continued my education by being an investor rather than a writer. And that’s how it began. I liked dealing with problems at these companies. As an investor, you can get much more involved. It’s like raising children.

When you were a TASPer in the summer of 1967, what did you want to be when you grew up? Did you have any idea that you were going to be doing this kind of work?

At TASP, I assumed I would be a novelist. I was good at science, but I was never going to be as good at it as my father [physicist Freeman Dyson]. So, I thought being a novelist was a suitable occupation.

How was TASP?

I was at TASP the summer I turned 16. I had done well on the SAT, which is why I was accepted, but unlike most of the other kids, I had also applied and been accepted to Harvard. TASP was great because I didn’t know how to be a teenager at home. My parents were these wonderful Europeans, but they had no clue about teenagers. I was living in Princeton, New Jersey, with all these Nobel Prize winners as my neighbors, and at TASP, I pretended to be a normal teenager. I was one of the more modern ones, and this experience of being one of the cool kids was totally new. It gave me the social courage to go to Harvard that fall and not be totally weird.

It was a great bunch of kids. I would be thrilled if this interview leads some of us to get back in touch.

What do you remember most about TASP?

We played chess, human chess, outside on that great big chessboard. I also remember [Professor] Donald Kagan and the intellectual atmosphere of TASP. During the last week, no one slept for about three days. I fell asleep on the stone wall of the bridge crossing the gorge. It was only about three feet wide, and when I woke up, I saw the sidewalk on one side and a three hundred foot-drop on the other. It’s probably the closest I’ve ever been to death.

“I don’t actually want to be the guy – I want to foster the guys.” You said that in a New York Times piece about a year ago. Why don’t you want to be the guy?

You can do a lot more with your leverage when you’re not the guy. Laziness is the mother of invention, and running a company can be kind of boring, at least for me. I have a short attention span, and I like working in lots of different areas.

How do you choose what to do?

I look at what’s not being done, something that wouldn’t happen otherwise, and something I know more about than the average person. I am working a lot in health start-ups now because there is a huge opportunity for individuals to use the internet to track and manage their own health, much the way, for example, they can manage their own finances with Mint.com.

On your epitaph, you want “She wasn’t done yet!” What are you most proud of doing?

Lots of things. I wrote a piece on intellectual property and the internet in Wired in the early 90s that was one of the most far-sighted things I’ve ever done. But I am also proud that I continue to notice and explain new things as they happen.
went to one of the best public high schools you could go to. Still notwithstanding all of that wonderful early education, the TASP application arrived in the mail and it was like a window into the love of ideas and learning at a whole new level, with people from around the country who were extraordinarily gifted.

At Conventions I’ve attended over the years, sometimes there have been debates about TASP in which someone has asked, “is the Association really serving the highest social good sponsoring programs for middle class kids who, even without Telluride, would be going to college anyway, and would be just fine? Is this really how we should be spending scholarship money?”

Well, of course the Association—because of its commitment to self-government—is right to evaluate its mission over time and to consider changes in it. But I happen to think that the mission I benefited from is a wonderful one, because it is about taking people with extraordinary gifts and talent, and giving them the chance to develop those talents in a way that helps them become better leaders and better intellectuals and better teachers and better public servants than they otherwise would have been. That leadership model—taking people with extraordinary talent and giving them a commitment to others and a commitment to the development of knowledge and the improvement of our society—is a good mission.

In your previous interview, in response to a question about diversity in education, you also said, “the production function of diversity is more important than the consumption function of diversity” —

I’m not sure anybody understood what I meant!

The full quotation was: “There are two aspects of diversity that are important in higher education. First there is the epistemic diversity of the classroom. But more important . . . there is the diversity of graduates that are produced as leaders of the broader society. The production function of diversity is more important than the consumption function.”

Could you comment more on that? What can Telluride do in its programs to serve the “production function” of diversity?

Telluride was always ahead of its time in trying to diversify the talent it brought to its programs. I remember when the late, great Beatrice MacLeod traveled to small towns across the South and the Midwest to try to entice students who might not otherwise have heard of Cornell to take a chance on coming to ithaca for the summer.

What is so striking about Telluride Association is the variety of places in which our TASPers and branchmembers and Association members turn up—in leadership roles, in government, in academia, and throughout private law practice and private business. So I think the strength of an institution is reflected not only in what it does in the time people are in it, but in the lives they lead after they go. Telluride has much to be proud of in sending an extraordinarily diverse range of leaders into a wide range of activities in society.

Do you think that is just the function of finding students with different interests, or are there ways that the programs themselves can be tailored in order to attract students with different interests and different goals, or to cultivate those different interests and different goals?

In my era, Telluride was not particularly interested in applied learning; the focus was on challenging yourself to be self-critical in your thinking. I think Telluride has had a healthy resistance to intellectual trendiness, and a commitment to forms of learning in which it almost doesn’t matter what the subject is as long as what you are doing is applying yourself with the greatest rigor and the greatest intellectual passion and honesty and the greatest possible self-critical sensibility.

One of the things I valued so much about my Telluride experience was the passionate love of learning and the rigor that came with studying a text carefully, whether it was Plato’s Republic or Dante’s Inferno, and a sense that people who later ran the government would benefit from those experiences far more than if they simply studied very specific, technical government topics.

You were a factotum twice, the second time at the Cremona Farms TASP—wasn’t that program on a slightly different model?

I had a wonderful experience at Cremona Farms. The seminar was on environmental policy, a topic that was more about applied knowledge than just classic texts. But I don’t think it was really on a different model. It shared the same great qualities of any TASP—a group of highly gifted and wonderfully articulate and energetic young people thrown into discussion with each other. To discuss ideas with so many other similarly bright and articulate young people is to change your life. Almost no matter what you’re talking about. But while it was just like any other TASP in those respects, it was different because we were on a beautiful farm in tidewater Maryland near tobacco farms and blue crabs that you hammered with a wooden hammer on a table covered with newspaper, with the Dave Brubeck Quartet coming to play. I still remember it very vividly.

After attending TASP in 1971, you entered Cornell Branch, and then joined the Association in 1974. As someone who is creeping up on a decade in TA, I have wondered: How does one decide it is the time to leave?

I participated vigorously in the Association for at least a decade or so after joining. I was on Custodians, among other committees. There came a time, though, when I was unable to go to Convention for several years running, and then I decided it was wise to tender my resignation.

Part of what gives the Association its energy and lifeblood is that it is run by people who are in early stages of their careers, still close to their education.

Have you ever considered teaching a TASP?

You know, I haven’t. I’ve taught law now for twenty-six years, and I’m pretty sure we wouldn’t want to have a TASP on the case method. But I’m certainly open to that sort of experience in the future.
2011 Summer Programs
June 26-August 6, 2011

TASP
Cornell I Program
Intergenerational Justice
Telluride House, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Faculty: Professor John Davidson and Professor David Leitch, Department of Political Science, University of Oregon
Factotum: Claire Horan, Seattle Pacific University

Cornell II Program
Thinking Girls, Thinking Boys
Telluride House, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Faculty: Professor Maria Fackler, English Department, Davidson College; and Professor Nick Salvato, Department of Theatre, Film, and Dance, Cornell University
Factotum: Matthew Mandelkern, University of Chicago

Michigan I Program
Freedom, Dialogue, and Polarization
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Faculty: Professor Sharon Schuman, English Department and Honors College, University of Oregon; and Professor Joan Sitomer, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
Factotum: Breanna Byington, Cornell University

Michigan II Program
Visions of America from Abroad
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Faculty: Professor Juan De Pasquale, Department of Philosophy; and Professor Mortimer Guiney, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Kenyon College
Factotum: Ryan Neftd, University of Cape Town

TASS
Indiana University Program
Blackness, Media, and Self-Concept
Indiana University, Bloomington

Faculty: Professor Maresa Murray, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, and Professor Sharlene Newman, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Indiana University
Tutors: Anne Cheng, Harvard University; and Rubin Daniels, Jr., University of North Florida

University of Michigan Program
Intergenerational Memory in U.S. Literature
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Faculty: Professor Joshua Miller, Department of English, University of Michigan; and Professor Ruby Tapia, Department of Comparative Studies, Ohio State University
Tutors: Michael Becker, Brown University; and Sebrina Campbell, Saint Louis University

Thank you, to each of the 136 associates who interviewed summer 2010 candidates.

Yousef AbuGharbieh
Dustin Alligood
Karen Amano-Tomkins
Sarah Asman
Ellen Baer
Sarah Bagby
Siddhartha Bajracharya
Mitchell Baker
Alison Baldwin
Michael Barany
Frederick Barber
Timothy Barker
Michael Barton
Natalie Bau
Jessica Bauman
Taylor Black
Natalia Blanchfield
Lauren Boehm
Benjamin Bouchers
Megan Bott
John Briggs
Marjorie Cantine
George Carroll

Lisa Chen
Chen Chen
Joel Chen
Albert Cho
Lawrence Chua
Denis Clark
Alisha Creel
Ian Croyiser
Cynthia Cupples
Perry Dane
Julian Darwall
Soyna Dekhtyar
Sarah Deming
Jacob Denz
Shaila Dewan
Laura Dixon
Jessica Dragonetti
Daniel Echlin
Maximilian Eisenburger
Tera Ellefson
Jessica Falcone
Valentin Fernandez
Nathan Floyd
Elizabeth (Jan) Ford
Kathleen Frankovic
Melanie Frazier
Luis Garcia
Kelsey Gee
Kelly Goodman
Flojaume Griffin
Tianshu Han
Charles Harrison
Elson He
Benjamin Healy
Monica Henestroza
Steven Heyman
Claire Horan
Sarah Howland
Marina Hsieh
Paul Huang
Trisha Jain
Minyang Jiang
Jonathan Jones
Mona Karim El-Gabry
Paul Katz
Peter Kessler
Steve Kim
Michelle Kizer
Franz Kogler
Melvies Konuk
Erna & Keith Kostuch
Selena Kyle
Jia Hui Lee
Joy Liu
Shawnakim Lowey-Ball
Anthony Mariano
Leigh Marshall
Albert Martinez
Elizabeth Martinez
James May
Eliot Michaelson
Caroline Miller
Kristofer Monson
Kathleen Morey
Kevin Moriarty
Sarah Morton
Zagreb Mukherjee
Hiba Musah
Massy Mutumba
Nathan Nagy
Hannah Nolan-Spohn
Kyle O’Malley
Amina Omari
George Ordal
Catherine Osborne
Oana Paltineanu
Govind Persad
Christopher Phillips
Sasha Polakow-Suransky
Todd Price
Kate Reber
Pamela Renner
Adi Robertson
Warren Rosenblum
Rebecca Sadun
Amy Saltzman
Theodore Schall
Michael Schwam-Baird
Calvin Selth
Heather Settle
Gregory Sobolski
Luisa Steur
Lucy Sun
Jenny Sun
Irene Sun
Meredith Talusan
Kathryn Tiskus
Andrew Torres
William Ulrich
Gitendra Uswatte-Aratchi
Lee Wang
Julia Watts Belser
Jamil Webb
B  rry Weller
Charlene Wong
Tiffany Yizar
Mindy Zhang
Olga Zhulina
Tyler Zoanni
College Choice

Indiana University TASS 2008
Tiara Butler–Fort Valley State University
Nedra Chijioke–UCLA
Daysha Edewu–Scraps College
Ashley Ellis–University of N. Carolina, Chapel Hill
Lars Rascoe IV–Marian University
Shanicke Steadman-Olliver–Williams College
Anthony Taylor–Georgia and State University
Amrit Trewn–Northwestern University
Dominic Warr–Carthage College
Unknown: Olivia Dahl, Erin Holder
Adam Wilson–Columbia University
Natalie Umanzor–Vanderbilt University
Dacia Simon–Barnard College
Laura Navarro–Yale University
Kevin Lin–Princeton University
James Johnston III–University of Tulsa
Yichao Hao–UC Irvine
Keyanah Freeland–Columbia University
Naverez Encina–Yale University
Unknown: Tiara Green, Shaloma Wagstaffe,
Deycha Robinson–University of Michigan
Christopher Robinson II–Howard University
Unknown: Rashida Dortch, Christian Hooten,
Ricky Joseph

University of Michigan
TASS I 2008
Alexandra Benfield–Northwestern University
Aaron Bryant - University of Michigan
Shivrat Chhabra–Columbia University
Begum Cital–University of Chicago
Jamara Clark–Georgetown University
Courtney Holts–Michigan State University
Ormohine Iyemhonian– UC Santa Barbara
Jennifer Padilla–University of Southern California
David Sanchez–Vanderbilt University
Raisa Sorgo–Bucknell University
Alexis Tucker – UT San Antonio
Jeremy Williams–Western Michigan University
Unknown: Rashida Dortch, Christian Hooten,
Ricky Joseph

University of Michigan
TASS II 2008
Jillian Avalon–Claremont McKenna College
Sriharsha Bhamidipati–University of Michigan
Matthew Browner–Michigan State University
Jasmine Bunting–University of Michigan
Hillary Durazo–University of Wisconsin, Madison
Rashelle James–Dartmouth College
Enrique Josephs, Jr–Bloomsburg University
Abdul Rehman Khan–Rutgers University
Christopher Robinson II–Howard University
Deycha Robinson–University of Michigan
Unknown: Tiara Green, Shaloma Wagstaffe,
Darren Wallace

Cornell 1 TASP 2009
Robert Cipriano–will grad Bard HS Program 2011
Sonja Delkhyar–University of Chicago
James Durling–Davidson College
Navarez Encina–Yale University
Keyanah Freeland–Columbia University
Yichao Hao–UC Irvine
James Johnston III–University of Tulsa
Dohee Kang–St. John’s College, Santa Fe
Melissa Lang–Amherst College
Kevin Lin–Princeton University
Laura Navarro–Yale University
Dacia Simon–Barnard College
Natalie Umanzor–Vanderbilt University
Adam Wilson–Columbia University
Unknown: Olivia Dahl, Erin Holder

Cornell 2 TASP 2009
Michael Barton–Yale University
Madeline Chan–Amherst College
Marissa Dearing–Yale University
Chelsea DeLarm–Cornell College
Rachel Harmon–Cornell University
Aaron Hsu–UC Davis
Gabriel Murchison–Yale University
William Rogers–University of Michigan
Tugba Rona–Princeton University
Charlie Sun–University of Chicago
Eric Thompson–University of Chicago
Aziza Tichavakunda–Yale University
Jennifer Tran–UC Berkeley
Christian Veliz–Georgetown University
Angela Wang–Yale University
Hyun Woo Yoon–Amherst College

University of Michigan
TASP 2009
John Angelo Alonzo–Cooper Union
Hannah Baker–Wesleyan University
Shuuxan Cenzhang–University of Michigan
Maja Fegan–Columbia University
Michael Anthony George–Harvard University
Shibi Kannan–Yale University
Shelby Lin–Harvard College
Maia Mares–Amherst College
Michael Migiel-Schwartz–Wesleyan University
Sushaam Modi–University of Pennsylvania
Achyut Patil–Yale University
Edward Pimentel–Deep Springs College
Maitreyi Ray–University of Minnesota
Elizabeth Schyling–Yale University
Sahiba Sindhu–University of Chicago
Matthew Stolz–Deep Springs College
Sefanit Tucker–Yale University
Unknown: Leonore Carron-Desrosiers

University of Texas
TASP 2009
Lisa Bao–Swarthmore College
Jennifer Giang–Yale University
Zachary Goldhammer–University of Pennsylvania
Akhathia Kommalapati–Duke University
Sahil Luthra–Brown University
Evan Marshall–MIT
Jonathan McJunkin–Macalester College
Douglass Rintoul–University of Pennsylvania
Ella Schwab–Pomona College
Mary Seitz-Brown–Columbia University
Dongheo Seo–Harvard University
Patrick Steadman–Cornell University
Obaid Syed–Yale University
Morgan Whittler–Loyola University
Justine Yan–Yale University
Unknown: William Kim, Bill Nguyen

Ode to Telluridean Service
By Michael Olabisi, MB’10

16,900
The maximum number of sustainable human connections.
Really?
Given the brain’s two hundred billion neurons?
Connections more than one hundred trillion strong?
Strong connections, yea
That’s what makes us human
Strong connections, yea

130
People in the history of a house on
Cambridge
Named after boring, cold, gray places,
but this one - lights on!
This one’s chock full of light, light spirits,
light banter
Lights reflecting
Laughter erupting from chats at
midnight, bright smiles in winter
Oh, for more

1
House full of youthful enthusiasm
Connected
By neurons of service to thousands
strong - say Nunnism
Crazy
Enough to believe the world need not
be cynical
Standing
Together exploring the upper limits of
human connections - technical,
Alchemists
Weaving a pastel of spectral light
through serving hands.
Strong connections,
Next to a street called Cambridge.
**TASP, the Essay: Abridged**

By Anna Astrakhan, SP98 (Kenyon College)

If it weren't for words on index cards, I would've never gotten into TASP.

People said it was too early to start with the words. Who memorizes words a year and a half before the SAT and almost a year before the PSAT when you’ll forget half of them by the time the exam comes? You’d do better to start three months before the test, get the fat SAT book from the library hoping it’s the newer edition, because you don’t want to study old words that aren’t used on the test anymore, or you’ll be stuck with words like wrought, disposition, and redolent, no place to use them, and a bad SAT score.

You might have an advantage if you studied Latin in an expensive private middle school and can guess at the meaning of unfamiliar words by their Latin roots, but if you went to a public middle school on Coney Island, even if it was called Mark Twain Junior High School for the Gifted and Talented, there’s no Latin to fall back on, not that you’re sorry for it, because kids who studied it in middle school say it was a waste of their time, the endless conjugations, Cicero and his orations everyone hated to translate; it’s not like they’d be conversing with dead Romans anytime soon, besides, Stuyvesant High School was stressful enough without having to refresh your Latin before the SATs.

Cicero might be too much, but I wanted to talk to like students who’d raise their hands and when the teacher called on them words spilled out of their mouths like they were anchors on the CBS nightly news or giving the presidential inaugural address. You’d know from the way they weaved words together that they didn’t learn them from any SAT book, they grew up with them thrown around the dinner table and when they spoke like that it hardly mattered what they said it sounded so beautiful.

The immigrant kids didn't have words spilling out of them, we had math, which is how we got into Stuyvesant High School to begin with, scoring barely enough on the verbal part of the entrance exam. Our dinner tables had foreign words floating around them and I wished I could open my mouth and sound persuasive and clear like the students who seemed like they’d just come off the McNeil and Lehrer News Hour.

My first choice was a program entitled “Community, Individuality, Justice: Visions of Utopia and Anti-Utopia.” I figured I’d have something to say about utopias, having come from a country that was supposed to be one, even if awash in blood. I could talk about utopias gone wrong, or utopias winding up worse than non-utopias, or maybe it’s a good idea to decide on the standards for measuring utopias lest you get carried away, forget where you were heading and start doing unseemly things like sending people to gulags and erasing their images from group photos. I’d say that our utopia was so good that the government wouldn’t let us out into the non-utopian world until some people in the US Congress passed an amendment and we slowly started to leave our perfect world.

I talked about this and my essay on Crime and Punishment with my TASP interviewers, both former TASPers, one the owner of the Hound of the Baskervilles that circled around me throughout the interview and that I pretended not to mind even though I was scared for my life.

It turned out I wasn’t the last one to arrive at TASP. A lost bus driver and a bus on the brink of revolt still got me there before some people who lived really far away. Sara arrived after me, from a small town in Iowa that had three hundred people. I didn’t know what to make of someone from such a small town, because that’s how many people lived in my building, and my high school had ten times that many. What if you got sick of all of them and wanted new faces but you couldn’t hop on the subway and take it to Manhattan where there were theaters and cafes and bookstores and all sorts of unusual people going about. Sara said she wouldn’t hop on anything, in fact she’d never been on a subway, but she liked the people in her town and if they weren’t enough you just drove to the next town over, although there wasn’t much there either and some of the people were kind of snobby.

Cassie, from Missouri, said small towns were livable, though as soon as she was done with high school she was getting out of hers, which was smack in the middle of the country. Her dad worked in construction and built from scratch the house they lived in, Cassie, her father, and her mom who took care of her disabled younger sister. In their town there was a refinery of some sort that covered everything with a layer of dust every night that people would wipe off their furniture in the morning only to have it appear again the next morning. I wondered about the local rate of asthma but Cassie said she was still alive and she planned on being the first one in the family to go to college and study social work so she could help people like her sister.

When I would visit her a few months after TASP, my hand got lost in her father’s huge warm hand as he welcomed me into their home. They’d never seen a Russian Jew, I’d never been in the middle of America, we couldn’t hide our mutual wonder.

That summer we talked and talked and talked, about art, absolute truth, nonconformity, feminism, human will, the peculiarities of the places we came from, how we were all so different and yet not really. We engaged in silly musings about how to gather all the stars in the sky into a padded paper envelope and whether moonlight can be caught by running after it. We sang “Shot through the heart, and you’re to blame,” we had crashes on each other, we labored to decipher Thomas Aquinas. We were a self-governing colony, a commune of a sort, and we relished in our freedom to think, bond, push boundaries.

Those of us who’d never used e-mail set up accounts to continue the dialogue after TASP, exchanging lengthy essays on the meaning of beauty and other urgent issues. After our year, Kenyon closed its doors to TASP, though Cassie and Samantha went there for undergrad.

It’s now been more than ten years, and thanks to Facebook, we’re finding each other again, all grown-up, with families and degrees. We’re all over the country, just like we used to be, only in different places. I no longer need the index cards, though until a couple of years ago I kept them in the basement of my parents’ house thinking my younger brother would use them, but he didn’t need to, he already knew all the hard words. When he got the TASP application in the mail I thought this would be wonderful, but he chose not to apply. It’s not for everyone. It was for me, though, and for the rest us, nineteen people from all corners of the country, building a magical world for ourselves in Watson Hall. Perhaps that was our utopia.
West by Midwest: MBTA’s Adventure in the Desert

By Ridley Jones, SP05 MB06 TA08

During MBTA’s spring break at the beginning of March 2010, five intrepid housemembers (Emily Wang, Angel Martin, Michael Sullivan, Ridley Jones, and Miller Scholar Ryan Nefdt) headed to that mysterious Nunnian wonderland we had been hearing about for so long, Deep Springs. The drive out from LA was full of wonderment. For me at least, the beauty of the desert was a profound revelation. I was thrilled to discover what our time there would reveal.

The theme, in a word, was intensity. Intense was the stark gorgeousness of the mountains and desert; intense was the social community of the Springers (the main point of contention at their weekly Friday night meeting was whether capping it at four hours was unnecessarily restrictive); intense were the flavors and colors and smells of it all. And their isolation was intense: It was quite adorable to hear these sophisticated young men ask us sheepishly whether Hannah Montana was popular on real colleges, or salaciously what the drug and alcohol scene was at MBTA, or nervously whether we were allowed to have Facebook at the House. That’s when we remembered that they really were eighteen. I think we all learned a bit about each other and ourselves, and both groups may have gotten some perspective and inspiration about social ordering and governance. And we did have an official talk at the meeting and separately with Deep Springs President David Niedorf (who, like most of the faculty and staff, lives on campus in his own private bungalow), so our mission was accomplished.

Work might be another theme—the five of us were keen on helping with the labor positions, and I think we were all surprised. I, at least, had a vague preconception that Deep Springs had a sort of fantasy camp dimension, and that these were just modern-day Quixotes trying to play at being the romantic cowboys of yore. Perhaps that’s so, but they also work really hard. The clarity and fatigue that came from shoveling horse poop (while playing a particularly fun word game) and squeezing cow teats suited me very well. I was as jealous as I was muddy.

We left the Valley with a few things: Pictures, Deep Springs shirts, new snapping habits, an intolerance for the unbearably thick sea-level air, an ache from missing the nice boys and delightful doggies we had gotten to know, arrogant insider knowledge about how they do things at Deep Springs. We left behind a bottle of shave gel, some poorly done work, new friends, and very possibly some Deep Springers with more interest in Telluride—at least enough interest to come to Convention, where we are excited to meet them again, but on our turf this time.

Bottom left: Michael Harris, SP08 DS09; Michael Sullivan, MB08; and David Nasca, DS08.
Bottom right: MBTA and DS hard at work in the kitchen.
Creativity and Technology Merge at the Children’s Project Trust

Seth Galligan, MB08, is the 2010 recipient of the Mike Yarrow Adventurous Education Award. He spent the past summer in India working with the Children’s Project Trust. Galligan recently graduated from University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

My trip to India this summer, made possible by the Mike Yarrow Adventurous Education Award, was a huge success. Originally, my intent was to go to the Children’s Project Trust (CPT), a home and school for destitute children, install a video production curriculum and begin production of a short promotional video. Not only was I able to achieve these things, but I was also able to construct a computer lab with internet connectivity for the school.

When I arrived in India, I quickly realized that before I could effectively begin the assembly of a video production program, I would have to organize all the technology already present at the school. As is often typical for over-worked non-profit organizations, non-essential activities like fastidious organization of computers and other electronics takes a back-seat to more vital things like paying the bills. After I was able to fill in this understandable gap and gather and organize everything that CPT already had, I realized that they actually had enough equipment for a functional computer classroom. Over time, various donors had given desk-tops, laptops, printers, and other computer essentials. Once I got it all organized and repaired (a huge part of the task!), I simply needed to work with CPT to fill in a few gaps and we had a fully functional computer lab. So, in addition to my planned video production classes, we added basic computer classes. This was wonderful for the children and went a long way in helping them to better understand the ways in which we used the computers in the video editing process.

Once I had assembled the computer lab, I realized it was essential that CPT be connected to the internet. Not only is internet connectivity extremely useful in terms of basic computer maintenance and updating, but, in order for CPT to be able to use the medium of video to spread the ideas behind their extremely effective educational model, they need to be able to disseminate media via the web. Establishing an internet connection in rural India is no small feat and I was over-joyed once I was able to get everything organized. I even found a good wireless router that had been donated at some point in the past and got it working. Currently, every computer at CPT has an operational internet connection.

Once all the technology was in place, I was ready to start the video production program. My approach to this was two-fold. For part of the day I held class with students, and for the other, I trained staff and created documents that would enable the staff to pick up the program where I left it at the conclusion of my visit. This approach proved effective. During my time with my students, I was able to spark a keen interest in video production and complete eight short videos with them (see the videos at www.vimeo.com/album/1073313). I also managed to train two staff members well enough that I am confident that they will be able to continue offering video production as an enrichment course.

In between all of this activity, I did my best to shoot as much footage as possible. This footage will be the basis for a short promotional video I will be creating for CPT over the next few months. I was able to get plenty of footage and I am confident that I will be able to put something together for CPT that will be useful as an introduction to the school for people who have never been exposed to it.

One of the most meaningful experiences I had while shooting was a visit to a small tent village. What many people don’t realize is that just because a child is destitute does not mean that they do not have parents who love them with all their hearts. It just means that the child has no financial or societal stability. Many of the children at CPT have loving parents who cannot offer their children much in the way of basic needs. One thing we hope to demonstrate with the video I am creating is the relationships between some of the children and their loving parents.

I went with a few children from the school to a tent village where some of their parents live in small makeshift shelters. I was deeply touched by the love and dignity that was present even in the most ghastly of circumstances. Any parent knows that letting a child go is one of the hardest things to do. The parents I met, people with nothing else but their family and the love therein, had enough strength, respect, and love for their children to let go.

I am graduating in December and moving on to graduate school with the intention of becoming a community college teacher after that. This impending transition from student to teacher can be intimidating. While I was in India, I gained confidence in my ability to do what I am now setting out to do. I can tackle tough issues by myself and get through them, even in a foreign country. My belief in myself was validated.

I am very thankful to have had this opportunity. Not only was it a wonderful learning opportunity and a great chance to help people I care about, it has also provided me with an experience that demonstrates the abilities I have developed while a student at the University of Michigan. As I move forward with my education and career, I can use this experience to illustrate that I am able to be a viable and valuable part of the communities of which I wish to be a part.
**1940s**

Last year Bob GATJE, DS44 CB47 TA46, authored the well-received *Great Public Squares* of which dean of the Yale School of Architecture Robert Stern opines, “If we but pay attention, Bob Gatje’s beautiful drawings and intelligent text will take us a long way towards reviving the lost art of designing coherent public spaces, the most urgent architectural issue of our time.” Retiring from architectural practice in 1995, Gatje has since focused on writing efforts, his most recent being the result of over twelve years of commitment.

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**1950s**

During Harvard University’s May 2010 commencement ceremony, Thomas NAGEL, CB54 TA58, received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Nagel was praised as “one of the most influential philosophers of modern times,” and as “a perspicacious reader of other minds” by Harvard’s provost and president, respectively. He remains on the faculty of New York University where he continues to engage in research on legal, moral, and political philosophy.

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**1960s**

In mid-October Bill GALSTON, SP62 CB63 TA64, was a featured panelist on CBS’ *Meet The Press* alongside Liz Cheney, Howard Dean, and Lindsey Graham. Concerning political polarization in the US, Galston, former advisor to President Clinton, expressed the notion that, “The American people aren’t as polarized as the parties. But the center of the electorate is weaker, and more people have flocked toward the extremes. That does make cooperation across party lines more difficult.” The segment can be found at http://www.cbsnews.com/video/?id=6966692n.

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**1980s**

In addition to completing her young adult novel *Phat Fairy*, Cat RAMBO (nee Catherine Francis), SP80, has been actively publishing her short stories in venues such as *Clarkseworld*, *Strange Horizons*, and *Daily Science Fiction*. She is also the coeditor of *Worlds of Fantasy: The Best of Fantasy Magazine*, a soon-to-be-released anthology of science fiction and fantasy short stories. Her website, which outlines her upcoming publications and appearances as well as her past works, can be found at http://www.kittywumpus.net/blog/.

Louisa COAN GREVE, SP82 CB83 TA86, was appointed a vice president of the National Endowment for Democracy in the nation’s capital. Her advancement comes after several years of commitment to the internationally-minded foundation. She is now heading the organization’s efforts in Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. She is presently concluding a second term as a member of the Virginia State Advisory Committee of the U.S Commission on Civil Rights.

Currently an associate professor of history at Webster University, Warren ROSENBLUM, DS83 CB85 TA87, was awarded the American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship. Warren plans to use his year to write a book about the Magdeburg justice scandal of 1926—a murder case, the complexities of which were “seen as a symbol of the judicial crisis of trust in the Weimar Republic’s final days”.

Donald McNERNEY, CB84, has been working steadily as a solar design consultant in the northeast, with a particular focus on serving farms in New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. McNerney and his team’s efforts were the feature of the multi-regional *Country Folks Grower* publication. The article can be found at http://www.cfgrower.com/ME2/Audioen-"es/dirmod.asp?sid=&nmm=Features&type=Publishing&mod=

Miriam AUERMAN, SP86 CB87 TA88, became the head of the first ACLU office in Western Michigan. Since taking residence in the Grand Rapids office last year, Miriam has involved herself in legal matters ranging from a suit against the city of Wyoming over medical marijuana cultivation, to the dispensing of legal advice to Grand Rapids parents whose past felony convictions were used to bar them from joining their children in the classroom. A news article that pertains to the ACLU’s arrival in Grand Rapids can be found at http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/03/aclu_of_michigan_opens_itsfir.html.

Last year Terri VAN DER VLUGT, SP86 CB87 TA90, and her husband Jeff Lewis bought, remodeled, and moved into a house with their two children Rhys and Seren. Van Der Vlugt is working as an ER doctor at St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham, Washington, and also works with residents at the University of Washington ER. For his part, Jeff commits his time to work as a SAHD, stock trader, photographer, and herpetologist.

Coming as no surprise to those who recall the Italian feast he prepared for the 1987 Cornell TASP, Tom HUDGENS, SP87 DS88 CB90, has maintained an intimate connection with food and its preparation. In August 2010, Tom’s new cookbook, *The Common Sense Kitchen*, hit the shelves. The text is filled with diverse recipes that range from old-fashioned to modern, united by their adherence to a code of no-frills, homestyle, but above all soul-satisfying cooking. Tom’s website, which includes links to his blog and information on his cookbook, can be found at http://www.tomhudgens.com/index.htm.

Derek Kofi ABBIW-JACKSON, SP88, is currently working as a Senior Fellow at the McKinsey Global Institute. The body operates as the think tank of the McKin-
1990s

In November Jessica CATTELINO, SP91 CB92 TA93, gave a presentation at the University of Michigan entitled “Settler Nature and ‘Getting the Water Right’ in the Florida Everglades”. Cattelino is currently an associate professor of anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her past works have focused on the topics of indigenous sovereignty, economic issues, and the environment. Current research efforts include exploration of land and water politics in the Florida Everglades as well as an investigation into how these dynamics play out in interactions between Seminole reservations and agricultural towns.

On November 30, 2010, Suzanne HAGEDORN, CB91 TA92, and her husband Beau Carr celebrated the birth of their son Edwin Douglas Carr. Though the delivery began a little over two weeks ahead of schedule and lasted over 34 hours, eventually culminating in a cesarean section, both mother and son are healthy and happy.

Suzanne Hagedorn, Beau Carr, and newborn Edwin Douglas Carr.

After spending January in India last year working on new artistic endeavors, Rosamond KING, SP91 CB92, returned to the US to continue her participation in the national tour of “Rigididigim de Bamba de: Ruptured Calypso”. Her visual artwork was also featured in “The Centrifugation of Brooklyn” at the Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Arts in New York as well as an exhibit on African immigrant women at the Casa Frela Gallery. Additionally, her poem “Tribute Tilted Up” was utilized in Purgatory Pie Press’ postcard series. Ms. King’s creations as well as information on her upcoming projects can be found at her website at http://rosamondking.com.

Singer-songwriter Allison TARTALIA, SP91, was nominated for an Emmy last year alongside her fellow composers for their musical efforts for the documentary 5,000 Miles From Home. Working alongside Grammy-winning producer Michael Leonhart, her new CD, Sweet and Vicious, is set for release in April of this year. Ms. Tartalia was also recently accepted into BMI’s Contemporary Songwriting Workshop and has been finishing up material for Birds on Fire, a musical set to premiere at New York’s Theater for the New City in March. Samples of Allison’s music and her upcoming show schedule can be found at http://www.allisontartalia.com.

Renée SILVA, SP92 CB93, (a.k.a., ire’re’s lar’ a sil’ va) had her first collection of poetry published in October 2010. Furia is available for purchase at the author’s website: http://www.irenelarasilva.webs.com.

This year Adam ARENSON, SP95 TA01, released his work The Great Heart of the Republic, published by Harvard University Press. The book concerns itself with Civil War-era St. Louis and its position as a focal point for the conflicting pulls on American culture carried out by the North, South, and West. A more detailed synopsis of Adam’s work, along with purchasing information, can be found at http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674052888.

In April 2010, Pete WILDES, SP95 CB96 TA05, began work as a scientist at the green chemistry and industrial biotech company Genecor. The entity’s efforts focus on replacing synthetic chemicals by utilizing natural processes such as those associated with enzymes and bacteria. For example, Genecor’s research includes attempts to substitute bacteria-produced chemicals for oil-based ones used in tire and plastic production. The Economist article about this product can be found at http://www.economist.com/node/15949156?story_id=15949156.

In an article in The Atlantic, contributing editor Graeme WOOD, SP96 DS97, offers a firsthand account of the recent uprising in opposition to Egypt’s Mubarak regime. Wood’s article concerns itself primarily with the escalation of the role of violence in the protests. The full article can be found at http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2011/02/the-battle-in-cairos-tahrir-square/70663.

Queen’s University psychology professor Stanka FITNEVA, CB98 TA01, was recognized by Science Daily for her experiments on how first-impressions affect subsequent patterns of information-seeking among children. Fitneva discovered that seven year olds “really pay attention to people’s accuracy and they don’t forget it, even after interacting… one time”. The article can be found at http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/09/100901171606.htm and the published findings can be located in September’s issue of Developmental Psychology.

September saw the release of the short story collection Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self, the debut work of author Danielle EVANS, SP99. The book, which concerns itself with the complexities of race and racial relations in America, received a glowing review from Kirkus Reviews. In it Evans was lauded as “a welcome new talent—with a funny and dark take on being black in America.”

John GRAVOIS, DS97, editor of the Washington Monthly, was featured in the publication’s November/December 2010 issue. The article, “The Closing of the Marijuana Frontier”, which can be found at http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2010/1011.gravois.html, focused on the proposition to legalize marijuana in the state of California and explored the economic ramifications for regions like Mendocino County, which are paradoxically dependent upon and harassed by the plant’s prohibition. Additionally, Gravois was recently featured in an article in the same publication this year in which he examines the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of trimming the federal workforce as a means of reducing the national deficit. This article can be found at http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2011/1103.gravois.html.
Author and activist Raj Patel, CB98, released The Value of Nothing last year. The book addresses the financial meltdown of 2008 and how certain fixes to the financial system could improve life for billions worldwide. A great deal of the attention he garnered as a result of the publication occurred thanks to a religious group called Share International, members of which believe he is the Messiah. An article on these unbelievable happenings and Patel’s reactions to them can be found at http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/mar/19/raj-patel-colbert-report-benjamin-creme

2000s
Venkatesh Rao, MB01, who is now a senior researcher at Xerox, is behind the recently launched beta product, trailmeme.com, a service that “allows users to blaze and follow trails across the Web”.

In August, 2010, Emanuel Harper, SS03, started work as a French teacher at George Washington Community High School in Indianapolis. Working through the Indianapolis Teaching Fellows Program, Emanuel has plans to attain a master’s degree in teaching from Marion University.

After graduating from Harvard University with a BA in Government and Health Policy, Jenné Ayers, SS04, was faced with several intriguing job offers. Eventually Ayers decided to become an associate consultant at Bridgespan in New York City. The entity operates as a nonprofit consulting firm that focuses on strategy and philanthropy advising as well as executive search.

Keary Engle, MB04, is currently wrapping up his third year as a graduate student at the Scripps Research Institute and the University of Oxford. A Skaggs-Oxford Scholar, Engle is pursuing joint Ph.D./D.Phil degrees in chemistry and biochemistry, respectively. His scientific research has appeared in peer-reviewed journals such as The Journal of the American Chemical Society, Angewandte Chemie International Edition, and Science. At Scripps in La Jolla, Engle also serves as a mentor for the Life Sciences Summer Institute and is co-founder of the Student Sustainability Initiative. This year he was honored with the K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award, given to “students recognized for commitment to academic and civil responsibility and promise as future leaders of higher education.”

Christian Grostic, MB04, traveled to the US Supreme Court in January 2011 to assist David Mills, attorney for the petitioner, in the case of Ortiz v. Jordan. The team made a convincing argument, which resulted in a unanimous 9-0 decision among the justices. Though truly as a reason to celebrate, the festivities were no doubt dwarfed by those that accompanied Grostic’s marriage to Joslyn Kaye in May 2010. The couple relayed that “daughters/new step-daughters Sophia and Audrey excelled in their roles as junior bridesmaid and flower girl, respectively.”

In May of 2010, Ian Crovisier, SP05 CB06, received Cornell University’s M. H Abrams Best Honors Thesis Award Crovisier has also been awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to teach in Russia. He received the honor for his work entitled, The Canons of Criticism: Warburton, Johnson, and the Invention of Editorial History. The award marked a satisfying end to Crovisier’s studies at Cornell, where he graduated summa cum laude with a degree in English.

Ali Hussain, SS05 SP06 CB07, was named a Truman and Marshall Scholar at Cornell University in April 2010. A student of government, he is also a member of the College Scholar program and has engaged in a wide array of extracurricular experiences. Aspiring towards a career in the field of international relations with a focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ali has worked as a research assistant in Washington D.C for the Committee on Foreign Relations and Financial Services. Among an array of other activities, Ali is a board member of the Islamic Alliance for Justice, an ACLU-affiliated, multi-chaptered student group that promotes interfaith dialogue, the empowerment of Muslim women, and mobilized responses to injustice.

Miranda Becker, SP06, studied abroad at Rotterdam’s Universiteit van Amsterdam. Among other activities, Miranda engaged herself in studies of European law, nationalism, and political economy, bicycling, and, the Dutch language. Becker has since returned to Wesleyan University but retains a strong desire to return to the Netherlands in the future.

Nina Idemudia, SS06, participated in the fall 2011 Michigan in Washington Program. With aspirations to enter the field of urban planning, Ms. Idemudia hopes that the program in the capitol will prove enlightening in this regard. She is currently looking into internships as well as graduate and undergraduate courses that may help provide a stepping-stone towards this transition.

At the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year, Harvard Law student Anthony Miano, MB07 TA10, began work as a first-year editor of the Harvard Policy Review, the official legal journal of the American Constitutional Society. Interestingly, the first article which Anthony edited for this journal was authored by TA’s own Noah Zatz, SP89 CB90 TA92. Enthusiastic about his work, Anthony is also involved in editing for the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review.

Brittany Smith, SS06, is presently studying abroad at the London School of Economics, yet is still a contributing op-ed writer to the official University of Michigan periodical The Michigan Daily. A recently published article by Ms. Smith titled “Adventures Abroad: Reflections from London” can be found at http://www.michigandaily.com/content/adventures-abroad-reflections-london-0.

After concluding a May 2010 tour through cities in the Midwest and Northeast, Nathaniel May, MB07, continued working with his quintet, Baby Houdini. Though rooted in jazz, the group cites influences in minimalism, electronic, and folk music, among other styles. May also points to his time abroad in South Africa as a Reese Miller Exchange Scholar as a significant learning experience with regard to the cultural role of jazz. An interview with Mr. May can be found at http://michigandaily.com/content/nate-may-feature.

After successfully making it through a
Though the Gallup Park and Huron River pieces were displaced in June by heavy thunderstorms, they were set back in their proper locations and made viewable through October.

After studying in South Africa on TA's 2009-2010 Reese Miller International Exchange Scholarship, University of Michigan (UM) student Elyse LEONARD won first place in UM's International Institute Photo Competition. Her winning picture, included here, was taken in the course of documenting a protest she organized against Arizona's controversial SB 1070 at the US Embassy in Cape Town.

A student of cello performance and physics at the University of Michigan, Madeline HUBERTH, MB10, was invited to play as part of the Youtube Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House this March. A video introduction to Madeline and her work can be found at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1nxQ8E5JA. Madeline’s website, which includes a short biography as well as performance samples can be found at http://www.madelinehuberth.com.

Chantal THOMAS, CBG11, was featured in a PBS News segment on the recent uprising in Egypt while the revolt was in its infancy. She is a professor at Cornell Law School and a visiting scholar at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton. The interview can be found at http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/world/jan-june11/egyptguests_02-02.html.

Debra SULLIVAN, MBTA’s long-time chef, and her fiance Jade celebrated the birth of their son Charles James Glaze on Thursday, October 14, 2010. Though the birth occurred almost a month before the expected due date, the baby was a healthy 7 lbs 3.5 oz. and nearly 20 inches long.

Other News of Note

In May 2010 the New York Times ran an article that focused on the formative life experiences of Elena Kagan, before she became the 112th (and fourth female) justice of the US Supreme Court. While working at The Princetonian (Princeton University’s daily student paper) in the late 1970s, Ms. Kagan interviewed “the Telluride House association, a student-governed academic community at Cornell that was facing money woes.” Those who are familiar with Telluride’s history of seldom-full coffers might find themselves tickled by the justice’s words: “Only hours before being interviewed on the association’s financial state, several members of the house had been fleeced in a game of penny-ante poker by this reporter, a very average card player. Seven card stud, it seemed, was looked on as an activity in which the very considerable intelligence of these men and women could lie completely dormant.” The full article can be found at http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/10/us/politics/10kagan.html.

During late summer 2010, the Michigan Branch of Telluride Association was host to three students of Mbara University of Science and Technology in Uganda. Joy Kamanyire Kabasindi, a student of nursing education, Edith Wakida, a student of developmental studies, and Lenard Abesiga, a resident in obstetrics and gynecology, all stayed in guest rooms at MBTA for their one-month trip. Participating in a cross-country collaborative exchange program, the students engaged in research, clinical rotations, and gave talks at MBTA and on campus.
WALTER G. BARLOW, CB37 TA 39, died on June 10, 2009, in Princeton, New Jersey. He was 91 years old.

Walter was born in Liverpool, England, but lived in the United States for the majority of his life. After graduating from Cornell University in 1939 he enlisted in the US Army from 1941 to 1946 and served in the European theater; for his actions there he was awarded a Bronze Star. Returning from the war, Barlow established a career as a public opinion analyst and business management consultant. In 1966 he founded the Research Strategies Corporation in Princeton, of which he became president.

Barlow devoted his time to numerous causes. In addition to six years’ service on the Advisory Council of the Electric Power Research Institute, he was a board member of the Family Services Association of America. At one time he also served as president and director of A.D. Publications, Inc. He was a member of the Pennington Presbyterian Church, for which he also served as an elder and trustee. From 1966 to 1980 Walter sat on the Board of Public Welfare of the State of New Jersey, the last five of which he served as vice chairman. A volunteer research counselor to Cornell University, he was also a member of the board of trustees for seven years. Barlow also served as Commissioner of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools’ Commission on Higher Education, was a Senior Fellow of the Omega Group, and a member of the Seminar and the Page Society. He also served as president and board member of Crawford House, a group of facilities focused on treating women for substance abuse and addiction. For six years he was on the board of trustees for the Rumsey Hall School.

Husband to the late Hanna Hansen Barlow and father of the late Eric Barlow, he is survived by his three daughters, Francine, Deborah, and Alison, as well as a sister, Joan, and five grandchildren.

In April of 2009, WILLIAM (BILL) R. CARTER, SP61, died in his hometown of Joplin, Missouri, at the age of 61. Carter was an intensely passionate individual whose hope for harmony among the nations of the world distinguished him from his peers. An intensely passionate individual whose hope for harmony among the nations of the world distinguished him from his peers.

Carter enjoyed traveling and expended a great deal of effort in attempts to acquire proficiency in multiple languages including Spanish, Japanese, German, and Russian. This interest blossomed into a long-term career as a professor of foreign languages. Carter once stated, “To my way of thinking, education is something more than merely completing the various ‘courses’ of formal schooling. It is learning to know and understand the entire world and the people who make up its complex societies. It is learning how to work with people, with groups, and with nations.”

CHARLES CHRISTENSEN, PB48 CB50 TA51, an accomplished professor at Harvard Business School, died of natural causes in his Cambridge, Massachusetts, home in November, 2010. He was 80 years old.

“Chuck” Christensen was born on September 25, 1930, in Chicago, Illinois. After graduating from Cornell University in 1952 with a BA in industrial and labor relations, he attained an MBA from Harvard Business School where he was honored as a Baker Scholar in 1954. For two years he worked for the US military on matters related to management and accounting; he would later serve the US Air Force in 1962, providing similar services. After obtaining a doctorate in business administration from Harvard Business School, in 1961 he joined the faculty and was promoted to full professor in 1968. Synthesizing the teachings of accounting and economics with other behavioral sciences Christensen served on the Harvard Business School faculty for almost four decades.

During his long scholarly career Christensen authored or coauthored a large number of books and articles related to his discipline. He also carried out a great deal of research on organizations as learning systems, corporate adaptability, and the applications of social sciences to business. He also served for some time as faculty chair of MBA and Doctoral programs and headed the Control Unit in 1983. He received several honors throughout his career including the Air Force’s Exceptional Civilian Service Award for his work in the military.

Christensen was involved in many professional organizations, including the American Accounting Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Economics Association. The director of several companies, including the Kenetech Corporation, he also served as a trustee and officer of several nonprofit organizations, including Telluride Association. In an extension of his service toward TA, he involved himself for many years with Deep Springs College.

In addition to his academic pursuits, Christensen was also a great lover of classical music and opera, the Boston Baroque being among his most esteemed modern musical organizations.

He is survived by his brother Paul and three nephews, Roger, Rolf, and Marc.

JOHN WILMERTON DARLEY, JR., CB46 TA48, died at the age of 84 in Dallas, on January 23, 2010.

Born in Baltimore in 1925, John went on to enlist in the US Army Air Forces when he was 17. After aviation training at Kenyon College he went on to officer candidate school at Yale University. During his years of active service in the war he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant Communications Officer and later an Electronics Officer of a B-29 aircraft. Following a promotion to First Lieutenant in 1946, Darley left the armed forces and enrolled in Cornell University. After graduating with a degree in electrical engineering in 1949, he went on to study at Harvard Business School where he earned an MBA in 1951. The same year he received the distinction of a Westinghouse Fellowship in Business Administration and went to work for the General Electric Corporation. In 1962, he moved on from GE and spent time working for the Worthington, Singer, and Gardner-Denver Corporations.

He is survived by his sister Harriet; his children Amy, Lori, and John; his nephews Peter and Mark; his grandchildren Simeon, Wills, Christopher, William, and John; and his great grandson Ari.
LAWRENCE GRAVER, SPF86, died on February 28, 2010 after a long struggle with an illness. He was 78 years old.

Graver was born on December 6, 1931, in New York City. The son of immigrants Louis Graver and Rose Pearlstein, he grew up in the South Bronx. Upon the encouragement of his uncle, he deviated from a potential career in accounting towards the study of literature. Though his academic aspirations were put on hold upon the onset of the Korean War, in which he served in the Army, Graver received a Bachelors degree from the City College of New York in 1954, and in 1961 he went on to attain his Masters degree and Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley.

Graver began teaching at UCLA in the early 1960s and then moved to the Williams College Department of English in 1964 where his studies centered on 19th and 20th century English and American literature. Contemporary fiction and drama and American Jewish literature also constituted significant academic passions. Outside of his teaching, he was an author and writer in his own right, contributing frequently to the New York Times Book Review. In 1989 a review by Graver notably gave national public attention to the Booker Prize winning The Remains of the Day, by Kazuo Ishiguro, which was until then an obscure work, he authored An Obsession with Anne Frank: Meyer Levin and the Diary, in 1997 which examined the conflicting interests resulting from the effort to dramatize Anne Frank’s life. He also wrote extensively on writers Samuel Beckett, Joseph Conrad, and Carson McCullers in works such as Becket: Waiting for Godot, among others.

He is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Suzanne Graver; his daughters Ruth and Elizabeth; his sons-in-law Michael and Jim; his grandchildren Sam, Jacob, Chloe, and Sylvie; his step-brother Leonard; and step-sister Rita.

MARGARET HELFAND, SP64, a New York-based architect and urban planner, died on June 20, 2007 from complications due to colon cancer. She was 59 years old.

Born in Pasadena, CA, in 1947 she began her undergraduate education at Swarthmore College but ultimately transferred and received a degree from UC Berkeley. She studied at both the International Institute of Design as well as the Architectural Association School in London. In 1973 she returned to Berkeley where she earned a MA in Architecture.

At various points in her career, Helfand served as president of the American Institute of Architects’ New York chapter and was a central creator of the Center for Architecture. She was also a co-chairman of New York New Visions, an entity that advised government agencies on matters of urban planning for the Lower Manhattan area after the events of September 11, 2001. Helfand also worked for various firms such as Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, and Marcel Breuer, but primarily spent her career at the firm she founded in 1981: Helfand Architecture. In addition to career pursuits she was an avid enthusiast of modern dance and sailing.

She was celebrated for her architectural vision and her accomplishment of breaking through traditional gender typecasting in the architectural world. Perhaps most notable was her ability to design edifices that partnered seamlessly with the natural landscape around them. Helfand is survived by her husband of 28 years, Jon Turner, and her sister, Judy Helfand.

STEPHANIE PAULK, SP89, died on November 30, 2010, due to complications with cancer, surrounded by family and friends. She was 38 years old.

Paulk was born in Georgia in 1972 and spent most of her formative years in the Atlanta area. From an early age she displayed an affinity towards the arts, writing poetry in elementary school and taking up the violin. After finishing high school at the Westminster Schools, she went on to attain a Bachelors degree in English literature from Columbia College of New York, during which time she studied for a year abroad at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. After engaging herself in various jobs after her 1994 graduation, Paulk eventually enrolled in Emory University Law School in 1998, and after completing her studies began work as an associate at McKenna, Long & Aldridge.

Though undeniably engaged in her law career, family and friends remember Paulk’s true passion as being art. Writing under the pseudonym JS van Buskirk, she authored Just Got No Hustle: Assorted Poems and Tiny Bedtime Stories, compilations of poems and short stories, respectively. She was featured in Creative Loafing, a popular art-focused publication widely distributed throughout Georgia. She also provided lyrical and textual contributions to the multi-media collaboration, “Unless and Until”, which has been presented at galleries throughout Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Not limited to literary creations, Paulk involved herself in a wide range of artistic pursuits, some of which can be found at jsvanbuskirk.com.

She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Paulk, her sisters Elizabeth and Julia, and her husband of two years, Randy Prunty.

KELVIN MIKHAIL SMALLWOOD-JONES, SS04, a promising student at Atlanta’s Morehouse College, took his life on February 23, 2008. He was 19 years old.

Smallwood-Jones was a celebrated football player at his Washington, D.C., high school, and was proclaimed homecoming king his senior year. Enrolling in Morehouse College in 2006, he was an English major, achieving a near-4.0 GPA throughout his time at school. He was also avidly engaged in community service and worked as a mentor for young children through 100 Black Men
of Atlanta, Inc., the Academic Empowerment Learning Center, and the Atlanta C5 Leadership Program. In honor of his achievements he had been accepted to an internship program at Georgetown University for the summer of 2008.

His mother, Gina, has been working to raise public awareness regarding youth suicide via the Kelvin Mikhail Suicide Awareness Campaign. For more information about her efforts, please visit http://www.kelvin-mikhail.info/iWeb/Kelvin-Mikhail/Welcome.html.

HENRY V. UPHOLT, JR., DS26, died on February 20, 2002. He was 92 years old.

Upholt was born in Detroit, Michigan, on May 16, 1909. After receiving a Bachelor’s degree in psychology with honors from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1932, he went on to attend medical school at Northwestern University. After his 1938 graduation he took on an internship at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Upon the onset of World War II, Upholt was commissioned as an Assistant Surgeon in the US Public Health Service in 1941, and later served as a doctor on military ships of the Coast Guard operating between New York and Cuba. After his service, he moved to Gardenia, California, where he opened a general practice. He later became an anesthesiologist for hospitals in the Los Angeles area until he made a move in 1960 north to Sacramento. From 1973 until his 1978 retirement he worked in the Methodist Hospital of South Sacramento.

Preceded in death by his first wife Eleanor and his second wife Margaret, Upholt is survived by his three sons, Gerald, Thomas, and James.

WENDELL WILLIAMS, DS49 CB51 TA49, accomplished professor, scientist, and engineer died at the age of 82 on November 20, 2010.

He was born on October 27, 1928, in Lake Forest, Illinois. From early in his life Williams displayed his intellectual vigor, being honored as the valedictorian of his Lake Forest High School class. After attending Deep Springs College, he eventually graduated from Swarthmore College and later received a Ph.D. from Cornell University.

After graduate school, Wendell served as a research physicist for the Union Carbide Corporation in Cleveland, and in 1967 joined the faculty at the University of Illinois as a professor of physics, ceramic engineering, and bioengineering. Williams received numerous awards throughout his career in recognition of his outstanding teaching ability. After “retiring” in 1987 he was appointed chairman of materials science and engineering at Case Western Reserve University and was honored with the Carl Wittke Award for Distinguished Teaching in his first year.

“Retiring” again in 1995, he taught at MIT and the honors college of the University of South Florida.

Williams also served as a consultant for the National Science Foundation, the National Research Council, the Department of Energy, Argonne National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Sandia Laboratory, and the Nordson Corporation. He was also a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Ceramic Society, councillor of the Materials Research Society, and was once president of the Society for Physical Regulation in Biology and Medicine. In light of his achievement he was also elected to the Cosmos Club of Washington, D.C. Over the course of his career he oversaw 56 graduate theses and published over 100 research papers.

Williams is survived by his wife, Dorothy, daughters Jennifer and Laura, and sister Marilou Williams Chapman.

Also Remembered

On December 27, 2009, DON BELTON was killed in his home; an arrest has since been made. An essayist, novelist, and assistant professor of English at Indiana University, Belton was slated to co-teach the Telluride Association Sophomore Seminar (TASS) session at IU during the summer of 2010.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1956, Belton’s family heartily encouraged his intellectual and creative pursuits. After graduating from Bennington College in 1981 he went on to receive an MA from Hollins College the following year. A teacher of creative writing at a number of institutions including Temple University, the University of Michigan, and Indiana University, he was the editor of Speak My Name: Black Men on Masculinity and the American Dream, an Anthology. He also authored Almost Midnight, an exploration of the legendary African American preacher Samuel Poole. Belton also spent some time as a reporter at Newsweek and wrote articles for the Black Film Review, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Advocate, and the Utne Reader.

Telluride Association’s staff and board of directors would like to convey our deepest sympathies to Belton’s family and friends, as well as our collective sense of horror regarding the tragedy of his death. His passing is a tremendous loss, not only to those close to him, but also to those he had not yet met. Engaging, kind, creative and generous, he was prepared to be a model TASS instructor. His aspiration toward an inclusive, accepting, diverse community of scholars mirrors TASS’s vision for our programs.

RUTH HOADLEY, widow of John BURCHARD, DS28 CB31 TA31, formerly a clinical social worker at George Washington University Hospital, died on June 23, 2010. She was 94 years old.

KATHERINE TERRELL, wife of Jan SVEJNAR, CB71 TA74, passed away on December 29, 2009 at the age of 59. She was a professor of economics and public policy at the University of Michigan.
All Your News That Fits We’ll Print

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Telluride Association
1735 Washtenaw Ave. | Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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        Ann Arbor  (734) 668-2117
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