Deep Springs Celebrates 100 Years; Turns Coeducational
By Matthew Trail, SP81 CB82 TA84 Alumni and Development Officer

This past summer, Telluride’s Nunnian cousin, Deep Springs College, reached two milestones that many over the years thought might never happen: celebrating its 100th birthday, and officially becoming a coeducational institution.

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Three Telluride Guests: Bethe, Oppenheimer, Feynman
By Michael Davidson, SP56 CB57 TA58

In the long history of remarkable guests at Cornell Branch of Telluride Association, three physicists stand out for their deep impact on science and the role of scientists in public affairs. Hans A. Bethe CBG36 and Richard P. Feynman CBG47 won Nobel Prizes in physics; Bethe and J. Robert Oppenheimer CBG46 received Enrico Fermi Awards for lifetime achievements. In this article, Michael Davidson highlights the story of their personal relationship to Cornell Branch.

Oppenheimer, Bethe, and Feynman at Los Alamos
General Leslie Groves, head of the World War II Manhattan Project, tapped Oppenheimer to direct the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory with the mission to design and build the atomic bomb. Oppenheimer asked Bethe to head the Theoretical Division. Drawing from among brilliant young university scientists, Oppenheimer took part in recruiting Feynman, who was just completing graduate studies at Princeton. Feynman warmly recalled Oppenheimer’s arranging for his wife Arline, who had TB, to stay in the nearest hospital in Albuquerque, a hundred miles from Los Alamos. Feynman hitchhiked there on weekends until her death in June 1945. Bethe appreciated Feynman’s spirit. Feynman recounted how that started: “Every day I would study and read, study and read. It was a very hectic time. But I had some luck. All the big shots except for Hans Bethe happened to be away at the time, and what Bethe needed was someone to talk to, to push his idea against. Well he comes into this little squirt in an office and starts to argue, explaining his idea. I say, ‘No, no, you’re crazy. It’ll go like this.’ And he says, ‘Just a moment,’ and explains how he’s not crazy, I’m crazy. And we keep on going like this.”

Feynman described his decision to join the Cornell faculty at the end of the war: “I got an offer of a job from Cornell, through Bethe’s influence there. And that’s what I wanted to do. I never considered anything else.

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Continuity and Innovation Marks 2017 Convention

By Puneet Singh, MB16 TA17

Every summer was a TA Convention
Full of debates, worries and apprehension
The members regularly met
Extensive agendas were set
But the immediate concern was
always heat prevention

On some of the hottest days of the year in Ann Arbor, the Telluride Association decided to stuff nearly 80 of its members and associates into the cramped quarters of 1735 Washtenaw Avenue, debating for four days on the future of the Association and its programs. Telluride’s annual Convention lived up to expectations of a critical self-examination of the past year, emergence of new ideas, building on previous ones, uniting old friends and even making some new ones!

The Michigan Branch last hosted Convention in 2014. As a steady stream of associates began arriving Monday, they were delighted to see the newly constructed patio, with a brand-new fireplace, picnic tables and a hammock, lined by trees and flowerbeds. Sharing living space of about 30 rooms among more than 80 members, staff, adjuncts and applicants is not easy but pushing everyone outside of their comfort zone is a necessary part of the Telluridean experience.

There were some significant changes to Convention 2017 over previous years. Instead of a Thursday morning dominated by standing committee reports (which were not read on Convention floor this year), there was a plenary session of introductions and Convention orientation/guidelines. However, the branches, Deep Springs College, and the Arete Project did give short presentations as a review of last years’ activities. Instead of invited speakers, a few experimental sessions and discussion formats were ably led by President Leslie. Another departure was referring to attendees by their first names and preferred pronouns instead of the formal Mr./Mrs. followed by the last name.

Marking another leap in the use of technology for efficient meetings, Michael Barany introduced a legislative process which involved traversing a trail of hyperlinks, adopting BIRT language and having online conversations to reduce time taken for resolutions to pass or fail on the Convention floor. The Branch computer lab was supplemented with four Google chromebooks available for checkout by the “Laptop Librarians.” Veterans of Convention were designated Convention guides and helped the wide-eyed newbies get a sense of what was going on.

Convention created several new standing committees this year: the Finance and Budget Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Communications Committee. Intense conversations also took place over the way to expand our summer programs, and for that purpose a charter for summer program expansion was passed, and a Summer Program Expansion Committee created to pursue the project. This Charter envisions increasing the number of seminars to six by 2022, provided that some budgetary, educational quality, and human capital criteria are met. The timeline allows the Association to review milestones and performance as seminars are added biannually. By the end of 2022, two TASP seminars each are planned at Cornell, Michigan and the University of Maryland. There is hesitance to expand TASS at this stage because it has only recently expanded to four seminars this year. In other summer program-related news, Telluride’s summer program committees have been tasked with developing pedagogical plans. A joint subcommittee is also looking into revising summer program policies.

Convention 2017 also brought with it an intense moment of self-reflection regarding the current human capital crisis in the Association. President Leslie presented a detailed empirical report to provide evidence of this. The membership is at its smallest size since the 1970s. These concerns are further compounded because experience levels have fallen drastically. Members are leaving after shorter tenures, and currently, only a few of the most experienced members have spent 14 to 15 years at the Association. Considering the current trends, it will take several years to repopulate older membership and arrive at historic mean values. Convention attendance is also at a historic low. In addition, programmatic load has increased several times from the last time membership was at this level. From operating one branch and two-to-four summer programs, we are now operating two branches with eight summer programs and possibly more projects on their way. Another indicator of the increased workload is that the programmatic budget has quadrupled since the last time membership was this low. With fewer and less experienced members conducting several times the amount of work, there is no doubt that significant challenges are on their way. An encouraging sign, however, is that Convention 2017 received the largest pool of applicants in the last fifty years.

After several years without a new designated scholar, the Overseas Exchange Program was eliminated at Convention this year. The branches have been asked to explore alternative methods of achieving the benefits previously achieved through the exchanges. Branches are now also creating an annual statement of purpose and member expectations. In addition, plans for convening individual conversations between branchmembers and the Association’s branch committees has been adopted.

Saturday afternoon and evening was spent in a long, closed-door meeting for deciding new members. However, the night was a chance to relax at the highly-anticipated party organized by Jay Meeks. On Sunday morning, the public notary swore in 14 new incoming members. There were four members who resigned or were elevated. There were warm hugs and farewells, as members packed their bags and said their goodbyes. Convention 2018 at the Cornell Branch promises to be another step for the Association to build on its legacy and live up to the vision of L.L. Nunn.
This past September, Telluride’s TASS Alumni Development and Support (TADAS) committee held two college planning weekends for 2016 TASSers, one at Cornell Branch and one at Michigan Branch. Participants reunited with TASSers from their cohort and made new friends with TASS alumni from other sites, learned more about the college application and scholarship processes and future opportunities as Telluride alumni, and received editing and proofreading guidance on their college application essays. They also met with college admissions officials from both universities, including Cornell’s Richard Onyejuruwa, himself a TASS alumni from 2007.
Telluride Development Committee hosted the inaugural Telluride Day of Service October 14-15, 2017. Many Telluride associates across generations volunteered in six host cities: in Boston at the Urban Farm Institute, in New York City at The Bowery Mission and Xavier Mission, in New Haven at Common Ground, in Washington D.C. at the Washington Youth Garden, in San Francisco at the SF-Marin Food Bank, and in Ann Arbor at the Community Action Network. In addition to getting the opportunity to meet fellow associates, volunteers had the opportunity to participate in group service activities organized by our local hosts. Going forward, the Development Committee will consider how best continue or expand this program in future years. In the meantime, we offer our sincere thanks to all those who organized in our six host cities and beyond, for helping making service a more central part of Telluride life.
THE CENTENNIAL

From June 30-July 2, 470 friends of Deep Springs descended on the Valley for a gala celebrating 100 years of the College. 221 of these attendees were alumni (out of a total living of about 700). The oldest attendee was Bob Gatje DS44 CB47 TA46; only ten class years were not represented between 1944 and 2014. Telluride Association was represented both formally by staff and current members, and informally by the dozens of joint Deep Springs-Telluride alumni reaffirming the longstanding connection between the two Nunnian communities.

In addition to plenty of opportunities for socializing and reminiscing (as well as a talent show and dance in the main circle), participants attended a variety of panels on Deep Springs history and experiences, offered public speeches, and took field trips in the mountains and to the nearby Manzanar Japanese-American internment camp. Discussion topics included science education at the College, the experience of women faculty and guests over the years, self-government, and the future of Nunnian education on the Deep Springs model. Deep Springs also released DSC100: Deep Springs College, a commemorative six-volume collection of over 200 images and 150 essays about a century of experiences at Deep Springs. The ghost of L.L. Nunn himself made a surprise visit!

“Maintaining such a unique, intensive pedagogical approach for one hundred years, in a country that so desperately needs the leaders who emerge from that pedagogy, is a true accomplishment. I always am impressed by the students and staffulty when I visit the valley, and I always come home with new inspirations about Nunnian education.”
—Ave Leslie, SP00 TA06, TA President 2016-18

“Although we do not know how education will look in another 100 years, we consider it a strength to be able to say at least how it ought to look today. Thank you to everyone in both the TA and DS communities for your faith in the Nunnian vision and for your support of the students of Deep Springs as they continue to articulate and evince its abundant aims for the next generation of leaders and citizens.”
—John Dewis DS94, Deep Springs Director of Development

COEDUCATION

In late June, the California Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal of a lower court’s ruling in favor of permitting the modification of the Deed of Trust to allow coeducation at Deep Springs. The last legal hurdle in a formal process begun with the Board’s 2011 decision for the college to go coed had been cleared. After review and reflection, the Deep Springs Board of Trustees announced on September 1st that it would now accept applications from all promising young people for the 2018 entering class.

In a statement passed unanimously in August, the Trustees said: “The Trustees of Deep Springs are confident that Deep Springs College can and should implement a smooth transition to coeducation as soon as practicable. Further, the Trustees of Deep Springs College commit to work enthusiastically and in unison to support coeducation at Deep Springs College. As a body, the Trustees ask the alumni and friends of Deep Springs to join the college in supporting this endeavor.”

Whether reflecting back on the lessons of its past 100 years, or looking forward to the major changes coming to the Valley in the next year, there is no doubt that a transformative education remains central to the Deep Springs experience. Telluride Association wishes our Nunnian colleagues well in their continued journey!

For more information and photos from the Deep Springs Centennial, and to order DSC100, visit http://www.deepsprings.edu/1917-2017-centennial/.
FEYMAN AT THE HOUSE

Feynman’s daughter, Michelle, describes the immediate postwar years as “a bleak time in Richard’s life.” Arline had died in 1945. A year later, his father died.

He was troubled by mankind’s future. Brad Edmondson DS76 CB80 TA90, in his book Postwar Cornell, quotes Feynman remembering that, when eating at a restaurant on 52nd Street in Manhattan, he couldn’t look at New York City and its people without thinking what would happen if an atom bomb went off at 34th Street. Feynman recalled: “I couldn’t accept the idea that there was really a future.” After arriving at Cornell in November 1945, “I spent a lot of time explaining the bomb to people in lectures. I felt that I knew something about the bomb, and that citizens should know more, because, thinking idealistically, decisions are made by citizens.”

Cornell Branch’s Graduate Guest Committee invited Feynman to reside at the House during the academic year 1947-1948. Feynman likely spent time at the House before then, as when Oppenheimer stayed there for the Messenger Lectures.

Feynman spoke of his Telluride year: “I could work in my room, or play with the guys, or work on the place; so it was very good. It’s there that I did the fundamental work.” That referred to the work that earned the Nobel in 1965 that he shared with Julian Schwinger and Sin-Itiro Tomonaga “for their fundamental work in quantum electrodynamics.” The presentation speech in Stockholm took note of Feynman’s use of “a graphical interpretation called Feynman diagrams, which have become an important feature of modern physics.”

Over time, Feynman would become a renowned public explainer of physics, including in his own celebrated 1964 Messenger Lectures. The House provided an early opportunity to develop his public speaking: “When I had lived in the Telluride House, the boys had some kind of thing on Wednesday night, in which each person gave a lecture on some subject to others. This was a sort of party, and they asked a faculty member also to do it. That was me. They would suggest a topic they were interested in and one topic was, ‘What is all this stuff about waves and particles?’ So I invented a half an hour or 40 minute speech or something, which was the condition of the thing, to explain this puzzle of waves and particles to intelligent creatures that didn’t have physics background.”

His year at the House was not all physics. One night Feynman told John Mellor CB46 TA48 he would like to read some economics: “So I dashed to the library and came back with a copy of Paul Samuelson’s Foundations of Economic Analysis (1947), a book most normal people would consider...
highly mathematical. Dick had breakfast with me the next day to discuss it. He had read the whole thing the night before.”

Terry Pell CB79 TA80 recalls his dad Erik DS41 CB46 TA43 saying Feynman “pitched in with Branch work. My father recalled that Feynman incredibly once spent hours helping to find a small error in the financial balance of the CBTA accounts.” On Feynman’s reminiscence that he enjoyed playing with the guys, Bob Gatje DS44 CB47 TA46 has shared a photograph of Feynman in a snowball fight with Pete Palfrey DS43 TA46.

Of course, there was also drumming on anything at hand. John Mellor recalled: “Feynman played the radiators of Telluride as if they were bongo drums. He loved to do this. He would go down in the basement and wail away on the pipes. The whole building would vibrate.”

Telluride Tries Strategic Planning

By Amy Saltzman, SP02 CB03 TA05

Convention 2017 voted to constitute a Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC). This committee will lead an effort to produce a new mission statement for the Association and liaise with a strategic planning consultant to determine our strengths, weaknesses, and programmatic goals as an organization, with the goal of providing a three- to five-year strategic plan for consideration at Convention 2018.

Strategic planning, like other standard nonprofit processes, can be a topic of great debate among Telluride Association trustees. How do we balance the need to plan ahead—especially for big projects—with our ideals of participatory democracy and experimentation? Obviously, an entire strategic plan cannot be produced during the three days trustees spend together annually (at Convention), so how can a planning process be conducted by committee while taking into account the needs of the organization as a whole? These questions percolate and periodically bubble to the surface at Convention, resulting in yet another attempt to satisfy both our need for longer term planning and our skepticism of its role in a self-governing organization. The issue of strategic planning is entangled with other, more existential questions about the purpose of Telluride Association’s programs, how to know if we are fulfilling that purpose, and what our Constitutional charge means now, 106 years after our founding. The purpose, as laid out in the Constitution, leaves much room for interpretation: “to promote the highest well-being by broadening the field of knowledge and increasing the adoption as the rule of conduct of those truths from which flowers individual freedom as the result of self-government in harmony with the Creator.” Every few years, a committee or taskforce delves into these issues of purpose and plan, and SPSC’s work will attempt to further some of the Association’s recent efforts on these topics.

SPSC’s mission of articulating TA goals renews an objective of the Three Year Purpose and Plan Committee, whose work resulted in the 2013 Purpose and Plan Statement. SPSC also builds on more historic attempts at strategic planning, including the 2000 Purpose, Plan, and New Programs Committee (PPNP). PPNP’s work identified four areas for further refinement, which sound familiar even 17 years later: developing a mission statement, putting into place structures for new project development, disentangling budgeting and its relation to policy, and considering ambitions in light of limited human capital. While PPNP’s work was discontinued in favor of the creation of a new committee—the Development Committee—SPSC endeavors to learn from past attempts to achieve similar ends.

The work of SPSC is underway. To avoid reinventing the strategic planning wheel, SPSC has adopted the “strategy change cycle” method of strategic planning described in John Bryson’s textbook, Strategic Planning for Public and Nonprofit Organizations, and is in the process of engaging a consultant trained in this method to help guide the committee’s work. While SPSC will be leading the process of strategy development, the committee is committed to offering abundant opportunities for participation and feedback from all of TA’s constituents, including TA program participants, alumni, staff, and affiliated organizations. For additional information, contact SPSC Chair John Corso (SP92 TA06, john.corso@tellurideassociation.org) or Vice Chair Ridley Jones (SP05 MB06 TA08, ridley.jones@tellurideassociation.org).
Telluride’s International Scholars Programs: 
A Long and Winding Road

By Maia Dedrick, MB05 TA11

At the 2017 Convention, Telluride Association voted to cancel the Overseas Scholars program, and asked the Branches to bring proposals to next Convention that would bring international scholars to campus and offer similar benefits to Branch life. In light of this decision, it seems an apt time to reflect on the history of Telluride’s international programs.

According to the 1954 Convention Minutes, Chancellor E. M. Johnson CB16 TA15 recalled “the warm approval expressed by Mr. Nunn when Cornell Branch invited its first foreign guests—Drs. Max Kleer and Rudolf Diesel CBG12—and when the 1920 Convention granted preferment to supplement the Rhodes Scholarship of William D. Whitney TA17, the first member to study abroad on an Association grant.” He adds that, “Continuously since then, the program has grown in significance.”

Nonetheless, it seems that Telluride Association’s commitment to international programming commenced primarily during, and in light of, World War II. In 1941, during the war, Chancellor Johnson registered Telluride Association with the Department of Justice as an institution that could invite foreign scholars to study. During the 1940-1 year, an agreement was made between Telluride and Cornell that Cornell would pay tuition and fees to any foreign scholar that the Association selected. For the sake of ease, it was suggested that during the war the scholar be chosen from Latin America. However, it soon became clear that there would be no possibility of hosting foreign scholars, or any affiliate of Telluride for that matter, at the Cornell Branch during the war (as the Marines occupied it).

The war brought out sentiments from Telluride members concerning the role that the Association could play in the development of leaders who would work toward international unity and peace. As a result, in 1946, a scholarship fund was established to honor the Telluride war dead, known thereafter as the War Memorial Fund. One scholarship provided funds for the selection of a foreign graduate student to live at the house, and was to be named each year by the committee as a memorial to one of the Telluride War Dead. In 1947, the Graduate Guest Committee had selected a student from France to be the Ned Bedell Scholar, and by 1948 the committee could invite two men yearly, whose scholarship could be renewed for more than one year.

By 1950, the Lincoln-Telluride Exchange had been established, and it would last more than 50 years, until 2004. For a couple years, a Junior Lincoln Scholar was added to Telluride’s international portfolio, but that phased out quickly. In contrast to the scholarships for foreign students, this program was an exchange, in which the Association sent Telluride housemembers to Lincoln College at Oxford, as well as receiving Lincoln students at the house.

During a long span of time, the Cornell Branch had in residence one foreign graduate student in addition to one Lincoln exchange scholar, and occasionally there were even two foreign graduate students in addition to the Lincoln exchange. This model would continue until about 1970, when the International Students Office of Cornell indicated they would no longer allocate two tuition-and-fees fellowships to Telluride nominees. Telluride Association then asked the Graduate School to retain the Lincoln Exchange on its budget. By the early 2000s, however, the economic model was no longer working, and funding ceased. (For a more detailed history of the Lincoln Exchange, see the Summer 2003 issue of the Newsletter on Telluride’s website).

Beyond these counts of international students, the presence of international faculty and undergraduates often increased the number of foreigners in the house, as they continue to do today. In 1958, Chancellor Johnson celebrated the fact that any undergraduate residing at the Cornell Branch for the usual undergraduate period will be thrown into daily association for a year each with eight or ten scholars from several countries. This mutual exchange and close personal association make both Americans and foreigners beneficiaries, and I should be surprised if the world, too, during the coming decades will not be a beneficiary through this exchange.” By 1960, Johnson reported the following: “We have invited 175 foreign graduate scholars, not including numerous undergraduates, foreign teachers, writers, and scientists who have been invited to be our guests for extended periods. During the past ten years we have enjoyed 83 academic terms with these foreign graduate scholars, an average of slightly more than four of them yearly.”

Unsuccessful suggestions for international programs presented to Telluride Association have included holding a TASP in the Philippines or, in 1963, for a TASP that would bring together foreign and American scholars. In 1973, Michael Moravcsik CB51 TA53 introduced a memorandum calling for energetic participation in a new international project so that TA would have a new opportunity to creatively spearhead a novel educational program. For a couple years thereafter, the idea of a Ghana Branch floated around, as Cornell Branch invited the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, who was a personal acquaintance of Moravcsik, for a visit. Unfortunately, the coordination of schedules never worked out and this project was eventually dropped. For a brief period of time in the late 1970s, Telluride Association admitted a non-white South African grad student to live at Cornell as part of a broader university scholarship for four non-white South African scholars. In 2000, exploration of an international exchange program at MBTA began, and a Michigan-Cambridge exchange was considered but eventually rejected. As the Lincoln Exchange program came to a close by 2004, the Overseas committee that developed out of the exploration of the Michigan-Cambridge exchange proposed the Michigan-University of Cape Town (UCT) and Cornell-Central European University (CEU) exchanges in
2006. Over the past couple of years, the exchanges became foreign student scholarships, as we stopped sending Telluride associates to the foreign universities. This may have signaled the beginning of the end of our relationships with UCT and CEU.

The 2004 Report of the Overseas Student Recruitment Committee outlined the following statement of purpose for the overseas exchange scholarships:

“The purpose of the overseas exchange scholarship shall be:

i. to explore the diverse ways in which the Telluridean ideals of scholarship, democratic self-government, and community are lived in different academic traditions;

ii. to bring together students of different nations who share a passion for exchanging ideas, a commitment to democratic self-government, and a dedication to improving public life;

iii. to enable those students to develop their potential for leadership as global citizens and their ability to contribute to society across borders;

iv. to advance the educational, social, and cultural experience of selected students.”

These seem like worthy goals for the Branches to consider and revise as they craft proposals for the future of their own international programs. Of course, in the meantime, the two Branches continue to be homes for a wide range of international scholars, and many recipients of Telluride’s Yarrow Adventurous Education Award choose to volunteer in overseas projects. Any Telluride Associate who would like to provide inspiration for a formal international program can reach out to us at overseas@tellurideassociation.org.

2018 Summer Programs Announced

All programs run June 24 – August 4, 2018

Cornell TASS I
Mediated Lives: Performing Identity in Contemporary Media
Faculty: Karen Jaime and Samantha Sheppard, Cornell University

Cornell TASS II
Shades of Blackness: Exploring Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the African Diaspora through Performance, Film, Music, and Art
Faculty: Marlon M. Bailey, Arizona State University, and John Thabiti Willis, Carleton College

Michigan TASS I
The Cultural Politics of Race in Media and Literature
Faculty: Shazia Ifikhar and Aliyah Khan, University of Michigan

Michigan TASS II
African American Mobility and Travel Abroad: From Paul Cuffee to Ta-Nehisi Coates
Faculty: Sharika Crawford, United States Naval Academy, and Derek Handley, Carnegie Mellon University

Cornell TASP I
Pleasure and Danger: Bodies in History, Science, Literature, and Philosophy
Faculty: Masha Raskolnikov, Cornell University, and Kim Evans, State University of New York at Cortland

Cornell TASP II
Facing Fictions
Faculty: Blakey Vermeule, Stanford University, and William Flesch, Brandeis University

Maryland TASP
Protest Poetics: Art and Performance in Freedom Movements
Faculty: Jakeya Caruthers, Stanford University, and Isaiah Wooden, American University

Michigan TASP
Just Comics
Faculty: Ali Shapiro and Gina Brandolino, University of Michigan

TASS Application Deadline: January 9, 2018

TASP Application Deadline: January 16, 2018

https://www.tellurideassociation.org/our-programs/high-school-students/
A hundred years after the first two institutions based on Nunnian educational principles—Telluride Association and Deep Springs College—were founded, the visionary electricity magnate’s educational philosophies are finding new energy in brand new educational experiments. In the Fall 2015 Newsletter, we profiled the Arete Project, a summer program and future college on the Deep Springs model for promising young women. In Sitka, Alaska, the prospect of a new Nunnian college seems even closer. The Outer Coast Project plans to create an intensive two-year liberal arts college, with an eventual student body of 40, in the maritime island village.

In a draft prospectus outlining their vision for the future college, Outer Coast’s founders describe an academic program taught by a handful of student-hired faculty, covering a range of subjects in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences in seminar-based classes. They underscore the importance of excellence in teaching, a virtue sometimes underemphasized in major research university contexts, and one they hope to cultivate and center. Although Outer Coast’s emphasis on labor and community service may seem resonant of pillars at other Nunnian institutions, they take on a particularly Sitkan flavor, a nod to their context. Students will participate in a robust labor program, preparing food, maintaining the college grounds, answering phones and harvesting food—their contribution to keeping the college running. Building on an existing Sitka Winter Fellows program, Outer Coast students will also take part in an extensive community service program, engaging with organizations ranging from Sitka’s domestic violence shelter to the Maritime Heritage Society.

Since Sheldon Jackson College, then Alaska’s oldest educational institution and one of the village’s largest employers, shuttered its doors in 2007, the community has been working to find an alternative use for the campus. In 2010, after several years with no success at finding a higher education buyer, the defunct college’s Board of Trustees gifted the campus to the Sitka Fine Art Camp. With the extensive support, in both finances and labor, of the Sitka community, the campus was brought back to habitability, and the prestigious summer art camp became the engine of a local renaissance. However, while the campus remains active into winter months with a variety of community events, State Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins believed a liberal arts college would be an excellent use of remaining campus space. In July 2014, inspired by Deep Springs College, he started to look into what it would take to establish a new college. Drawing on a wealth of friends and connections, and the growing momentum of an idea whose time has come, Kreiss-Tomkins’s efforts have since expanded into a core team of around 8 active members and around 40 collaborators and allies assisting in smaller but still enthusiastic ways.

Mollie Kabler, Vice President of the Board of Sitka Fine Arts Council and a strong Outer Coast community ally, described a growing sense of community enthusiasm and optimism for the fledgling educational experiment. Accessible only by ferry and plane, and with an economy that still feels the mark of a major employer’s departure, the energy of more young people in town and the contribution the school could make to the economy and cultural landscape of the town holds many promises. On the flip side, Kabler notes, there are some doubts from community members who remember the financial mismanagement of Sheldon Jackson by college trustees and fear that the often trying landscape of higher education may be difficult to weather, especially for a young school without an endowment or national reputation. While admitting these challenges, Outer Coast team members suggest that the unique organization of the school, with its greater reliance on student labor and lean administration, makes the financial side less daunting, and argue that the intensive community engagement fostered through the community service pillar will allow Outer Coast to foster a closer and more intimate relationship with the community when compared with its predecessor.

Outer Coast’s leaders see it filling several holes in the landscape of American higher education. As Cecilia Dumouchel, core team member and project staff, put it, “I think there is a need for institutions of higher ed that require something of their students, as people, not just as academic students. ...Colleges and universities require their students to complete academic work…but very few collegiate settings require their students to know how to navigate real conflict or take on the responsibilities of helping to run a community and get some skin in the game.” William Hunt SP12 DS13 TA16 hopes “Outer Coast’s success will demonstrate that Deep Springs is not a fluke but rather a serious model for higher education,” and will
This hair, an archive

is not what it used to be
this hirsute history
mangled in the palm
inescapable is
a winter hair to complement a summer
suit of earth (a suite of suits, errata)
self, contained
this hair
has never been straightened
never burnt into submission, kicking
this hair
has been so young, so green and fleeting
for a life/time
this hair
collects thick mats overnight
   dampers and spoons full of 3 a.m. sounds
without benefit of a pair of plaits
   (whipping on whip-its, in cloud-dream remembrances
      and time spent deciding
         if this is the kind of girl it is
         or is it this time a girl at all
         or if there is any such thing as “kinds of” or “girls” or “all”
         the atman)
categorically,
speaking, this hair
has left the country, left the state
   (some say)
this hair
has never served jesus
never praised allah
no friends keeping covenant with bitter old men
never worshiped any god other than
mama cosmos
this hair
this hair has
never been straight; enough
curling unto the asymptote till the almost gets
too tight
this hair, this hair
the kink of my private halls
this hair
grows wild, in patches
   in other people’s yards
      (but mostly, its own)
this hair
shivers along the skin
   spiders of ice – impossible!
rivers of bones, the
   unimaginable
      dancing down the drain, truth
      the stars, the missing appetite
of the gods
unsinkable, yet
this hair
still hides the one
who only sleeps under cover
   under covers, pangs
   the intimate intricacies of loss – this hair
dances loose along limbs (red shoes divining the moves)
tight around the edges
close to home
as the tortoise – this hair
tickles the back
this – and that
back of the knee, gently
this hair, a breeze
   curled around (delicate, around)
      phalanges, under strong brown arms, we
      (or maybe, oui) support the crown, but not the Crown
and more,
and this time without sound
this hair, this hair
the castle of my coming down
et cetera and so on and so forth
forever
a cut that is
and isn’t the renewal of flesh, furtive
birth unto birth unto
beautiful deadly birth –
   may the earth open up to receive it,
      and you, and us
      and always
note: a translator for this work
could not be obtained,

Traveler, you must
Translate
for yourself
(and for all the selves
you have yet to become),
an archive.
etwg, SPO7

etwg is a first-year graduate student in human rights at the University of Minnesota,
Twin Cities and a community-based research project director at a small Minneapolis
non-profit that brings stakeholders together to find common ground on important
public policy issues. They live across from a public art memorial for local hero Prince
(of Purple Rain fame) with their partner, four siblings, three musical instruments (if
you don’t count both guitars separately), two lucky black cats, and a library of over
1,200 books in their bedroom (and everywhere). Might as well be a shoe.
1950s

JAMES NAISMITH, CB54 TA55, dropped by Cornell Branch last June for a brief visit while attending a Cornell alumni weekend. Naismith is a retired civil engineer in Texas (and, incidentally, also the grandson of basketball's inventor, James Naismith).

JOHN HOSKINS, SP59 CB60 DS61 TA61, writes "As a member of San Francisco’s 2016 Civil Grand Jury, and based in part on Deep Springs experience that things not maintained will tend to break at the most inconvenient (and dangerous) times, I urged San Francisco’s government to budget wisely for maintenance, despite the subject’s lack of political sex appeal. The annual maintenance budget should be set at 4% of CRV (Current Replacement Value). It is not close to that level, with predictably adverse consequences."

1970s

DANIEL SEGAL, SP75 CB76 TA79, the Jean M. Pitzer Professor of Anthropology and Professor of History at Pitzer College, has been awarded a Fulbright Program Scholar Research Fellowship to examine the entry of the Brazilian state into the northern Amazon.

KATHLEEN SULLIVAN, SP71 CB72 TA74 met up with fellow Marshall Scholars MICHAEL BARANY, SP04 CB05 TA07 and MELISSA LANE, SP83 at the Association of Marshall Scholars’ June 2 gala at Harvard for the 70th anniversary of the Marshall Plan. All agreed TASP was their most transformative experience ever, Marshall scholarships included.

1980s

PHILIP GORSKI’s, DS81 new book, American Covenant: A History of Civil Religion from the Puritans to the Present, is reviewed in the June issue of The American Interest. Gorski is Co-Director of Yale University’s Center for Comparative Research (CCR), and co-runs the Religion and Politics Colloquium at the Yale MacMillan Center.

ROBERT JERRARD, DS81 CB84, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in September. Bob is Professor of Mathematics at the University of Toronto.

MISHA HOEKSTRA, DS82 CBC93, was short-listed for the 2017 Man Booker International Prize for his English translation of Dorte Nohrs’ Mirror, Shoulder, Signal recently published by Pushkin Press. A writer and musician, Misha lives in Denmark and has translated numerous titles from Danish to English, including recent new translations of Hans Christian Anderson’s The Wild Swans and The Snow Queen.

SEAN SMITH, SP82, has a new book, The Internet of Risky Things: Trusting the Devices That Surround Us. Sean is Professor and program chair in the department of Computer Science at Dartmouth College.

LAURENT DuBOIS, SP87, Professor of Romance Studies at Duke University, delivered the Elsa Goveia Memorial Lecture on March 16th at the University of the West Indies at Mona (Jamaica). His lecture was titled “Listening In on 17th Century Jamaica,” including a presentation of an interesting digital project on five musical pieces recorded in Hans Sloane’s 1707 Voyage to the Islands.

NOAH FELDMAN, SP87, is a Professor of Constitutional and International Law at Harvard University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter. His seven books include The Three Lives of James Madison: Genius, Partisan, President and Cool War: The Future of Global Competition. His columns can be read on the Bloomberg View.

1990s

JOSHUA ADLER, SP90, announces the birth of daughter Rita Joan Adler (TASP ’34?) on June 6, 2017 in Houston, Texas. She’s very healthy and full of smiles. Josh and his wife Shannan are splitting time between Houston, Texas and Rye, New Hampshire. Josh founded sourcewater.com, the first online marketplace for water, after graduating from the MIT Sloan Fellows program in 2013 and moved the company to Houston one year ago. He’s also the founding investor in MegaBots, a robotics entertainment company building giant robot warriors for live stadium battles, which held the world’s first ever giant robot battle versus Japan recently, and he’s an investor and advisor to a number of other energy, big data and AI startups while continuing to make occasional real estate deals in Washington, D.C.

Joshua Adler and family.

STACEY ABRAMS, SP90, is running for Governor in the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial election. She is currently House Minority Leader in the Georgia State Assembly, representing the 89th House District.

JESSIE LIU, SP90, was confirmed as US Attorney for Washington DC in September. Liu is a former George W. Bush Justice Department Deputy Assistant Attorney General who served on Trump’s Justice Department transition team, and as Deputy General Counsel at the Treasury Department.

MARY SEGARES, SP91, started working at St. Francis College in Brooklyn as an Assistant Professor in Healthcare Management in January 2017.

DAMON RICH, SP93, has been named a 2017 MacArthur Foundation Fellow. Rich is a partner at Hector, an urban design, planning, and civic arts studio based in Newark, N.J., where he was the former planning director and chief urban designer for the city. In 1997, Rich also founded the Center for Urban Pedagogy, a nonprofit organization based in Brooklyn, N.Y., that increases civic engagement through educational programs involving design and the arts.

Joshua Adler and family.
MARK HAUBER, CB97, has moved to the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, to become the Harley Jones Van Cleave Professor of Host-Parasite Interactions at the Department of Animal Biology, School of Integrative Biology. His website is www.cowbirdlab.org.

SAMUEL HOUSHOWER, SP98 DS99 TA00, was married May 27th to Eleanor Blume. Houshower is a legal consultant in San Francisco for nonprofit organizations. From 2010 to 2016, he was an Associate Counsel to President Barack Obama. His wife is a Special Assistant Attorney General in California, working on the executive team in San Francisco.

ELIOT MICHAELSON, DS99 TA00, has created a philosophy video series, Philosophy Time, with actor (and former student of his) James Franco. The series comprises four short films in which Franco, Michaelson, and several other philosophers discuss questions regarding the nature of beauty, metaphor, imagination, and moral worth. The project is an attempt to make philosophy, which can sometimes be intimidating to newcomers, accessible. Michaelson is Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy at King's College London.

2000s

ANDREW KIM, DS00, is running for Congress in the 3rd District of New Jersey. Kim formerly served on President Barack Obama’s National Security Council staff.

TRACY HUANG, SP06, has started a new business called dawritespacem.com, and married David Hoffman in the presence of family and friends in August at the Red Barn at Hampshire College.

AIDA MANDULEY, SP06, is co-author of a recent article, “The Role of Social Media in Sex Education: Dispatches from Queer, Trans and Racialized Communities” in a special edition focusing on technology for the journal Feminism & Psychology. Their co-authors are Iradele Plante, Andreas Mertens, and Anjum Sultana. They are a therapist at The Meeting Place, where they provide psychotherapy to individuals, couples and non-dyadic relationships, and families with emphasis on gender/sexual minorities and trauma. They also collaborate on sexual education projects with Good Vibrations and the Center for Sexual Health and Pleasure.

BEENISH AHMED, MB07, has a Kickstarter project entitled The Alignist, a supplementary information/resource/interpretative subscription-based service for books. Ahmed’s aim with this venture is to “forge an empathy-based understanding of the world by connecting fact to fiction.”

ANGELICAL MARTIN, MB07 TA13, defended her Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Molecular Cancer Biology from Duke University. She is currently the research Director of the Friedreich’s Ataxia Research Alliance. She would like to thank the Telluride community, especially the MBTA branch from 2007-2011. “This is in part your degree too—I wouldn’t be here without the rich, stimulating, inspiring interactions we shared, friendships we’ve built. They were formative on both a personal and professional front, and enabled me to realize this career goal.”

Drs. UNIKORA YANG, SP07, and Justin Glavis-Bloom married on June 25, 2017 in New York City with family and close friends in attendance, including SUSAN YUE, SP07. Uni and Justin are currently both pediatric resident physicians at the University of Southern California’s Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

SARAH ASMAN PFEIFFER, SP08 CB09 TA12, and her husband Jason are pleased to announce the birth of their son Malcom on August 12, 2007.

TINA BARKER, SP08, has an article on “The Bleak Left” in issue 28 of N+1. He is currently a Ph.D. student in modern US history at Harvard, where he works on the social history of ideas and political economy.

ELSTON YALAMANCHI-HE, SP08, has married Pratyusha Yalamanchi. Wedding attendees included KATHERINE HUANG SP08 and CANSU GUNEL SP08. They have launched a 501(c)(3) “Shift Fund.” The Fund seeks to connect individuals with needs left otherwise unaddressed with the means to make it happen. Donors of all capacities have the opportunity to contribute to these needs, with the understanding that their funds will have a transparent, direct impact for an individual. More information is available at www.shiftfund.gives.

CHRISTOPHER LEVESQUE, SP08 CB09 TA13, started a Ph.D. program in Sociology at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in the fall of 2017.

DAVID SANCHEZ, SS08, married hometown sweetheart Elynn Kann July 29th in Racine, Wisconsin.

KATHERINE HUANG and Michaelson are in SF for their wedding on August 12, 2007.

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2010s

DARA HUGGINS, SS11, started a Ph.D. program in Psychology at Columbia University this fall. Dara graduated in 2017 from Yale, where she received the Yale Afam House (Afro-American Cultural Center) Outstanding Student Leader award and was the undergraduate flag bearer for Yale’s 17th Annual Black Graduation.

STEPHEN WARD’S, SPF12, new book In Love and Struggle: The Revolutionary Lives of James and Grace Lee Boggs, was profiled in a November 2016 blog post from the African American Intellectual History Society.

CELINA SCOTT-BUECHLER, SP13 CB14 TA16, has been named a Rawlings Presidential Research Scholar at Cornell. Scott-Buechler, a College Scholar focusing on marine science and coastal environmental justice studies, is studying the correlation between environmental variables and disease prevalence in a species of Caribbean sea fan coral.

THEODORA WALSH, CB13, has had several creative writing pieces published recently, including poetry in the online journal Apogee and fiction in Entropy. Walsh recently started an MFA in Literary Arts at Brown University.

OMARI GARRETT’S, SS15 SP16, September 2017 opinion piece in his Denison University newspaper on free speech and racism earned some national media attention and Omari recently appeared on Tucker Carlson’s program on Fox News.

BEATRICE JIN, CB15, spent the summer of 2017 as a Caltech visualization intern, applying her skills in math, science, art, and design to create new methods of data visualization for a 3D plant segmentation project.

CHASE KINZLY, SS16, has been named one of 20 first recipients of the Yale Bassett Award for Community Engagement. The award, sponsored by the faculty of in Yale’s Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration (RITM), honors emerging leaders who have distinguished themselves through a record of creative leadership and public service, academic distinction, interdisciplinary problem solving, and experience addressing societal issues.

DELMAR FEARS, CB17, as co-chair of Cornell’s Black Students United, led calls for the University Assembly to add an amendment to the Campus Code of Conduct on “hate speech” in response to incidents on campus in September.

Outer Coast...

have an impact not only in inspiring others to build colleges on this model, but “influence the way pedagogy happens at already-existing colleges and universities.”

Another unique aspect of Outer Coast’s mission is its deep commitment to reaching underserved students, including particularly Native and rural Alaskans, and grounding the education they offer squarely in the institution’s surroundings and community. As Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins puts it, “While we anticipate Outer Coast to attract students across the United States and the world, we want to be deeply connected to Alaska, including dynamic graduates from Alaska high schools and connect all these students, Alaskan or from outside Alaska, with the place and community of Sitka and Alaska, during and after Outer Coast.”

That Outer Coast’s pedagogical vision is inspired by Deep Springs is, in Will Hunt’s words, “obvious.” Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins points to an almost symbiotic relationship, writing, “We’ve had the benefit of working very closely with the Deep Springs community, from alums being a part of our team, to Deep Springs staff and administration and trustees lending insight, advice, and expertise—and we plan to continue this relationship.”

Even community supporters and advisors, like Mollie Kabler, describe the example of Deep Springs as a reassuring model that this version of higher education can work, and indeed, could turn out to be a better fit for the Sitka environment than a more traditional institution. Although Telluride Association and Outer Coast have not yet discussed formal collaboration, more informal relationships are already in the works, with several Telluride board members currently involved, including project lead Bryden Sweeney-Taylor DS98 TA09 and project advisors Will Hunt, Zachary Robinson DS12 TA16, and Cory Myers, DS10 TA13. Several Outer Coast team members talked with floated the idea of more formal relationships, including a potential TASS or TASP in Sitka, the opportunity for Outer Coast alumni to join the Association and apply for factotum positions, and more.

Even while Outer Coast’s Nuninian inspiration is clear, however, their influences are more broad-based as well. Will Hunt points to College of the Atlantic, and Olin, St. John’s, Shimer, and Black Mountain Colleges as other institutions that sparked particular interest from the team. Cecilia Dumouchel finds inspiration for Outer Coast in performing arts schools — “because they demonstrate to students that there is more than one way to excel”— and college bridge programs, with their recognition that students come in with a wide variety of preparedness and backgrounds. As Dumouchel sees it, both kinds of institutions specialize in designing programming that helps students build on their strengths and shore up their weaknesses. On Outer Coast’s mission to recruit and serve students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins says the work of organizations like America Achieves (where fellow team member Bryden Sweeney-Taylor currently serves as chief executive officer) is a key inspiration. It is clear that the programs and practices the institution is developing early on grow from a careful study of best practices in higher education over the past decades, adapted to the unique scale, site, and mission of the college.

Currently, Outer Coast aims to open their doors to their first class of students in fall 2020. As a foundation stone for this project, they will be running their first summer seminar this year and are currently in the process of hiring faculty and an academic director. Team members underscored the value of deep enthusiasm from the Sitka and broader Southeast Alaska community and the endless hours of volunteer labor offered by their board. Nonetheless, they caution that the accreditation process and especially the financial cost of establishing a new college—even one with a small student body and streamlined administration—will be the hardest load to lift.
IN MEMORIAM

JOHN W. LEWIS, DS47, died September 4th in Stanford, California. Lewis was a preeminent scholar of contemporary China who was also an early critic of the Vietnam War, and later helped pave the way for the era of “ping pong diplomacy” in US-Sino relations.

We recently learned that ERNEST TUCKER, DS50 CB53 TA53, passed away April 20, 2016, after a steady decline from a 2011 stroke. Ernie had a long and distinguished career as an immunopathologist, including service as Director of the Department of Pathology at the Scripps Clinic and President of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

Tucker served as TA President in 1961 and 62, and served on the Deep Springs Board of Trustees from 1993-2001, helping to shepherd the college’s major rebuilding effort. A measure of the affection with which his Telluride colleagues held him can be gleaned from the 1965 Membership Committee’s recommendation to reject his resignation attempt: “Dr. Tucker’s outstanding record of contribution to the Association displays a great deal of pith; and his ostensible letter of resignation displays just not enough puz-zazz…your committee recommends that some Association member, with a southern background affording a more seaworthy grasp of the situation [Tucker was born in Alabama—ed], discuss the matter with Dr. Tucker in some discreet place—perhaps the kitchen or laundry room.”

JOSE MANUEL SARAVIA, CBG53, passed away in 2013. Jose taught international law at the Universidad de la Plata in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Jose spent a year as a guest of Cornell Branch while a graduate student in sociology at Cornell. He had been forced to leave his home of Argentina because of his underground activities against the Peron regime. In 1955, Jose thanked Telluride: “These two years in American have been a wonderful experience for me, and I shall never forget that it was Telluride which made them possible. Although I am not a member of the Association, I feel that I am bound to it by ties which are permanent…”

JOHN HEINEMAN, CB60, died April 6, 2017. Professor Emeritus at Boston College, he taught there for 43 years. He received a National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities grant and the Phi Beta Kappa award for teaching excellence. He was also coordinator of the Radcliffe core program in western civilization for 17 years, where he also received an award as an outstanding teacher. His publications included a biography of Constantin von Neurath, Hitler’s first foreign minister. John is remembered by wife HELEN KLEIGL HEINEMAN, CB61, as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Helen, who is President Emerita of Framingham State University, co-taught with John in the Lifelong Learning Program cosponsored by Framingham and the Framingham Public Library from 2011 until 2017.

PETER SCHALESTOCK, SP84, passed away in August 2017. He was employed as Deputy General Counsel with Americans for Prosperity and Americans for Prosperity Foundation in Arlington, VA. He held several positions in politics including General Counsel for the Committee on House Administration, U.S. House of Representatives; General Counsel, U.S. Small Business Administration; and Regional Director of Election Day Operations (Western States), Republican National Committee. He served on the Board of the Republican National Lawyers Association and was highly respected for his expertise in the areas of campaign finance, election law and voter fraud.

AMY KASS, SPF86, passed away in August 2015. Amy is survived by husband Leon, who co-taught with her the 1986 Chicago TASP “Science and Society: Knowledge, Morals, and Power, and by daughters SARAH, SP83, and Miriam.
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