

# FIFTY – ONE FABLES

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Winnetka, IL  
May 11, 2010

Greetings to all Classmates!

When the word got out that I'd be subbing for Batch as guest editor for an issue or two, I began to receive a bunch of none-too-reassuring messages from doubtful classmates. **Al Brout** pointed out that I am "attempting to step into Batch's size 26EEE shoes" (Good luck!). **Tom Barnett**, an old Cubs fan, likened my fill-in job to "playing first base for Ernie Banks." **Howie Allen** warned: "Don't get too comfortable!"

I won't, Howie! This temporary assignment is meant to allow Batch to get back on his feet following a botched colonoscopy that resulted in a painful and debilitating perforated bowel. I'm pleased to report that he is home and sounding much stronger each time we talk. Schatzi's attentive care is, I'm sure, just what the doctor ordered.

Batch would welcome your cards and letters. He is at PO Box 393, Salisbury, CT 06068-0393 (e-mail: [davebatch51@comcast.net](mailto:davebatch51@comcast.net)).

I won't pretend to be able to replicate the marvelously warm, wise, connecting Fables that we have all looked forward to for the 30 years that Batch has been on the job. **John PerLee** calls it "the main adhesive uniting our class." (My wife Jean, by contrast, says my letters read like Booz Allen reports). I do deserve high marks, however, for tapping Batch for the job when I began a stint as class president in 1981. It was **Bob Hopkins'** strong recommendation - and an inspired one!

Many of you have thoughtfully sent in news updates to help the guest editor with his first edition. Thanks to all who did so - and please keep them coming!

**NEWS FROM CLASSMATES:**

It is endlessly impressive to me to learn of the wide range of interesting, stimulating, contributive ways in which our “retired” classmates remain active. Maybe “unpaid” is a more apt description; we’re certainly not idle. Reed Badgley, for example, reports that “I’m probably busier at age 81 than I was at age 51.” Reed serves on the boards of the Golden Apple Foundation and the Jazz Institute of Chicago, as well as the Music Visiting Committee of the University of Chicago. In his spare time (!) he volunteers at the Executive Service Corp. helping non-profit organizations with their management needs.

Golden Apple makes a remarkable difference in the caliber of elementary and secondary education in Chicago. As Reed describes it:

“The Golden Apple Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that every Chicago student has an excellent teacher. We do this by making Golden Apple awards to ten outstanding Chicago teachers each year, chosen from more than 800 candidates nominated by students, parents and colleagues. Awardees become members of the Golden Apple Academy, which now numbers over 300. We also have a scholars program for high school seniors and college freshmen who are willing to commit themselves to three years of teaching. Members of the Academy help nurture and develop scholars to prepare them for teaching. We also provide a monetary stipend.

“The annual awards ceremony is a must-see television highlight on Chicago’s public television station. Film clips of the winning teachers in their classrooms offer inspiring and hopeful evidence of the extraordinary difference a great teacher can make.”

Reed has recently moved to the Breakers at Edgewater Beach (5333 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60640. Phone: 773 561-5661), a senior life-style community.

**Herb Knight** is also heavily involved in education in his role as President of the Fund Board of the Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA) in Aurora, IL. Herb describes this as “one of the most exciting ventures I have undertaken in my life:

“IMSA is a State of Illinois-sponsored residential secondary school (grades 10-12). We have 650 students (half girls, half boys) from all over the state. Applicants take the college SAT’s. Last year our mean Math SAT score for entering 14 year olds was 721 (compared to 515 for all college-bound seniors). They are truly the best and the brightest! Our graduates, the oldest of whom are now turning 40, are already making a remarkable impact.

We have 57 faculty. All have Masters degrees and about half hold doctorates in their field. Half the curriculum is math and science, the other half is humanities and languages. We teach immersion language classes in Russian, Spanish, French, German, Mandarin and Japanese.

When we mix these extraordinary students with a magnificent faculty we hope to fulfill our mission: ‘Igniting and nurturing creative scientific minds that advance the human condition.’

Last year, Intel Corp. called IMSA the best secondary school in science in the country and recognized it as the nationwide winner of its Star Innovator Award for Science Excellence.

We are dependent on the State legislature for our annual budget, about 80% of our costs. The rest must come from the private sector. That's where the Fund Board comes in."

Herb describes his work at IMSA as a bitter/sweet experience: "Sweet because you can see what happens when young, fertile, imaginative minds are stimulated and cultivated. Bitter because you see how much we are missing in our schools nationwide in a crucial area of need, math and science."

In one more commentary on the impact that members of our class continue to make in helping to address critical needs around the world, **Berl Bernhard** sends word of his work as Chairman of the Middle East Investment Initiative ([www.MEIIInitiative.org](http://www.MEIIInitiative.org)). MEII was founded in 2007 with the goal of "creating a structure for growth of the Palestinian economy, a necessary condition if sustainable peace in the area is to be achieved."

MEII has provided \$55 million in loan guarantees to spur the development of new and emerging businesses in the West Bank and Gaza, especially agricultural, manufacturing and trading enterprises in Hebron, Jenin, Nablus and Bethlehem. These loans have generated 1,340 jobs. There has not been a single default in 2 ½ years!

MEII also offers a \$500,000 mortgage lending facility to help 10,000 families purchase homes.

Working alongside local banks (and providing technical and training support to them), MEII is helping in ways that are "potentially revolutionary for an economy that is short on housing and constricted by ultra-conservative banking practices."

Berl adds: "If you play your cards right and decide to vacation in Ramallah we can help get a reservation at the Movenpick Hotel which we have helped to underwrite."

**Jack Giegerich** and Carole hosted our annual Florida mini-reunion, held in February in Naples. Those present (as shown, L to R) included **Roxanne and Bill Michener, Paul Staley, Carole Giegerich, Nancy Roberts, Jean Staley, Dick Patton, Schatzi and Dave Batchelder, Bob and Marilyn Fiertz, Jac Giegerich, and Mary and Ray Lindquist**. Jack and Carole's advice to visiting out-of-towners: "Bring warm clothes!"



... Which provides a perfect segue to the subject of the Fall mini-reunion in Hanover coming up on October 8-10, 2010. And, while you're at it, circle the date for our Big 60th reunion a year from now (June 13-15, 2011).

**John PerLee** sends news of **John Ross**, "a fraternity brother and fellow pre-med student in our class who graduated from Cornell Medical School and went on to become a leading innovator, knowledge contributor, and distinguished educator at UC San Diego in Cardiology. Last spring, 2009, Cornell honored him with its Alumni Association Award of Distinction. It is given once a year to a graduate whose leadership in and contributions to medicine are particularly outstanding."

John (PerLee) and his family have lived in Atlanta since 1962. He enthuses about the beautiful flowering trees and shrubs - dogwood, cherry, pear, red bud, azalea - that brighten his part of the world at this time of year. (Jean and I drove through that beautiful area a month ago and as a result are enjoying two springs - ours in Winnetka is just hitting its stride).

Winnetka's '51 delegation is much diminished since **Jim Bovaird** and **Dave Hilton** died. We do see **Fred Chandler** - he and Jane have a lovely condo about 5 blocks from us - and Elaine Bovaird (her house is even closer). They are snowbirds - Elaine in Naples, FL and the Chandlers in Delray Beach (next door to **Bob Hopkins** and Joan). Fred is bouncing back nicely from a small stroke he suffered earlier this year; he is well enough to attend his eldest grandchild's graduation from the University of North Carolina this month.

Grandchildren are a recurring topic of pride and joy in your letters. Precious time with them is clearly a major activity for many of our classmates. **John Greenwood** sends this photo, taken at a festive celebration of his 80th birthday in Los Angeles. John is an active participant in the Cal State University retiree education program and is developing a course of his own based on discussion of items in the New Yorker magazine.



John Greenwood and grandchildren celebrating his #80

Other proud grampas:

- **Chuck Packard** and Marion (4 grandchildren) are now fully retired from the Broward schools in Florida and from his work in the Broward Property Appraiser's office. They are basking in a high-rise condo on the ocean in Fort Lauderdale.

- **Bill Merkle** and Trudy have 16 grandkids (!). They are all busy tending their raspberry patch and harvesting their asparagus.

- **Howie Allen** and Nat are celebrating grandson Sam Farnham's acceptance into Dartmouth's class of 2014. Sam's mother/Howie's daughter is Emily Eckels '85. Says Howie: "It is an odd but very happy feeling to know that 63 years after I arrived in Hanover a grandchild will be starting an association with the College that I hope will bring him the experience, the joys, the satisfactions, the friendships that I look back on with such pleasure."

• **Dick Pugh** and Nan will also have a Dartmouth '14 grandchild - the fourth generation! Dick is still teaching (tax) in the UC San Diego Law School but full retirement may be in sight. This information comes from **Al Brout** who had dinner with Dick and **Don Dworken** in La Jolla where Don and Nancy rented for three winter months. Says Al, "I'm playing golf about three times a week, vainly attempting to shoot my age. The problem is that, even with all the wonderful advances in equipment, the technology hasn't quite kept up with the chronology."

• Another member of the class of '14: **Will Rowe**'s great niece, daughter of a pair of Dartmouth alum's.

(See what I mean about my Booz Allen writing style? The dot points are a dead give-away.)

**Dave Saxton** passes on some interesting data about our class and its offspring. Eighty-seven children of '51-ers (52 men, 35 women) and 15 grandchildren (4 men, 11 women) have attended Dartmouth so far. Dave adds: "Now who wouldn't want girls to go to Dartmouth?"

**Art Worden** and Ruth are "simplifying." They have sold their Buffalo home and are becoming full-time Florida residents (North Hutchinson Island) after many years of dividing their time between the two places. No one will mistake them for slow-lane retirees, however. They still play a lot of tennis and sail as often as possible.



Art and Ruth Worden enjoying smooth sailing in FL

Several of you have taken advantage of the slower pace typical of this time of life to pause for reflection and appreciation, as illustrated by two especially welcome letters. **Ralph Watkins** and Barbara write from Puerto Vallarta, their winter address, with these recollections of "One Man's Dartmouth:"

"It was a bright day early in October, 1948. The class assembling in Wentworth Hall was Biography 13: The Study of Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot, Frederick the Great and Catherine the Great. And, there, a vast new world was about to open for me - the life of the mind.

Arthur Wilson was one of the top scholars of the French encyclopedist, Diderot. A book was in progress. I was a newly-minted 19-year old sophomore. There were 12 others, graduate GI's from the war, mostly Dartmouth upper classmen.

The man's knowledge was immense. His lectures approached the revelatory. One does not forget the luminosity of Arthur Wilson's mind. The environment in that classroom was intense, with guys trying to recapture time lost in the war.

And there was I, a lower middle class kid on scholarship from a semi-rural high school in a not-especially-noteworthy town, from a home where books were fairly rare, thrust headlong into the intellectual big leagues. That experience is with me to this day."

“Would any school but Dartmouth have given that priceless gift to me? That experience has radiated into the lives of my four children and glimmers of it have become visible in yet another generation. My five year old granddaughter recently passed a gallery window in Manhattan, looked up and said ‘Look, Mommy - that’s a Picasso!’ Good Lord! Five years old and she knows about Picasso! Ah, that I had had such a head start.

But I have no regrets. That resplendent life of the mind has enriched our lives and will be always be our legacy, passed on from our own Dartmouth still undying.”

And this from **Buck Scott**:

“I find a broad scope of Dartmouth encounters with others than classmates. Partially this is because my most immediate buddies - roommates and particular intimates - seem to be passing away with disturbing frequency, but many other links supply the emotional juice to maintain my strong interest. True, I seldom got to Hanover, which has never had a felicitous travel relationship with Philadelphia. I try to give some money to the Scott International Scholarship Fund, and as the recipients of this smallish stipend have been in contact with me, I’ve had the pleasure of learning a bit of new educational life: kids from Ukraine, Vietnam, Albania, and most recently Namibia have crossed my path, always with dreams and generosity of spirit.

My granddaughter Catherine McManus was one of 13 people in our immediate family who went to Dartmouth during the period 1947 to the present. I often joke that I have supported most of the colleges east of the Mississippi in dispatching six children now in their fifties to “get an education.” Now my grandchildren are exposing me to even more institutions and I have concluded that the well-off and talented in this country can get wonderful instruction for life at hundreds of colleges. Faculties, buildings and talents are steadily improving throughout the country. In my naïve youth I was of the opinion that only Yale and Princeton counted. I had to teach myself about Dartmouth.

I try to keep up with classmates by an occasional phone call or e-mail. I have especially appreciated contacts with **Jack Weingarten** with his profound knowledge and right-on instincts about international affairs, particularly in the Middle East; **Paul Staley** who lives nearby and brings an exceptional background as an international businessman; **Dick Halloran** and his wife Fumiko who are patriots made of strong stuff; **Jack Giegerich** and his wonderfully inquisitive mind; **Ted Laskin**, the sage of Angels Camp in the High Sierras, always a clever and comfortable friend; **Dick Barnes**, whose career in government I envy and who continues to contribute on the Washington scene; and the folks in Hanover - **Mike Choukas**, **Pete Martin**, **Loye Miller** and **Hank Nachman**, for example - who are supporters of the College and of our class beyond price.

The present state of the College? I like it! The new President brings a valuable and different pedigree. I know little about the faculty and student body. But Dartmouth has shown itself to be, in my lifetime, a truly world- worthy institution. I, my family and friends have benefited greatly from this matrix of rare attributes.”

**Jeff O'Connell** is just back from Israel where he lectured at the University of Tel Aviv law school. His focus: the nature of litigation over personal injury in the U.S. compared to that existing in the rest of the common law world. Jeff points out the virtues and defects of our system, which is based on America's devotion to (some would say preoccupation with) individualism. That can result in what some deem to be excessive litigation and others to be justifiable attempts at corrective justice.

Jeff found time to visit a Tel Aviv beach and tour the city's full stock of Bauhaus architecture, calling to his mind Prof. Stearn's superb introductory course in architecture.

**Dick Halloran** and Fumiko have also just been to the Middle East. They made a pilgrimage in February to the Holy Land where they visited sites in Israel that have meaning for Christians. "We walked in Nazareth and Galilee where Christ walked and took a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. I was tempted to try to walk on water but thought better of it. The high point for me was the Garden of Gethsemane because it reflected Christ's humanity. He suffered real fear because he knew what would happen to him. Most of us, one time or another, have experienced real fear and so I could feel for Christ. Olive trees live just short of forever and those we saw may have been the olive trees under which he prayed.

"We also visited the Western Wall on the Sabbath where I said a prayer for my Jewish friends. I was surprised to find that the Muslim Dome of the Rock is just above the Western Wall, which helped to explain the antagonism between Muslims and Jews. Elsewhere we visited the Dead Sea and Masada, the mesa on which the Jews built a fort that the Romans besieged.

A stop in Ireland allowed us to see the Irish priest who was Fumiko's spiritual advisor when she became a Christian. And we visited Rome to see St. Peter's and the Sistine Chapel."



Dick and Fumiko Halloran in Jerusalem

I feel a special sense of gratitude to **Dick Bucey** for his and **Bill Leffler**'s sensitive, moving leadership of the memorial services which form the centerpiece of our Hanover reunions. I caught up with him and Norma by phone in Hudson, Ohio. Dick is still preaching some, but less each year ("It's a lot of work!"). He recalled fondly UCC World Mission projects to the Philippines, Japan and the Dominican Republic in which he and Norma have been involved over the years and he strongly encourages Dartmouth applicants (Dick has been an alumni interviewer for 55 years!) to get a feel for the rest of the world, especially the developing world.

**Bill Friedlander** and **Len Smith** have it figured out! Bill and Sal divide the year between homes in Hudson, WI and Bailey Harbor, ME - and will fit in a Dartmouth alumni trip to Sicily in the Fall. Len has homes in Northern California (Los Gatos) and Hampton Beach, NH, as well as a cabin at the Donner Summit (7,000 feet and lots of snow). Len connects with **Earl Brabb** regularly.

**Sandy McDonald** is recuperating from a badly broken leg - he is now held together by a plate and seven screws. Not surprisingly, "Gebby has been terrific!"

**Mugs Mansur** checked in from Cape Cod. "Marge and I migrated to Yarmouth Port about 5 years ago after some 39 years in the same house in Westwood, MA. It was an easy transition because we had always vacationed on the Cape.

"It has been a productive retirement since I left the mutual fund industry in 2005. But I need a literary agent desperately! My non-fiction novel based on 43 years of marketing communications in healthcare, biotechnology and finance needs a boost. Any names?"

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SAVE THE DATE  
 1951 Fall  
 Mini-Reunion  
 Hanover, NH  
 Oct. 8 - 10, 2010



Best from,