

Dartmouth Seventy Seven News



The Newsletter of Dartmouth College Class of 1977

July, 2009

Susan Dentzer Receives Dartmouth Alumni Award



of Susan's many years of service to Dartmouth. Her contributions culminated in her service as both Chair and a member of the College's Board of Trustees, where she played a key role in directing the Student Life Initiative.

In this photo taken at the presentation, Susan (center) is joined by **Amy Cammann Cholnoky** (left) and **Missy Asbill Attridge** (right), the two other members of the Class of 1977 to have received the Dartmouth Alumni Award. Both Amy and Missy are also members of the Alumni Awards Committee, and they made the award presentation to Susan.

On March 3, 2009, the Dartmouth Alumni Council presented **Susan Dentzer** with the Dartmouth Alumni Award. This award was given in recognition

The complete text of the citation read at Susan's award ceremony in Hanover appears on page 3 of this newsletter.

Jonathan Bagger Elected to National Space Biomedical Research Institute Board

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BALTIMORE, May 27 -- Johns Hopkins University issued the following news release:

Jonathan A. Bagger (<http://physics-astronomy.jhu.edu/people/faculty/bagger.html>) has been elected to the Board of Directors for the National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI). Bagger is the vice provost for graduate and post-doctoral programs and special projects and the Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Physics and Astronomy (<http://www.pha.jhu.edu/>) at the Johns Hopkins University's Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

"NSBRI's Board is gaining a research expert from one of the country's leading universities," said Bobby R. Alford, NSBRI board chairman and chief executive officer. "His expertise will help NSBRI in its mission to protect astronaut health and improve health care on Earth."

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Bagger has more than 25 years of academic research experience in physics and astronomy. He began his career in 1983 as a physicist at Stanford University. He then joined the faculty at Harvard University before moving to Johns Hopkins in

1989 to become a professor of physics and astronomy. Bagger became chair of the Henry A. Rowland Department of Physics and Astronomy in 2002, a position he held until being named vice provost in 2008. He received the Krieger-Eisenhower professorship in 2003.

In addition to his duties at Johns Hopkins, Bagger is a member of the Space Telescope Institute Council, a

fellow of the American Physical Society and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He serves on the editorial boards for the Journal of High Energy Physics and Physics Reports.

Bagger received his bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics from Dartmouth College. He spent a year at England's Cambridge University before earning his master's and doctoral degrees in physics at Princeton University.

NSBRI is a NASA-funded consortium of institutions studying the health risks related to long-duration spaceflight and developing countermeasures to mitigate the risks. The Institute's science, technology

and education projects take place at more than 60 institutions across the United States.

Jonathan Bagger added the following message to classmates (June 25): I have been in Baltimore almost 20 years now, and I am starting to see classmates as they come through town with their children visiting Hopkins and other universities in the area (**Treff LaFleche** is arriving tomorrow). It is fun to reconnect with Dartmouth friends after all these years!

I also ran into **Larry Appel** at a Hopkins event the other day. I had not seen him since a reunion years ago. And then there he was! He's on our faculty of medicine and public health.

Sandy Wood Finishes URI Coaching Career with a Flourish

Sandy Wood Named A-10 Women's Tennis Co-Coach of the Year (April 30, 2009)



Rhode Island women's tennis head coach **Sandy Wood** was named Atlantic 10 Co-Coach of the Year for the 2009 season. Wood's 2008-09 squad - which won its third consecutive New England Championship title this past fall - finished with an overall record of 15-4 (3-2 against A-10 teams). Highlighting the season was a 4-3 victory over Atlantic 10 foe Massachusetts, which Rhody had not defeated in roughly 20 years.

In Wood's first season at Rhode Island (2004-05) the Rams finished with an overall record 4-16. Over the next four years, URI combined to go 64-23 averaging 16 wins a season.

Wood retires from Rhode Island after a five-year stint as head coach (May 5, 2009)

University of Rhode Island director of

Athletics Thorr Bjorn has announced the resignation of women's tennis head coach **Sandy Wood**.

"I would like to thank Sandy for his tremendous work in elevating the status of our women's tennis team," Bjorn said. "He has recruited a wonderful group of student-athletes, all of whom have had tremendous success on the court and in the classroom. I wish Sandy and his family well as he embarks on a new journey."

Wood, who just last week was named Atlantic 10 Co-Coach of the Year, helped guide his 2008-09 squad to its third consecutive New England Championship title this past fall. The team finished with an overall record of 15-4 (3-2 against A-10 teams).

In Wood's first season at Rhode Island (2004-05) the Rams finished with an overall record 4-16. Over the July 2009

next four years, URI combined to go 64-23 with a record 16 wins in 2007-08.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working here at URI for the past five years," he stated. "It has been an absolute pleasure working with these young women - focusing on developing them both as students as well as athletes."

In addition to their successes on the court, this past semester Wood's squad combined for a 3.66 team GPA with all eight members placing themselves on the Dean's List.

"The reason I am leaving the program is purely personal - my wife has Lyme Disease and needs to be in a warmer climate to be comfortable," Wood explained from the couple's residence in Florida. "Its a decision I have made based on her needs and I'm happy to report that she is doing great!"



Here's the complete text of complete text of **Susan Dentzer's** Dartmouth Alumni Award citation. The Alumni Council established the award in 1954 to honor outstanding alumni. A standing committee of the Council oversees the award selection. This committee is composed of seven past recipients of the Alumni Award.

The Alumni Awards Committee uses specific criteria in selecting award recipients. The primary qualification is long-standing and meritorious service to Dartmouth, with career achievement and community service as additional important dimensions. Usually, four to six awards are given annually.

Congratulation Susan—you have made 1977 proud!

A brilliant high school star, many college and university options were available to you. A close relative who'd attended Yale, as well as friends who were there, were urging you in that direction. Your guidance counselor was pushing Harvard. You showed your unique pioneering spirit by deciding to become one of the first women to graduate from Dartmouth! Immersing yourself in campus activities, it was difficult to keep up with you as you sang with the Glee Club, wrote for *The Dartmouth*, co-captained the cheerleading squad, and assisted in the language department. You excelled in the classroom and your senior year was spent completing a thesis on the works of Nathaniel Hawthorne before graduating *magna cum laude* with highest distinction in your English major.

Pursuing a developing passion for writing and news, you accepted a position as a reporter with *The Southampton Press/the Hampton Chronicle*. The seeds had been planted for an extraordinary career in journalism and media. Positions at the *Wall Street Transcript* and *Newsweek* followed. Deciding to catch your breath in 1986, you received a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University where you spent a year studying health policy. The year at Harvard was followed by a whirlwind of career achievements including serving as economics columnist for *U.S. News & World Report* and a U.S.-Japan Leadership Program Fellowship. In 1998 you joined the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, assuming the roles of health policy unit head and on-air correspondent. Your work on television has included appearances as a regular analyst or commentator for ABC's Nightline, CNN, and the McLaughlin Group. You recently accepted the position of editor-in-chief of *Health Affairs*, while continuing to appear as an on-air analyst for the NewsHour. You are a leader in your field, accumulating an extensive list of professional awards that includes the 2005 Award for Excellence in Health Care Journalism, a CINE Golden Eagle, the New York Festival award, and a first-place Gracie Allen award for public television news.

While juggling this hectic career you always found time to give back to your community. You have served on the board and then as chair of the Global Health Council Board of Directors; as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations; and as a director of both the International Rescue Committee and the Japan Society of New York. In addition you have been an active member of various Presbyterian churches over the years.

You have often mentioned that the four years you spent in Hanover were critically important to your development as a person. With this in mind, you have expended an extraordinary amount of time and effort on behalf of your alma mater. Your volunteer roles have included serving on the Alumni Council, Nominating and Alumni Trustee Search Committee, Public Affairs Advisory Committee, Tucker Foundation Board of Visitors, Dartmouth Medical School Board of Overseers, Reunion Giving Committee, chairing the *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine* editorial board, cochairing the Student Life Initiative, and serving as a trustee of the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Along the way you have been honored with the Dartmouth Presidential Medal and the Young Alumni Distinguished Service Award. Not only were you one of the first women to attend Dartmouth, but in 1993 you were the first alumna to be nominated to the board of trustees in an alumni election. Who could top that? Well, you managed to do it in 2001 when you became the first alumna to chair the board of trustees.

It is difficult to imagine that you could have room for anything else, but all who know you realize that your world revolves around your family, which tops your priority list. You did not spend *all* of your time studying after you accepted that Nieman Fellowship at Harvard. A fellow student (and journalist), Chuck Alston, caught your eye. The two of you were married in 1988 and have travelled this incredible journey together. The proud parents of Willie, Sam, and Grace, it is a very active household that the five of you enjoy.

When you joined the Dartmouth College Board of Trustees, board chair John Rosenwald '52, '53Tu said, "On a scale of one to 10, she's a 19." We could not have said it better. You are off the charts in our eyes. In appreciation of your devotion to Dartmouth, and in grateful recognition of your continuing loyalty and leadership, we are honored to present you with the Dartmouth Alumni Award.

1977 Legacy Report—The Big Green Bus

Do you have an offspring attending Dartmouth right now? Just a few we know of include: Caitlin Halpert '10 (daughter of **Dave Halpert**), Kari Cholnoky '10 & Robie Cholnoky '13 (children of **Amy Cholnoky**), Nate Seymour '12 (son of **Thad Seymour**), Lauren Vespoli '13 (daughter of **Nancy Vespoli**), and Georgia Travers '13 (daughter of **Robin Gosnell Travers**). If you've got a legacy in Hanover right now, let us know and we'll add them to the list!

To give you some idea of what our kids are doing at the College, **Amy Cammann Cholnoky** pointed this editor to a project called The Big Green Bus, where

her daughter Kari works. You may have read about it in Dartmouth Alumni Magazine or other publications.

As the lead page on the Big Green Bus website proclaims, "We are fifteen students from Dartmouth College touring the country in a vegetable oil powered bus on a mission of climate change awareness and action." They now actually own two buses—the original is a 1996 International Harvester school bus, and the latest is a 1989 MCI motor coach, which will be used for the 2009 summer tour of the US. Both have been retrofit to run on waste vegetable oil, and are fitted with lots of other sustainability features.



<<Old bus, meet new bus

For more information, visit:

<http://www.thebiggreenbus.org>



Kari Cholnoky '10

Hometown: Darien, Connecticut

Double majoring in Environmental Studies and Studio Art

At Dartmouth I am the Director of the Dartmouth Ski Patrol, I have a very hard time matching my socks, and my parents tell me that I was raised by wolves, but we don't have time for that. Hunter S. Thompson once famously stated, "When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro". It has been reasonably established that the going has officially gotten weird. With this in mind, as a member of the Big Green Bus crew of 2009 (which is the weirdest group of students ever assembled) I have decided to turn Pro. I'm going to educate the living daylight out of anyone that comes my way in an effort to raise awareness of environmental issues and help people make smart decisions on how to live more sustainably. Why not? Get it on.

Jennifer Leigh Warren plays Maggie in "Venus" at the Ritz Theater

By ROHAN PRESTON, Star Tribune



The show, a Jekyll and Hyde-inspired pop musical that Poling wrote and composed, has been 10 years in the making. It premieres Thursday at the Ritz Theater in Minneapolis.

"This is a show that has been in the oven for a long time, and I'm glad that people here at home will get a chance to see it," said Poling, whose bands include the Suburbs and the New Standards. "It has a lot of influences, but it's a lot of fun."

With "Venus," Poling gives the Jekyll and Hyde split-

What: Book, lyrics and composition by Chandler Hall Poling. Musical direction by Sanford Moore. Directed by Myron Johnson with star **Jennifer Leigh Warren**.

Where: 345 13th Av. NE., Minneapolis MN

www.venusmusical.com.

Composer Chan Poling was driving down the street in a vehicle so new it still had that new-car smell. Suddenly, a much fancier ride blew by him. It was a gleaming Range Rover, a Brahmin chariot that gave him green eyes, followed almost immediately by a moment of introspection.

"Why is it that we are always looking for the next thing?" he asked himself. "Why can't we be comfortable in our own skins?"

The questions that arose from that drive, which happened about a decade ago, reinforced ideas that he had been tossing around for a musical comedy called "Venus."

personality story a twist -- and some dresses.

Maggie Kennedy, a middle-aged scientist, discovers an elixir that transforms her into her idealized, longed-for self -- younger, sexier, more talented.

She becomes a star across multiple platforms -- on the runway and in the concert hall. But she pays a high cost for her transformation.

"A lot of people dream of being something else -- she just has a chance to make that a reality," said Los Angeles-based performer **Jennifer Leigh Warren**, who was cast to play Maggie. A Dartmouth College alum who starred in "Big River" on Broadway, Warren's credits include "Little Shop of Horrors" and "Marie Christine."

The production is being directed and choreographed by Myron Johnson of Ballet of the Dolls, and the cast includes Jody Briskey and Shawn Hamilton. There is also a chorus of dancers that includes Lisa Conlin, Stephanie Fellner and Zhauna Franks.

1977 Class Officers—2007 to 2012

President	Leslie Embs Bradford	Newsletter Editor	Bob Leach
Vice President	Amy Cammann Cholnoky	Class Projects	Susan Wiley Young
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Elizabeth Michelman's video/installation "PRACTICE" is currently showing in the National Affiliates' exhibition at Soho20/Chelsea Gallery, June 23-July18! It unites poetry, painting, sculpture, even a delicate Dartmouth allusion, and my piano bench since age eight. Please let me know if you catch it! ezwordz@hotmail.com. Please join us at our Artist's Reception, Thursday eve. June 25, 7-9PM. I will also be participating in a poetry reading and moderating the panel discussion, "Voice of the Artist," Wednesday June 24, 6-8PM, at Soho20. It is free and open to the public; bring your own short work for our open mike! The gallery is still going strong: I hope to see you at one of these events. Soho20/ Chelsea is at 511 W. 25th St., New York. For more information call 212-367-8994 or check www.SOHO20Gallery.com



Despite the widespread hardships this year in gaining funding, art seems more important than ever, both for artists and to the community. My sculptor's group, Studios Without Walls, both asked for and got a local grant for an outdoor exhibition of temporary art in Brookline / Boston's Riverway again this spring. As a coup, I prevailed on classmate **ANDY MOERLEIN** in Bow, N.H., to lend us his 15-foot high trunk-and-sapling sculpture as centerpiece *de resistance*. This year I documented the show, "Nature and Artifice," rather than contributing a sculpture ---video is hard to site in "nature". You can watch Andy hoisting his piece with my daughter Cecily assisting at <http://batv.org/streaming-video/ondemand/nature>. Independently, a local gallery showed "A-Bridging WALDEN," my video-interpretation of a rusting nineteenth-century footbridge in Olmsted's Emerald Necklace.

Dave Halpert and wife Audrey '79 were in Florida on vacation the last week in October and were trying to meet up with **Thad Seymour** and his family. They spoke with Thad and discovered that amazingly **Don Burkhardt** and his family were also in Florida on vacation! All got together for a fun dinner and mini-77 reunion on Oct. 29th at Jimmy Buffet's Margeritaville restaurant at Universal Studios Orlando.



Back: Katie Seymour, **Dave Halpert**, Caitlin Halpert, Audrey Halpert, Maddie Seymour, **Don Burkhardt**, Kris Burkhardt, **Thad Seymour** Front: Jeff Burkhardt, Alex Burkhardt

Pegasystems' CEO Alan Trefler Named Software Executive of the Year

Seventh annual Stevie® Awards were presented on June 22 in New York City

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE)--[Pegasystems, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ: [PEGA](#) - [News](#)), the leader in business process management (BPM) software solutions, today announced that Founder and CEO **Alan Trefler** was named "Computer Software Executive of the Year" at the 2009 American Business Awards gala event, held June 22 in New York City. In addition, Pegasystems was named a finalist for Fastest-Growing Company of the Year.

Trefler was recognized for leading Pegasystems to new heights and record revenue growth of 31 percent during a year when other software and technology companies saw business slow dramatically. Understanding and anticipating the changing landscape in early 2008, he aligned



Pegasystems' award-winning BPM expertise with the needs of global organizations—helping companies successfully cut costs, increase agility and ultimately weather the economic storm.

"It's a tremendous honor to be nominated by The American Business Awards' Board of Distinguished Judges and Advisors as an Executive of the Year," said Trefler. "I would like to thank all of the customers who have become a part of the Pegasystems community over the past 26 years. This recognition validates our overall vision of helping business people to Build for Change, as well as our ongoing leadership in

business process management and our commitment to innovation."

Where have you been the past two years?

Surely all 1977s have been waiting with baited breath for the release of this newsletter (NOT!). Even so, someone, somewhere might have noticed that no class newsletter has been published since our last reunion, which is now well over two years ago. The story is simple: after 8 years of newsletter writing, I tried to retire, but no one wanted the job so now I'm back.

In the last two years, my son Greg graduated from high school in Wellesley MA, and attended his freshman year at Endicott College in Beverly MA. This got him thinking he'd like a larger school experience with a more diverse choice of majors, and a college with greater name recognition and big time sports. So come this fall he will be transferring to Purdue University in West Lafayette IN.

You may recall me writing in prior newsletters about kayaking adventures with my daughter Julia. Last fall we upgraded from kayaks to a 13 foot Boston Whaler with a 30 hp outboard motor, in which we now cruise around Pleasant Bay and Chatham Harbor on Cape Cod. The area is frequented by harbor seals from a

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colony that took up residence on Monomoy Island several years ago. Julia has become a master seal spotter.

While not out on the water, I am still employed as an actuary at John Hancock in Boston.

What about you? Your classmates would appreciate an update on your activities, even if you haven't won a Nobel Prize. Please drop us a line—you can email me at rleach@jhancock.com or send the enclosed green "take a minute" card. I promise, it won't be two more years before your story gets published.

Bob Leach

Newsletter Editor
Class of 1977



Save the Date:
35th Reunion
Dartmouth Class of 1977
June 11-14, 2012
Hanover, NH

*Visit our class website,
<http://www.dartmouth.org/classes/77>
For additional Class of 1977 information*