Dear College Key Members,

Once again, I write to you from my office on the first floor of Lane Hall, from which I can watch our students on the new cross-campus Alumni Walk, part of a $30 million construction project that also included the new Dining Commons, which opened on February 24. I know that for many members of the College Key, the “new” Commons was located in Chase Hall – and that many of our alumnae members remember dining in Rand Hall. With this new facility, Bates enters the modern age with an up-to-the-minute facility. I hope that you will make a point of visiting campus to see this, the Alumni Walk, and the new student housing at the base of Mount David that opened this fall. It is an exciting time for Bates. It is also an exciting time for the College Key. Here’s the news:

**New student members** were nominated by the faculty and staff in April, and will inducted during Commencement Weekend. They are a wonderful group of young people, and I know you’ll enjoy reading about them. The induction ceremony will be held on Friday, May 23 in the Olin Concert Hall. All members are most welcome.

And while you are marking your calendars, please circle Friday, June 6. The **Annual Meeting** will be held at 5 pm in the Muskie Archives (this is the Friday of Reunion Weekend; the meeting is followed by a lobster bake and fireworks – three great reasons to come back to campus!). If you’re not in a reunion class but would like to attend, you may register online at [community.bates.edu/reunion2008](http://community.bates.edu/reunion2008) or call the Office of Alumni and Parent Programs at 1-207-786-6225.

At the annual meeting, the College Key **Distinguished Service Award** will be presented to Carl B. Straub, Professor Emeritus of Religion and Clark A. Griffith Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies, who ably served the College for thirty-nine years. Professor Straub’s career at Bates tells the story of the College’s evolving curriculum: he arrived in 1966 to teach Cultural Heritage, the beloved correlated curriculum of the 1940s, 50s and 60s, and
retired as a founding member of the environmental studies program. Along the way he taught courses in religion and philosophy and, as Dean of the Faculty for 17 years, built the modern Bates teaching force. We are delighted that he will join us on June 6 to accept this honor, and look forward to hearing from him then.

At the meeting the Executive Board will bring to the membership for vote a proposal regarding our support of the Senior Class gift. You may recall that at last year’s Annual Meeting, members voted to provide $10,000 as a matching gift for the Senior Class Gift this year. Based on the success of the senior’s efforts this year, the Executive Committee proposes that we make a similar commitment for the next four years. In this way the College Key will be helping train a generation of young alumni to support Bates.

I am also pleased to report on a very successful program held on campus in March. Jeremy Pelofsky ’97, who was elected to the Key as a senior, returned to campus as this year’s Distinguished Alumni in Residence Fellow. Jeremy, who is White House correspondent for Reuters, spent three days in Lewiston meeting with students in groups and individually, talking about politics, the election, careers in the media, and life in the Beltway. This is the sixth year we have done this program – former Fellows include Chantal Berry Dalton ’69, a career diplomat with the U.S. State Department, Ben Robinson ’86, Senior Vice President for Debit Strategy Execution at Bank of America; Rebecca Bagley Cooke ’95, co-founder of Velveteen Films Inc.; Alan Schwartz ’61, Sterling Professor at Yale Law, and Tom Denenberg ’91, director of the Portland (ME) Museum of Art. It is a great way for us to share alumni expertise in a particular subject with students.

A plea: we need volunteers to serve on our standing committees and as officers. If you are interested, please contact me at rdavis@bates.edu.

Finally, our Winter Clothing Assistance Program could not have come at a better time. Right before the worst winter in recent Maine history many students received small grants with which to purchase outdoor clothing (including coats, hats, boots, gloves) and warm winter blankets. Thank you to everyone who supported this program with an extra gift last year.

As always, we appreciate your support for the work of the College Key. This year we are pleased to offer the opportunity to pay your dues online through PayPal’s secure server. You will receive an email receipt for your donation made at www.bates.edu/x175966.xml, Of course if you wish to give via a check, please mail it to treasurer Sally Ehrenfried ’89, 1173 Plantation Lane, Mount Pleasant SC 29464.

We hope you have enjoyed receiving this communication via email. If you prefer to hear from the College Key via snail mail, please let our corresponding secretary, Beth Sheppard,
know by contacting her at the Office of Alumni and Parent Programs, Bates College, 2 Andrews Road, Lewiston, ME 04240, or via email at esheppar@bates.edu.

I look forward to greeting many of you at the Annual Meeting next month.

Sincerely,

Roland S. Davis ’92
President