Creating a Home Away from Home

James Reese, associate dean of students, says international students arrive knowing two things about Maine: snow and lobster. They quickly discover a third — that Reese is an indispensable friend, mentor, and guide to Bates and Maine. "I don’t think there are enough words to describe what he does for us," Maria Joachim ’01 of Cyprus, said. “He's like an older brother, one of my best friends.”

“Reese works hard to bring people together — especially when they first arrive in Maine.”

Reese, enjoying his 24th year at the College, advises international students on everything from orienting themselves to Maine to visas and tax forms. Often the first Bates person they meet face to face, Reese contacts incoming students before they arrive, sometimes even picking them up at the airport.

Reese not only helps students feel at home at Bates, he also encourages them to connect with Maine. As part of this year’s International Festival, Reese organized a lunch where international students could meet and talk with Bates people from Maine — students, faculty, and staff. “It’s a unique opportunity for interaction and exchange for two groups important to the campus,” Reese said.

Ngan Vu Trang Dinh '02 of Vietnam said she’ll never forget the time she got a flat tire one hot summer day when moving into summer housing. Reese, passing by on his way to a meeting,...

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Students and Internships: 
A Winning Combination

Lucy Lu ’01, a biochemistry major, spent the past two summers researching new cancer vaccines at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, one of the nation’s top cancer hospitals.

Lu found it fulfilling to be involved in research that could cure cancer. Yet, making rounds with doctors and interacting with patients — some terminally ill — perhaps made the bigger impact on what she hopes to accomplish in life.

“I want to work more with people,” Lu said. “I want to bring together my lab work with clinic work to be able to treat cancer in the best possible way.”

“Internships are a great way for students to connect with the real world.”

A native of China, Lu moved with her family to South Orange, N.J., when she was 13. She returned to China as part of a Bates semester abroad program, an experience that solidified her conviction to help people. She returned to America determined not to take her opportunities for granted.

Lu’s opportunities, in turn, have been made possible by financial support from Bates and the alumni community. The person in charge of her first internship was Bates alumnus Howard Scher ’72, who has long sponsored internships and welcomed Bates students into his labs. Chief of the Genitourinary Oncology Service at Sloan-Kettering, Dr. Scher is considered one of the nation’s leading cancer researchers.

The College’s Ladd Internship Program has also funded her work. “Internships are a great way for students to connect with the real world,” Lu said. The Ladd Internship Program, begun in 1978, is made possible through the George and Helen Ladd Charitable Corporation. The program was begun by George E. Ladd Jr., a Bates benefactor interested in exposing liberal arts students to the working world.

During her work at Sloan-Kettering, Lu recalls translating for a Chinese-speaking couple, the husband facing terminal cancer, and realizing how important the interpersonal side of medicine can be. Lu hopes to do more research work after graduation and although medical school is an option for her, she feels drawn to work in international public health.

Thank You!
Through the efforts of the volunteers on the Parents Fund Committee, the 2001 Fund has raised nearly $489,000 to date. We are well on our way to meeting our goal of $550,000 from 1,400 Bates families. As co-chair of the 2001 Parents Fund, I have seen tremendous generosity and am thrilled with the commitment from Bates parents, families, and friends. Thank you to the 1,000-plus families that have already made their gift to the Fund. Our gifts help Bates provide all students and faculty with the best programs, facilities, events, and research opportunities. I have personally seen the impact these funds have had on Andrews’s senior thesis work. In addition, I know how the Crew Team has benefited from gifts made to the Bates Parents Fund. Every gift, large or small, helps to make a significant difference for our students.

Please Join Me
Volunteering for the Parents & Family Association gives me the opportunity to stay connected in Andrew’s life at Bates. Some parents mistakenly assume there is little room to continue to be involved in their son or daughter’s college experience. Be assured, there is a role for you! I invite and encourage you to invest some of your free time volunteering for the Parents & Family Association. I hope you will consider working for the Bates Parents Fund or the Welcome Committee, or volunteering to work with Admissions and the Office of Career Services programs. The work is engaging and the results are rewarding. To find out more, please call 207-786-6336, or e-mail parents@bates.edu.
Professorships Honor Two Faculty Members

Professor of Russian Jane Costlow and Professor of Music James Parakilas are the latest Bates faculty members to enjoy one of the highest faculty honors: appointment to an endowed professorship.

Costlow is the inaugural Christian A. Johnson Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, while Parakilas is the first James L. Moody, Jr. Family Professor of Performing Arts.

Costlow, the author of two books on Russian literature, was recently awarded a Phillips Faculty Fellowship from Bates funding her studies in Russia. There, her academic work has looked at the significance of the forest in Russian culture, as a source of legend, as an economic resource, and as an historic place of refuge and resistance.

Costlow’s published work includes an acclaimed translation of The Tragic Menagerie, a recently rediscovered piece of Russian literature. The translation was praised by both The New York Times and the New Yorker and garnered a best-translation prize from the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.

The Johnon professorship was made possible by a $1.2-million grant from the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation of New York City.

Parakilas, appointed to the Moody Family Professorship, recently co-wrote and edited Piano Roles: Three Hundred Years of Life with the Piano, published by Yale University Press. An exploration of the musical and social roles played by the piano in its long history, Piano Roles received glowing reviews from the New Yorker, The New York Times, and the Los Angeles Times Book Review, among others.

The Moody professorship was established through a $1.5-million endowment gift from James L. Moody, Jr. ’53, chair of the Board of Fellows at Bates and retired CEO and chairman of Hannaford Bros. Co.

Bates by the Numbers:
Short Term Countdown

868 miles to be pedaled during Short Term by students and faculty as they retrace, on mountain bikes, one of the great pilgrimage routes in the Middle Ages, from Pau, France, to the tomb of St. James in Santiago, Spain. The Short Term adventure is led by French professor Dick Williamson and Spanish professor Francisca López.

380 feet above sea level of Mount David, the highest point on campus.

254 red maple trees on campus, the most of any species.

152 student capacity of Smith Hall, the largest residence on campus.

94 highest recorded temperature in May.

23 lowest recorded temperature in May.

67 minutes of daylight added during Short Term.

57 students pursuing honors in the Class of 2001, as of February.

10 Receptions around the country in April, sponsored by Bates for admitted Bates students and their parents to meet current students, parents, and College representatives.

9 Short Term units that offer significant off-campus or abroad travel.

7 number of inches of snow in May 1945, our snowiest ever.

6 number of “spring” sports teams that played contests prior to the beginning of spring on March 20. Only rowing and outdoor track and field don’t compete until spring arrives.

5 student capacity of Leadbetter House, the smallest residence on campus.

4 weekly Wednesday cookouts during Short Term.

Weather records are for Portland, Maine.
Class of 2001 Senior Gift Kick-Off

The Class of 2001 Senior Gift project is off and running!

Before graduating, each year’s senior class raises money to make a gift to Bates. The Class of 2001 is no exception. They’re off to a great start under the leadership of co-chairs Evan Jarashow and Erin Flynn. The committee met this winter with Vicky Devlin, vice president for development, and Kimberly Hokanson, director of annual giving, to plan their strategy.

And the seniors are getting more than advice. Stuart Abelson, class of ’97, general manager of the Fiber Optic Products Division of the Amphenol Corporation, has made a $5,000 matching challenge to support their efforts. He has agreed to match every gift of $25 or above dollar-for-dollar, until the class has earned $4,000. The class can earn the remaining $1,000 through participation.

The class will present its gift at the Senior-Faculty Dinner at the end of Short Term.

Senior Gift Committee

Evan Jarashow, Co-Chair, New York, N.Y.
Erin Flynn, Co-Chair, Newton, N.J.
Mike Carrigan, Senior Class President, Northborough, Mass.
Asad Butt, Senior Class Secretary, Lynnfield, Mass.
Mark Annotto, Milford, Conn.
Tom Armet, Cromwell, Conn.
Chris Buckley, Washington, D.C.
Jen Carleton, South Dennis, Mass.
Alanna DeNapoli, Newtown Square, Pa.
Glynnis Gracia, Mattapoisett, Mass.
Sean Hurley, Medford, Mass.
TJ Lepore, Nantucket, Mass.
Michael Jensen, Bedford, N.H.
Mark Makela, Phoenixville, Pa.
Joe McKenna, Washington, D.C.
Pamela Murchie, Westbrook, Maine
Noah Petro, Katonah, N.Y.
John Payne, Watch Hill, R.I.
Laura Shadle, Amherst, N.H.
Rushil Shakya, Katmandu, Nepal
Walter Shicko, Rocky Hill, Conn.
Dan Snow, Scarborough, Maine
Mark Swartz, Winchester, Mass.
Senior Transition Seminars

Getting ready for life after Bates

“Deep understanding of economic theory does not always translate into practical information about how to make — and stick to — a budget,” says Assistant Dean of Students Holly Gurney. “And when you don’t know how to cook, a kitchen can be much more intimidating than a chemistry lab.” She and her colleagues in the Dean of Students Office have, with this year’s Resident Coordinators, developed a series of seminars and presentations on essential issues for seniors.

Topics include essential issues for anyone venturing into life after college:

- how to find and rent an apartment;
- how to handle student loan repayments, insurance, and retirement funds;
- how to establish yourself in a new city;
- how to avoid credit card debt, and yes, how to cook.

The series, also sponsored by the offices of Careers Services and Alumni Relations, kicked off in March with a panel on legal matters, including the rights and responsibilities of renters, how to lease a car, and how to deal with landlords and roommates. Other sessions dealt with financial and relocation issues.

Presenters included young Bates alumni and other “survivors” who spoke from their own experiences. A later session explained how to use Bates services such as the Alumni Association and the Office of Career Services once the seniors leave campus. “In some ways, they can get stronger.”

But what about eating? Is there life after Commons?

Bob Volpi, director of dining services, and his staff planned to present workshops on cooking, setting up a kitchen, nutrition, and other helpful topics, including, Volpi promises, how to cook “a romantic dinner for two.”

Countdown to Commencement

Bates will graduate its 135th class at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 4, following a festive weekend of activities including the Senior Commencement Concert, Baccalaureate, the planting of the class ivy, and a champagne brunch. Invitations were mailed to all senior parents in February. Personalized announcements may be purchased through the College Store 207-786-6121.

The Bates Web site <www.bates.edu/commencement> has detailed information about the weekend, and the College’s coordinator of major events, Beth Sheppard, welcomes questions from parents (esheppar@bates.edu or 207-786-6127). “Commencement is such an important time for families,” she says. “We want to get every detail right and make sure that this special occasion turns into a happy memory.”

One such detail is photographs. Sheppard offers the following advice to parents. “Don’t charge the stage in an attempt to get a picture of your student shaking President Harward’s hand! We hire a professional photographer to shoot every senior receiving his or her diploma. The pro has the best view and gets great shots, and can save parents a lot of stress.” Proofs of the photographs are mailed to families about two weeks after graduation, and can be ordered directly from the photographer.

If you still need to make hotel reservations for the weekend, the Parents and Family Association Office has a list of local accommodations.

Commencement 2001

When: June 4, 2001
Time: 10 a.m.
Where: Steps of Coram Libray on the historic Quad
Key Info: Don’t worry about getting the perfect shot: Bates hires a photographer to capture every senior receiving his or her diploma!
Bates Assumes Lead in SAT Debate

Bates dropped the SAT as an admissions requirement 17 years ago, and other U.S. colleges and universities are still following the lead.

More than 380 U.S. colleges and universities do not require applicants to submit standardized test results, an increase of 100 in the last three years, according to FairTest, a group that pushes for a diminished role for such tests. Most recently, the University of California made national news by announcing it would consider dropping the SAT from its admissions requirements.

William C. Hiss ’66, Bates’ vice president for external and alumni affairs and former dean of admissions, pushed for the SAT-optional policy at Bates in 1984 and has tracked the results since then. When national media went looking for experts in the wake of the California announcement, Hiss provided ample evidence that the policy has done wonders for Bates.

At Bates, about a third of students enroll without submitted standardized test results. They graduate at the same rates and with nearly identical grade-point averages as students who submit testing, Hiss said.

Hiss cited the example of a recent Bates graduate who, as a high school student, scored 400 on her SAT verbals. A Vietnamese immigrant who came to America from a refugee camp, she began U.S. public school in eighth grade and was admitted to Bates on the strength of her high school scholastic achievements. She graduated from Bates Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude and now attends medical school at Dartmouth College.

“She’s exactly the person we are trying to find,” Hiss told the Christian Science Monitor. “If we had required the SAT, it probably would have screened her out.”

A Grandchild’s Gift

Victoria Wyeth ’01 of Cushing, Maine, granddaughter of famed painter Andrew Wyeth, was guest curator of the Andrew Wyeth: Her Room exhibition at the Bates College Museum of Art.

Throughout the exhibition’s four-month run, Wyeth led educational tours for area schoolchildren. “The exhibition is really for children,” said Wyeth, who plans to teach after graduating.

The exhibition, featuring Andrew Wyeth’s painting Her Room, was organized through the museum’s internship program, in collaboration with the Department of Art. Victoria developed an in-depth study of the elder Wyeth’s working process used in creating egg tempera paintings. “In addition to learning about my grandfather’s art, I want people, particularly children, to see him as a person, to see how he worked through his ideas and understand the laborious process of tempera painting,” she said.

Did You Know?

Victoria Wyeth ’01 enjoyed teaching local schoolchildren during the Her Room exhibition.

The Blooming Business

Bill Bergevin (above), the College’s landscape coordinator, reports that the first campus perennials to flower each spring are the bleeding hearts and the ground (or moss) phlox. “The best site for the bleeding hearts is at the flagpole, in front of Hathorn Hall,” Bergevin says. “While the best site for the phlox is in front of Olin Arts Center. Both flower at about the same time — early to mid-May — with the phlox being a little earlier.”
stopped to change the tire for her while dressed in a suit and tie. “Anytime you see someone you know who has a problem, someone is there next to them saying: ‘talk to Dean Reese,’’” Dinh says.

The son of a preacher, Reese grew up in Selma, Ala., where his father participated in the historic civil rights sit-ins. Reese and his family later lived in North Carolina and New Jersey before he attended Middlebury College. In January, Reese — one of the organizers of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance at Bates — had the special honor of welcoming his father as one of the keynote speakers.

Reese’s Lane Hall office contains more than two decades worth of accumulated gifts from international students who want to be represented in the collection. One of the most popular items is a soccer ball. “When the U.S.-born students come in they ask ‘Why do you have a soccer ball on the floor?’” Reese says. When the international students come in, they often sigh in relief at its much-needed familiarity — and realize they’ve found a place to launch their Bates voyage.

Mary Rice-DeFosse, professor of French, lives and works in a state where 40 percent of the residents claim French heritage. It’s no coincidence, then, that Franco-American Maine literature and culture are an important part of her work.

“My students have been doing oral histories in French with local residents for more than 10 years, especially in courses like ‘Oral French’ and ‘French in Maine,’” Rice-DeFosse says. Her students have also engaged in research and service-learning connected with Maine Francophones.

Rice-DeFosse enjoys her role as a mentor. This year she celebrated the achievement of Christine Quinan ’00, whose essay about French feminist Simone DeBeauvoir, written under Rice-DeFosse’s direction, won the 2000 Undergraduate Essay Award from the journal Women in French Studies.

Rice-DeFosse’s interdisciplinary research focuses on literature of social change in the aftermath of the 1789 French Revolution. She has published analyses of novels, stories, autobiographies, and histories of 18th- and 19th-century revolution in France in authors including Nodier, Flaubert, and Marie d’Agoult. More recently, she has studied the ways in which women writers such as Sand, Tristan, and Colette construct class and gender differences. She also co-edited and contributed essays about the 19th century for A Feminist Encyclopedia of French Literature (Greenwood Press 1999).
The Sporting Life

Billy Hart ’02 is a fixture in the sports section of The Bates Student, both as a subject and a writer. A three-year star on the men’s basketball team, Hart is also a sports columnist for The Bates Student. And in the fall, he’s a sideline reporter for WRBC-FM football broadcasts.

“It is so easy to get involved here,” Hart said. “I have been able to do things I would never have considered before. It has helped me decide what I want to do with my life.”

Two years ago, Hart was the 1999 Maine Basketball Coaches Association Rookie of the Year, the first Bobcat rookie to lead the team in scoring since 1995. This past season, he was part of the longest winning streak in the school history (9 games) and became the sixth junior ever to score 1,000 points for the men’s team.

When he’s not playing his own sport, the Haverhill, Mass., native is usually involved in reporting someone else’s. Hart parlayed these experiences into a pair of summer 2000 opportunities: an internship behind the scenes at CNN/Sports Illustrated in Atlanta, and a column in the Haverhill Gazette about his experience down South.

“Bates professors and coaches take a vested interest in you as a person.”

Hart, a political science major, is also a two-time Academic All-Conference selection in the competitive New England Small College Athletic Conference. “Bates has a real community atmosphere,” Hart said. “Bates professors and coaches take a vested interest in you as a person and go out of their way to see that you have an opportunity to succeed.”

Bobcat sports schedules and results: <www.bates.edu/sports>