CONNECTION
A NEWSLETTER FOR BATES PARENTS AND FAMILIES SPRING 2003

FOCUS

Students say ‘no’ to meat, ‘yes’ to feeding hungry

Cookbook author Ken Bergeron came to campus in March to support a new student organization, People Eating Plants (PEP), as it asked Bates students to swear off animal food products for a day. Bergeron led a cooking class that prepared an animal-free, or vegan, meal including pasta primavera and chocolate-maple “Ice Box Cake.” He spent the following day, the day of the Great American Meatout, in Commons fixing vegan specialties for the 654 students who took the PEP pledge.

PEP’s goal for the Meatout was to raise both awareness of the harmful effects of eating animal products and money for a local soup kitchen. Dining Services was all for it. For every student eating vegan, Bates donated a “plate cost” of $1.82 to the soup kitchen.

Bergeron and PEP President Alexis Curry ’03 of South Salem, Mass., agree that confrontation is no way to convert carnivores. “Let the food speak for itself,” says Bergeron, author of Professional Vegetarian Cooking, “and let people make their own decisions.”

NOW we know: The president of Bates College doesn’t eat much breakfast cereal, but if she must, make it oatmeal.

Elaine Tuttle Hansen, inaugurated last fall as Bates’ seventh president, shared this secret and addressed some meatier issues as well during a rare interview in February on the campus radio station, WRBC-FM.

Hansen was a guest on Mainstream Commercial Nihilism, a weekly evening show featuring two New Jersey seniors, host Scott Partenheimer of Haddonfield and sidekick Alan Hunt of High Bridge. The broadcast blanketed the Lewiston-Auburn region and went global over the World Wide Web, complete with images.

In a “fireside chat” that included the canned sounds of a crackling fireplace, Hansen and her hosts mixed music, silly humor and serious conversation. Hansen devoted her longest and most thoughtful response to a query about possible approaches to the problem of student misbehavior.

“We could have a whole show on this issue,” Hansen told her listeners.

“I’ve never thought that more rules was the answer to anything,” she said. “I think you’ve already lost the battle when you have to start being punitive about behavior. At the same time, it seems like there are things going on at Bates right now that aren’t very healthy for many members of the community.”

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“Not only is Bates my daughter Catherine’s college — it is mine too.”

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behavior, “we tried to cast our questions in terms of, what would you like Bates to be?” Hansen explained. “Is it living up to your expectations, and what are you doing to make it a better place?”

Hansen’s ping-pong prowess and her liking for the film Legally Blonde came to light as the interview veered into her life outside Lane Hall. But this erstwhile English professor did have the welcome opportunity to share her rich literary interests, citing George Eliot’s novel Middlemarch as a favorite and explaining why she picked Lady Windermere’s Fan when the theater department invited her to select last fall’s production.

“It’s the perfect play to fit with my last scholarly project — when I used to have a scholarly life — which was a book called Mother Without Child,” she explained. “I’m really interested in the theme of women who have abandoned or had their children taken away from them. I’ve looked at that in literature, and Oscar Wilde’s play is actually a very early treatment that I discovered after I finished my book.”

She said, “I was just thrilled to see people doing it here in Lewiston.”

While easy solutions aren’t forthcoming, “the first tool we have is the power of conversation,” Hansen said. “The first approach is what I’ve started to do, which is to talk with students from a variety of perspectives about what they think is going on.”

At Bates After Dark, a recent campuswide forum on the topic of student behavior, “we tried to cast our questions in terms of, what would you like Bates to be?” Hansen explained. “Is it living up to your expectations, and what are you doing to make it a better place?”

The segment wound down with Bryan Adams’ 1984 rock hit “Summer of ’69,” which daughter Isla Hansen chose for the broadcast. (Hansen, who calls herself “largely clueless about pop music,” later admitted that what she likes best about the song is the title: Her own summer of 1969 started with graduation from Mount Holyoke and ended with a London visit that would last a year.)

Finally, Partenheimer and Hunt thanked their guest with an autographed WRBC poster and a station T-shirt. “It’s more than I expected,” Hansen laughed.

Scoreboard, anniversary run/walk honor McDuffee

More than 400 racers coursed through the chilly March streets around campus to celebrate one of Bates’ best. One day before the saddest anniversary in the college calendar, the first Morgan McDuffee 5K Run/Walk raised more than $5,000 to help prevent the kind of violence that led to McDuffee’s death in an off-campus attack last year. Proceeds are supporting the Morgan W. McDuffee Fund for Safe Schools, a program of the American Red Cross founded by McDuffee’s fiancée, Suzanna Andrew ‘03. In a fund-raising effort led by lacrosse coach Peter Lasagna that has realized significant gifts from alumni and the community, Bates will also honor the late team captain with a permanent scoreboard at John Bertram Field. “This will keep Morgan McDuffee’s name and memory a permanent part of the campus and the field on which he played with such passion,” Lasagna says.
It has been a great privilege and pleasure to work on Bates’ behalf for the past two years. It hardly seems possible that the four years have flown by and Kathrene is now a senior!

Bates parents are great — but our work is not done. An additional $100,000 must be raised before year’s end to achieve our goal of $600,000.

It’s easy to say that private liberal arts colleges such as Bates are already expensive. How can parents be asked or expected to contribute more? As parents of a senior about to move on from Bates, we want to share some facts and reflections:

Bates is underresourced

U.S. News & World Report ranked Bates ninth nationwide in academic reputation among liberal arts colleges, but placed it 88th in resources provided for faculty. Overall, Bates’ ranking was 22nd, which is exceptional. But that ranking would have been much higher if Bates had additional financial resources.

In fact, Bates is:

• underfunded and undercapitalized.
• only one-sixth as well-supported in endowment resources as its competitor Williams; one-fifth as well as Amherst; two-fifths as well as Bowdoin; and half as well as Colby.
• unable to pay faculty in the median range it seeks to maintain; unable to offer competitive course loads for teaching; unable to grant full year sabbaticals.
• limited in the number of students it can accept who need financial aid.
• behind the eight ball on campus maintenance due to lack of resources.

Quality isn’t cheap

Generous contributions are required to sustain and enhance any institution. At Bates there are outstanding faculty, and we need to support them. The facilities are wonderful, and they need to be maintained. The leadership is excellent, and it needs financial resources to do its job.

In fact, Bates is:

• frequently cited as one of the best liberal arts colleges in the nation.
• known for the three S’s: Senior thesis, Service-learning, and Study abroad.
• thrifty and consistently balanced in budget.
• conscientiously led by the Trustees and the President.
• singled out for its hard-working, scholarly, accessible faculty.
• friendly and unpretentious with good solid values.

Bates is an excellent and important investment. Gifts to the Bates Parents Fund have ranged from $5 to $100,000 each year. Please make a generous gift to Bates. It’s a superior college that not only deserves but needs your full support.

Best wishes and many thanks!

Bates heightens campus safety

A new residence-access policy is among measures Bates has taken to make the campus community even safer. Since last fall, exterior doors to residence halls and houses have been locked and are being monitored more closely to prevent their being propped open. The College has received bids on installation of an electronic card-access system, to be installed by fall 2003, that will help ensure that no one gets into a residence who doesn’t belong there. The college has also stepped up security patrols on and around campus, continued to upgrade the blue-light security phone system, and is reviewing campus lighting with an eye to safety.
Bates College junior Lori E. Jessup of Hatboro, Pa., received a national award for working with disabled Maine skiers as part of the third annual Glamour magazine-sponsored “Best of You” contest, honoring women for “their personal best quality to make a difference in the world.”

Jessup’s third-place prize included a $2,500 award, along with an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City, where she and three other winners were honored at a luncheon.

One of four Center for Service-Learning volunteer fellows who support community service at Bates, Jessup is a board member for Central Maine Adaptive Sports (CMAS), a non-profit, community-based program for children and adults with disabilities. Jessup also serves CMAS as an instructor for disabled skiers at Lost Valley Ski Area in Auburn and as a liaison between CMAS/Lost Valley and Bates, informing students of volunteer opportunities. Her efforts yielded 10 Bates coaches.

“Despite her busy academic schedule, Lori wasn’t afraid to make the commitment to serve physically and mentally challenged individuals in a community in which she temporarily resides,” said Mary McNulty, CMAS president. Calling her energetic, cheerful and resourceful, McNulty praised Jessup’s problem-solving talents and creativity.

McNulty described one of Jessup’s students, a young man with deafness and developmental delay: “He always arrives at Lost Valley in a state of extreme agitation and refuses to relax until a volunteer has plunged his boots into his ski bindings,” McNulty says. “Then, seated in the chair lift 40 feet above the groomed slopes, he squints at the pine trees and distant snow-covered hills, gives a huge sigh of satisfaction and links arms with his coach” — Jessup.

“He just really inspires me — such an incredible amount I can’t even put it into words,” Jessup says of her charge. “You can just tell that he’s so happy, and just seeing him be that happy makes me much happier.”

A political science major with a concentration in economics, Jessup is a standout varsity athlete in Bates lacrosse and field hockey. During her sophomore year, she led the women’s lacrosse team with 31 goals and earned Inside Lacrosse magazine’s National Division III Player of the Week honors for a 6-point performance against Williams. As a first-year field hockey starter, she led the Bates team in goals and points. She is a sports columnist for the campus newspaper, The Bates Student.

In addition to her CMAS commitments, Jessup works as a service-learning student with the Maine People’s Alliance, focusing on health care and environmental issues.

“Service-learning provides students with a completely different outlook on life,” she says. “It definitely broadens your perspective.”
Students today, alumni tomorrow

One-half of living Bates alumni have graduated since 1988. That’s an intriguing fact — and an important one, indicating that soon it will be statistically impossible for Bates to reach its annual goals for fund-raising participation unless we involve significantly more of Bates’ youngest alumni.

Recognizing that the best time to reach alumni is before they are alumni — that is, while they are still students reaping the benefits of alumni generosity — Bates has created new projects that we hope will provide a long-term boost to alumni giving.

The Student Philanthropy Initiative (SPI) is one such program. Created in 2002, SPI educates students about the importance of philanthropy to the life of the college and offers students access to administrators. Development staff members offer student volunteers “insider information” and a greater understanding of how Bates operates, in the hope that the awareness and concern created in students today will evolve into tomorrow’s engagement and activity as alumni.

“It usually comes as a surprise to my classmates that there’s roughly a $12,000 annual gap between tuition and the cost to educate each of us,” says Tony Bramblett ’03, an art major from Cohasset, Mass. He and Melissa Wilcox ’03 of South Glastonbury, Conn., are the founding co-chairs of the SPI. “The generosity of our alumni and friends make our education, as we know it, possible.”

A major SPI event, held each semester, is the Thank-a-Thon, for which students gather to munch pizza and write thank-you notes to alumni donors. “The benefits are twofold,” Bramblett explains. “First, the donor is stewarded with a handwritten note from a student. More importantly, the student is made aware of the donor.”

Bramblett, Wilcox and the other students on the SPI committee receive in-depth exposure to development efforts at Bates and the college’s administration overall. In this regard the role of the committee transcends organizing events like the Thank-a-Thon, as important as those are, Bramblett explains.

“The committee is a perfect incubator for alumni volunteers, educating them in how to be effective while they are still on campus,” he says. “What unites us is that Bates has served us so well that we are eager to serve the college.”

Parents can offer each other advice as they watch their children grow and develop at Bates. This column is one way for parents to share their experiences. Please send thoughts or a short story you’d like to share to the Parents & Family Association Office, Bates College, 2 Andrews Road, Lewiston, Maine 04240, or send an e-mail to parents@bates.edu.

When Andrew chose Bates I had some misgivings about how its relatively small endowment might limit important opportunities for him. I was taking an informed look because I used to be the undergraduate dean of a college. After nearly two years, though, I find that the heritage of Bates and the caliber of the administration there more than compensate. The people in charge inspire confidence and, in fact, often have well-deserved national reputations. Some combination of sound values and deep experience seems to guide the daily decision-making in every area. It’s good to know that Andrew is moving into adulthood in such an environment.

— Mary Hamill P’05

There is a genuine sense of welcome and effort by senior staff to make parents feel that they are valued partners within the Bates community. One result is a loyalty to Bates that rivals my loyalty to my own alma mater. Not only is Bates my daughter Catherine’s college — it is mine too.

— Bob Everett P’05

For a small school, Bates often surprises me with how often its name comes up. At a luncheon of community leaders recently, I sat next to a man who runs the Ithaca Downtown Partnership development program. We got to talking — and I always brag about what a wonderful experience our son James is having at Bates. Would you believe it? The guy was a 1975 grad and so was his wife. They both had great things to say about Bates. A new friend moved here from Connecticut and her daughter went to Bates. And my godmother’s grandson is a 2001 graduate of Bates. Everyone you meet knows someone who went to Bates, and they all have nothing but praise for the institution. It is great to be part of such a positive, upbeat group.

— Terry Byrnes P’05

New Student Orientation 2003
August 30

Start of Fall Semester 2003
September 3

Parents and Families Weekend 2003
Friday-Sunday, October 31-November 2

For more information on area accommodations, please visit the Bates Website at www.bates.edu/x11783.xml.

Commencement Dates
Class of 2003: May 26
Class of 2004: May 31
Class of 2005: May 30
Class of 2006: May 29
Class of 2007: May 28

For more information about Commencement, please contact the Office of Special Projects & Summer Programs at 207-786-6077 or visit the Bates Website at www.bates.edu/commencement.xml.
The 2002-03 indoor track season was a memorable one. “We performed well at all the championships this season,” said Al Fereshetian, head coach of men’s indoor track and field. “We kept improving week to week.”

Among the women, junior thrower Elizabeth Wanless earned All-America honors by finishing second in the shot put with a distance of 50 feet even. Senior middle distance runner Kelley Puglisi earned her second All-America award in the 1,500-meter run, her first indoors. She finished sixth in a school-record time of 4:36.18.

As for the men, thrower Jesse Carney ’03 became the latest of 23 All-Americans under the tutelage of assistant coach Joe Woodhead. Carney finished eighth in the weight throw at the NCAA Division III Men’s Indoor Track and Field Championships, with a toss of 57 feet, one inch.

Bates athletes breaking records this winter included the distance medley relay team, setting the new mark at 10:04.10. Joe Northrup ’05 shattered the 20-year-old pentathlon record by 13 points. Andrius Staisiunas ’05 eclipsed the 18-year-old record for the 1,000-meter run with a time of 2:28.12.

If the throwers were the backbone of the team, other athletes merit equal consideration. Hurdler and jumper Adam Macbeth ’06 established himself at the Coast Guard Invitational by winning the 55-meter hurdles — in the process defeating an All-American from MIT.

John Bauer ’06 was just a second shy of setting the school record in the 500-meter run. His fellow distance relay mates also excelled in middle-distance events, with Malcolm Gray ’03 finishing sixth in the 1,000-meter run and Staisiunas taking third in the 800 meters at the ECACs.

Athletes to watch as the spring season arrives include senior Justin Easter, three-time All-American and defending national champion in the steeplechase.