If you would like to read some of the materials that we have been mulling over this summer, please go to Ladd, search under Course: Bates Education Committee (Instructor: Bonnie Shulman).

Future Meetings
Meetings are forthcoming! Expect Emails and Invitations!

The Bates Ed. Website may be found through the Dean of Faculty's webpage, where you will find “Goals of a Bates Education” listed as a site. http://www.bates.edu/x57150.xml

Some Interesting Facts*
~10% of our students are double majors
~28% of our students have a secondary concentration

The average student takes ~10 courses at the 100 level; ~12.7 at the 200 level; ~3.8 at the 300 level; ~1.7 at the 400 level, ~2.4 short term units and has ~3.6 transfer credits*.

~70% of our students study abroad and 21% of those students say they always spoke a language other than English while abroad.

News and Updates
The design team met several times during summer, building on the work of the Asheville group last year. They are currently exploring ways to strengthen students' writing skills in the context of broader general education discussions.

Please anticipate a variety of discussion topics throughout the design process. This semester, expect discussions about writing, about crossing the boundaries of disciplines in scholarship and about understanding one’s place in local and global society in a Bates Education.

Students
On 09/16 the Brooks Quimbly Parliamentary Debate Council opened its annual series of public debates, with the motion "Bates College should abolish its general education requirements." The debate was attended by the President, a handful of faculty members and approximately 30 students.

* Useful for upcoming discussions. Data Obtained from Institutional Planning and Analysis – from the superb duo of Jim Fergerson and Ellen Peters. New information will come soon.
* All data except transfer credits is from 2002-2004 graduates, transfer credit info. from 1997.
On 09/20 representatives in the Bates College Student Government heard a report on the activities of the CC & DT to this point, by student representatives on the committee Marie Hemmelgarn, and Yang Jerng Hwa. Representatives were asked to encourage their constituents to participate in the general campus-wide discussion on the values of a Bates Education, and to provide as much feedback as possible to the CC.

From the exercise at our first faculty meeting here is a list of goals, in a roughly descending order of frequency.

1. Making connections, and understanding a theme from multiple intellectual standpoints; understanding complexity.

2. Technological/quantitative/scientific understanding

3. A deep understanding of a culture/cultures beyond the US, requiring (among other things) linguistic proficiency.

4. Intellectual risk-taking. The practice of stepping outside one’s cultural/intellectual “comfort zone.”

5. Writing well, and its corollary, thinking well—technically, creatively, analytically.

6. An understanding of the fine and performing arts.

7. A feel for material culture, including experience in making something.

8. Responsible citizenship, broadly defined, to include social and ethical responsibility, environmental awareness.

9. Self awareness

10. A disposition to continue learning throughout life.

Space does not permit description of the ways—curricular and extracurricular—people found to link these goals with what we now do, or what we might conceivably do in the future, but committee members will be glad to speak to this theme, in public or private.

We want to touch base with you about the exercise on linking our educational goals to current—or possible future—practice on campus.

Thank you to everyone for joining in, and for your willingness to work on this at the end of the day/faculty meeting. There was a range of responses, some wary, some enthusiastic, and many in between. Some people went away feeling that they had not had the opportunity to figure out—or say—all that they wanted. E-mail someone on the committee, if you would like. We are: John Cole, Dyk Eusden, Leslie Hill, Lynne Lewis, Laurie O'Higgins, Kirk Read, Paula Schlax, Bonnie Shulman, Yang Jerng Hwa, Marie Hemmelgarn, Jill Reich, Pam Baker.)