The “Baobab Project”

Tales From Africa...

Graduation 2006

The Land Down Under

From Franklin to the Peace Corps

Campus Dedications:
The Avena Fountain
The Kaletsch Campus
The Pascal Tone Athletic Center
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The Annual "Travvy" Awards announce the winners.

Tales From Africa
Professor Anne Maran Flutti writes about small scale organic farming in Africa

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FEATURES
13 The Land Down Under
Academic Travel adds a New Continent to the Itinerary
16 H. E. Dr. Richard Gardner
Keynote Speaker, Graduation 2006
17 Commencing a Lifelong Journey
Graduation 2006
19 Valedictorian 2006
Rachel Hill, Valedictorian for the Class of 2006
20 Big Tree, Small Village and the Students Who Made the Connection
Franklin students and the Baobab Project in Zambia
24 Changing Challenges: From Franklin to the Peace Corps
Chad Wesen '04 and his Peace Corps experiences in Moldova

DEPARTMENTS
2 Letters
3 Franklin Today
Class of 2006 Selects Endowed Scholarship as Their Legacy
Fountain Dedicated to the Memory of John Avena '77
South Campus Named for Otto and Nina Keltsch
Athletic Center Named For Pascal Tone
Building the Future for Franklin College
Franklin Catches Olympic Fever
"Euroland—Global Player or Global Drag?"
Michael Nobel Opens the Dean's Honors Lecture Series
Career Fair Introduces New Opportunities
The "Fashionistas" Host Campus Fashion Show
The Annual "Travvy" Awards
Student Leadership Awards Announced
New Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Programming Named
30 Alumni Council News
32 Reunions and Events
34 Class Notes
37 Faculty/Staff Notes
From the editor
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I wish you a pleasant summer and look forward to your feedback!

Diana Tedoldi
Editor

FRANKLIN TODAY

Class of 2006 Selects an Endowed Scholarship as Their Legacy

Your grandfather’s watch, your mother’s pearl: gifts from those who came before you hold great value. As a gift to future Franklin generations, the graduating Class of 2006 has chosen to contribute funds to an established scholarship. Created by the Class of 2004, the permanent endowed scholarship benefits future Franklin students and can go toward tuition, books, fees, Academic Travel, and the awardees who benefit from it.

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FRANKLIN TODAY

Fountain Dedicated to the Memory of John Avena ’77

By Christina Bell

After Franklin College purchased the North Campus, Chairman Paul Lavery ‘77 secured the grounds with a friend. The two came to a battered hole in the ground that was once a fountain. “It is important that the waters bubble from this fountain again,” he told Lowerre. “This spot will infuse everyone’s impression and opinion of this campus.”

Immediately recognizing the symbolic power of this centrally located public space, Chairman Lowerre consulted his wife, Ursula Gentile Lavery ’76, on the subject. “Who would we dedicate such a place to?” he asked. The two unanimously agreed—the memory of their dynamic classmate John Avena ’77.

Thus, the idea for the John Avena Fountain was born. Thanks to the hard work and generous contributions of many, the fountain was officially dedicated on May 13, 2006. At the ceremony, Chairman Lavery spoke of his dear friend and the spirit of friendship for which Avena will always be remembered.

“It causes me great pride in the efforts of everyone to see Franklin’s development. In the early years this school was a vastly different place. There were no dormitories. Students lived in apartments scattered throughout Lagano. Certain people were galvanizers, those who brought us together. John Avena was one of those people. He broke down barriers and created the thing that makes this school unique—connectivity and cross-cultural friendships. Our hope is that Franklin students for generations to come will say, ‘Let’s meet at the Avena Fountain.’”

Many in the Franklin community, including John Avena’s mother Francine, widow Suzanne, and sons Salvatore, 12, and John Jr., 10, stood by for the striking moment when the sight and sound of bubbling, flowing water returned.

“I would be very happy to know that each year students connect and formed friendships here by this fountain.” Suzanne Avena continued, “John made more friends than anyone I ever knew. No one ever forgot him and he never forgot anyone.”

Memorializing a loved one is a great way to create a lasting tribute while supporting a worthy cause. Many of John’s friends, classmates, and family members have contributed to this project.

Anyone wishing to make a memorial donation should contact Alesia Davenport (adavenport@fc.edu). A stone with the name of the donor will be placed in the Avena Fountain area for any gift of $5,000 or greater.


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John Avena ’77

Born on Halloween Day in 1956, John Avena grew up in Cinnaminson, New Jersey. John’s parents, Salvatore and Francine Avena, instilled a love of foreign places in their children at an early age, traveling extensively throughout Europe and other parts of the world. Given those experiences, his cousin Gina and Carol Salvatore recommend that John consider Franklin College, it was a perfect match.

John made the most of every minute he spent at the College. He was known to lift spirits and rarely left someone without a smile or a good laugh. While at Franklin, he made many lifelong friends before continuing his education at Widener College in Pennsylvania. After graduating, he started his own business and married Suzanne Kathleen Ciccone. He was most proud of his role as a father to sons Salvatore John Avena and John Anthony, Jr. His presence was felt in numerous ways. He would talk about his love for the College, his memories of his family, friends, and classmates. The new fountain will become a meeting place filled with fun and laughter.
South Campus Named for Otto and Nina Kaletsch

On the clear, mild morning of Saturday, May 13, Franklin College’s South Campus was officially named Kaletsch Campus in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Otto Kaletsch.

For those present, the dedication provided an occasion to reflect on how far the College has come and to acknowledge two special people who have made all the difference. The gathering included Dr. and Mrs. Kaletsch, Chairman and Mrs. Lowerre, President and Mrs. Nielsen, Vice Chair Angela Fowler, and three Franklin founders—Mr. Pat Tone, Mr. Jacques Villaret, and Ambassador Wilfred Geens—in addition to several trustees and members of faculty and staff. President Nielsen opened the ceremony by saying a few words about Otto and Nina Kaletsch. “Otto Kaletsch has dedicated the past 25 years of his life to Franklin College. He has been unerring in his devotion to this institution, and throughout it all his commitment has never wavered.” He noted, too, that it is impossible to think of Otto without also thinking of Nina: “As the Chairman’s wife, Nina has always conducted herself with dignity and grace and yet has never been aloof.”

In acknowledgement Dr. Kaletsch responded, “I am impressed and flattered.” Always a supporter of all that fosters a can-do attitude in young people, he spoke of the impact the College makes on students, “I often think of the uniqueness of this school. An education at Franklin instills confidence. First you have to learn how to shop for groceries in Italian and that is just the beginning. The peak of my daughter Tatiana’s adventures may have been when she got lost on a subway in Moscow . . . Students graduate with the feeling that ‘if I can do that, I can do anything.’ ” Mrs. Kaletsch, too, reflected on the Franklin experience as she addressed her colleagues and friends. “I am incredibly honored,” she said. “This school is an inspiration. It certainly was for my son and my daughter-in-law, as it was for Tatiana.”

The ceremony culminated with the unveiling of a plaque and a handsome new sign and an official ribbon-cutting.

Athletic Center Named for Pascal Franchot Tone

With the purchase of the North Campus, the President and the Board of Trustees knew that philanthropic support would be needed for Franklin College to realize the growth involved in a two-campus college. Thus, a strategic plan was developed and gift opportunities resulted from this process.

Chairman and Mrs. Lowerre provided initial leadership and momentum. They issued a challenge to all trustees, alumni, parents, and friends of Franklin, agreeing to match gifts dedicated to the project.

Since that time, many have come forward to take a prominent role in making Franklin’s new era a reality. Pascal Franchot Tone, a Franklin founder, its second president, and a current board member, is one of those people. Because of a lifelong commitment to team sports and athletics, Tone chose to provide financial support for the Athletic Center at the College. “It is heartening for me to see, in the Franklin Gazette and the Franklin Flash, what a tremendous role athletics are beginning to play at Franklin College,” says Tone.

The Athletic Center, which comprises a gymnasium and fitness center, was officially dedicated as the Pascal Tone Athletic Center on Saturday, May 13, 2006 with a group of faculty, staff, trustees and friends looking on.

Pascal Franchot Tone
Founder, Past President, Current Board Member, Philanthropist

If you went to Franklin, you may remember Pat Tone as an avid hiker and a talented skier. You may even have been one of the many students who piled into the VW bus with Tone to explore hiking and skiing in Andermatt and other Swiss towns.

Tone has long realized that athletic activity builds leadership skills and empowers young people, and in fact athletics played an important role in his own education. He was a member of the 4 x 100 relay team that won the National Championship in the Preparatory School Division at the Pennsylvania Relays and also received the Wilber C. Riley Award as outstanding athlete of 1962 at the Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The Atlantic Coast Conference gave him special recognition for being on the Dean’s List while competing in varsity athletics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While living in Lugano, Tone was a member of the Hockey Club Alto Vredeggio in Mezzovico, which won the Third Division Championship of the Swiss National Hockey League.

Tone’s tenure at Franklin College began in 1969 when he was a founding member of the College and professor of Literature, Drama, and Film. He continued to dedicate his love for literature, drama, and film to Franklin as Director of Admissions and ultimately as the second President of the College from 1973 to 1979, during which time the College experienced achievements such as recognition from the IRS as a tax-exempt corporation and accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools as an Associate of Arts degree-granting institution in 1975. Today, Tone continues to serve the College as a Trustee.
Private gifts from alumni and friends provide the margin of excellence at Franklin College. As illustrated in the three previous Private gifts from alumni and friends provide the margin of excellence at Franklin College. As illustrated in the three previous

Franklin College catches Olympic Fever

Eighty nations, healthy competition, surprisingly hassle-free parking: Franklin College and the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino actually made the trip fun. So what was it like for the Franklin community to have the Olympics just three hours away? Olympic excitement officially began with the lighting of the flame in Lugano’s Piazza Riforma. “The people of Lugano were all out and excited. We waited for a long time and it was worth it. I took at least 20 pictures with my phone,” said Franklin alumna Arianna Artöli Dahmani ’95.

The anticipation and the buildup towards the Olympic events were almost as exciting as the reality of being there,” commented senior Christine Nitescu. “Friends and relatives back home made special saying ‘you’re so close. You’re just a giga.’” And many students did go. They immersed themselves in the experience of Torino, the athletic events, and, of course, the official Olympic store. Those who went were glad they did. “It was an experience I can tell my kids and grandchildren about,” said Nitescu.

Hockey was the clear favorite of those who attended several events. “The crowd was mobilized and because it was a longer event, it was fun,” said senior Katie Hathaway. The general word, too, was that any sport involving jumping (a.k.a. flying) and snow is impressive in per-...
Michael Nobel Opens the Dean’s Honors Lecture for Spring

By Gerardo Morina

These words opened the Spring 2006 Dean’s Honors Lecture at Franklin College on April 27. After the speech Gerardo Morina interviewed Nobel and wrote the following article (translated for the Gazette by Diana Tschöble) for the Corriere del Ticino.

A longtime resident of Switzerland, Dr. Michael Nobel was born in Sweden in 1940. After working as a researcher in social sciences at the Institute for Mass Communication at Lausanne University, he has since been a citizen of the United Nations and is involved in humanitarian organizations and scientific research throughout the world.

Dr. Nobel is the Chairman of the Nobel Family Society, which has the mission of keeping alive the spirit of its illustrious ancestor and creator of the prestigious Nobel Prize. Although he arrived in Lugano from Lausanne still recovering from an acute kidney colic attack, Nobel nevertheless was ready to meet an audience eager to hear him yesterday evening at Franklin College in Sorengo; afterwards he graciously agreed to answer our questions.

Q. Dr. Nobel, you represent the Nobel family. What is the spiritual legacy that binds you to your great-granduncle Alfred?

"Obviously I don't have a direct memory of him, but what I admire most about my great-granduncle were the firm determination and spirit of endurance in the face of adversity (his father's financial collapses, the explosion which took the life of his brother Emil, etc.) displayed by this chemical engineer who, thanks to his intense sense of idealism until the end of his days, "binds you to your great-granduncle Alfred."

Q. Could you elaborate?

"Alfred fundamentally believed that holding weapons was not necessarily a prelude to using them, but was instead a deterrent among the peoples. Moreover, his decision to transfer part of his enormous estate after his death to a special foundation—dedicated to awarding five equal-sized prizes annually to those who best served mankind in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology and medicine, literature, and peace—originates from a strong philanthropic base. By choosing these wide-ranging but all-embracing disciplines Alfred revealed a many-faceted, almost Leonardoesque spirit to the point that I would define him a universal genius."

Q. His sensitivity towards a non-scientific discipline such as literature is amazing.

"Yes, even though many don't know that as a young man Alfred himself wrote poetry in English, and a draft of a theatrical text was found among his papers."

Q. And what was Alfred Nobel like on a personal level?

"Alas, on this level I often feel compasion for him because fundamentally he was a solitary person and extremely lonely. He died without relatives or surviving friends."

Q. Is Alfred Nobel like a personal hero for you?

"Absolutely! In my sense, his decision to transfer part of his enormous estate after his death to a special foundation—dedicated to awarding five equal-sized prizes annually to those who best served mankind in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology and medicine, literature, and peace—originates from a strong philanthropic base. By choosing these wide-ranging but all-embracing disciplines Alfred revealed a many-faceted, almost Leonardoesque spirit to the point that I would define him a universal genius."

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Q. How did Alfred Nobel’s discoveries also used to resound on the war front.

"Certainly but the facts that his father had a weapons factory and that he himself invented dynamite did not keep him from embodying a pacifist and philanthropic spirit."

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Q. You are of Swedish origin, but left Sweden a long time ago.

"Yes, I live mainly in Lausanne, Switzerland, and I am a dual Swedish/Swiss citizen. However, because of my commitments deriving from my humanitarian organizations around the world, I have calculated that I spend more than 200 days a year travelling."

Q. Alfred Nobel’s will speaks of dedicating prizes to young scientists, to award in particular “those whose work, during the course of the past year, has conferred the major benefit to humanity.” Has anything changed over the decades in the criteria for awarding the prestigious Nobel prizes?

"Yes, it is rare today that the winners are young scientists and that their merits have emerged in the course of the past year. Today’s Nobel Prize winner is on the average beyond middle age, and the Prize often recognizes the culmination of a decades-long collaboration rather than the fruits of a single person."

Q. The awarding of the Nobel Prizes, which were conferred for the first time in 1901, is often fraught with heated discussions and not always absent from cultural or political considerations.

"You see, I can’t really address this point because I personally have no power or influence in the conferring of the prizes. Everything is in the hands of the specious committees in whom we must have faith."

Q. Among the many prizes that you yourself have received for your philanthropic work is one of special importance, the UNESCO Medal “for important contributions to the cultural dialogue between nations.” Today, as you know, there is a list of discussion about the lack of such dialogue and even about “clashes of civilizations.” What do you think?

"I believe that human beings often can’t find a common meeting ground because of a lack of communication and accurate information. It is this, above all, that keeps alive a large gap between civilizations. I also think, however, that on the whole the Nobel Prizes contribute now and always to creating a better world, also from the point of view of communication and accurate information."

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Career Fair Introduces New Opportunities

By Christina Bell

This April at the Career Fair students learned about career opportunities straight from corporate decision-makers. Students in attendance were motivated and relieved by what they heard from the experts. One speaker said gave me hope and made me more aware of what is out there," said sophomore Millia Byngazoo.

Presenters included: Silvester Ocrelli from UBS, Pelejoao Gutzwiller from Società Generale; Diego Franckerti from TI Impieghi, a career placement firm; and Giuseppe Macario from Evergreen, an environmental solutions company. Additionally, Franklin’s own Christina Bell and Laura Thompson respectively presented information on writing resumes and finding international opportunities.

The company representatives expressed keen interest in Franklin students for their unique backgrounds and skills. Owner of Evergreen, Giuseppe Macario said, “We are happy to make this connection with Franklin College. It is not so easy to find people who have language skills and experience working with people of many cultures and communication skills. We are growing like mushrooms and we need good people.” Similarly, UBS’s Silvester Ocrelli spokesman rendered an interesting opinion, saying “UBS hires an average of 200 new employees per month, and these new hires are stationed all over the world.”

Overall, the students walked away with more confidence regarding their job search. “That I will find the right thing is becoming clearer to me,” stated senior Afsaneh Gholbad. Gholbad even had the chance to interview with Evergreen, “I am interested in sustainable development. The interview was a great experience,” she said.

Following the presentations, students had the opportunity to mix and mingle with the speakers during a wine and cheese reception. The career fair was organized through the Franklin College Career Resource Center in conjunction with the Advancement Office.

The “Fashionistas” Host Campus Fashion Show

By Christina Bell

The lawn outside the President’s office could easily be one of the prettiest spots on campus. This past April, however, it became stunning, thanks to a creative, ambitious group of students who planned and executed a profession-

al, engaging fashion show. The students call themselves the Fashionistas, and this year they were organized by seniors Jann Shauki ’06 and Ashlie Butter ’06. “We knew the only way we could make it happen was if we started early. So January and I got to work as soon as the semester began,” said Butter. To build excitement for the fashion show, the Fashionistas organized three preliminary promotions including a Valentine’s Day fundraiser, a free make-over day, and a Martini Party. Brooke Nelson ’08 contributed support of every type from start to finish.

When the big day finally arrived, at least 100 people were in attendance. Women in the audience had been instructed to wear white, while the men were asked to wear black. Sushi and fresh fruit were butlered to guests. Then the men were asked to wear black. Sushi and fresh fruit were butlered to guests. Then the music began and, one by one, models (Franklin’s own) strutted down the catwalk.

The show included full collections designed and handmade by Jann Shauki ’06, Ashlie Butter ’06, Angela Evans ’06, Dorothy Wheeler ’04, Dagmar Schmautz ’05, Beisan Al-Shafei ’06, Evan Neidich ’09, and Megan Austin ’09. The fashion show represented a fresh burst of creativity and entertainment for all involved.

Not surprisingly, the Fashionistas won the award for best leadership at the Student Leadership and Academic Awards.
And the Travvy

Academic Travel is certainly academic. Reading, writing, and studying are important parts of the experience. However, it is also more than academic. It can be hilarious, life-changing, humbling, and even beautiful, so much so, in fact, that it is difficult to record or convey. This is one reason we hold the Travvies each year. At this event, we celebrate those who have captured the essence of Franklin’s longest-standing tradition through the photographs they have taken.

This year’s Travvy theme was “Wish you were here!” Student photographers submitted 178 images to a panel of judges comprised of students, staff, and faculty members. Like other famous awards shows, the Travvies included two hosts and several presenters. Participants and audience members dressed in formal attire.

Students Marta Oprisan, Tesla Dubois, and Elizabeth Mullen, in addition to Director of Student Programming Jeff Bourgeois, made up the Planning Committee. The result of their hard work was a flawless and funny program. They sought out fresh faces to present each Travvy. Presenters were asked to share an anecdote or a memorable moment from an Academic Travel. “It was a great group,” said Bourgeois. Presenter and sophomore Michael Garcia enjoyed being a part of the program. “It was my first time on Franklin’s stage! I prepared a few stories and I decided which one I would tell right before I went on,” she said.

Categories included: best architecture, best composition, funniest photo, best photo of a local, best photo of a faculty trip leader, best photo of a tour guide (non-faculty), best photo of landscape, best photo of Franklin students, and best video. A judges’ choice and a people’s choice award were given for the best overall photo, as well.

Winners of each category received a Ryanair voucher worth 50 euros. Judges’ choice and people’s choice category winners received 100-euro vouchers. All winners also received certificates featuring their photos.

And the Travvies went to…

By Christina Bell

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And the Travvies went to…

By Christina Bell
Student Leadership Awards

Announced

This May at the Academic and Student Life Awards Ceremony, Assistant Dean of Students Laura Thompson aptly noted that you are remembered for what you contribute. In the spirit of acknowledgment, a few were honored at this very special event.

The prestigious Presidential Leadership Award was presented to senior Andrea Broughton by Dr. Nielsen for her dedication at Franklin throughout her college career. The Gerta Holman Award was presented to senior Franklin for professional excellence. Created to recognize a student who has demonstrated particular sensitivity and mindfulness towards other cultures, this award honors the much-loved former German professor for whom it is named.

The following faculty members were recognized for professional excellence: Sanja Dushkovic for Teaching and Joerg Bibow for Professional Engagement.

Academic Area Awards:

- ART AWARD
  - Gau Beckmann (Art History)
  - Alexandra Strzezewski (Studio Art)
- ECONOMICS & FINANCE AWARD
  - Jason Woods
- HUMANITIES AWARD
  - Amanda Nishihata
- INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT AWARD
  - Zin Malik
- ITALIAN AWARD
  - Andrea Broughton
- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AWARD
  - Marcel Ricou
- INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AWARD
  - Rachel Hill

Student Leadership Awards

- OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF A STUDENT ORGANIZATION
  - Ashlie Butler
  - Janet Shaker
- OUTSTANDING FRANKLIN COLLEGE COMMUNITY SERVICE
  - Chynah Ting
- OUTSTANDING FRESHMAN
  - Tiona Gartman
- PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD
  - Andrea Broughton
- ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD
  - Jason Woods
- GERTA HOLMAN AWARD
  - Laura Marsala

Student Services Announces New Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Programming

Franklin College is pleased to introduce two staff members who joined us at the beginning of the 2005-2006 academic year.

Laura Thompson is Franklin College’s Assistant Dean of Students and the Director of Housing. She brings over ten years of higher education experience to the College as well as her passion for international living and travel. Previously, Laura has been Director of Student Life at the University of Redlands’ Salzburg program, a Resident Director with Semester at Sea, Area Director at Tulane University, and a Resident Director at the University of Nevada, Reno. Laura’s approach to student-centered and hands-on, “In an international environment, it is especially important that students are supported as they confront life outside the classroom. My goal is to be consistently supportive and approachable. No matter where students come from, they respond well when they know you are genuinely concerned about their well-being,” says Laura.

This fall, Laura is looking forward to working with the recently selected resident assistants (already proving to be a dynamic group) and to co-leading an Academic Travel to Salzburg, Austria, and Wurzburg, Germany.

Laura holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of San Diego and a Master’s degree from the University of Nevada, Reno, in counseling and educational psychology with an emphasis in college student development.

Jeff Bourgeois has just completed his first year as Franklin College’s Director of Student Programs, responsible for fostering social, educational, and other meaningful activities for students. He has organized both new programming initiatives and traditional Franklin events, ranging from the Simbra Ray to AIDS Awareness Week, to help students make the most of their extracurricular experience.

“Getting involved is a vital part of being a student at Franklin. It’s my job to create opportunities for students to have meaningful experiences when they’re not in class.” Students can take advantage of those opportunities either through participating or also by taking part in the organization and development of activities, to which end Jeff introduced the Franklin College Student Programming Board this semester. “The Board,” as it’s referred to, is a new leadership opportunity for students to gain valuable experience in organizing projects, managing groups of volunteers, and keeping track of a budget while presenting great programs and events for the Franklin community.

Before Jeff arrived in Lagano, his life was composed of many different experiences. His great passion for travel has led him to amazing and beautiful places. Just last year, he was teaching English at Hebei Normal University in Shijiazhuang, China, and before that he served as Assistant Director of Residence Life at California State University, San Bernardino. Other positions Jeff has held include Area Coordinator at the University of South Florida and Resident Director at the University of San Francisco. Originally from Pelham, New Hampshire, he holds a Master’s degree in Educational Policy and Leadership from the University of Kansas and a Bachelor’s degree in English Education from Plymouth State (New Hampshire) University. When he is not working Jeff enjoys college basketball, scuba diving, and music.

THE LAND DOWN UNDER

This semester Franklin College added another continent to its list of Academic Travel itineraries: Australia!

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After a four-hour bus trip through a snowstorm from Lugano to Zurich, an eleven-hour flight to Bangkok, a three-hour layover, and another eleven-hour flight to Sydney, we finally made it. Yes, that is a total of about 30 hours! But no time for jet lag as we had a lot to learn about this far-off continent.

Australia became a British colony a little more than 200 years ago and an independent nation only in 1901. Its relatively high level of population growth in comparison with other developed countries is driven almost entirely by immigration. But this has meant that Australia also has a comparatively youthful population as well as a high level of ethnic diversity. Upon our arrival in Sydney we set off to explore the challenges facing this youthful island culture and economy over the next decade.

We had three major topics to examine during our trip. The first concerned the opportunities offered by the country’s resources in terms of manufacturing, tourism, and other service industries within a global economy. After doing a considerable amount of research on the island culture and economy over the next decade.

The prestigious Presidential Leadership Award was presented to senior Andrea Broughton by Dr. Nielsen for her dedication at Franklin throughout her college career. The Gerta Holman Award was presented to senior Franklin for professional excellence. Created to recognize a student who has demonstrated particular sensitivity and mindfulness towards other cultures, this award honors the much-loved former German professor for whom it is named.

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THE STUDENT’S VIEW

In the early morning hours of March 5, I awoke full of excitement. I hurriedly packed some last minute things in my suitcase, double-checked that the banana plant had water, called a taxi, and locked my door behind me. I was performing the usual pre-Academic Travel routine…for the last time.

As the Orient Express, 27 of my peers and I climbed onto a bus for the first of many head counts by Professor Pamela Adams. Although it was still dark out, the air was full of anticipation for what lay ahead—the Land Down Under! For Franklin College, it was the first trip to Australia, and for many of the students it would be the last Academic Travel. This could mean only one thing: high expectations.

Fortunately those expectations were not only met, but far exceeded by the country’s resources in terms of manufacturing, tourism, and other service industries within a global economy. After doing a considerable amount of research on the island culture and economy over the next decade.

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a rate of economic growth so concentrated in such a small portion of the national
wealth. This gives rise to a welfare state with an increasingly ageing population, and
explained the difficulties of maintaining an economy based on the export of min-
erals and raw materials, a welfare state with an increasingly ageing population, and
these wonders against the sprawl of urban development and its ambitious poli-
cies to attract large numbers of tourists and to spur economic growth.

Our final topic was environmental policy in Australia. We visited some of the
major tourist attractions along the Great Ocean Road and touched firsthand some of the
natural wonders of the country, including the plant and animal life that only
Australia can offer. We then analyzed ways in which Australia is working to pro-
tect these wonders against the sprawl of urban development and its ambitious poli-
cies to attract large numbers of tourists and to spur economic growth.

This was my first experience as a Travel leader and what I learned from the trip
is that the program gives us faculty members a wonderful chance to get to know
each student at a personal level in a way that is not possible on campus. We all
left behind the sunshine and funny accents but, as always, returned to Lugano with
memories, new knowledge, and yet another piece of the world puzzle in place.

The country needs immigration for its growth, but the government is faced with diffi-
culty policy decisions about how to manage the country’s borders in order to attract
the skills needed to support this growth while integrating diverse cultures and ethnic
groups into the existing social and political structure.

What would a trip Down Under be without koalas and kangaroos? At first glance, the Lone Pine Sanctuary seems like any other animal reserve. But inside, the park is home to a large number of koalas and other species of indigenous animals. Here we could see a baby wallaby, a bandicoot, and several species of birds in their natural habitats. This complemented knowledge we had gained on a tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney, where a guide showed us how Australian Aboriginal people use the native flora and fauna for survival. And of course, we toasted a bittersweet end to a wonderful trip. 

The student’s view (cont)

THE PROFESSOR’S VIEW

THE STUDENT’S VIEW (cont)
H.E. Dr. Richard N. Gardner
Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker, 2006

A Professor of Law and International Organization at Columbia University, Of Counsel to the global law firm of Morgan Lewis and Bockius, a former US Ambassador and UN General Assembly delegate; an accomplished author; and a foreign policy specialist, Dr. Richard N. Gardner has forged an admirable international career. For Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, Dr. Gardner served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs. Under President Carter, he was the US Ambassador to Italy from 1977-1981 and during the Clinton Administration, he served as the US Ambassador to Spain, 1991-1997. From 1992-1993, as the Co-Chairman of the Aspen Institute, Dr. Gardner and his colleagues brought world leaders together to discuss international economic issues.

In recent years, he has been a delegate to the UN General Assembly and a member of the President’s Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations. Currently, he is a member of the State Department’s Advisory Committee on International Economics Policy. As Ambassador Hellbrouke noted during the swearing in ceremony for the UN General Assembly, “Dick is one of the best in the business. He knows more about the UN system than all of us combined, and it’s been an honor and a privilege to have him on our team.”

Dr. Gardner serves on the Board of Directors of the San Paolo IMI Bank Group and of the International Advisory Board of Banco Santander Central Hispano. He is also on the International Capital Markets Advisory Committee of the New York Stock Exchange. He is a member of the UN Association group engaged in a dialogue on multilateral issues with the Chinese Institute of International Studies, as well as the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations.

A significant voice in foreign policy issues, Dr. Gardner has published four books on international affairs including In Pursuit of World Order: US Foreign Policy and International Organizations. His latest book, Mission Italy; On the Front Lines of the Cold War, was published in September 2004 in Italian and in September 2005 in English. During his tenure as a US Representative, Ambassador Gardner has worked on a wide range of issues, particularly those related to UN peacekeeping, UN financial and management reform, and the Middle East, and has addressed the UN General Assembly on several occasions. His speech is available on the UN Mission to the UN’s web site, www.un.int/usa.

Dr. Gardner holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Yale Law School, a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Economics from Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Harvard. He is married to the former Danielle Almeida Luzzatto, a columnist for the Italian magazine Città. The Gardner’s have two children.

Mission Italy
On the Front Lines of the Cold War

Global turbulence and political upheaval marked the four tumultuous years of Richard Gardner’s ambassadorship to Italy. The kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro, the failed attempt of the Italian Communist Party to take power, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the seizure of American hostages in Tehran all left their marks upon the rapidly changing political landscape of 1977 to 1981. The culmination of these events resulted in Italy’s historic decision to deploy U.S. cruise missiles, which Mihail Gorbachev identified as a decisive factor in his decision to shift Soviet foreign policy toward genuine disarmament and peaceful cooperation, ultimately signaling the end of the Cold War era.

Mission Italy’s intensely compelling and meticulously detailed memoir, draws on hitherto classified material to offer unique insights into the foreign policy of the Carter administration, portraits of American and Italian leaders, and details of policy differences inside the Carter Administration and between Washington and Gardner’s Rome Embassy. Balanced, scrupulous, and compelling, this major contribution to our understanding of crisis diplomacy and the victory of the Western Alliance in the Cold War is invaluable reading for all those interested in the inner workings of U.S. foreign policy, diplomacy, and European politics.

Praise for Mission Italy

“Richard Gardner’s memoir of a crucial time in U.S. relations with Italy is both an enthralling story and a significant contribution to the history of the Cold War.” — Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Pulitzer-prize winning historian

“Mission Italy is a scrupulously honest and thoroughly documented narrative of a critical episode in the history of the Cold War. Rich in anecdotes and revealing details, it can serve as a guidebook for students of diplomacy and aspiring diplomats.” — Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security advisor to President Jimmy Carter

“Richard Gardner’s book about his time as ambassador to Italy during my administration is a dramatic, accurate account of one of the most difficult and successful diplomatic missions in the history of the Cold War.” — Jimmy Carter, former US president

“Richard Gardner’s account of those years, nourished by his personal records and by previously unpublished documents, helps us to better understand the greatness and smallness of Italian leaders of those times and the role played by the United States on the delicate boundary between an unavoidable active interest and an interference it wished to avoid. Portraits and analyses are presented with great effectiveness.” — Giuliano Amato, former Italian prime minister

“An exemplary and fascinating story not only of an American intellectual and scholar in Italy, but also of one of the most complex periods in the political life of our country and of Europe.” — Francesco Cossiga, former Italian president and prime minister
The most important thing, Hill continued, is what Franklin graduates choose to do with these adventures, the opportunities they’ve had here and the people they’ve met. “Never forget to thank the people who have helped along the way. Thank you, Mom. Thank you, Professors...Never forget the people, places, and experiences that have inspired you.”

Graduation Day 2006 highlighted that in so many ways being a part of this Franklin family, of this community, on this journey, is a privilege. Dr. Gardner said, “It is a privilege to study in Europe, particularly in Lugano, which is located in its very center.” In more ways than one, this is where the tribes meet; the day seemed to make clear that students, parents, faculty, and staff alike are aware of the privilege we all share. Such is the nature of the journey of our Franklin families. Hill concluded her remarks with “Congratulations and thank you for being part of my Franklin experience.”

Graduation Day 2006 illustrated a job well done. Well done, graduates. Well done, Franklin.

Rachel Hill, this year’s Valedictorian, graduated from Franklin on May 14 with a cumulative grade point average of 3.858 out of 4.0. She was awarded Outstanding International Communications student twice in her four years here. In addition to attaining exceptional academic results and numerous awards, Hill also managed to work an admirable range of life experience into the last four years. She has earned outstanding grades while maintaining a commitment to service and an active social life. In many ways, Rachel’s Franklin experience epitomizes “having it all.” She was an RA, wrote for the Enlightenment, the Gazette, and the Franklin Flash, helped coordinate and manage the last fundraising phonathon, participated in numerous clubs and activities, and has been to at least 30 countries in the last four years.

Rachel was also Valedictorian of her high school class in Wickenburg, Arizona, but says that Franklin became somewhere she felt she belonged. “I just winged it,” she began, as we sat down to discuss her Franklin College experience. “I just got an admissions postcard in the mail and thought, ‘How cool I just not go there?’ Hill thought she’d stay at Franklin for a year for the experience, but arrived “still in love—with Franklin, with Lugano, with everything.”

Midway through her Franklin experience, however, Hill felt she wanted to try something different. “I thought that being anonymous would be refreshing.” She went to the University of Arizona for one semester and spent another in the Semester at Sea program. She returned to Franklin, though, where she has a “close-knit group of amazing friends.

My Mom even comments on it when she visits,” she said. “Somebody is always there for me...if something happens, I have a support group here.” In her Valedictorian address, Hill thanked her “Franklin family” and her Mom, who raised her and supported her along this journey.

Now, she feels, the future is wide open. “Franklin has opened doors to things I never thought of before, things I never knew existed, places I never thought I would visit, and things I never thought I’d do.” Franklin has left her inspired “to continue to do new things and see new places and learn about other cultures, other people’s ways of life.”

Hill noted that Professeur Flutti’s Academic Travels were among her most inspiring Franklin moments. “She’s an amazing woman in and of herself—she opens your eyes to a whole new world beyond whatever you see on tv news and shows it to you up close and personal.”

Hill hopes to begin working for Virgo Publishing in Phoenix, Arizona, soon and, remarkably, has recently discovered a Franklin graduate overseeing a communications position there. Summing up what she learned at Franklin, Hill said, “It’s such a big world, but, then again, it’s such a small world because Franklin people are everywhere.”
FEATURES

By Read Mercer Schuchardt

It is the most commonly used tree for bonsai, it is the national tree of Madagascar (home to six of the eight extant species), and it makes an appearance both in Antoine de St.-Exupéry’s story *The Little Prince* and as the home of the character Rafiki in Disney’s film *The Lion King*. But the Baobab tree is best known as the tree that can store up to 120,000 liters of water in its trunk in order to survive the harsh conditions of drought so frequent in its natural environment, a trait that leads some to claim that Baobabs can live up to 200 years. In the case of the African Baobab, the biological capacity to store that which protects life itself serves as a useful metaphor for the Baobab Project, an independent enterprise which grew out of Professor Anne Flutti’s special Academic Travel in June, 2004, to Malawi and Zambia in order to learn more about an organic farming method known as “permaculture.” Since that life-changing trip, the Baobab Project has grown both deep roots and new shoots here at Franklin College.

Permaculture comes from the Tasmanian researcher Bill Mollison, who coined the term in 1974 by contracting the word *permanent* and the word *agriculture* to signify what he describes (in his book *Introduction to Permaculture*) as “a design system for creating sustainable human environments.” Integrating knowledge of plants, animals, buildings, and infrastructures, permaculture seeks more than anything to find ecological relationships among these systems in order to create self-sustaining and, if possible, surplus-producing human habitats. Or, as recent Franklin graduate Laura Marsala ’06 tells it by concrete example, planting a lot of marigolds around your key crops helps because the marigold is a natural pesticide.

The key student figure in the leadership of the Baobab Project, Marsala, along with FC alumni Justin Niles ’05 and Danielle Bennett ’04, was integral in getting the project started back in 2004. The Baobab Project gets its name from the large Baobab tree in front of the Baobab Village outside of South Luanga National Park in Zambia. It is a village in which the women and children in particular were malnourished for lack of sufficient food sources. Working with the village headman, Ovett Daka, Marsala says that she and her student colleagues used “their knowledge of sustainable farming methods to focus on two essential things for the village: 1) Building an organic garden that would provide...
FEATURES

the industrialized world have begun to value and put into practice. Thanks to Professor Flutti, Marsala and her student colleagues have not simply been able to see an exotic country on Academic Travel, but rather have been faced with the complexity of the world through the specific challenges at the Baobab Village in Zambia. The impact that Flutti’s trip has had on students affirms both the value of Academic Travel and the international mission of Franklin College; it also helps explain why so many graduates choose to work in the Peace Corps, international non-profit organizations, or developing countries in general. For some of Flutti’s students, the Africa trip was not only an education they can use for a lifetime, it has become the concrete starting point of their post-college lives.

Student and community involvement at Franklin has been exceptional. From the point of view of on-campus fundraising drives to subsequent trips back to Africa, Marsala speaks very positively about the experience in helping this village achieve self-sustenance. While Niles and Bennett have since graduated, both are still involved and/or working in jobs relevant to their experiences in Zambia. Niles recently returned from living on a sustainable farm in Malawi for the past eight months, after accompanying the group last summer to help install a treadle pump in the village. Bennett, who now does watershed restoration for a living in Washington state, also keeps her hand in the Baobab Project, and most recently came back to campus last fall to help the group write a strategic plan for the future. She described the trip to Africa by saying “life altering would not be an overstatement.” It was “an exercise in [Ghandi’s maxim] how to be the change you want to see in the world.” She continued, “Africa showed me the position that I was born into in this world, and I intend to put those circumstances…toward useful purposes.” Bennett also stated that it showed her “the absolute fallacy of trying to help, let alone save, anyone…Africa is a ridiculously beautiful place in many ways, raw and real. Guilt is a plague. No work like this should be undertaken out of pity.”

Current on-campus leadership is comprised of students Max Budnikov (Treasurer), Lauren Gagliano (Volunteer Coordinator), Chelsea Stephens (Fundraising Coordinator), and Michael Garcia (Communications Coordinator). Behind the scenes are Tomaso Rizzi (the “moneyman”) and, above all, the indefatigable Professor Anne Flutti. Marsala describes Flutti as “the backbone of this endeavor” who nevertheless encouraged students to initiate and carry out the project, and whose support and knowledge allowed so many things to occur. Marsala herself will make the Baobab Project part of her own career decision after she graduates from Franklin and says that students interested in joining the effort can contact her via e-mail (lmarsala@gmail.com) as she will be “part of the project for life.” Does the Baobab Project actually need your help? It does.

Since its inception, Marsala notes, the project goals have “Africanized,” which she says means that the goals and outcomes have changed course and direction many times. Having hoped for “immediate and beautiful results,” Marsala now describes it as “the most difficult task I have ever taken on” and notes that the results that have occurred have taken time and often taken different forms than originally expected. The permaculture garden was itself initially quite successful and many villagers were fed from it, but later, through lack of management and proper care, it fell victim to drought. Marsala states that currently “the biggest need is actually having someone there year-round who is able to monitor progress and weaknesses. Because permaculture is somewhat of a foreign idea to the village, there needs to be a constant supply of knowledge that the farmers can utilize. At the same time, many of the village students don’t understand the value of education and are not apt to attend classes. They need constant motivation.”

While permaculture in Africa presents unique geographic and educational obstacles, the general historic trend towards awareness of organic farming, sustainable investments, and local community building is part of a larger pattern of cultural shifting that many in students, the Africa trip was not only an education they can use for a lifetime, it has become the concrete starting point of their post-college lives.
We also visited farms, some successful, others less so. One in particular so impressed me that I decided to return to Malawi the following summer accompanied by a small group of undergraduate students. Our purpose was to observe, study, and attend lectures on the subject of organic farming as applied to the development of a small-scale farm in Malawi managed and directed by Dr. Glyvyns Chinkhuntha. Over the years, Dr. Chinkhuntha has developed a highly productive farm on what was once a snake-infested swamp. We observed his methods of crop cultivation, composting, irrigation, and integrated pest control. Of particular interest to us was that food resources and economic profits could be obtained without necessitating expenditures on sophisticated equipment, costly chemical fertilizers, and pesticides that are impossible for impoverished small-scale farmers in developing countries to purchase. The farm has now become a teaching and training centre for local farmers, students of agriculture, and academics and is closely associated with the Bunda College of Agriculture, University of Malawi.

As stated by Harrings Kachali of the Mbowe Sustainable Ecofarming Project of Mzuzu:

Malawi, 360,000sq.km, with a population well over 11 million, is a small, land-locked country in the southeastern part of Africa. Its economic life is totally dependent upon agriculture. However, people in rural areas live below the poverty line. (Permaculture in Malawi. Conference Proceedings, 2004)
Notwithstanding the agricultural strategies developed and applied in post-independence Malawi, recent studies reveal that poverty is increasing and, according to the analysis of Ephraim Chirwa, the country's Agricultural Research Council, the percentage of the population living in poverty in Malawi has increased from 75% in 1985 to 80% in 2000.

Agricultural policies have favoured large-scale farms and large-scale production at the expense of small-scale farmers who make up more than 80% of all households. (Access to Land, Growth and Poverty Reduction in Malawi. Conference Proceedings, 2004)

Over the past years, the IMF and the World Bank have made efforts to reconstruct the agricultural sector to increase efficiency and productivity, but with little understanding of the reality of small-scale farming systems in Malawi. The agricultural reforms that were applied to Malawi followed a one-size-fits-all approach, such as the removal of price controls and the privatization of agricultural agencies, but did not reflect a more profound analysis of local needs and difficulties. Lack of roads and transportation to reach markets, lack of the development of irrigation schemes to ensure food security independently from seasonal rainfall, lack of training programs, and the list continues. The assumption of well-meaning donors and the IMF had been that markets selling produce at affordable prices would automatically become available. Yet our experience in Malawi and the neighboring countries of Zambia revealed that isolated farmers in rural areas could not adequately feed their families and continue facing chronic food insecurity. In the words of Professor John Mawa of the Bunda College of Agriculture:

We are now paying the price. Vegetation has been removed and forests have been cut down to create large estates for the cultivation of cash crops such as tobacco and tea. Deforestation has led to soil erosion, degradation of water resources, habitat destruction, and the extinction of plant and animal species. Small-scale farmers have been forced to cultivate on marginal lands. (Lecture. Lilongwe, June 27, 2005)

Does a solution exist? To abbreviate our experience to the essential, I shall focus on the Tchokwe Freedom Gardens in the Dowa District of Malawi. Shaded by solitary trees, thatched rooftoped villages came to view on hilly slopes. Slim silhouettes, silent and still, small plots are removed, the underlying clay soils are utilized to construct the ridges, and the fertile topsoil is moved along which water can be channelled as need arises. The ridge system provides the farm with natural fertilizer. The organic matter thus obtained enriches the soil with plant nutrition, supplies humus to the soil, and is thus facilitated in reaching a source of nutrients and water, enabling the plant to live longer and produce more. Local village people work on the farm, 15 people a day. They are paid in food, in social services, and in cash for poverty alleviation. Farmers from surrounding villages have begun to apply similar methods of cultivation to their own plots. Freedom Gardens has slowly transformed itself from a productive farm into an educational centre.

The construction of deep and long trenches strategically positioned along the outer borders of the farm serves a dual purpose, that of collecting flood waters during the rainy season in order to create an innovative strategy for incrementing the life, and consequently the productivity, of banana trees. The roots extend themselves annually and horizontally from the trunk itself and are thus facilitated in obtaining a source of nutrients and water, enabling the plant to live longer and produce more. Local village people work on the farm, 15 people a day. They are paid in food, in social services, and in cash for poverty alleviation. Farmers from surrounding villages have begun to apply similar methods of cultivation to their own plots. Freedom Gardens has slowly transformed itself from a productive farm into an educational centre.

Daka, an impoverished farmer living in an isolated village in Zambia, thus became a protagonist in our organic farming experience. We had been travelling from Malawi to the South Luangwa National Park in Zambia and had stopped to admire an enormous baobab. Were it not for the great tree at its entrance, the village, a dusty cluster of thatched mud huts, would have remained hidden from sight in the African bush and we would have travelled on to our destination unaware of its existence. But we stopped to admire it and were soon surrounded by smiling, brown-eyed children, mothers caring for infants, boys, and elders. We shared our evening meal with them. Daka expressed his wish to improve his lot and that of his village people. My thoughts immediately turned to Dr. Chinkhuntha. So we financed his application for the construction of deep and long trenches strategically positioned along the outer borders of the farm serves a dual purpose, that of collecting flood waters during the rainy season in order to create an innovative strategy for incrementing the life, and consequently the productivity, of banana trees. The roots extend themselves annually and horizontally from the trunk itself and are thus facilitated in obtaining a source of nutrients and water, enabling the plant to live longer and produce more. Local village people work on the farm, 15 people a day. They are paid in food, in social services, and in cash for poverty alleviation. Farmers from surrounding villages have begun to apply similar methods of cultivation to their own plots. Freedom Gardens has slowly transformed itself from a productive farm into an educational centre.

INDEX

**Permaculture:** Permaculture (a contraction of permanent agriculture) principles focus on thoughtful designs for small-scale intensive systems which are labor efficient and which utilize biological resources rather than fossil fuels.

—Bill Mollison from Permaculture One, 1978

**Sustainable agriculture:** The goals of sustainable agriculture are to provide food security and economic well-being accompanied by respect and care for the environment.

**Organic farming:** Crop and livestock production are carried out without the use of commercial inorganic fertilizers, synthetic pesticides, and herbicides.
After graduating from Franklin College with the class of 2004 in May, I began my Peace Corps service in Moldova, a small country hewn out of Ukraine and Romania by two rivers, the Prut and the Nistru. Moldova, a former Soviet Socialist Republic, now enjoys three main distinctions: it is considered to be the poorest country in Europe with a per capita GDP of $2,100; it was the first former communist country to re-elect an unreformed communist party to power after independence; and it has made international news with its efforts to stifle Transnistria, a break-away republic sponsored by Russia.

Since my arrival and completion of a three-month intensive immersion course in the national language of Romanian, I have been living in a small village named Căinari (pop. 4,700) and working at a local office of the national agricultural extension agency. Despite the fact that I’ve been assigned to work primarily with farmers, I’ve also found myself working on a wide variety of projects that can be generally termed “youth development.” I’ve found that working with the youth in Moldova can be a much more enriching experience than working with the adults, who tend to be recalcitrant and stuck in the past. To this end, I’ve been involved in a variety of projects including coaching basketball and baseball, organizing a national Model United Nations conference, setting up a series of business seminars, and constructing a playground.

**Coaching**

Coaching basketball and baseball has been really rewarding, and it’s amazing to see the improvement the teams have made in two years. This year’s basketball season finished in April with a final tournament for villages across Moldova, where the boys I coach took second place and the girls first place. The school pride and sense of accomplishment that come with that kind of finish a final tournament for villages across Moldova, where the boys I coach took second place and the girls first place. The school pride and sense of accomplishment that come with that kind of finish.

Organizing this year’s Model United Nations (MUN) Conference turned out to be a bigger challenge than foreseen, but the three-day conference was a huge success. Many high school students in the US and Europe have a chance to discuss international problems at MUN Conferences, and we extended this opportunity to Moldova for the third year. We had 91 students in grades 9-12 in attendance as well as 21 Moldovan coaches. We were responsible for organizing their room, board, and conference programming throughout the conference, which was a monumental logistical task, but we succeeded without a hitching but positive outcomes. Conference highlights were broadcast on two different national television stations as well as being featured in two different newspapers. The conference was held for the first time at the national economics university. The rector was highly impressed, saying that it was the best organized conference ever hosted at the university.

Though coaching sports and organizing the MUN Conference were important, one of the most influential programs I started with a group of six other volunteers is the IATA! Seminar series. IATA! is an acronym in Moldovan for Intreprinderi si Afaceri Tineretului Antreprenoriat, which roughly translates to Youth Business and Enterprise Entrepreneurs. In these three-day, intensive seminars, high school age students are introduced to the basics of business and economics through the process of learning how to write a business plan. One of the major benefits of the program is that, unlike similar seminars, it is all locally funded and doesn’t rely on grants. We have thus far completed seven such seminars in a variety of locations and small towns with resounding success. Over 150 Moldovan students have attended, and over 20 business plans have been written (though only a few have been implemented). The cornerstone of the program is an 80-page textbook written and translated into Romanian by the founding volunteers. The text is so popular that several teachers have adopted it for use in their “life-skills” courses.

The last of my major youth activities was the construction of a playground in Căinari. Community leaders approached me in the summer of 2005 and asked me to help them. We wrote a grant to finance the construction of a playground in the dilapidated city center. Three months and a great deal of work later, we won an $800 grant through the Peace Corps Partnership Program, and construction of the playground has recently begun. We hope to open it to the general public in July of this year.

**Entrepreneurship**

The majority of my activity with my primary partner (the agricultural NGO) has been in organizational development. The organization has been active for three years, but lacks many of the capacities needed in order to be effective. I have, therefore, put a great deal of effort into improving its services, creating a better-defined management structure, developing a comprehensive marketing program, and generally improving its prospects for sustainability. In addition, I have been working with an agricultural services cooperative to improve the efficiency and profitability of the dairy industry in a neighboring village. Together we have been working in three parallel directions: to bring in some high quality pure-bred cows, to create a milk collection point with a modern testing and testing equipment, and to improve feed quality. We have subsequently written three grants, one through Heifer International for 30 pure-bred dairy cows, one through the Peace Corps Small Projects Assistance program in the sum of $2,800 for the funding program, and one through the National Association of Agro-Inform in the sum of $5,000 for the milk collection point. We’ve already won the $2,800 grant and have started implementing the program, but are still waiting to hear from the other two organizations.

When I joined the Peace Corps I was told that being a Peace Corps volunteer, unlike most traditional work, is a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week job. I thought they were just exaggerating for effect, but after working on projects from cattle feed quality programs to building playgrounds, I can see how correct that statement was. Work as a PCV is challenging in inexplicable ways, but it can also be incredibly rewarding. Looking back on my year and a half of work I can say with confidence that the hardships were worth it and that while many projects individually may show few results, my overall impact on my community and the individuals in it has been extremely positive. The results may not all be as tangible as a playground, but they are extremely valuable and are needed.

Many small things I wish I could have done differently, that in retrospect would have made work more effective and life easier. But I think one should not trivialize the value of learning from mistakes, this being especially true when working while immersed in a different culture. If one could understand all cultural nuances from the outset, life would be boring.

Many people wonder what kind of career a student will be prepared for after attending Franklin College. I can’t think of another school that could possibly have prepared me better for this type of grassroots development work. Many Peace Corps volunteers who studied in the states had only been superficially introduced to other cultures and countries, if at all. This made adjustment to work and life here exponentially more difficult for them. I found that my socio-cultural experience from Franklin was the primary reason I learned the local language quickly and integrated into my community well (two of the primary indicators for volunteer success worldwide). Many Moldovans I’ve met have complimented me on my empathy for their cultural background and economic situation, which I believe I gained through my experiences at Franklin. These skills cannot be measured on any standardized test, but are important life skills that make Franklin graduates successful. One piece of advice I would leave for future Franklin graduates is to get involved in life. Try to do more than the minimum and you’ll find it tremendously rewarding.

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**Final Thoughts**

When I joined the Peace Corps I was told that being a Peace Corps volunteer, unlike most traditional work, is a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week job. I thought they were just exaggerating for effect, but after working on projects from cattle feed quality programs to building playgrounds, I can see how correct that statement was. Work as a PCV is challenging in inexplicable ways, but it can also be incredibly rewarding. Looking back on my year and a half of work I can say with confidence that the hardships were worth it and that while many projects individually may show few results, my overall impact on my community and the individuals in it has been extremely positive. The results may not all be as tangible as a playground, but they are extremely valuable and are needed.

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Many people wonder what kind of career a student will be prepared for after attending Franklin College. I can’t think of another school that could possibly have prepared me better for this type of grassroots development work. Many Peace Corps volunteers who studied in the states had only been superficially introduced to other cultures and countries, if at all. This made adjustment to work and life here exponentially more difficult for them. I found that my socio-cultural experience from Franklin was the primary reason I learned the local language quickly and integrated into my community well (two of the primary indicators for volunteer success worldwide). Many Moldovans I’ve met have complimented me on my empathy for their cultural background and economic situation, which I believe I gained through my experiences at Franklin. These skills cannot be measured on any standardized test, but are important life skills that make Franklin graduates successful. One piece of advice I would leave for future Franklin graduates is to get involved in life. Try to do more than the minimum and you’ll find it tremendously rewarding.
ALUMNI COUNCIL NEWS/EVENTS

By N. Derek Wilkinson ’95, Alumni Trustee

The Alumni Council has been busy planning the next steps in the evolution of alumni involvement at Franklin. Several meetings have taken place around Board events, as well as in conference calls among the Alumni Trustees and the Alumni Council as a whole, to discuss the nature of creating a formal Alumni Association. Attendance has been limited at some events, but day-to-day involvement of more members of the Alumni Council has increased significantly. Several new members have been added: Nicole Becucci ’96, Marc Harris ’98, Geoff Kacoyanis ’95, David Kirk ’03, Evelyn Lee ’97, Freddie Middelstaedt ’05, Grace Sweazy Molnar ’95, Melissa Monk ’92, Derek Peterson ’02, Julia Hawkins Souza ’04, Chay Woerz ’97, and Roxanna Zamagni ’95.

Upcoming themes will include: the use of technology to allow alumni to get back into and stay in touch with one another; the further refinement of committees among the Alumni Council to take on and manage projects associated with growth; fundraising activities to begin making the Alumni Council, and an eventual Alumni Association, not only self-funding and self-perpetuating, but also a contributor to Franklin activities and expansion.

As always, we would like to acknowledge the great help and strong support from so many members of the Franklin College community, beginning with President Nielsen and including the Board of Trustees, the Advancement Department staff, parents of past and present students, alumni, friends, and Franklin professors and students.

In closing, we would urge all Alumni Council members to continue their hard work for the school. And please advise us if you know of any alumni who would like to join the Council and contribute even more to the continued growth and prosperity of Franklin. Also, contact any of us if you are interested in hosting a gathering in your part of the world. Again, thanks for your support, and here’s to a happy, successful, and fruitful graduation for the class of 2006.

REUNIONS/EVENTS

DUAL RECEPTIONS

Dallas, Texas

February 25, 2006

The first of these dual receptions was hosted by Mrs. Carol Barton, wife of Trustee Benny Barton and mother of current student Terence Barton, in Dallas, Texas. The group enjoyed Mrs. Barton’s southern hospitality, shared Franklin College reminiscences, and viewed pictures that jogged fond memories of their time on campus.

New York, New York

March 4, 2006

Franklin College alumni, friends, trustees, and Alumni Council members joined President Erik Nielsen for a reception at the University Club. Both President Nielsen and Chairman Paul Loweree ’77 addressed the group, sharing information about the College including accreditation, the opening of the new campus, and the vision for the future. Following their speeches, the group viewed the Greece Academic Travel video produced by graduating senior Marcel Ricou.

Washington, DC

March 11, 2006

A small alumni group gathered at the Hotel Washington to renew contact with Franklin College and old classmates. The group was addressed by Trustee Rick Bell ’65 and President Nielsen. During the social hour, attendees viewed the latest photos of Lugano and the new campus.

Denver, Colorado

March 18, 2006

Staff members Alexis Davenport and Eric Deleyoh hosted the Denver alumni reception at the Marriot Tech Center. The threat of a spring snowstorm did not deter attendees. The group showed tremendous enthusiasm for the College and for renewing old friendships.

San Francisco, California

March 25, 2006

The NCAA tournament and numerous other activities in town could not keep Franklin supporters away from a reception held at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in downtown San Francisco. Several dignitaries were in attendance including Trustee Kevin McNeeley ’73 and former Dean of Fleming College Dr. Michael Holmoe. After the reception, the party continued in the jazz lounge of the hotel.

ALUMNI EVENTS

This spring the Franklin College Alumni Office teamed up with the Admissions Office to host twin receptions. The events, which were held in locations across the United States, each consisted of an afternoon reception to welcome accepted students and their parents to the Franklin community followed by a reception for alumni. During the afternoon receptions current parents, past parents, alumni, and Franklin College staff members were on hand to answer questions from accepted students and their parents. Of the accepted students in attendance, some are committed to attending Franklin in Fall ’06, while others are still undecided. These gatherings provided the closest thing to a campus visit without getting on a plane.

Following the accepted students’ receptions, the Alumni Office hosted receptions for alumni and friends of the College. The goal of these receptions was to reunitе classmates and connect members of the Franklin network. The Franklin College Alumni Office strives to more fully utilize the natural global network that exists within the Alumni group by identifying alumni willing to become more involved through intern sponsorship, alumni to alumni networking, alumni to student mentoring, and student recruitment activities.

Please note that due to a computer failure, pictures from the Dallas, New York, and Washington, DC, events were lost. If you attended these receptions and took pictures, please share them with us. Please send digitals to Ute Joest at ujoest@fc.edu or send prints care of Ute Joest, Franklin College, Via Ponte Tresa 29, 6924 Sorengo (Lugano), Switzerland.

OTHER ALUMNI RECEPTIONS

Alumni Lakes, Florida

January 10, 2006

President Nielsen greeted guests at a Franklin College reception held at the Don Shula Hotel in Miami Lakes. A guest appearance by Coach Shula was scheduled; however, due to unexpected minor surgery, he was unable to attend. Dr. Nielsen shared the excitement of the opening of the new North Campus with the group and talked about the future direction of the college. Several special guests were in attendance, including Trustee Ernest Matthiessen and his wife Stephanie, Dr. Samir Mousaalla, who will be a visiting professor on campus during the summer, and Giulio Olivieri ’97, who traveled all the way from Lugano to attend.

Geneva, Switzerland

March 2, 2006

Alumnus Dooley Awadalla ’95 served as host for a small alumni reception in Geneva at the IBM Wine Bar. Alumni and friends gathered to reconnect and reminisce at this first-ever Geneva reception. The group had such an enjoyable time that they vowed to get together again in the near future.

Milan, Italy

May 5, 2006

A crowd gathered at the Jazz cafè in Milan to meet other local members of the Franklin community. Franklin College Professor Georges Rocourt (Assistant Professor of International Management) and Julia Hawkins ‘94 of the Advancement Office joined guests from Lugano, other parts of Ticino, and Northern Italy to enjoy cocktails and Franklin fellowship following a long work week. Professor Rocourt and Ms. Hawkins provided an update about the College and the festivities planned for graduation the following week.

For more information on how to host an alumni reception or how to volunteer for leadership opportunities within the Alumni community, please contact Ute Joest at ujoest@fc.edu or 41 (0) 91 986 3609.
REUNIONS/EVENTS

San Francisco, March 25, 2006
Sir Francis Drake Hotel
Reception

Attendees:
Francisco Castanheira ’77
Juan Castanheira
Tim Darrin ’75
Debbie Darrin
Alexis Darrin
Michael Garcia
Kathleen Gneikow Garcia
Christine Gukovich
Shayna Glickman
Elizabeth Halaby Wales ’73
Abigail Bates Hawkins ’02
Robert Hawkins ’02
Michael Holmes
Anita Holmes
Leila Jere
Alison Machett ’91
Kevin McNelly ’71
Rosemary McNelly
Steven Munchin ’84
Kelly Munchin
Richard (Mitch) Mitchell ’82
Tom Rees ’73
Mary Rees ’73
Jennifer Rees
Marianne Rees
Peter Roman
Daniel Shiffman
Tobia Sugar ’91
Tom Svanberg ’95
Ashen Svanberg
Kota Tabuchi ’03
Ronald Wallace ’74
Chay Woerz ’97
Vernicia Woerz

Veronica Woerz and Aileen Svanberg.
Kevin McNelly ’73 and Shayna Glickman.
Alison Machett ’91, Chay Woerz ’97, and guest.

REUNIONS/EVENTS

Miami Lakes, Florida, January 10, 2006
Don Shula Hotel
Reception

Attendees:
Eduardo Blanco
Marili Blanco
Thomas Browne ’74
Marcel Browne
Lorraine Cohen ’95
Rhonda Cornell
Charles Coutre ’73
Michelle Cutler-Antary ’94
Alexis Darrin
Brett DuBch ’88
Claudia Figueredo ’95
Laura Marta Mari
Susan Gordon ’80
Stuart Gordon
Jerone Juska
Valentini Macor
Teresa Macor
J David Macor ’06
Emil Matthiessen, Trustee
Stephanie Matthiessen
Rena Mody ’83
Kevin Mody
Medina Mody
Dr. Sama Musaddi
President Erik Nielsen
Katherine Norman ’91
Graci Olsen ’97
Rose Pujal
Joseph Suss
Carrie Stephen La Noe ’90
Andy Wetzler ’84
Cinda Xeremos ’74

Kota Tabuchi ’03, Shayna Glickman, and Tore Svanberg ’95.
Ronald Wallace ’74, Debbie Darrin, and Tim Darrin ’75.
Thomas Browne ’74 and Marcel Browne.
Joseph Suss and Lorraine Cohen ’95.
Samir Moussalli, Rhonda Cornell, and Jerone Juska.
Veronica Woerz and Aileen Svanberg.
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Robert Hawkins ’02
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Anita Holmes
Leila Jere
Alison Machett ’91
Kevin McNelly ’71
Rosemary McNelly
Steven Munchin ’84
Kelly Munchin
Richard (Mitch) Mitchell ’82
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Thomas Browne ’74 and Marcel Browne.
Joseph Suss and Lorraine Cohen ’95.
Samir Moussalli, Rhonda Cornell, and Jerone Juska.
1963

Elizabeth Thieck recently returned from a trip to Peru. She very much enjoyed the Sacred Valley and a trek to Machu Picchu. Elizabeth writes, “The Inca culture and its accomplishments are amazing, as well as the beautiful scenery.”

1984

Lynn Campan Woolf is still living in Sun Valley, Idaho, and Buxzum, Montana, with her husband Ted. Working as a professional photographer as well as working on their farm keep Lynn very busy. Ted is an artist who shows in galleries around the country, so his trends keep them busy as well. Lynn and Sue Jones Boots homed in Sun Valley last winter.

1985

Sally Dodge Meke reports, “I have seen a lot of Paul 77 and Urdina Lower 76, and Susan Cross here in Vermont. I became immersed in India Howells’ 77th Rif Viller’s Children’s Course, an orphanage in Tanzania. Check it out on the web at www.tanzania-archbishop.org. We can all volunteer!” Sally Gigg Smullen and her husband John their ninth pilgrim- age to India last year where they now have a thriving childrensfund.org. We can all volunteer!”

1970

William Auer recently spent two weeks in India, sharing a house with Garland Gay 79 and Mary Gay and their family. Katharine Goodbody is practicing law and living in New Haven, Connecticut. Her oldest daughter, Elizabeth, lives in Saratoga, California, her middle daughter Kate is a senior in high school, and her youngest daughter Anna is in the 8th grade.

1971

Roger Montgomery is living in Saratoga, California, with his wife and selling real estate in the Monterey Bay area. He would like to hear from his old roommates, Jim, Pat, Roger, and Louis Schmidt. Louis was married on February 18, 1992, and back to our routine for the dream: lawyering, producing and writing screenplays. Louis attended as a child. Louis is in regular contact with any Franklinites to contact us at (702) 341-8148.”

1972

Mary Schubach McCarthy is currently a co-owner with her brother of Standard Oil, the family spring oil business, which he began with his old roommate, Jim, back to our routine for the dream: lawyering, producing and writing screenplays. Mary’s oldest daughter Rachel, who was married in June, is a 9-year-old; Louis sends his regards to old friends and classmates.

1988

Glenn Shafer looks forward to bringing his wife Dana to Lugano for a visit. They have a son Joshua, 5, and a daughter, Claire, 2. Glenn keeps in regular contact with David Cole, David Henry, and Carol Karim. Glenn writes, “I only spent one semester at Franklin College, during the fall of 1987, so I was your junior by a semester and a half. I just met friends for life at Franklin.”

1990

Kim Hildebrand and Nicky Taylor Hildebrandt ’91 had a baby girl named Maya on February 8, 2006. Their son Alexander has just turned 3 years old. David Richards is married and living in Philadelphia, working for himself some years ago, as now a partner in marketing/advertising for his box office website www.boxoffice.bm and partner in a recently established company called DVD Express. Katherine is in touch from time to time with Julian Clift in Connecticut, Nina Hacker Glendenning ‘89, David Glendenning ‘91, and Barbara Bruderer. She would like to hear from Tim Keltman ‘92 and other friends by email at dolly@bsn.com.

CLASS NOTES

1932

Keaton (14), Mary (Macey), Johnny, and Dimi (11) Morris at the Palazzo Pubblico, Siena, in October, 2005.

1973

Carl Hamann writes, “I see classmate Richard Cosco 73 often and always enjoy exchanging Christmas cards with Eloise Toshner—who hasn’t aged a day since Franklin.”

1981

Anna Pavlitch Kattamis is a part-time teacher at a boarding school in England, where she has been living with her husband and daughter for approximately two years. Anna enjoys being in the country side. Kate Hughes Lowe is working in development for her children’s school, the New Canaan Country School, in Connecticut. Kate sends her best to everyone in Lugano. Allyn Carlson Teilborg married Ray Teilborg in September 1993, and moved. Allyn’s home state of New Jersey soon after their 20-year-old daughter, Ashley Jane Lynn Teilborg, arrived. Allyn is a second-year medical resident at the University of Utah in pediatrics and psychiatry. Mary’s daughter Dominique graduated from Georgia University and is a second-year teacher in Salt Lake City. Mary (Macey) Montesinos Morris traveled to Tuscany for two weeks with her family last October. She writes, “It was lovely! The scenery, weather, art, museums, churches, food—everything was fantastic. I was very pleased that my Italian returned within two weeks, since we had no problems communicating. We started out in Firenze, then went to Sienna, Pietra, Sun Gimignano, Santi Lavrenti on the Lagranto Court, and Pisa. Driving around in the Tuscan countryside was like being in heaven! Then it was back to school for Keaton and Tommy, and back to our routine for Johnny and myself. I’m still painting watercolors, and Johnny is working on his second book. We are all happy and healthy. Can’t ask for much more than that!”

1974

Nina Hacker Glendenning ’89, David Glendenning ‘91, and Barbara Bruderer. She would like to hear from Tim Keltman ‘92 and other friends by email at dolly@bsn.com.

1992

Milo Teohschoo Byrholm was married last October 15, 2005 to Robert Byrholm of Sweden at the Aschate Shrine in Tokyo, Japan. They had a traditional Japanese ceremony with kimonos, after which the newlyweds headed to Okinawa for their honey- moon. Milo and Robert now live in Stockholm. Maci Sasina Okuda ’94 attended the wedding. Milo writes, “Dede attended as a child. Dede is in regular contact with some of the people I would like to get to know them from email at bjmmlings@msn.com. Julia Taylor Olsen reconnected with Nancy Barker (Tennison Graham) in 1996 and is planning on having an alumni event in Atlanta soon.

1993

Pennsylvania. He is unaffiliated Republican candidate for Sheriff in 2003 and received 81,000 votes—his opponent, however, received over 300,000. (David writes that Philadelphia is a very Democratic town). David and his wife are in the process of adopting a baby girl from China. He writes, “It’s an exciting time for us because it requires us to travel to China for the adoption. I haven’t been to China since 1988 when I went with a Franklin College group; I love Lugano immensely and I hope to return soon with my wife and now baby. Some of the people I would like to get in touch with are: Adrian Wolsten ‘91, Dan Warner ‘91, and John Stanfield. I also miss the always interesting Professor Morris Mottale.” Katherine Battersfield Wane is still living in Bethel, Vermont and working as a corporate administrator at Appleby Spelling Hunter, a local law firm with offices in London, Canary, BVI, and Hong Kong. Katherine’s job requires her to deal with a variety of clients and she finds it challenging. Her husband Steve, who started MENEA-FINA in the US, spread a message of hope and awareness through their athletic endeavors.

1999

Robert Byrholm and Milo Teohschoo Byrholm.

1999

Ashton Wolfson ’91, Dan Warner ’91, and John Stanfield. I also miss the always interesting Professor Morris Mottale.” Katherine Battersfield Wane is still living in Bethel, Vermont and working as a corporate administrator at Appleby Spelling Hunter, a local law firm with offices in London, Canary, BVI, and Hong Kong. Katherine’s job requires her to deal with a variety of clients and she finds it challenging. Her husband Steve, who started MENEA-FINA in the US, spread a message of hope and awareness through their athletic endeavors.

1990

Kira Hildebrandt and Nicky Taylor Hildebrandt ’91 had a baby girl named Maya on February 8, 2006. Their son Alexander has just turned 3 years old. David Richards is married and living in Philadelphia, working for himself some years ago, as now a partner in marketing/advertising for his box office website www.boxoffice.bm and partner in a recently established company called DVD Express. Katherine is in touch from time to time with Julian Clift in Connecticut, Nina Hacker Glendenning ‘89, David Glendenning ‘91, and Barbara Bruderer. She would like to hear from Tim Keltman ‘92 and other friends by email at dolly@bsn.com.
Faculty and Friends

Emily Lingeri and her husband Nicola have a new baby boy. Gianluca McCoy Lingeri was born on January 16, 2006, in Lugano, weighing 3.91 kilos and measuring 51 cm.

2005

Maria Fernanda Martinez-Fanton '05 married Michael Guarco '06 last fall. They had a small private civil ceremony and will have a reception with friends upon the completion of Michael’s studies. He plans on attending law school and Maria Fernanda would like to continue working for the Red Cross Language Bank.

Correction: Ody Markezinis '94 and Aki Hoshino were married in Guam on March 12, 2005, at the Hyatt Regency. Aki is a graduate of the University of British Columbia, Canada.

Dr. Harlan Wallingford sends his greetings. He writes, ‘I retired in 2000 to Tennessee, a warmer low tax state. I love it here. I hear ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ a lot more often than in New York. I am tutoring part time at a local community college, any subject they request, but the big demand is for algebra. The air is full of music here, all kinds, so I don’t lack for culture. I’ve done a lot of traveling, to Nepal, Malaysia, Egypt, Thailand (have a student e-mail correspondent there), and Moscow (where my son works for KPMG).’

1994

Ody Markezinis and his wife Aki recently had their first child. Hana Efthina Markezinis was born on November 8, 2005. Alexander Passigatti sends his greetings to his Franklin friends and would like to hear from them.

1995

Derek Wilkinson and his two colleagues have had a resounding success in starting the Washington, D.C., office of Slayton Search Partners. He credits Franklin with his ability to strike out on a new venture with a very diverse team.

1996

Tia Roosendahl’s latest interest has been alternative medicine—body therapy, massage, myofascial trigger point work—and she is learning more every day. Tia also has a hand in film and real estate investment projects.

1999

Mohammed Al Haddar sends his greeting to Franklin College and Lugano. He would very much like to visit Lugano in the near future. While in Iraq, Monroe Mann wrote a book called Battle Cries for the Underdog—Fightin’ Words for an Extraordinary Life.

2002

Sara Attar married Mazen at the Villa d’Este in Cernobbio, on the Lake of Como, on November 8, 2005. Heba Al-Okr was her maid of honor, and another bridesmaid was her sister, Basma Attar ’06. Many graduates from Franklin as well as some current students attended, including Zein Swafin ’02, Hana Al-Fatoury ’03, Hala Khalil ’03, Efiz Ezen ’04, Raosta D’Alkous ’02, Tanoub Malhas ’03, Jude Abdul-Hadi ’06, Maha Abdeila ’07, Rania Manasseh ’03, and Tamer Atta ’04. Hiroko Hamaguchi received her Masters of Arts in Finland in Intercultural Communications and International Relations. She is now working in Bali, Indonesia, and sends her greetings.

2004

Joya Hawkins and Jordan Christopher Sousa ’05 were married on February 18, 2006, at the Emmanuel Methodist Church in Southport, Bermuda. The ceremony was followed by a dinner reception at the Elbow Beach Hotel in Paget. Among the many friends present were alumni Katherine Wilkins ’94, Kamilla Sarreva ’93, Jordana Gregg ’93, Brian McGann ’94, Shannon Miller ’06. Jordan is currently working for a financial company in Bermuda. Joya writes, “Jordan and I met at Franklin and both have fond memories of our time as students at the College. We now join the long list of married alumni! If you would like to see more pictures of the wedding, please visit www.jordanandjulia.com.”

2005

Maria Fernanda Martinez-Fanton ’05 married Michael Guarco ’06 last fall. They had a small private civil ceremony and will have a reception with friends upon the completion of Michael’s studies. He plans on attending law school and Maria Fernanda would like to continue working for the Red Cross Language Bank.

Correction: Ody Markezinis ’94 and Aki Hoshino were married in Guam on March 12, 2005, at the Hyatt Regency. Aki is a graduate of the University of British Columbia, Canada.

In Memoriam

The Franklin community was very saddened by the passing of Sue Vitali-Knowles last February. She was a former staff member of the College.