FACING CHALLENGES WITH PERSISTENCE

THE ONE AND ONLY BERNTH LINDFORS

TEACHING WRITING WITH STYLE
The summer is upon us, and at the College that means new students are having their first real taste of university life, the staff is busy preparing for the coming school year, and many of our faculty have the opportunity to pursue their research interests.

In this issue of Life & Letters, we again offer you a glimpse of some of the exciting research taking place in the college. In light of this year’s Summer Olympics, you may find John Hoberman’s research on the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sports of particular interest. Dr. Hoberman is a professor of Germanic languages and has been investigating the crossroads of politics, society, science and sports for more than 20 years.

Those of you with young and teenage children will probably be able to relate to the research on Japanese anime by Susan Napier. If you can’t turn on a television at home without seeing Pokemon or Dragonball Z, I’m sure you’ll want to read about the social implications of this type of animation.

One of my favorite pieces of the magazine is always the featured student. Gautam Ganeshan has proven to be an outstanding student in Plan II and Philosophy. In addition to being awarded both a Jacob K. Javits Fellowship and an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies for his academic abilities, Gautam is an accomplished musician and plans to incorporate his love of music with his liberal arts education to study ethnomusicology as a graduate student.

The 2004 Pro Bene Meritis winners are also featured in this issue. Two of our professors, Bernth Lindfors and John Trimble, join alumna Carrin Patman in receiving this honor that is awarded to individuals dedicated to the liberal arts.

These are but a few of the people you’ll meet in these pages. I hope you enjoy reading about them as much as I enjoy working with them.

Richard Lariviere
Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Facing Challenges with Persistence

Whether it’s raising a million dollars for The Swedish Studies Excellence Endowment, hitting the campaign trail or driving a 60-ton truck, Carrin Patman has never shied away from a challenge—no matter how big.

“The best advice my life’s experience can offer is persistence,” Patman said. “Whether it’s been political battles or challenges like fundraising, it is important to either overcome or outlast the resistance. That has always made the difference in my success.”

Patman was born in Houston, the granddaughter of Swedish immigrants. Her mother, who died when Patman was born, was one of Texas’ earliest women school superintendents in Sugar Land and her father, Fred Mauritz, served in the Texas House and Senate. From childhood, her interests, indeed her passions, have centered on education, politics and her Swedish heritage.

One summer day at Barton Springs she met law student Bill Patman. The two immediately found much in common; they were both students at The University of Texas at Austin and belonged to political families. The couple married in 1953. She continued her college education, switching from Plan II and earned her degree in English and Philosophy with honors in 1954. Their daughter, Carrin Foreman Patman, was born in 1956 and she—like her father—is a graduate of The University of Texas Law School.

The family moved to Patman’s hometown Ganado, Texas, engaged in farming and ranching, and began their long political journey. She had campaigned from door-to-door in that same town for her father as a child and seemed the experienced choice to manage her husband’s political campaign. Bill served 20 years in the Senate, before he was elected to the U.S. Congress where he served two terms—with his wife managing all of his campaigns.

She also led a two-year campaign that resulted in a national award-winning elementary school library for Ganado’s children. At her insistence it was air-conditioned, making it the only air-conditioned room in the school. As a result, she was made an honorary member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society for outstanding women educators.

For two decades Patman served on the Democratic party’s State Executive Committee, eventually being elected the Democratic National Committeewoman for Texas in 1969. She was a leader in instituting the reforms that led to broader participation of women and minorities and successfully lobbied a bill requiring both the Democratic and Republican Parties of Texas—for the first time in history—to write down and publicize their party rules.

In 1976 she led the fight at the Democratic National Convention to ban winner-take-all presidential primaries. She made the case before the 5,000 National Convention delegates and won.

Patman has shown a commitment to the university and her Swedish heritage. She was a long-time member of the Liberal Arts Foundation Advisory Council and served on its executive committee for nine years. Patman has worked to establish the Swedish Studies Excellence Endowment in the College of Liberal Arts at the university. The endowment has supported scholarships and fellowships, symposia, study abroad opportunities, lecturers, as well as cultural exhibits and performances.

“‘To most Swedish Americans, Sweden is not just a place—it’s an idea,’” she said. “‘It’s an idea infused with our history, values, and family, so I think it’s not surprising that we want to keep that idea alive and vibrant.’

When she and her husband visited the Volvo factory in Sweden a few years ago, she was told she could test-drive any vehicle on the lot—she chose a 60-ton truck. She has approached fundraising much in the same way—with a big goal, determination and grace.

After 10 years of hard work, the endowment totals more than $1 million.

Michelle Bryant • Photo by Marsha Miller

Pro Bene Meritis Award

The Pro Bene Meritis Award is to honor individuals who are committed to the liberal arts, who have made outstanding contributions in professional or philanthropic pursuits, or who have participated in service related to the College of Liberal Arts at The University of Texas at Austin. This year’s honorees, Carrin Patman, Bernth Lindfors and John Trimble are profiled in the following pages.
A scholar once commented that there must be more than one Bernth O. Lindfors, given the range of roles he has played in African literature. He is literary scholar and critic, editor, bibliographer, literary traveler, and locator of obscure manuscripts and texts. But indeed, there is only one Bernth Lindfors.

Lindfors was born in a small village near the Arctic Circle in northern Sweden. Two and a half years later, his family settled in Mamaroneck, New York, where his father owned and managed Lindy’s Diner. When he was in the sixth grade, his family moved to Fairfield, Connecticut and Lindfors and his brother were sent to Mount Hermon, a boys’ boarding school in Massachusetts.

The school helped Lindfors prepare for Oberlin College. While there, he enjoyed playing varsity soccer and lacrosse. His soccer team earned the nickname the “scoreless wonders” because although the team scored hardly any goals, they went undefeated due to draws. His prowess as a center halfback in soccer earned him All-American honors and he still holds two Oberlin records in lacrosse. These achievements led to his induction into the Oberlin College Athletic Hall of Fame.

Ten days after college graduation he married classmate Judith Wells. They immediately went off to Harvard University to study for a master’s degree in teaching, and the following year he worked toward his degree in English at Northwestern, while Judith taught second grade in Evanston, Illinois.

At that point they made a decision that changed the direction of their lives. A program called Teachers for East Africa recruited them both to teach in Kenya where they would teach English, history and geography at a boys’ boarding school for the next two years. The school had a very rigid screening process allowing about 240 students from an area in Western Kenya of about a million people, attracting the brightest and most dedicated students.

“Because Africa was being decolonized towards the end of the 1950s, there was a rather rapid withdrawal of British and French administrations, and African countries were becoming independent very quickly,” Lindfors said. “One consequence of that in East Africa was that as British expatriates were leaving, they were being replaced by educated Kenyans who were mainly school teachers. As a result, the schools were in some difficulty because they didn’t have enough staff members.”

The Lindfors started a family, and during school holidays they traveled throughout East Africa, visiting game parks, attending independence celebrations in Tanganyika and Uganda, and even climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. Lindfors also started reading literary works written by African authors.

Excited by what he read, he started looking for a doctoral program in English flexible enough to allow him to write a dissertation on African literature. Thanks to government and Ford Foundation fellowships, he was able to do this at UCLA, which was building a large African Studies Center.

In 1969, he accepted a faculty position at The University of Texas at Austin, enticed by the opportunity to create a journal, Research in African Literatures, that would serve as a network of communication for people involved in African literature. The publication has become one of the premier journals in its field and is in its 35th year—Lindfors has served as editor for 20 of those years.

He has made regular trips to Africa to conduct his own research and to meet African writers and scholars. His work is held in high-esteem and has been supported by grants from the University Research Institute, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Social Science Research Council, the Fulbright Program, the American Philosophical Society, the American Library Association and the Guggenheim Foundation. He also received several NEH grants to conduct summer seminars on African literature for American college teachers; three of these were in Austin and one in South Africa, co-directed with Dr. David Attwell, professor and chair of English at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and a former doctoral student of Lindfors.

“It may be surprising, but from the perspective of prospective graduate students from Africa, and of established literary scholars, Austin, Texas was a kind of Mecca of African literary scholarship throughout the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s,” Attwell said. “It was only on arrival in Austin that one realized the extent to which the enormous institution of African literary studies at Texas depended largely on the achievements of one man.

“At the time, with South Africa isolated from the rest of the African continent, it was indeed a rare privilege to be able to share the graduate experience with young scholars from elsewhere in Africa who had made a similar journey,” he added. “In this respect, Texas and the particular chemistry of Bernth’s presence made possible a collegiality that was denied to us on our own continent.”

Lindfors has continued to make overwhelming contributions to his field. It was greatly at his urging that the English Department created the graduate specialization.
Teaching Writing With Style

John Trimble wrote the book on writing—literally. “Good prose makes us feel smart, whereas bad prose makes us feel stupid,” said Trimble, a nationally acclaimed textbook author. “My job is to help writers craft prose that leaves readers feeling smart and eager to read on.”

Trimble grew up in Buffalo, N.Y. In ninth grade, wanting to feel smarter himself, he persuaded his parents to send him to The Nichols School, known for its academic rigor. Upon graduation, he and eight classmates—a fifth of his senior class—went on to Princeton University.

The next June, needing a summer job, Trimble interviewed for a reporter position at his hometown newspaper, The Buffalo News. He landed the job and found himself assigned a desk right between two Pulitzer Prize-winners. They became his mentors. For three months they helped fine-tune his stories, teaching him to write no-nonsense, readable prose. “Because we all used typewriters back then and were always writing against deadline, I had to learn to compose in my head,” Trimble recalled. “I had to learn how to make a story worth reading, too—how to find an interesting angle, be accurate and devise a smooth narrative line.”

In his senior year of college he won a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship to graduate school. The only problem was, he’d planned to be a lawyer, not a professor, and had just been accepted to law school. But he ventured to try a year of graduate studies in English at UC Berkeley. He ended up staying on for the Ph.D., a decision he’s never regretted.

In 1970, he joined The University of Texas at Austin’s Department of English. Because his dissertation had been a breakthrough psychological study of Alexander Pope, colleagues expected him to become an 18th century British Lit scholar.

But while turning his dissertation into a book, he found himself growing even more interested in another project: helping his students with their writing. It started when they invited him to give a couple of evening talks on essay writing. Then they asked him to share his notes for those talks. That led to still more shared materials, and before he knew it, he was writing a manual on writing “Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing.”

Harvard promptly adopted the book for its freshman composition course, and some 280 other colleges followed suit. The book went on to be reprinted 32 times in its first edition alone, an all-time record at Prentice-Hall. Trimble also won two major teaching awards that year—the Jean Holloway Award for Teaching Excellence and the Student Government Teaching Excellence Award.

Meanwhile, he continued teaching literature bringing to it an emphasis on personal growth. “It’s not enough to know a lot about our field,” Trimble said. “We also need to demonstrate that the acquisition of all that knowledge has a moral payoff—that we’re improved by it. Otherwise, why should our students bother acquiring it?”

“Merely being smart or learned isn’t enough,” he added. “What counts, finally, is what we do with our portion of intelligence and learning. Has it enlarged our heart? Equipped us with sane priorities? Made us a constructive presence in our institutional culture? Made us a worthy model for our students?”

Perhaps Trimble demonstrates mentorship best in 325M, “Advanced Expository Writing,” an intense writing and editing seminar. Students have every paper heavily edited by their peers, who take turns hosting the Wednesday night classes. Trimble manages to create an ideal environment for learning, marrying high expectations with steady encouragement. He tries to model the very empathy he preaches.

“A large part of learning to write well,” he said, “involves developing enormous empathy with your readers—anticipating every step of the way where they might be confused, or bored, or angry, or indifferent.”

“When you’re writing for a smart, responsive audience like my 325M class and you get to see their detailed edits each week, you begin internalizing certain classmates,” he added. “Those people become your literary conscience. They keep you sweating even the small stuff.”

The last project of the class is called “The Outrageous Paper”—each student’s parting gift to the class. One recent student, Justin Glasson, typed up a copy of Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address” and then covered it in classic editing comments from the class. He even used different colored inks to represent the voice of various peer editors. Trimble asked to frame the hilarious spoof—it now hangs in the entry hall of his home.

New honors have continued to follow for Trimble, such as the President’s Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching Composition, The Eyes of Texas Award for outstanding contributions to student life, and charter membership in the university’s Academy of Distinguished Teachers. In 2000, he revised and expanded his textbook for a Silver Anniversary Edition that will soon be joined by a companion volume titled “Editing Your Own Prose.”

He shares his life success with his wife of 22 years, Jan, and their five children—David, Kate, Lauren, Julie and Elizabeth.

Michelle Bryant
Photo by Marsha Miller
Testosterone Dreams

If world-class hammer thrower John McEwen had tested positive for Viagra, Ritalin or Zoloft instead of the steroid tetrahydrogestrinone (THG), he would not have been suspended from the U.S. track and field team.

The recent explosion of doping scandals that have left almost no professional sport untouched highlight a disturbing possibility. Almost every record of superior athletic performance by a human being could be invalid, depending on one’s definition of “doping.”

At the same time that journalists, sports officials and some fans are raising a hue and cry over doping in sports and castigating professional athletes who are “cheaters,” several basic questions surrounding performance-enhancement drugs have yet to be answered. Why are some performance-enhancement aids, like Prozac, caffeine, ointments and sugar, okay and others, like human growth hormone and THG, not? Who is to say what is natural and what is artificial when it comes to the bottomless cocktail of pills and powders that professional athletes ingest? And what is so inherently wrong with pursuing improved physical performance in the absence of restraints?

Dr. John Hoberman, professor of Germanic languages in the College of Liberal Arts, has been researching and writing about the complicated intersection of sports, politics, science, public opinion and the Olympics for the past 20 years. He has written four books on the political, historical, racial and pharmacological dimensions of sport and published close to 100 newspaper and magazine articles on these topics. One conclusion he has reached after two decades of research centers on a puzzling fact—athletes are the only performers left in modern societies who are stigmatized for the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

“Even when you go into Jester dorm, for example,” said Hoberman, “you pass several soft drink machines and in one of them you can see cans of a liquid that is absolutely packed with stimulants—ginseng, caffeine, guarana. This liquid may enable the user to stay up all night and complete a paper for class or study for a test. If you’re a student who needs to use this drink to prepare for a competition, your final exam, it’s okay. If you’re an athlete who lives in the same dormitory and needs to prepare for your track meet by using anabolic steroids or stamina-boosting EPO, that’s expressly forbidden.”

In its campaign against doping in sports, the recently established World Anti-Doping Association has faced an uphill battle in determining acceptable versus unacceptable forms of performance enhancement. If coffee is a “natural” substance, does that make caffeine an artificial substance? Is getting pregnant to boost athletic performance “natural”? If testosterone is “natural,” does that make anabolic steroids, which have the same effects, “unnatural?”

The dichotomy between what is natural and artificial enhancement and, therefore, natural or unnatural human performance, is at the heart of a complex debate and is one of many aspects of doping that Hoberman discusses in his book “Mortal Engines: The Science of Performance and the Dehumanization of Sport” (1992). The story of the obsessive drive for bigger, better and faster human machines reads like a cross between Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein,” an H.G. Wells hair-raiser and a particularly engrossing copy of Scientific American.

According to Hoberman, the desire to push the limits of human athletic potential can be found as far back as the Greeks, who consumed sesame seeds, dried figs, mushrooms and herbs for enhanced athletic performance. From that point to the present, performance-enhancing aids have included every-
thing from monkey testicles and ultraviolet light to bat blood, dried tortoise and the banned anabolic steroids that create doping scandals on which the media feeds.

Although history is littered with examples of everyone from aviators and soldiers to professional musicians using bioactive substances to facilitate healing, heighten sexual pleasure, experience intoxication or increase productivity, it was not until the 1920s and ‘30s that a distinct stigma attached to athletic performances that were “artificially” enhanced. But fans have not stopped watching the athletes and attending the games.

“Society’s reaction to doping and performance-enhancement drugs is surprisingly ambivalent when you get right down to it,” said Hoberman. “There is fear of a world where everything that science can conceive will become a reality, and that there will be an increasing and dangerous dehumanization of life, sport included. And then there’s the fact that, even though doping is known to be rampant in professional cycling, the crowds still gather and cheer along the side of the road during the Tour de France. Athletes, scientists, medical professionals and sports officials have to wonder if the public really does care all that much about steroid use. And if no one cares, why are we still penalizing the athletes?”

According to a recent New York Times poll, more than a third of Americans stated that they did not care if professional athletes were using performance-enhancing drugs. Perhaps it is not surprising that athletes obsessed with performance throw caution to the wind and use drugs to turn back the clock, hit one more home run or prolong a tennis career, occasionally with fatal results.

In “Mortal Engines,” Hoberman notes that during 1987-88 alone, 18 Belgian and Dutch professional cyclists died. The cause of death for most of them was assumed to be megadoses of artificially produced erythropoietin, a naturally occurring hormone. An underground report released just prior to the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games asserted that many Soviet athletes feared for their health as a result of the training procedures to which they were subjected. German biochemist and international drug detection expert Manfred Donike even went on record in 1985 as stating that the legalization and consequent increased use of anabolic steroids would cause hundreds of deaths among overly zealous users.

According to Hoberman, the traditional ideal of professional athletes and Olympians who adhere to the “gentlemanly” ideals of sportsmanship, fairness and self-restraint is almost quaint and has been replaced by adherence to the “performance principle.” In the absence of self-restraint and good, old-fashioned honesty, drug testing becomes the only measure of the “integrity” of athletes who often are held up as role models.

“Drugs are being created that are impossible to detect in the body and many athletes are willing to take any risk to break a record or win a game, so the medical and health aspect of doping is of great importance,” said Hoberman. “Drug testing is often a farce, and this means that many professional athletes are literally risking their health or even their lives to lift more pounds, run faster or ride a bike farther. We’re looking at an ethical issue with doping, because it opposes ideas of fair play and sportsmanship. There’s a medical angle in that there are potentially harmful effects that may be unknown until it’s too late. And then there’s the anthropological point that certain enhancements can produce people who seem to be ‘unnatural’ or grotesque.”

Hoberman’s research has allowed him to explore a brave new world in which athletes and scientists persuade the public that drug use is acceptable and hormonal therapies are increasingly recommended for an aging population. His personal view of enhancement, however, includes both a therapeutic pragmatism as well as a purist’s desire for a simpler era when athletes were assumed, often erroneously, to be drug-free.

“I think my interest in sports began when I was a boy and saw Roger Bannister break the four-minute barrier,” said Hoberman. “It was a great moment in sports and it fascinated me. Also, I’ve been a runner for most of my life. With corruption so prevalent in sports federations, with the hypocrisy involved in requiring professional athletes to be ‘clean’ while others are allowed to take everything from Ritalin to human growth hormone, and with a shortage of reliable drug tests for athletes, I don’t see drug-free sport in our future. But it would really be nice to see the wholesome aspect restored.”

Kay Randall
Photos by Marsha Miller
Come to Chersonesos

One of the most far-flung outposts of Greek civilization is quietly situated on the Black Sea coast of Ukraine. The 2,500-year-old city of Chersonesos has been home to the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and Slavs and has survived invasions by the Mongols, Ottoman Turks and others. It’s the entry point of the Orthodox faith to Russia. It’s neighbor to modern Sevastopol, the secretive site of the Soviet Black Sea fleet. Yet few outside the region have heard of the site, and even fewer have visited.

This is expected to change in coming decades, due in large part to the work of The University of Texas at Austin’s Institute of Classical Archaeology (ICA).

ICA has been working at Chersonesos since 1992 when its director and founder, Dr. Joseph Coleman Carter, was invited to the site by the National Preserve of Tauric Chersonesos. Over the next decade, ICA created long-term collaborations with the Preserve and the governments of Ukraine and Sevastopol. Those collaborations evolved beyond simply excavating the site.

The organizations are now working together on multiple plans to preserve Chersonesos for future generations, with very substantial backing from the Packard Humanities Institute (PHI) enabling them to do so. PHI is a non-profit foundation established to create tools for basic research in the humanities and to foster public interest in the history, literature, and music of the past.

Among the projects is the creation of a unique archaeological park at Chersonesos that will preserve the unique ancient landscape of the city and its territory, or “chora.” Visitors will witness ancient wheat production, an ancient vineyard and gardens, including an herb garden. It will be the first-ever park of a chora, illuminating rural life of the past for visitors and bringing tourists to the area to help stimulate the local economy.

Chersonesos is sometimes compared to the famous site of Pompeii, the ancient city perpetually preserved after the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius buried it in ash. The territory of Chersonesos contains many stone farmhouses, and much of the dense grid of country lanes that divided the chora still exists. And the artifacts recovered at the site—from decorated sarcophagi to mosaic floors to household items in blue glass—are as impressive as those found at any site around the world.

“Here is a city that is almost completely preserved, because nothing was built over it,” said Carter. “It was simply abandoned.”

Today locals pass through the ancient city to get to the beaches on its coast, and a handful of families come to the chora to visit their dachas, or country homes. But while Ukraine acknowledges Chersonesos as a critical part of its cultural heritage, making this monument to the past accessible to the world has been a challenge.

ICA first helped by applying on behalf of the Preserve to the World Monuments Fund to put Chersonesos on the list of most endangered sites. When the Ukrainian government came to the conclusion that it should nominate the site to the UNESCO World Heritage List, ICA

“No other project has had the same range that we have in terms of the scientific approaches that have been employed.”
stepped in to assist. Plans for conserving the site and creating an archaeological park are also driven by the goals of the Preserve itself.

Working with preservation at this level is a recent turn for ICA. Its real claim to fame is its pioneering work in the archaeology of the chora. In fact, ICA is recognized as an international leader in the study of rural populations in the classical world.

Archaeologists have generally focused on the city, just as ancient historians focused on the urban culture. Yet even in the ancient world, the city only represented a portion of the life of the populace.

“We have plenty of evidence to show that the majority of the ancient world probably lived in the countryside, contrary to what scholars have thought in the past,” said Carter.

The economy of the ancient world was, to a large extent, based on agriculture, and much of its population lived outside the cities. In fact, the cities themselves grew up around areas where good farmland was discovered and the economic basis for life was established. The city could not survive in isolation.

ICA's groundbreaking project on the study of rural populations began in 1974 at Metaponto in the far south of Italy.

“We've carried archaeology a bit further than classical archaeologists have in the past,” said Carter. “We look to economic motivations and causative explanations that go beyond generals and battles and so forth. What was the situation of the land? Why were these people suffering from malaria and syphilis? What crops were they raising? Why did their economy fail?”

Answering questions like these requires a multidisciplinary approach. Archaeologists working with ICA still survey the land. But at the same time paleobotanists study seeds to determine what crops were common in the ancient world. Geomorphologists conduct intense studies of the soil. Physical anthropologists examine human remains. ICA even helped move archaeology into the space age.

ICA has partnered with the university’s Center for Space Research (CSR) to use remote sensing images from space to view ancient territories. ICA and CSR received a major grant from NASA to study the imagery over Chersonesos, which enables researchers to better understand the way land was divided in the chora.

This scientific approach has allowed ICA to shed light on a broader swath of the ancient world than ever before. For example, ICA has published detailed studies on the diet and nutrition of the people of Metaponto and its surroundings. At the same time it has examined the relationships between colonizing peoples and those who are colonized. And in a groundbreaking finding, it discovered that the ancient people of Metaponto suffered from syphilis, a disease thought to have been introduced to Europe from the new world, but actually present in Metaponto 2,000 years before Columbus. ICA's work at Metaponto is ongoing, and its discoveries at Metaponto made ICA uniquely qualified to assist in excavations at Chersonesos.

Chersonesos is where Slavic archaeology began, and excavations at the ancient city site have been underway for almost two centuries. But among Chersonesos’s distinguishing features is that its chora is one of the best-preserved monuments of its kind in the world, and a grid of ancient roads and the ruins of about 140 rural estates exist to this day.

As ICA brings the full range of archaeological tools to the chora of Chersonesos, Chersonesos brings a new focus to ICA. The need to not just excavate but also preserve and develop the site encouraged ICA to evolve from an organization focused on rural archaeology to one geared toward public archaeology as well.
Gautam Ganeshan has orchestrated his college curriculum with brilliance. He has gotten the most out of his education by approaching his class selection, not as a way to fill requirements, but as a way to enrich himself as a person and a musician.

Ganeshan, from Sugar Land, Texas, is a senior majoring in Plan II and philosophy, with a minor in French. He is an accomplished violinist and also plays the tabla, a type of drum from India.

“I feel like I’ve had the opportunity with my Plan II degree to take courses in many of the departments within the College of Liberal Arts,” Ganeshan said. “I’ve been able to benefit from an interdisciplinary education without having to struggle to incorporate different areas that are important to me.

“It’s worth it to take classes you want to take,” he added. “Abundance is a fundamental principle of the universe. So, if you do what you really feel like doing you will find support. This is the biggest university in the country. It is a place for any passion that you bring. If you honor that, you’ll find a way to do what you really love.”

The combination of living in Austin, the live music capital of the world, and attending The University of Texas at Austin has proven to be a nurturing environment for Ganeshan’s love of music. He has been able to blend his academic studies with his passion for music. His thesis will be a violin performance of improvisation in Carnatic music, the classical music traditions of Southern India.

“Music was a passion I came in with, but I decided to put it front and center while I was at the university,” Ganeshan said. “As a college student, I became involved in music in ways I hadn’t predicted I would.”

Ganeshan performs in a jazz combo and enjoys performing the classical music of India.

During his junior year of college, he had the opportunity to study in India for two semesters with a program administered by the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He studied in Tamil Nadu, the state that his parents are originally from, learning the Tamil language and studying music performance on the violin. Ganeshan had a chance to study the Tamil language a year prior to that at the university. Although he had learned to speak and understand some of the language from his parents, it wasn’t
until his college experience that he was able to read and write the language, and gain fluency.

Ganeshan tried to make the most of every moment while working on his research for his thesis in the city of Madurai.

“I knew I would be writing a thesis when I came back,” he said. “So, I decided I’d rather use my time to do the research, and save the writing and performance part for when I returned to Texas.”

Like any great experience, it is the people that make the difference. Ganeshan was fortunate enough to have two amazing instructors while in Madurai that influenced his work.

“I can’t imagine any scholar going to that city and not wanting to meet Rajasekaran, the resident coordinator of the Wisconsin program,” Ganeshan said. “He just knows so many people and he has been with the program for so long. He is knowledgeable, friendly and energetic.

“Another great resource for me was my violin teacher Sachidanandan,” he added. “He was a guru I felt very comfortable with, and he helped situate me in the music community of Madurai. Those two people were really keystones in my experience there.”

During this time, Ganeshan was also asked to be a music consultant on a documentary film about Aravind Eye Hospital, a hospital that provides free service to the community.

“People who are in Madurai from the United States eventually meet each other somehow; they go to common places,” Ganeshan said. “I met a film student from the States who was doing a documentary on the eye hospital. She found out I was doing music there and asked me to consult on the project. I took my violin and had someone accompany me at the recording studio.”

He also works as an undergraduate intern at the Harry Ransom Center. He has been charged with the task of organizing the manuscripts of R.K. Narayan, a modern Indian author writing in English. Some of the materials in the archive include Narayan’s passports, letters from his granddaughters and correspondence with two different prime ministers of India. There are also materials related to his time in parliament, as well as manuscripts and corrected proofs of his literary work.

“It’s fun for me because I like reading what he writes and I also like to see who he corresponded with,” Ganeshan said. “Having been in India for a while and having grown up an Indian American, I feel like I have some special ways of relating to the materials. For instance, Narayan was a member of the Music Academy in Madras where I have seen many performances. It’s fun to think that this man of letters whose work I’m organizing all the way here in Texas had a close relationship with that same institution. Some of the information in the collection is actually in Tamil, which I’m fortunate to be able to read.”

Ganeshan was awarded the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship and the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies. Both fellowships provide financial assistance to students who have demonstrated superior academic ability and achievement to pursue graduate studies. In further work, Ganeshan will study ethnomusicology, a field that combines the study of music with methodologies in anthropology and ethnographic research. He has been accepted to the program at UCLA.

Michelle Bryant
Photos by Marsha Miller
The Rest is History

Friar Society. The following week, the Silver Spurs paid him a surprise visit during class when they presented him with the $6,000 Silver Spurs Centennial Teaching Fellowship.

Forgie teaches classes on U.S. political and cultural history from 1763 to 1877 and the U.S. Constitution, and is particularly interested in the Civil War era. He is the author of “Patricide in the House Divided: A Psychological Interpretation of Lincoln and His Age,” and is currently researching Northern public conversations during the period.

“Northerners in the 1860s were looking out at the Civil War much in the same way that we look at the war on terror,” Forgie said. “They had no idea how long it would last, who would prevail, what it would take to prevail, and what the world would look like when it was over.

“When you are inside a historical experience it looks very different from how it looks after the story ends,” he added. “And once it is over, it is hard to get back inside of the mindset of people who don’t know how it’s going to end.”

“When you get to the battle of Appomattox in 1865, the story of the Civil War freezes,” Forgie said. “Once you know the outcome, you can begin to discuss why one side or the other won or lost, and you can begin to determine turning points. But before Appomattox, many outcomes seemed possible. The Confederacy might win and gain its independence—or it might take control of the United States.

“I’m struck by how often I encounter the expression of fear among Northerners that the ultimate goal of the slave-holding class was not independence, but rather to take over the entire United States,” he added.
Newspaper editorials and speeches fueled the fire, such as a speech given by Alexander Stephens, vice president of the Confederacy, boasting about absorbing Northern states in the future. There was also the issue of geography. There would be a 1500-mile border across the United States, more or less imaginary. Previously, slaves wanting to escape would need to make it to Canada to be safe, but if the South had gained independence, that border would have been moved much closer—making slavery more vulnerable.

To gain insight into Northern perspectives, Forgie has searched through numerous 19th century materials including newspapers, pamphlet literature, magazines, sermons, diaries, letters and transcripts of speeches. He tries to uncover what the Northerners thought the war was about and what they saw as being at stake.

“I’m fascinated with the way that under the banner of the Union, one sees different groups working together cooperatively, but jockeying for advantage—and yet none of them are really overly worried about the Union, it’s just the common denominator,” Forgie said. “They tended to operate on the assumption that saving the Union was inevitable.”

 Forgie breaks the Union coalition into three separate groups, based on their differing priorities. There were the radicals, who wanted to destroy slavery and the slave-holding class. They feared the war would end in a political settlement in which the slave-holding class would give up their drive for independence in return for getting to keep slavery. There were the conservatives, whose main concern was to safeguard the Constitution. And there was a middle group, whom he labels the nationalists, who wanted to save the republic by defending the authority of government against the danger of anarchy. Their great dread was that the rebellion would legitimize force as a factor in ordinary American politics.

Much of Forgie’s research is shaped by student questions and commentary from the classroom. He recalls questions such as “Why would a farm boy from Michigan come down and risk his life to force Alabama or Texas to stay in the Union?” or “By forcing Texans to stay in the Union, aren’t you no longer saving the Union, but, in fact, changing its nature, because now they are held under the pressure of bayonets to stay?”

Forgie encourages his students to learn critical analysis and how to think on their feet. Some students say “they always thought history was boring,” associating it with lots of memorization. But Forgie finds a way of adding a personal dimension to lessons, introducing his students to people throughout history both famous and ordinary. He finds a way to make them care. It is that thoughtfulness that has distinguished him as a teacher.

Forgie has always been interested in history. Perhaps he was first influenced by his historic surroundings, growing up outside of Philadelphia. His home was just 10 miles from Valley Forge and the Liberty Bell, and there seemed to be some part of history surrounding him every step of the way. Although his passion for history was apparent at an early age, he did not realize it was his career calling until a couple years into law school.

“I went to law school for the same reason a lot of people go to law school,” Forgie said, “it seemed like a good idea at the time. There wasn’t anything else competing. I got experience in analytical thinking, expressing myself, and thinking more clearly. Yet, at night, when I should have been preparing my law cases for the next day’s class, I was reading history. I did this for two years without noticing, or realizing what it might mean.”

In the spring of his second year of law school at Stanford University, Forgie was in a bookstore, when he should have been on his way to class, thumbing through a new history paperback.

“The light bulb went on,” he said. “It was at that moment in my life that I knew I was going to be a history teacher.”

Forgie eventually earned degrees in both law and history. He now serves as the pre-law advisor in the History Department.

“I see a lot of undergraduates who are anxious because they don’t know what they want to do with their lives and they worry about whether a liberal arts degree is a wise thing to pursue,” Forgie said. “I want to reassure them that everyone has different timetables and urge them to listen to the voice inside their head that is trying to tell them what their true interests are.”

Michelle Bryant • Photos by Marsha Miller
What was the last Japanese movie you saw? Chances are it was “Spirited Away,” the largest grossing movie ever to come out of that country, or maybe it was “Princess Mononoke,” another very popular film. The better question may be, “What was the last live-action Japanese movie you saw?”

That’s because more than half of all movies and television programs produced in Japan are animation, or anime as it is better known. But these are not the cartoons of your youth—they are often sophisticated, sometimes violent, and frequently have adult themes. You won’t find the likes of Betty and Barney Rubble in these films. Instead, you’ll see complex stories including love, growing up and female empowerment.

“Dr. Susan Napier, the Mitsubishi Professor of Japanese Studies in the Department of Asian Studies in the College of Liberal Arts first chanced upon these stories a dozen years ago when a student showed her a Japanese comic book, or manga. Rather than the children’s entertainment she expected, Napier found herself drawn into an intricate storyline and richly detailed art.

“This student showed me a manga called “Akira,” she said. “It was a groundbreaking manga that was later turned into anime and started a tidal wave. The artwork was beautiful—very dark and set in a post-apocalyptic future. That alone was so very different from my favorite Superman comics.

Not too much later, Napier happened to be in London when the anime “Akira” was released there.

“I was just amazed,” she said. “I loved animation as a kid, but this was very different from any Disney animation I had ever seen. It was just superb, but darker and the music was very intense—it was an extraordinary, almost visceral experience. So much more sophisticated than I ever dreamed.”

Seeing this film led her to write a paper to present at a conference on Japanese popular culture, which in turn led to writing her third book, “Anime: from Akira to Princess Mononoke,” her book that was published in 2001. The book is currently in its fourth edition and already has been translated into Japanese, and soon into Korean.

“When I first presented at this conference, about half of the audience—those over 40—was unimpressed and somewhat disturbed,” she said. “They were asking why I was wasting my time on this. The other younger half was very interested because they too had students coming to them to discuss it. I’ve found that it is such a huge subject, there are lots of interesting ways to approach it.”
Certainly, anime has made its place into the hearts of American children with shows like “Pokemon” and “Dragonball Z,” but its popularity hardly ends at adolescence. Napier is currently working on a book about anime fans and what it is about anime that resonates with people of all ages and cultures.

“When I ask people why they like anime, one of the first things they say is because it is different,” Napier said. “They usually mean the animated style, the music, more adult content with challenging themes and more complex stories. In the old days you wouldn’t have Archie and Jughead dealing with the apocalypse.”

Though the films are animated, Napier said that people often say that the stories feel more real than Hollywood cinema.

“You don’t always have a happy ending,” she said. “In America, we’ve had this desire for resolution—the guy and girl get married and go off into the sunset with everything tied up with a little bow at the end. Of course, real life is not necessarily like that—one of the things that fascinates me is when people say anime is more real than Hollywood film. They are saying animated work is more real than live action through the psychology of the stories, and the characters deal with things in a way that is more real. In the case of anime, it doesn’t always work out. Sometimes the hero is left wandering or dead, and doesn’t get the girl or the guy. I think that especially for young adults who are dealing with a difficult world, it is strangely comforting not to see the Hollywood ending, but one they can identify with.”

Anime’s reach goes well beyond Japan and the U.S.—a glance at a schedule of anime festivals turns up events in Costa Rica, Poland, Brazil, France and Germany to name a few.

“At this point, it is the only real alternative to American popular culture,” Napier said. “What is fascinating is that—in an almost stealth operation—Japanese popular culture is huge. Not just anime and manga, but also things like Hello Kitty and video games. This is really making inroads into worldwide popular culture. It’s very exciting to think that a very distinctive culture like Japan could have such an impact on the rest of the world.”

While anime does have its own visual style, one component of that style is the lack of national, racial, and sometimes even gender distinction in the characters. The characters generally do not have the facial characteristics of the Japanese, or of any other nationality for that matter.

“One thing that heartens me about this new world we are living in, is that with animation you don’t have to look a certain way,” she said. “You are no longer in a representational world where you have to be a white female or a Hispanic male—all of a sudden you can be anything you like. Everyone can enjoy this animated world where we have the freedom to choose any identity we like.”

One thing noticeably different about Japanese anime versus American productions is the abundance of female protagonists. In addition to the very popular and mainstream “Spirited Away,” and “Princess Mononoke,” females are the central players in other series and films such as “Ghost in the Shell,” “Vampire Princess Miyu,” and “Revolutionary Girl Utena.”

“There is a tremendous number of anime and manga that star female protagonists,” Napier said. “A lot of people appreciate seeing a strong female character doing things, taking an active role in helping the world and having an interesting and active life.

But why is it so popular in Japan—a very patriarchal society? Napier believes you have to look at the country’s past as well as its place in today’s cultural landscape.

“Hayao Miyazaki (director of “Spirited Away” and “Princess Mononoke”) definitely likes to use female

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Japanese anime has an abundance of female protagonists.

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Research

Anime, continued on page 20
Dr. Mary Lou McIlany, a retired internist and chest physician, has recently established an endowed presidential fellowship in honor of her nephew, Bill McIlhany, an Austin-based attorney and graduate of The University of Texas' School of Law in 1983. He is a partner in the law firm of Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Dr. McIlany is a native of Wheeler, Texas, where she was valedictorian of her class, and now resides in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1939, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the university with highest honors and a near perfect grade point. She would go on to earn her master's degree in social service from the University of Chicago and her doctorate degree in medicine from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

"Establishment of this fellowship is an expression of the inspiring atmosphere at The University of Texas," McIlany said. "We were fortunate to have teaching by outstanding researchers who were also great classroom teachers."

"The biblical quotation chiseled in stone above the portal of the Administration Building was well chosen: 'You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.' Free indeed!"

McIlany’s work has taken her many places. During the 1950s alone, she interned at Vanderbilt Hospital and was a resident in internal medicine at Queen’s Hospital, Honolulu. She did her fellowship in internal medicine at the Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minnesota, where she conducted research on the heritability of blood pressure in a study that involved 200 twins. She then traveled to France for a fellowship at the University of Nancy. She was a staff physician at Florida State Tuberculosis Association, Lantana, where she did research on the use of Prednisone in life threatening early tuberculosis. And from 1959-1960, she did a fellowship in high altitude physiology at Lovelace Foundation Albuquerque, New Mexico.

She served as a staff physician at the Veterans Administration Hospitals at Albuquerque and Baltimore, and her career as a consultant in pulmonary diseases at the Social Security Administration, Woodland, Maryland spanned two decades.

During the 1970s, she conducted some of the first research, at John Hopkins and the University of Maryland, on the effect of air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and ozone on the mechanics of breathing.

Despite McIlany’s many accomplishments she remains humble and attributes her success to the preparation she received at The University of Texas at Austin.

Michelle Bryant
Anime
Continued from Page 18

characters,” she said. “He has said that it makes the story line more interesting than if you use an archetypical male hero—it can be fresher and more original.

“I think there may be a deeper subtext, a fascination with the female character as it represents modern Japan,” she continued. “Throughout Japanese culture the female principle has been very important. Early Japanese novels were written by women, which is very unusual, and their female protagonists were very important. If you look at folklore, there are many strong female characters, both good and bad. I think to some extent Japan often identifies itself in more of a female way, despite having a patriarchal culture.

“Over the last couple of decades, there has been more interest in the woman—the young girl in particular, I think this may be a reflection of Japan’s unease with itself and where it is going,” Napier commented. “I wonder if it is a projection about what it is to be Japanese in the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century, particularly in a film like ‘Spirited Away.’ I don’t think its any accident that it’s a young girl pictured; I think it is these girls that are seen as representing the Japanese psyche. I think one reason it may resonate in America is that we are also wondering where we’re going, who we are—not just female audiences but male audiences as well. It may be that we connect with the more vulnerable, less fixed kind of character of a girl rather than a boy who is more determined. A girl can explore things more and I think both male and female audiences can respond to that.”

Robin Gerrow
Photos by Marsha Miller

Chersonesos
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“Public archaeology is a branch of archaeology where you try to combine the interests of all parties, scholars and the local community, the government and the tourism sector,” said Glenn Mack, Ukraine project director at ICA. “You try to bring them all together to reach an agreement for the common good. And the common good is to preserve these monuments, these areas of ancient civilization, and make them physically and intellectually accessible.”

ICA will continue to partner with the Preserve and the Ukrainian and Crimean governments to develop Chersonesos into a site that will draw tourists and scholars from all over the world. And a first step in generating interest in the site is making the site’s history and findings available.

To that end, ICA and the National Preserve of Chersonesos published the book “Crimean Chersonesos: City, Chora, Museum, and Environs” last fall. The book marks the first time since 1913 that anything extensive has been written in English about the site. And it’s a stunning publication, featuring hundreds of color photographs and architectural reconstructions of the site. It’s a first introduction of the site to the world, and represents the kind of vision that ICA brings to the field of archaeology.

“Excavation and study, yes, we do both every summer,” said Mack. “But the publications and the building of a laboratory at the museum and undertaking an archaeological park represent a significant long-term plan. Most archaeologists wouldn’t commit themselves to such a degree.”

But once upon a time, most archaeologists wouldn’t bother studying the territory outside the city. ICA has a 30-year history of expanding the scope of archaeological investigation.

“What ICA has done is change the approach to archaeology in a broad sense,” said Carter. “Archaeology is no longer just pots and walls.”

Vivé Griffith

Lindfors
Continued from Page 6

tion in Ethnic and Third World Literatures, a program ranked third in the country by U.S. News and World Report. He is also the author of 10 books, the latest of which will be published this spring.

Perhaps one of his greatest contributions was the recent donation of his personal library to the University of Natal in South Africa. It has taken Lindfors 40 years to compile a collection of 12,000 books, more than 300 journals, manuscripts, audio and videotapes and transcripts—representing the literature of almost the entire continent.

In 2000, Lindfors received the university’s Career Research Excellence Award and the African Studies Associations’ Distinguished Africanist Award. He has also been awarded two honorary doctorates, one from the University of Umea in Sweden in 1989, and the other from the University of Natal in 2002.

Michelle Bryant
Photo by Marsha Miller
Othell Ballage

He is inspired by writers such as Toni Morrison, Shakespeare, Keats and Cummings. His favorite book of poems is a compilation of African writers, “Poems of Black Africa,” edited by Wole Soyinka.

His guiding principle is, “It is important to be genuine and care about the rest of the world and the people around you.”

With his father in the military, Ballage was an “army brat” traveling between Fort Hood, Germany and Colorado. He received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction in education, English and language arts from The University of Texas at Austin.

During graduate school, he had a friend and neighbor who was a mentor and tutor for athletics and recommended it to Ballage. He began working for men’s athletics as a mentor/tutor for the basketball team and became the basketball academic coordinator.

Ballage eventually accepted a position as academic adviser in the College of Liberal Arts. He has worked at the university for nearly 11 years.

“Working with the students is what I enjoy the most,” said Ballage, who received the 2003 Dean’s Award for Excellent Service to the College of Liberal Arts. “I also enjoy the collegiality of working with people who are devoted to making the students’ college experience as easy as possible in terms of avoiding pitfalls.”

Michelle Bryant

“Writing poetry is my heart.”

Othell Ballage makes academic advising look like poetry in motion. That’s more than fitting, since his passion is writing—particularly poetry.

“Writing poetry is my heart,” Ballage said. “To write poetry well, you really have to work at it and have a strong understanding of language.”

If you are interested in supporting the College of Liberal Arts at The University of Texas at Austin, you may visit our contribution page at http://www.utexas.edu/cola/support_liberal_arts/pledge/, or mail the form below to Development Office, G6300, Austin, TX 78712.

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Frank Denius is a Distinguished Alumnus of The University of Texas at Austin and supporter of the Normandy Scholars Program. He is one of the most decorated veterans of World War II.

What made you want to support the Normandy Scholars Program?
It is a period of not only American history, but also world history, that forever should be known and preserved.

What do you feel are the greatest benefits students receive in a program like this?
The students receive a better understanding of the history of World War II and the sacrifices that have been made to ensure freedom.

What are some of the questions students have asked you prior to their visit?
They want to know what it was like to be in combat. Did we feel like we were fighting for freedom or our country? I told them we were fighting for each other. They really want to hear first hand what it was like and what the emotions were like. They asked if I was scared, and I said I was scared all the time.

About the Program
The Normandy Scholars Program in the College of Liberal Arts offers undergraduate students an intensive study of World War II, which concludes with an educational tour of European battlefields and historical sites.

To contribute to this endowed fund, contact the Development Office at 512-475-9763 or 512-471-8861.

Photo by Tommy Kile
Jake Pickle, who graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1938, has been a man of distinction, both on the campus and throughout Austin and the State of Texas, both of which he loves. He served as student body president at The University of Texas at Austin, served in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II, and helped found KVET radio when the war ended. Pickle represented Austin as a member of U.S. Congress from 1963 to 1995.

In 1992, an endowment was established in Congressman Pickle’s honor. It is only $143,000 away from the $1 million necessary to fully fund a Chair in Congressional Studies. Reaching the goal of $1 million will allow the Government Department, currently the department with the highest enrollment on the campus, to hire additional faculty of national renown.

Please contact the Development Office at (512) 471-8861 or (512) 475-9763 to contribute to the Jake Pickle Endowment.

Photo by Dan Bullock