Think you’ve seen it all this autumn, when it comes to nasty politics?

Think again.

To get viewers in the spirit of the season, the Addison Gallery of American Art features a small exhibition of political images from the Addison’s permanent collection. Titled Getting Nasty: Politics, Patriotism and Works on Paper, the show continues through Jan. 5, 2005.

Curated by Brian T. Allen, the Addison’s new Mary Stripp and R. Crosby Kemper director, Getting Nasty runs the timeline from 1854 to around 1981 and includes works in engraving, wood engraving and photography. It hangs in the Addison’s central corridor gallery, which Allen hopes to turn into

Getting Nasty at the Addison

Stump Speaking [The County Election] shows a give-and-take between candidate and crowd in an atmosphere of fundamental sanity and civility. An engraving on paper, it was created by John Sartain (1808–1894) in 1854 from an original by George Caleb Bingham, an early chronicler of American campaigning. Bingham helped define democracy in the popular imagination as a system best equipped to air and to decide issues of civic importance.

More Bravado, above right, a wood engraving on newsprint by Thomas Nast (1840–1902), appeared in Harper’s Weekly in 1877. According to Allen, it is part of a trio of cartoons in the exhibition where Nast “considers the disputed 1876 presidential election, a contest with many parallels to the 2000 election.” Here, the voter appears to be blindfolded. In another of the works, which Allen calls “gravely insulting,” Nast suggests that recently freed and uneducated African-Americans in the South and recent immigrants in the North were manipulated by both Republican and Democratic bosses in equal measure to keep or gain power. Above left, much as Nast’s cartoons helped define the public’s view of politics, by the 1960s television was crafting the period’s civic icons. This photographic montage by Donald Blumberg represents a 1969 TV address that “suggests the multiple agendas and frequent repositionings for which Richard Nixon became famous,” Allen writes.
FEATURES

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BIOGRAPHERS ON BIOGRAPHY

by Theresa Pease
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REPORT OF GIVING 2003-04
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The history of the world,” Thomas Carlyle once wrote, “is but the biography of great men.” But English author Philip Guedalla, in Supers and Supermen, a collection of historical profiles and skits, treats the subject a little less seriously, saying that “biography, like big-game hunting, is one of the recognized forms of sport.” Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Stacy Schiff ’78, on the other hand, likens the challenge to the work of an investigative journalist or private eye. “What makes a biographer,” she confides, “is the ability to ask the hard question, to find the errant detail and pursue it with amazing perseverance. A lot of it is sleuthing; a lot of it is Nancy Drew on a higher level.”

Be they historians or athletes, detectives or tough-minded reporters, four alumni biographers who recently discussed their profession with the Andover Bulletin agree there is something of the thrill of the hunt involved in trying to encapsulate another person’s life.
Biographer Stacy Schiff launched her career in what some may think an unlikely way. With little background in history and no experience as a journalist or author, the Williams College graduate quit a job in the New York publishing industry, picked a somewhat obscure literary figure as her subject and within two months managed to get an advance for her first book.

But, then, Schiff says, there really is no preordained path for aspiring chroniclers of lives. Kids don’t just walk into their kindergarten classrooms and declare, “I want to be a biographer when I grow up.” Other than working as, say, a private eye or an investigative journalist, the only adequate preparation is exercising a voracious curiosity about lives. Schiff had that.

The result of her derring-do was a biography of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, known to most as the author of The Little Prince, but not much recognized as the aviator-adventurer Schiff limned in her book. Titled Saint-Exupéry, it received smash-hit reviews and made her one of two runners-up for the 1995 Pulitzer Prize in biography. When she called her agent following the announcement—none too shabby an achievement for a first-time author—the woman reminded her, “Stacy, that means you lost.”

Undaunted, Schiff made an even more audacious choice for her second foray into the literary world. In Vera (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov), she wrote about the self-effacing figure behind the controversial novelist. For her efforts at shedding light on Russian émigré Vera Slonim Nabokov’s subtle and not-so-subtle influence, her steely will and the unusually symbiotic relationship the couple shared, Schiff got another set of exuberant notices and the 1999 Pulitzer.

With a winning formula beginning to shape up, one might expect Schiff to go poking again behind the curtains and masks of the literati, turning up another little-known subject to highlight. Instead, she directed her attention to one of the most written-about figures in history—American patriot, statesman and inventor Benjamin Franklin. Type his name in the “subject” line on amazon.com, and you’ll get 27,817 hits. Seek it in the “title” line on barnesandnoble.com, and you’ll get 1,302.

What inspired Schiff to go for 1,303?
“Asking a biographer how she chooses her subject is like asking how she chose her spouse. You can’t always explain your reasons, and as the intimacy deepens your reasons change.”

“Asking a biographer how she chooses her subject is like asking how she chose her spouse. You can’t always explain your reasons, and as the intimacy deepens your reasons change. All I can say is that Ben Franklin is uncommonly charismatic. There was an enormous pull there for me. Also, I had written twice about the 20th century, and I wanted to try something different. I had written about one life, and then about two lives, but I wanted to do something bigger. I wanted to illuminate a period of American history that was discordant with what we generally think of as the American character,” she says.

The period she chose to focus on was an eight-year tour of duty Franklin spent in France, cossetting the French court and trying—successfully—to engage their financial and military assistance for American patriots in the revolution against England. It was a period when the ferociously independent America of simple farmers and tradesmen, sons and daughters of folks who had left Europe for an unknown wilderness rather than bow to Old World aristocracy, was willing to beg on Versailles’ doorstep for assistance. They needed that help to throw off France’s longtime adversaries in London.

And the period was as uncharacteristic of Franklin as it was of the fledgling nation he represented. Here you had this fiercely independent, plain-spoken son of a Boston candlemaker, a man who tinkered with inventions that required the rolling-up of sleeves, incongruously replanted in the breast of the French court. There his charge was to primp and pamper, flatter and be flattered, always wearing the mask of the career diplomat. “He was completely out of his element,” says Schiff, who marveled in one essay that the nascent republic had “sent Franklin—stout, balding and 70—to play the role of seductive ingénue.”

Many people, Schiff acknowledges, have managed to amass a blend of facts and mythology about Franklin’s years in Paris. They know (or think) that he was a bon vivant, regarded by sophisticated Europe as both the “noble savage” and the consummate ladies’ man, and that he was, along with Voltaire, one of the two most popular men in the world, his image emblazoned on souvenirs from medallions to snuff boxes. They have heard that wives thronged flirtatiously to him while husbands looked the other way. His charm captured the imaginations of creative minds who spun fanciful yarns; for example, his visit is the subject of a romantic German novel, and in 1965 Robert Preston played the title character in the Broadway musical Ben Franklin in Paris.

Schiff feels bad about debunking some of the more romantic notions of Paris’ famous visitor. “There are some serious flirtations, but no big sexual episodes in this book, and, contrary to popular lore, he was not a wild-haired man costumed for effect in Quaker clothes,” she says. “It is a little disappointing to let some of those old legends die.” What she hopes to add to the story is more to the point, though. Even people who revel in salacious and charming stories about the popular grand-père tend to forget the serious business that sent him to France.

“They don’t understand how essential his role was to the success of the American Revolution. They tend to forget the debt we have to France, and how France’s participation was the direct outcome of work done by Franklin—not Franklin the toast of the town, but Franklin the polished and able career diplomat,” Schiff says.

In other words, Americans owe Franklin not just for bifocals and cottage stoves; we owe him for our national sovereignty.

Schiff began her research in 1999. Unlike when she was preparing for the Saint-Exupéry and Nabokov books, she obviously could not interview friends, enemies, lovers, servants and colleagues of people who knew her subject. This time she was alone with the documents of history.

Several things helped facilitate the work. First, she says, Franklin was a clear and articulate writer. “I don’t think he was capable of constructing an awkward or incomprehensible sentence, and his wit just sparkles off the page. When he wanted to wax rhapsodic about the future of America, nobody, but nobody, could do it better,” she says. Also, Franklin’s time in Paris was his most well documented. In fact, Schiff says, there are two-and-a-half times more documents surviving from Franklin’s
Paris years than from the rest of his life combined. Though delved into by diplomatic historians, this treasure trove was little used by Franklin biographers, who have been hesitant to research American history on a foreign shore. The location was not a disincentive to Schiff, though. Fluent in French, she moved her family there for a year while she did her research.

Biographers often speak of intimate connections with their subjects: knowing them, loving them, feeling angry or disgusted with them sometimes and eventually becoming almost inextricably enmeshed with them. Schiff says she can’t read a newspaper nowadays without registering two reactions to each headline: hers and Franklin’s.

But getting inside Franklin’s mind was harder for her than melding with Saint-Exupery and Nabokov.

“At first it took me a long time to figure out why,” she says. “Then I realized I was focusing on a situation in which it was essential for Franklin constantly to pose. As a diplomat, he had to play his cards very close to his vest. Also, it was the 18th century. I had to keep in mind cultural differences, including the lack of timely communications with America. A letter, in the best of circumstances, could take three months to reach its destination; for Franklin, Yorktown didn’t even happen until two months later. What’s more, I could not see in my mind the places where the events took place. Apart from Versailles, Paris in Franklin’s day looked and felt little like Paris today.”

The hardest part?

She hesitates little before answering, “It is disconcerting that I could not hear his voice in my mind. Saint-Exupery had made little wax recordings of himself talking to his filmmaker friend Jean Renoir, and in hearing them I could understand his considerable, seductive charm. I had also heard recordings of Vera Nabokov’s voice, which was helpful. Franklin wrote eloquently about how much he liked the Boston turn of phrase, but what did he sound like? None of us knows how an 18th-century American talked. Did Franklin have a mid-Atlantic accent or a Boston accent? Did he sound like an Englishman? It bothers me that I do not know.”

Another challenge, Schiff admits, is attaining the right balance between storyteller and documentarian. Franklin’s is a fascinating narrative, but some of the most delicious anecdotes she has been unable to document—so out they go. “You’re very tempted to use the most colorful material you’ve got, but it’s got to pass the legitimacy test,” she says sadly.

What’s it like for a biographer to develop an intimate relationship with a non-living subject?

She laughs at the question, but responds, “Sometimes you do feel like you’re running a strange and upscale kind of séance. You surround yourself with your subjects’ relics, you learn their favorite sports, you scent yourself with their perfume—there is something of the weirdly mystical about it. You hope that if you can somehow burrow deep enough into their favorite novels or immerse yourself in their favorite music you’re going to start thinking like them.”

Stacy Schiff’s book A Great Improvisation: Benjamin Franklin, France and the Birth of America will be published in spring 2005 by Henry Holt and Company.
W hen Newsweek editor and Robert Kennedy biographer Evan Thomas decided to pen his fifth book, he didn’t have to thrash around very long for a subject.

“John Paul Jones,” he says, “was my childhood hero, but in recent decades he had become a forgotten figure. I had suggested a book about him to my agent several times, but she didn’t think it would sell.”

Her hesitation was not surprising. After all, naval historian Samuel Eliot Morison had produced a more or less definitive book about Jones in 1969, and, besides, who wanted another dry biography of some dead white guy?

That was then; this is now. In recent years the emergence on the best-seller list of books about the Founding Fathers and the success of such films as Master and Commander had whetted the public’s appetite for both Revolutionary War history and lore from the Age of Sail. When David McCullough’s John Adams passed 1.5 million copies in sales, Simon & Schuster gave Thomas the go-ahead to begin researching the storied father of the American Navy.

It was not an easy challenge. Although his father was a book publisher, Long Island-bred Thomas was, as a magazine writer and editor, accustomed to using a journalistic approach. His previous volumes—which, besides the RFK biography, included books about the foreign policy establishment (The Wise Men, written with Walter Isaacson), the CIA (The Very Best Men), and noted trial lawyer Edward Bennett Williams (The Man to See)—had relied heavily on face-to-face interviews with people who knew the subjects. The records he had needed were not far away from the Washington, D.C., office of Newsweek, where Thomas is assistant managing editor. Further, life within the Beltway had immersed Thomas in the culture he was covering.

More daunting was John Paul Jones himself. Thomas faced the tricky task of portraying the romantic, sympathetic and heroic sides of Jones while also setting down a realistic portrait of a man who constantly fell victim to character flaws that might today have a recognizable clinical diagnosis and be subject to medical intervention.
Scottish-born Jones, who adopted America as his country and fought against the British on the colonies’ behalf, was on the one hand a brilliant thinker with a masterful instinct for naval warfare. Audaciously, he blended the techniques of pirates, guerillas and even current-day terrorists to keep his enemy off-balance. Further, he had incisive thoughts about the future of U.S. naval warfare. His valor was almost superhuman. A romantic by temperament, he wrote flowery poetry.

On the other hand, he was arrogant, self-absorbed and foppish to the point where he devised his own elaborate regalia rather than wear the standard-issue uniform. If not wholly paranoid, he was at minimum easily given to personal offense. He was a notorious womanizer whose conquests spanned the continents and social classes, yet he was never able to form any lasting relationship.

Most tragically, he lacked the political and diplomatic skills to put forth his best ideas. For example, his continuous whining about the need for a permanent U.S. navy and a naval academy fell on deaf ears during his lifetime—probably in large part because his personality alienated even those who were initially his allies. Such traits also kept him from getting prime commands and the U.S. admiralty he sorely desired. As Thomas puts it, “He was hard-wired to be obnoxious.”

Still, Thomas had several things working in his favor. For starters, his efforts were fueled by his own lifelong attraction to Jones as a romantic and heroic figure. And though Morison’s Pulitzer Prize-winning A Sailor’s Story threatened to cast a long shadow over Thomas’ work, the contemporary author thought he could tell a better tale.

“Morison,” he explains, “was a very proper Boston Brahmin, and Jones, the son of a Scottish gardener, was kind of a parvenu. Although Morison celebrated Jones’ exploits, he disdained him. I thought I could write more sympathetically about Jones, presenting a flesh-and-blood figure who, though flawed, worked heroically to conquer his demons and accomplished a lot.”

The times were also on Thomas’ side. “Narrative history,” he says, “has become more vivid since Morison’s time. Modern historians are better at painting a living picture. For example, Morison hardly mentions the life-threatening storm Jones survived off the coast of Brittany on the Ariel. I do a lot with that storm.”

Indeed, Thomas’ book reads like a well-crafted adventure novel. Nautical terminology is richly used and minutely explained. The storm scene aboard the Ariel is hair-raising, and Thomas’ description of the famous battle between the British Serapis and the massively outgunned American Bonhomme Richard could cause the reader to have nightmares. Even in Thomas’ accounts of the quiet times—those periods when Jones is without a command—the author’s insight into his subject spellbinds the reader.

Critics and ordinary readers alike have heaped praise on Thomas for making history come alive, but one cranky on-line reviewer challenged, “Where does Evan Thomas get off telling us what Jones was thinking? How did he know what Jones was thinking?”

In fact, there’s an answer. Jones lived in an age when virtually the only communication medium was paper, and people set things down in letters, journals, logs and other documents. In Jones’ case, the surviving letters numbered in the hundreds; his notes and journal entries are copious and revealing.

“It is important for biographers to try to put themselves in the mind of the character they are writing about,” Thomas says. “I owe it to the reader to not only put myself on deck alongside Jones, but insofar as the evidence supports it, to try to think the way he was thinking and feel what he was feeling. It’s a little bit of pop psychology, a little bit of literary insight, a little bit of looking at the way I would feel about things. I have to...
be careful, though, as a middle-aged white male living in Washington in 2004 not to assume other people, in other times and places, might think and feel just as I do. You can’t make the mistake of judging people by the standards of your own era.”

An example of the cultural extrapolation that had to be made is the exaggerated 18th-century notion of honor; Jones flew off the handle at the merest perceived slight to his “honor,” and he had a few narrow escapes from fellows who wanted to duel with him in honor’s name. On the converse side, Thomas includes an amusing tale of Jones’ “honor” prompting him to return the family silver, many years later, to the abode of an English nobleman whose estate Jones’ men had ransacked in a botched attempt to kidnap him. Kidnapping an earl was honorable; looting silver was not.

To date, *John Paul Jones: Sailor, Hero, Father of the American Navy* has sold about 70,000 copies. It had a positive review on the front page of *The New York Times Book Review*, and it made *The New York Times* Best-Seller list.

How does Thomas, who also makes frequent TV and radio appearances and teaches media and freshman writing courses at Harvard, balance life as a biographer and life as a full-time magazine journalist?

“It’s a juggling act, and it’s very demanding. On the other hand, the two careers are complementary, because my kind of journalism is immediate, topical and a group process. My book writing, though, takes years to do and is very solitary. With journalism you rarely get a chance to step back and go deep, so doing both affords me the opportunity to have my cake and eat it, too,” says Thomas, who holds a B.A. degree in history from Harvard and a law degree from the University of Virginia.

Recently Thomas began his research for a sixth book, again with a maritime theme. Focused on World War II and the Battle of Leyte Gulf, it is about four naval leaders—two American and two Japanese—and how, in Thomas’ words, “they dealt with the difficult decision of how and when you die for your country.”

“My view of all the characters I write of,” he says, “is that they did great things and they did terrible things, but they were, at the end of the day, human. I try to help the reader to understand what about their human nature made them do those things.”
Rescarching Tracy Kidder’s first biography did not require scanning old documents for arcane clues to his subject’s comings and goings or delving into dusty archives for enlightenment. It did, however, require 11-hour hikes over rough country terrain, as well as plane rides to Siberia, Peru and Cuba. It required visiting a Moscow prison where tuberculosis was rampant. It required so many trips to disease-ridden and poverty-torn Haiti that Kidder eventually stopped counting.

For three years, Kidder followed his subject, physician and anthropologist Paul Farmer, from free medical clinic to fund-raising call, up hills and across oceans, into emergency rooms and into boardrooms. Routinely he stared dirt, death and disease in the face. And when day was done and he settled down to rest, it was often in a twin-bedded hotel room alongside the man some have called a latter-day Albert Schweitzer. Kidder was, as he puts it, “a guest in another person’s life.”

If the prep work for Mountains Beyond Mountains sounds excessive, consider that when the Pulitzer Prize-winning Kidder decided to write Among Schoolchildren, a book about elementary school life, he spent an entire school year sitting in a third-grade classroom making 10,000 pages of handwritten notes. To prepare for Old Friends, a book about aging and friendship, he visited a nursing home daily for two years, filling 89 spiral-bound notebooks with observations.

Although The Baltimore Sun terms him the “master of the non-fiction narrative,” Kidder found he faced something of a mountain himself in taking on Farmer, a thin and unimposing-looking man with a story that seems larger than life. Raised in what Kidder calls “eccentric circumstances,” Paul Farmer grew up living on a recycled bus and later on an old boat moored in an Alabama bayou. Identified as a gifted child, he won a scholarship to Duke University, where he studied anthropology. A visit to Haiti inspired him to earn an M.D.-Ph.D. degree at Harvard in the hope of having some impact on that country’s horrific health scene. The organization he founded, Partners in Health, established

A Biography in Deeds

Tracy Kidder ’63 on Paul Farmer
projects aimed at infectious-disease control principally in Haiti, but also in Latin America, Russia and the United States. In advancing its work, Farmer enlisted the help of an army of volunteers, paid Haitian staffers, drug manufacturers, the Boston medical community and philanthropic partners that included the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, George Soros, Tom White and the U.N. World Health Organization. Recipient of a MacArthur Foundation “genius” grant, Farmer presents an enigmatic picture. He is both an international force on the public health scene and a patients-first doctor who will walk dozens of muddy miles to make a house call, all the while holding positions on the Harvard faculty and in several distinguished Boston teaching hospitals. He has been called both a hero and a saint.

“Attempting to capture a living person on paper—especially a person as extraordinary as Paul Farmer—seemed enormous, almost overwhelming,” Kidder confesses. “Someone once said a day in Paul Farmer’s life was like a month or a year in someone else’s—a really intense, packed time. On top of that, I knew it would be not just daunting, but sometimes depressing.”

Kidder first met Farmer on a 1994 trip to Haiti, where the writer was working on a story about U.S. military involvement there. Like many Americans, Kidder found Haiti disturbing. Apart from Haiti’s heritage as the only nation founded by rebellious slaves, and even apart from its long saga of political turmoil and questionable treatment by the United States, it is the site of dire suffering. Kidder calls it “one of the most miserable places on earth.”

The Andover- and Harvard-educated son of a New York lawyer, Kidder says, “For years after that trip I tried to find a way to digest what I’d seen, to reconcile the fact of Haiti with my privileged life and hang onto my conviction I had somehow earned my privileges. I think I knew if I started following this guy Farmer around he would disturb my peace of mind. He did that, and he also made Haiti comprehensible to me.”

At first, Kidder approached Farmer only to be the subject of an article in The New Yorker. Coaxing him subsequently to figuratively sit for a book-length living portrait was a bit more difficult. “He really didn’t want any part of it, but his friends persuaded him it would be good for Partners in Health,” Kidder says. From their first meeting to the start of their collaboration took six years.

“I knew at the outset I would need not just to interview him, but to be with him. This is a man who travels some quarter million miles a year to save umpty-ump thousand lives, and it was essential for me to travel with him. Some of the best talks I had with him were either on airplanes or on long hikes. Sometimes I would sit in his office and watch him work. He pretty much took me everywhere; there were only a few meetings I couldn’t enter,” Kidder says.

Moments of tension punctuated the prolonged forced intimacy (sometimes when Farmer felt he had answered the same question too many times), Kidder allows, but on the whole he found Farmer an affable traveling companion. Often the doctor slowed down on a hike to accommodate Kidder, who is 14 years older, and once Farmer “busted his toe,” as Kidder put it, rather than switch on a hotel room light and wake the slumbering biographer.

Which brings us to the problem of Farmer’s goodness. Even supposing the reader accepts Kidder’s charac-
terization of Farmer as “the wedding of idealism to competence and brilliance,” how could Kidder get people to believe how utterly good the man is?

“When someone is as good as Paul Farmer,” Kidder says, “you risk having the reader become cynical and think, ‘Oh, this guy is not for real.’ Believe me, it would have been easier to write this book if I had uncovered some dirty little secrets about Farmer, but there simply weren’t any. A person like Farmer can stand as an affront to a certain kind of person. Instead of saying, ‘Look at this amazing guy; I’m glad he’s in the world,’ people who have not lived the idealistic lives they once envisioned can actually feel diminished by his existence and resentful of it.”

How long did it take him to get a handle on Farmer?

“I wouldn’t begin to claim I’ve ever ‘gotten’ anyone I’ve written about,” Kidder says. “I want to capture the reflections of people on the page, but you can’t capture a human being, and the more interesting the human being is, the more he escapes you.”

One path to understanding Farmer, Kidder says, was learning the verbal shorthand adopted by his Partners in Health colleagues—a kind of sarcastic, sassy way of abbreviating complex ideas. For example, they say “WL”—for white liberal—and a flood of good and bad connotations accompanies the letters.

More challenging were some of the catchphrases Farmer uses to express his personal philosophy. “He would say, ‘All suffering is not equal,’” Kidder says, “and at first I had a very hard time getting my mind around that. But then he said to me, ‘You know, when a woman in Wellesley is dying of leukemia, I think it’s terrible. I want to stop it; I want to cure her. But it’s not as bad as dying of the same disease in a hut in Haiti when you don’t have enough food to eat and the roof leaks and you’re lying on a mud floor and you know once you die your kids are going to starve to death.’ I found it hard to dispute that.

“What was really interesting to me about Partners in Health is how closely the group’s philosophy matches its actions. It’s a biography written in deeds, really, rather than in words. After awhile, I felt like Paul Farmer was revealing part of the world to me—and it was a part of the world we’d rather not think about.”

It was not, however, a part of the world Kidder

“**I think I knew if I started following this guy Farmer around he would disturb my peace of mind. He did that, and he also made Haiti comprehensible to me.”**
Getting a Life

could easily leave behind. Since completing Mountains Beyond Mountains, the Western Massachusetts resident has been writing a book on his experiences during the Vietnam War. Titled My Detachment, it will come out in fall 2005. At the same time, though, he remains enmeshed with both Haiti and Partners in Health. In contact with Farmer daily, Kidder has found himself proselytizing and serving on a committee attempting to secure endowment funding for the organization, which has made remarkable progress against diseases like AIDS and tuberculosis in various parts of the world. He likens the group to “a little square of light moving through this horrible darkness.”

What’s more, the author has become politically charged by his experiences. As he tells it, “It’s very hard to get Haiti out of your mind once you’ve seen it. It bothers me immoderately. As a writer, I used to be deliberately apolitical, but since learning about Haitian history, I find the American policy toward Haiti so offensive and so unnecessarily cruel that it’s made me feel strongly political.”

Kidder stresses he speaks not for Paul Farmer and Partners in Health, but for himself, as he criticizes not just the United States’ immigration policies toward Haiti, but also “the almost completely naked decision our country made somewhere along the way to get rid of the constitutionally elected government of Haiti.”

“We blocked international loans to Haiti for things like cleaning up water supplies in order to weaken the Aristide government and make room for the current puppet government that’s basically supporting the small mercantile elite of Haiti,” he says. “What I am convinced we should have done was to set ideology aside and try to find the best ways to alleviate Haiti’s misery.”

Captured Lives

Two additional biographies by alumni authors landed in the Andover Bulletin’s in-box this summer. They are briefly noted below.

John F. Kerry:
The Complete Biography by the Boston Globe Reporters Who Know Him Best
by Brian C. Mooney ’69, Nina J. Easton and Michael Kranish
PublicAffairs, 2004

Based on a series about Senator John F. Kerry that was published in The Boston Globe when Kerry became a Democratic candidate for U.S. president, this is the first in-depth book about Kerry’s life. It was the extensive research done for the Globe profile that uncovered family history previously hidden from Kerry himself—his paternal grandfather’s Jewish heritage. It is the grandfather’s story that begins the narrative. The book then attempts to go beyond the well-known stories about Kerry as the decorated Vietnam vet, antiwar spokesman, high-speed sports enthusiast, foreign policy expert and senator.

Brian Mooney has worked as a reporter and columnist at The Boston Globe for the past 16 years. He lives with his family in Andover, Mass.

A Jackson Man:
Amos Kendall and the Rise of American Democracy
by Donald B. Cole ’40
Louisiana State University Press, 2004

Amos Kendall, chief adviser to President Andrew Jackson, played a strong role in the transformation of a young America into a capitalist democracy. Born in Massachusetts and educated at Dartmouth, Kendall lived much of his life in Kentucky, where he became one of the few national antebellum politicians with experience in both the North and South. A self-made philanthropist, he was deeply involved in the rise of the telegraph and expansion of the post office, working as U.S. postmaster general. He also founded the school for the deaf that became Gallaudet College. This is the first biography of Kendall.

Donald B. Cole, a retired professor of history at Phillips Exeter Academy, lives in Exeter, N.H. He has written several history books, including The Presidency of Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren and the American Political System.
A GAME OF HUNT AND SEEK

Will Watson ’50 on Ernest Hemingway

Ernest Hemingway was a hard-living, hard-drinking malcontent known for his macho passions and dissolute ways. While he wrote some of the most moving and beloved novels and short stories in American literature, he is remembered for his tortured soul and eventual suicide as well as he is for his tender love tales and thrilling adventure scenes.

What is he doing in the life of a history teacher?

“Ernest Hemingway was something of an accident,” says William B. Watson, professor of history at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who has spent decades in quest of Hemingway’s shadow. His research focuses primarily on the Spanish Civil War, which Hemingway covered as a journalist and used as the backdrop in For Whom the Bell Tolls, his reputed masterwork. It is the fodder for Investigating Hemingway, which the professor hopes to see published next year.

Like Hemingway, Watson is a doctor’s son who declined to walk in his father’s footsteps. When Watson left the family’s Pittsburgh suburb for Andover, his medical career seemed preordained. But it was in an 18th-century history class and political science courses at Haverford College that he found his calling.

“I discovered at Haverford I liked engaging people and ideas more than I thought doctors could. Intellectually and emotionally and personally, medicine wasn’t as appealing to me as it had been,” he says.

With his dad’s reluctant support, Watson earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in medieval history at Harvard. His thesis dealt with 15th-century commercial relations between the great cities of the Mediterranean and the wool-producing regions of Northern Europe. The Italian merchant cities were already saturated with researchers, so Watson took his pursuit of data about captains, cargoes and vessels to London and Barcelona.

It was in Barcelona that the Hemingway accident occurred. Fluent in Spanish from his Andover days, Watson mastered Catalan and became increasingly absorbed with stories of the Spanish Civil War—at the time relatively recent history.

“I was fascinated to find two groups of people in Spain who had two entirely different memories. On the
How could a war correspondent obtain permission not only to accompany combatants as what we now call an “embedded journalist,” but actually to take part in a crucial guerrilla operation? It didn’t add up.
sense, it’s about the adventure and thrill of research,” admits Watson. While he never gained much insight into Hemingway’s often-cited cruelty to women or his catastrophic drinking habits, Watson developed a deeper understanding of the author’s machismo passions by attending a bullfight, trying his hand at deep-sea fishing and visiting the Spanish Civil War zone.

Watson says the biographer’s chore is “a hunt-and-seek game that requires luck as well as skill.”

A lucky break in Watson’s quest was the discovery of a trunk in the late 1980s at Sloppy Joe’s bar in Key West, Fla., which the literary figure was known to frequent. Most of its contents were junk, but Watson says, “In junk there are often things terribly exciting to historians.”

Documents from Sloppy Joe’s helped solve a mystery related to For Whom the Bell Tolls. The novel centers on a single event: the blowing up of a bridge by a band of guerrilla revolutionaries. The eerie precision and tense realism with which Hemingway describes the insurgents’ lives and accurately sets the tone of despair and decay has long confounded military observers. When Watson submitted the text to demolition experts to ask whether the fictional deed was done properly, one specialist told him, “You have to do it that way; do it any other way and you’re dead.” Watson says sections of the novel were even translated into Russian during World War II as a manual for partisan operatives.

How had Hemingway managed to describe the scene so effectively? The Polish writer Aleksander Szurek had averred in his memoirs, half a century after the war, that a fellow Pole named Antek Chrost had led the way. Szurek said Chrost claimed to have served as Hemingway’s model for Robert Jordan, the American protagonist and explosives ace in the story. Further, Chrost said he had, as the leader of a guerrilla brigade, taken Hemingway with him on a mission to blow up a train near the city of Teruel in October 1937.

At first, Watson was incredulous, calling Chrost’s story “more like a Grimm fairy tale than an actual event.” Authors simply didn’t participate in guerrilla operations, and Hemingway had never mentioned such a trip. Martha Gellhorn, who lived with Hemingway in Spain, denied such a foray had taken place. Besides, Watson asked, How the hell could a war correspondent obtain permission not only to accompany combatants as what we now call an “embedded journalist,” but actually to take part in a crucial guerrilla operation? It didn’t add up.

Nevertheless, Watson was haunted by Chrost’s account, which sounded oddly persuasive to him. While he discounted that Chrost could be a singular model for the fictional Jordan, the biographer was moved by Chrost’s vividness and detail. He was also struck by the story’s overall consistency—particularly regarding Chrost’s discomfort at having a civilian along on such a sensitive and dangerous mission.

In a 1991 North Dakota Quarterly, Watson told how, with the help of chauffeur’s receipts that had emerged from the Key West trunk and other documents, he was able to reconstruct the previously unknown journey. By studying safe-conduct passes and calculating gasoline mileage, revising some assumptions about Hemingway’s calendar, driving the supposed route and even walking part of the treacherous terrain Chrost described, Watson established to his satisfaction that the secret trip really did take place. Hemingway scholars were stunned by the revelation that the author had literally risked his life to get his facts straight.

“I hope,” Watson says, “readers of my book will be able to set aside Hemingway the man and find a new regard for Hemingway the artist, who put his life on the line to guarantee that when he talked about guerrilla operations he knew what he was talking about. Hemingway, I think, needed the bedrock of absolute realism in order to play his games of imagination. My book will show how hard he worked for that.”

Will Watson
Kathy Mulvey '84 helped negotiate a treaty that, if ratified, would ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship.

by Bella English

Kathy Mulvey has attended every annual meeting of Philip Morris USA for the past 10 years, but she's not a shareholder interested in the dividends of the world's most profitable tobacco company. In 1995, she helped unfurl a 200-foot banner with photos of people whose illnesses or deaths were smoking-related. At last year's meeting, after Philip Morris' parent company changed its name to Altria, she held up a canvas depicting the Marlboro Man as a skeleton wearing a red bandana with the Philip Morris/Altria logo. She then stepped to the microphone and said that despite a huge increase in advertising Philip Morris ranked 59th of 60 companies in a Harris poll on corporate reputations.

To gain access to Altria's annual meetings, Mulvey borrows the proxies of two convents that own a few shares of Altria stock, purchased solely to be able to attend its annual meetings, where the nuns or their fellow activists lodge protests.

Mulvey is the executive director of Infact, a 27-year-old Boston nonprofit that targets what it calls corporate abuse. Infact has had a couple of big successes—notably, the Nestlé boycott that brought about reforms in the marketing of infant formula in developing countries and a boycott of General Electric that forced the industry leader out of the nuclear weapons business. Infact was, in fact, originally shorthand for Infant Formula Action Coalition.

Today Infact is poised to score its biggest coup: the ratification of the world's first public health treaty. The treaty would ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, meaning Altria would have to do away with its iconic Marlboro Man and stop sponsoring athletic and cultural events in the countries that ratify it. Cigarette brand names would no longer appear on billboards, hats, bags, café umbrellas and other merchandise.

After three years of negotiations, 192 countries, including the United States, last May adopted the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in Geneva, a groundbreaking treaty that could change the way tobacco companies do business around the world. At least 40 countries must ratify the treaty for it to become international law; it
would take effect only in the ratifying countries.

After the world public health community broached the idea of a treaty at a Paris conference in 1994, Infact was one of the first public interest groups to join the cause, mobilizing public support behind it. During the negotiations, Infact provided research on tobacco to developing countries, exposed Big Tobacco’s opposition, helped organize demonstrations and rallies and met with government officials to build support.

“A company like Philip Morris has annual revenues that dwarf the gross domestic product of many countries where it operates,” says Mulvey, who has never smoked. “That’s why global cooperation is so important.”

How did a small group of people funded almost entirely through private donations take on Big Tobacco? Much of the answer lies with Mulvey, a 38-year-old activist who has the tenacity of a pit bull latched onto an ankle. Mulvey grew up in Andover, where she attended Phillips Academy. At the University of North Carolina, she studied English and French, and upon graduation she taught in China. She returned to the Boston area in 1989 to be an organizer for Infact, which had begun in 1977.

The group’s mission has become her life: curbing what it calls life-threatening abuses by corporations and increasing their public accountability. Mulvey, who lives in Roslindale, Mass., is not an in-your-face firebrand. She uses facts and argument rather than bullhorns and bully pulpits. When she was in China after college, she was swept up in the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy uprising.

“I had been saying I wanted to do social justice work, but I didn’t really know what it meant until I saw the risks people took to make changes they believed in. It was very powerful,” she says. She also credits growing up in the Unitarian-Universalist Church as a spur for her interest in social action.

After its success in the infant formula arena, Mulvey’s group launched a successful consumer boycott of GE, once the leading producer of nuclear weapons components. The boycott targeted everything from light bulbs to refrigerators and the big-ticket items such as CT scanners and MRI machines. To give the campaign the visibility it needed, Infact produced a film, Deadly Deception: General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and Our Environment, which won the Oscar for short documentary filmmaking in 1992. Organizers were able to document $75 million in lost sales for GE, which eventually announced it was pulling out of the nuclear industry.

Infact next trained its sights on the tobacco industry because of the number of deaths caused by tobacco products, which the World Health Organization puts at nearly 5 million a year. Infact organized a consumer boycott of Altria and its subsidiary, Kraft Foods. In 1993 a handwritten note from one Philip Morris executive to another said of Infact’s Kraft boycott, “This group could be real trouble. We are gearing up to defend.” Mulvey smiles. “They hired public relations firms and sent people out to monitor the boycott,” she says. “They were trying to make lemonade out of lemons, but it didn’t work.”

When the tobacco treaty was approved, Infact lifted its Kraft boycott. But the campaign won’t be over until 40 countries ratify the treaty, the first ever negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization. Mulvey notes that the United States has not yet ratified it—nor does she expect it to. In fact, she says, the U.S. delegation was “obstructionist.” Before the final round of negotiations, she says, the U.S. delegation sent faxes to various embassies warning them that health shouldn’t interfere with trade.

Mulvey isn’t optimistic about support from either the Bush administration or the Senate. “We still haven’t overcome tobacco’s stranglehold on Congress,” she says.

Mark Berlind, legislative counsel for Altria, says the corporation supports the treaty in its final form. “We have changed our policies a lot,” he says. “We agree that smoking causes cancer, that it is addictive, and that the best thing is to quit.” Still, Altria, like the United States, opposes the ban on advertising, at least to adults. And because that part of the treaty would conflict with the U.S. Constitution, it would not be enacted here even if the treaty were ratified.

As of September, 10 countries had ratified the pact: Norway, Malta, Fiji, the Seychelles, India, Mongolia, New Zealand, Palau, Sri Lanka and Hungary. Now Infact is working to get 30 more countries to follow.

Mulvey is optimistic. “This treaty will save millions of lives and change the way Big Tobacco operates globally,” she says. “It is truly a victory for people’s health over the profits of giant corporations.”

Bella English is a staff writer for The Boston Globe. This article has been adapted and reprinted with her permission and that of The Boston Globe.
As a member of the Patriots’ “brain trust,” Ernie Adams ’71 strategizes for the Super Bowl champs.

by Andy Cline

Many New England Patriots fans still have to pinch themselves to be sure they didn’t imagine their team won two Super Bowl championships in the last three seasons. But the folks on the inside, the players, coaches and leaders of the Patriots, know the hard work and unselfish dedication that went into making this level of success possible. Head Coach Bill Belichick ’71, the chief architect, richly deserves the credit he receives for guiding his team through two successful playoff runs. But while there are many members of the Patriots organization more visible, there are few who contribute more to the team’s success than Ernie Adams ’71, sometimes referred to as the head coach’s right-hand man. Belichick and Adams, offensive line mates on an undefeated 1970 football team at Andover and friends who spent time in the dormitory drawing up football plays on scrap paper, are still collaborating 33 years later with tremendous success. They have worked together professionally with the New York Giants, the Cleveland Browns and, for the past four years, the Patriots.

Adams, whose jobs in the NFL have ranged from position coach to director of pro personnel, is the Patriots’ football research director. When asked what a football research director does, Adams replies succinctly, “Think of things to help us win.”

He is both a generalist and a specialist. He helps to put together the scouting report and game plan for each opponent and regularly watches up to two years of game films for college players the team is considering drafting. But he is also given specific assignments by Belichick that might have him devising offensive or defensive strategies for certain situations or recommending personnel moves to strengthen the team in a particular area. At practices Adams watches carefully to see whether the plans designed on paper are going to be successful when implemented on the field. He also pays particular attention to monitoring the progress of the younger players. With only a handful of exceptions, most rookies are not ready to play in the NFL when they arrive. They have the talent, but it is the coaches and veterans who will show them, motivate them and guide them in their development. Adams likens it to admitting ninth-graders to Andover: “You hope that by the end of senior year they’ve made some progress.”

During games, one of Adams’ primary responsibilities is to advise Belichick about whether to challenge a referee’s ruling. Such things
as fumbles, pass receptions and interceptions, whether a player is in bounds or out, and even the placement of the ball after a tackle can have a tremendous impact on a game. However, an NFL team is allowed only two challenges in a game and is assessed one of its precious timeouts if a challenge is not upheld. So Adams must be very sure of himself before radioing the head coach, and he must make his decision within less than 40 seconds. From his vantage point in the press box, Adams can watch the game live but can also see replays on his monitor. He must know the rules thoroughly, and he must be sure the replay, when viewed by the head referee, will provide indisputable visual evidence that the call should be reversed.

Whether sitting at his desk looking at game tapes, meeting with coaches, watching practice, diagramming new offensive and defensive schemes or recommending in-game adjustments, Adams is doing what he loves, studying the intricacies of the game of football, a pursuit that has quite literally filled much of the 33 years since he graduated from Phillips Academy.

Adams' first job in professional football was with the New England Patriots in 1975 under head coach Chuck Fairbanks. A native of Brookline, Mass., Adams joined the Pats fresh out of Northwestern, where he had majored in education and produced scouting reports each week for the Wildcat football team's upcoming opponent. During a four-year stint as an assistant coach with the Pats, Adams impressed receivers coach Ray Perkins with his knowledge and work ethic. When Perkins became head coach of the New York Giants in 1979, he hired Adams as an offensive assistant. Also joining the Giants coaching staff that year was Belichick. On two occasions, in 1985 and 1996, Adams left football to work on Wall Street, but both times he came back to the NFL when Belichick became a head coach—at Cleveland in 1991 and at New England in 2000—and wanted Adams on his staff.

Now, with the Patriots, Adams provides scouting reports and much more. "It's an intricate game," says Adams. "With every team in the NFL working full time to study their opponents and prepare their teams to compete, the margins are small, and it is often the details and the subtleties that can give one team an edge." And it is precisely those details and subtleties that are at the heart of Adams' passion and his special talent. Watching a game, he spots things others won't see until the Monday morning film session, and, whether scouting an upcoming opponent or evaluating a prospective college draft choice, he spends endless hours looking at video tape in his office at Gillette Stadium.

Belichick and Adams, offensive line mates on an undefeated 1970 football team at Andover and friends who spent time in the dormitory drawing up football plays on scrap paper, are still collaborating 33 years later with tremendous success.
When world-renowned skin doctor A. Bernard Ackerman ’54 gave a gift to Harvard University in 2002 to endow a series of symposia called “The Culture of Medicine,” he might not have thought it would have ramifications for Phillips Academy.

But ripples from the pebble thrown into the Cambridge water have reached Andover. In 2003 Ackerman presented Head of School Barbara Landis Chase with an intriguing proposal for a collaborative, interdisciplinary educational effort on a related topic. The project he envisioned will link PA and Harvard faculty.

To mark his 50th PA reunion, Ackerman provided $30,000 in seed money for the program, to be called “Medicine in Society.” As now proposed, it will use resources available at Harvard to help Andover students explore the crossroads of society and medicine, examining such issues as politics, economics, clinical practice, science, ethics and the history of medicine. It will be directed at PA by molecular biology teacher Jeremiah Hagler, who will work in concert with Allan Brandt, professor of the history of science at Harvard Medical School and the Amalie Moses Kass professor of the history of medicine at Harvard University.

“I am extraordinarily optimistic,” Ackerman says, “that this endeavor not only will wed faculty at Harvard and Andover, but will redound to the best interests of both institutions and the society beyond them.”

Envisioned is a three-year rollout of the program, including one-year planning, implementation and assessment phases. The implementation phase might entail curricular changes in existing courses and introduction of a Harvard-Phillips Academy schoolwide symposium on medicine and society.

Curious, at first, whether such an esoteric topic might be applicable at the high school level, Ackerman met with several PA faculty members, including Hagler, then-Dean of Studies Vincent Avery, School Physician Richard Keller and History and Social Science Instructor Chris Shaw ’78, to get their reaction. Barbara Gross, a senior development officer at Andover, says Ackerman “got everybody’s juices flowing. … We sat back thinking it would be hard to envision a topic that would lend itself as richly and fully to an interdisciplinary approach as medicine and society.”

Avery, who teaches philosophy and religious studies, is equally enthusiastic. “The program will enrich the opportunities for interdisciplinary studies and provide a platform for collaboration with faculty at the Harvard Medical School that is without precedent at Phillips Academy,” he says.

Ackerman is the founder and director emeritus of the Ackerman Academy of Dermatopathology in New York, the world’s largest training center for dermatopathology, the study of diseases of the skin. He graduated cum laude from Princeton University in 1958. After receiving an M.D. degree from Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons, he trained in dermatology at Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard and in dermatopathology at Harvard. Author of some 40 books and hundreds of scientific articles, Ackerman founded the American Journal of Dermatopathology and Dermatopathology: Practical and Conceptual, the medical publishing house Ardor Scribendi, and the Coalition and Center for Ethical Medical Testimony. He continues to teach, train students and write. Previously, Ackerman donated some early works of artist Frank Stella, his classmate at Andover and Princeton, to the Addison Gallery of American Art.

—Paula Trespas
Richard Lindsay ’48 exemplifies a grandfather’s contribution

Richard D. Lindsay is a fixture around the town of Andover, as well as on the campus, where three generations of his family have studied.

Born and raised in Andover and the owner of the Andover Animal Hospital for the past 46 years, Lindsay still treats and performs surgery on the dogs and cats of local residents. In his spare time, he serves on several community boards that support education, children and healthcare. In addition, he and his wife, Betty, just completed a two-year term as Grandparent Fund co-chairs, raising $52,160 toward the Andover Fund.

“When you meet Dick and Betty for the first time, you feel as though you’ve known them forever. That’s just the kind of wonderful people they are,” says Sandra Butters, director of the Parent Fund. “Their warmth, Andover family history and travel adventures with their grandchildren are instant magnets of interest. I am grateful for their friendship and for their commitment to the Grandparent Fund.”

With his characteristic sense of humor, Lindsay says, “It was a nice experience—interacting with some of the wealthier grandparents I could badger into giving a little money.” His motto is, “If you never ask, you never get anything.” He even called the late Richard Gelb ’41 for a contribution to the Grandparent Fund shortly after Gelb had given $11 million for the new science center that bears his name. “He gave another $2,000,” he says. Alumni include his son, R. David Lindsay Jr. ’73, also a veterinarian, and three grandchildren—Sarah Lindsay ’00, Douglas Johnson ’02 and Carolyn Johnson ’04.

Attending Andover as a day student, Lindsay felt he had the best of two worlds. “On the weekends, unlike the boarders, I could go to a dance at a local ballroom or at one of the other high schools,” he says. In the classroom, he loved English, especially Shakespeare and poetry, and he enjoyed math and history. But from the time he was 14, he knew he wanted to be a veterinarian. It was a decision he never regretted.

After receiving B.S. and D.V.M. degrees from Michigan State University, he joined the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps as a first lieutenant and became the post veterinarian at Ft. Jay on Governor's Island in New York City. He had already purchased land on Lowell Street in Andover, and he built the Andover Animal Hospital after completing his military service.

Today, Lindsay is actively involved in the Merrimack Valley and serves on the boards of directors of the Lawrence Boys and Girls Clubs and the Friends of Merrimack College. He is past president of the Men’s Guild of Holy Family Hospital and a former director of Community Savings Bank in Lawrence. He is a past president of the Massachusetts Veterinary Association, from which he received the Distinguished Service Award, and past president of the New England Veterinary Association. When he was awarded the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Yankee Clipper Council of the Boy Scouts of America in 2000, his daughter, Diane Tower, said, “He just does everything for everybody.”

As Grandparent Fund co-chair, Lindsay was actively involved in planning and promoting Grandparents’ Day, an annual event in May when grandparents visit campus and attend classes and athletic events with their grandchildren. He worked on his 50th Reunion Gift Committee in 1998 and also was a volunteer for Campaign Andover.

“Three of my four grandchildren went through Phillips Academy,” he concludes. “I feel an obligation to support the school.”

—Tana Sherman
Building Guanxi

Oscar Tang’s vision deepens understanding and appreciation of China.

by Tana Sherman

For Oscar Tang ’56, president of the Andover Board of Trustees, there is no question that China, the country of his ancestry, will soon be the most important country with which the United States has a bilateral relationship, if it isn’t already. Yet he worries that Andover’s well-educated and knowledgeable faculty doesn’t have enough understanding or appreciation of Asia in general or China specifically.

“How can you teach in this world today without having that direct experience?” asks Tang, whose generosity recently made it possible, for the second time, for Andover faculty to visit China. Twenty-one members of the PA community participated this summer in a study tour planned by Tang with Yuan Han, chair of the Chinese department.

From the Great Wall in Beijing and the Terra Cotta Army in Xi’an to the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet, the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River and the sand dunes of the Gobi Desert, the group explored centuries of tradition alongside modern innovations. The itinerary also included visits to Ren Min High School in Beijing and Da Tong High School in Shanghai, with opportunities to discuss students, classes, curriculum and pedagogy with Chinese teachers.

Each day during the three-week trip, a different Andover faculty member or spouse wrote about his or her experiences. These descriptions were posted on a Web journal for those at home to read.

“What other group, besides the faculty of Andover, would I rather see have this kind of eye-opening experience?” says Tang. “As I read the journal entries, it gave me great pleasure to see the excitement and interest this trip created.”

For example, Catherine Tousignant, instructor in English, described her visit to the home of a Chinese teacher: “Our hosts are warm and gracious beyond any expectations. They teach us to make dumplings, and their children tell us stories in polished English. In our previous travels, we have been drawn to architecture as a window into history and culture, but not so in Beijing. Here, it is the people who draw our gaze.”

According to Tang, it was his first wife, Frances “Frankie” Young Tang ’57, who suggested they finance the first faculty trip to China in 1991. She became too ill that summer, the last of her life, to join the group of more than 60. Instead, she enjoyed the notes and postcards they sent to her as they traveled.

“The trip,” says Tang, “had more than one benefit. First, it helped to elevate knowledge about China, as we had planned. In addition, the teachers found that in traveling and experiencing these things together they developed a special bond among themselves.”

After Frankie died, Tang made a sizeable gift to the academy, partly in her memory. One piece of that contribution funded the Frances and Oscar Tang Faculty Endowment, meant to allow a group of faculty periodically to learn a new field or visit a new geographic area together. He has since focused the endowment on improving understanding and exchange with China specifically.

The group prepared for this year’s trip with classes on Chinese history and culture during winter term, followed by weekly Chinese language classes all spring. They were aided in learning to speak Chinese by a student tutor, Leah
Russell ’04. Participants represented a wide range of interests and expertise, including instructors in art, athletics, Chinese, English, French, mathematics and Spanish, as well as administrative faculty.

Bonding certainly occurred among the travelers. Photos on the Web journal and in the travelers’ personal photo albums show smiling faculty members linked arm in arm atop the Great Wall, in Tiananmen Square and in front of the Mogoa Caves in Dunhuang and laughing as they tried their first taste of yak burgers in Tibet.

A sense of awe surrounded much of the adventure. “I am visually captured and quickly humbled by the majestic natural beauty of the landscape, the grandness and power of the mountains, the swelling of the flowing rivers, the vastness of space and the bright blue skies,” said Elaine Crivelli, chair of the art department, of her first glimpse of Tibet.

The people of China won the hearts of the visitors. Women construction workers sang as in regimented rows they tamped a clay, marble and stone mixture into the rooftop at Norbulinka, the Dalai Lama’s summer palace in Tibet. In Chengdu, a Chinese girl approached one PA faculty member in a grocery store and asked if she could practice speaking English. The student had traveled to this large city on her school vacation just so she could find English-speaking tourists.

Understanding sometimes dawned in ways the travelers had not anticipated. At the Museum of the Nanjing Massacre, they learned of the horrific murders of hundreds of thousands of civilians in 1937. Other moments provided light-hearted fun. Visiting a panda-breeding center in Chengdu, Carole Braverman, instructor in English, said, “The pandas are slow, slumbering creatures in the summer heat. It takes one of them 15 minutes to climb down from his perch to his handler, but we cheer on every advance as if he were an Olympic gymnast.”

‘Cilla Bonney-Smith, associate dean of students, enjoyed “the playful exuberance of the big sand box” as she sledded down 60-foot sand dunes in the Gobi Desert, then took a brief camel ride. The next week, in Sichuan province, she gracefully led more timid faculty members across a 660-foot swaying rope and plank bridge over the raging Min River.

In Shanghai, the group dined with Shirley Young ’51, who is Frankie Tang’s sister and is a founding member of the Committee of 100, a group largely composed of prominent Chinese-Americans who seek to improve understanding between the two countries. Young pointed out the high value the Chinese place on guanxi, or relationships, and said it is incumbent upon educators to understand China better.

Oscar Tang agrees. “This is such a different country and culture that if we sent one or two faculty members they might be excited about their trip, but they could never have much of an impact on the community,” he says. In addition to periodically sending additional faculty members to China, he challenges those who went on this year’s trip to explore how the program can be improved and used to deepen understanding and appreciation.

“My specific wish is that we as a country can come to understand China much better,” concludes Tang, “and vice versa, for them to try to understand us.”

For a day-by-day account of the 2004 faculty study tour of China, visit the Web journal at www.andover.edu.
New students, faculty welcomed

Blue Key Society members, the academy’s school spirit organization, gave a raucous welcome Saturday, Sept. 11, as 333 students arrived on campus for student orientation. Of that group, 196 were members of the Class of 2008—59 day students and 137 boarders, from 37 states and 19 countries. The orientation began on Sunday with, among other initiations, “Thinkfast,” a quiz-show type game that tested students on facts about the academy and pop culture.

Earlier, on Aug. 31, Head of School Barbara Landis Chase had welcomed 33 new faculty members at Moses Stuart House. Included in the group were four alumni: Christine Cloonan ’98, teaching fellow in Spanish; Eli Lazarus ’00, teaching fellow in English; Matt Wilder ’97, teaching fellow in math; and Teri Moss-Tyler ’00, admission counselor. Also, the school welcomed back two (MS)2 alumni: Emeka Ajene ’99, teaching fellow in math; and Rubani Trimiew ’99, admission counselor.

Exploring solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

An initiative to promote awareness and discussion between Phillips Academy Summer Session students and their peers in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza was held at Andover in July. Focusing on the roots of the Middle East conflict, the three-day conference examined ways in which high school students from around the world may take steps to prevent further conflict and promote peace.

Twenty-eight students, who studied international relations with Summer Session teachers Charles Newhall and Richard Collins ’49, prepared by e-mailing Israeli and Palestinian teen-agers with questions about conflict in the Middle East. Then the Summer Session students were assigned roles of key stakeholders—moderate Palestinians, radical Palestinian extremist leaders, Israeli moderates, the Israeli right wing, members of the U.S.-led Quartet and neutral mediators—to negotiate the future of Jerusalem. At daily negotiation sessions, they explored the history of the Middle East conflict and underlying religious, cultural and economic differences.

“We wanted to teach students about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” says conference organizer and Summer Session teacher Carl Hobert, “and to model and teach international conflict resolution skills they can use in their own lives as future leaders.”

Culminating the program was an all-school meeting attended by 550 Summer Session students, where the international relations students debated the issues. The conference was featured on the front page of the July 28 Education Week.

The Alumni Council provides advice and counsel on a range of educational, administrative, admission and financial aid-policy issues.

Young Alumni team up with Regional Associations

To encourage young alumni to keep close to the academy and each other, the Young Alumni Program and the Regional Associations Program have joined forces in a series of events where grads can meet and mingle. The first, held on the Brown University campus in September, attracted 30 local alumni of different ages, including those now attending Providence-area colleges. Associate Head of School Becky Sykes was the guest speaker.

Yale University’s Rose Alumni House was the site of another joint fall event. English teacher Seth Bardo was the guest speaker. More than 40 alumni, spanning the generations, and their guests attended the reception and enjoyed cocktails, dinner and discussion.

How young is young?

The Young Alumni Program, now in its third year, has expanded to include alumni through their 10th Reunion. Previously, the program included classes only up to the fifth reunion. Benefits for young alumni include discounted fees for Regional Association events and non sibi giving at lower levels. Also, Jenny Savino, director of the Young Alumni Program, hosts events for young alumni in different parts of the country. If you have questions about the Young Alumni Program, contact jsavino@andover.edu or visit www.andover.edu/alumni/young_alumni/index.

Andover in Paris

Head of School Barbara Landis Chase was one of several Andover teachers and administrators who spoke at a weekend conference in Paris in September. Called “Andover in the Global Community,” it brought together European alumni and parents for a discussion on how the rapid and dramatic effects of globalization influence Phillips Academy’s approach to education. David Ensor ’69, CNN’s national security correspondent, was guest speaker at Saturday’s luncheon. At left, an after-dinner discussion engages (from left) Charles Treuhold ’48 and his wife, Faye Field, who flew in from New York; Debbie Stahl Hannam ’80 and her husband, Ian Hannam, who live in London; and Head of School Chase.
Chicago golf tourney includes PA alums

The third annual Greater Chicago Boarding Schools Association Golf Tournament saw 72 golfers representing six schools tee off at the Merit Club in Libertyville, Ill., on July 12. Host Bert Getz, Lawrenceville ’55, celebrated his school’s four-stroke victory over second-place Choate Rosemary Hall. The Andover team of Blake and Vicki DeBoest ’73, Dave Castle ’85 and Lee Eddy ’66 edged out Exeter for fifth place.

1993 girls’ basketball team inducted into Hall of Fame

The 1993 Phillips Academy girls basketball team, Coach Karen Kennedy and three-time New England tournament MVP Becky Dowling Adams ’94 were inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame on Sept. 24. Those present for the induction ceremony were (l. to r.) Kennedy, Jill Imbriano Day ’95, Margi Johnston ’93, Emily Kalkstein ’94, Adams and team captain Carter Marsh Abbott ’93. PA joined the 1997 Suffield Academy team as the only two prep school girls’ teams to be honored by the Hall of Fame to date.

Volunteers feted

A reception to thank Andover volunteers for their service was held at the home of Tom Fox ’57 and his wife, Elizabeth, in Washington, D.C., in the spring. The hosts get together, above, with alumni trustee and guest speaker Gary Lee ’74, left.

Class of ’56 looks ahead to 2006

Thirty-four members of the Class of ’56 met at the Yale Club New York in September for a minireunion and 50th reunion planning session. Shown, from left, are reunion leaders David Paresky, Betsy Parker Powell, Oscar Tang, Mollie Lupe Lasater and Garland Lasater. Tang is president of the Andover Board of Trustees, Powell is a trustee emerita, and Mollie Lasater is a charter trustee.
All the Stops: The Glorious Pipe Organ and Its American Masters  
by Craig R. Whitney ’61  
PublicAffairs

Craig Whitney’s well-researched book chronicles the history of pipe organs in America and the people who made them and played them from 1800s New England to the present day. Whitney brings to light many of the larger-than-life personalities associated with the rarefied world of organ building and performing. Currently assistant managing editor of The New York Times, Whitney has had a lifelong passion for pipe organs and has played them all over the world.

Palladio  
by Jonathan Dee ’80  
Doubleday

Jonathan Dee’s fourth novel follows closely on the success of his third, St. Famous. Palladio tells the story of a New York ad man haunted by memories of “the woman who got away” and the man’s involvement with an eccentric advertising visionary. Dee lives in New York City and is also the author of The Lover of History and The Liberty Campaign.

Inside a Catholic Church  
Slow Down  
by Joseph M. Champlin ’47  
Orbis Books and Sorin Books

Inside a Catholic Church is subtitled A Guide to Signs, Symbols and Saints and serves as an introduction to the functions and symbolism of all the various parts of a Roman Catholic church. Slow Down is subtitled Five-Minute Meditations to De-stress Your Days and was adapted from a series of popular radio messages delivered by the Rev. Joseph Champlin. It comes with a money-back guarantee: If a reader regularly uses it 101 times and doesn’t experience a reduction in stress, the author offers a full refund. Champlin, rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse, N.Y., is the author of more than 40 books.

Path Through the Fire:  
A Cancer Story  
by Wendy Allen Wheeler ’53  
PublicAffairs

Through journal entries and creative drawings, Wendy Wheeler tells the very personal and moving story of her breast cancer discovery and subsequent treatment. While in the process of chemotherapy and radiation, Wheeler discovers the healing powers of art therapy as “soul medicine.” Wheeler lives in Connecticut and is a therapist, wife, mother and grandmother.

A Mountain Too Far  
by Karl H. Purnell ’52  
New Horizon Press

In trying to come to grips with the mountain-climbing death of his 28-year-old son, Christopher, Karl Purnell retraces Chris’ climbs—from Yosemite to the French Alps and Himalayas. Purnell movingly recounts his own exciting, life-threatening climbing journey and his resultant understanding of the power and attraction that climbing must have held for Chris. Karl Purnell is a prize-winning newspaper editor and journalist who lives in Pennsylvania and runs the Christopher S. Purnell Foundation, which restores Tibetan art and architecture.

American Merchant  
Seaman’s Manual  
by William B. Hayler ’40 and John M. Keever  
Cornell Maritime Press

This seventh edition brings up to date the manual first published in 1938. It introduces the fundamentals of navigation, ship handling, seamanship, ship safety and life at sea—all topics a new mariner needs to know. Hayler is also editor of the Merchant Marine Officers’ Handbook. After retiring from the U.S. Navy, Capt. Hayler began teaching in 1970 at the California Maritime Academy, where he is now professor emeritus.

Skellig Michael  
by George Beatty ’50  
Xlibris Corporation

George Beatty’s first novel is an international thriller. The story involves terrorism, espionage, romance and chase scenes, and sometimes serves as a metaphor for other life issues. Beatty lives in Washington, D.C., having retired from a career there as an appellate lawyer for the U.S. Department of Justice and as a lawyer in a tax firm.

A Rendezvous with Death  
by William Y. Boyd ’44  
Elton-Wolf Publishing

This World War II frontline action novel portrays the horrors of war while telling the gripping story of the investigation of the mysterious murders of an American soldier and a civilian woman. Boyd’s earlier WWII novels, A Fight for Love & Glory and The Gentle Infantryman, have recently been reissued in paperback editions. A decorated WWII combat infantryman, Boyd is chairman of the board of the Boyd Steamship Company and lives in Panama City and New York City.

These capsule notices were prepared by Sharon Magnuson.
BUSH RECAPTURES OVAL OFFICE

By a popular vote of 51 to 48 percent, George W. Bush ’64 was elected to a second term as president, besting Senator John F. Kerry of Massachusetts in one of the hardest-fought presidential campaigns in U.S. history.

Andover drew students into the campaign by presenting a series of speakers and through panel discussions on the presidential debates sponsored by the Department of History and Social Science. Clubs and radio station WPAA held spirited election discussions, and students staged a mock election.

Speakers who addressed all-school meetings on election-related topics included Assistant Managing Editor of Newsweek Evan Thomas ’69; Barbara Bodine, former coordinator for post-conflict reconstruction for Baghdad and former U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Yemen; Vanessa Kerry ’95, daughter of the democratic presidential candidate; and Roger Porter, policy adviser to presidents Ford, Reagan and George H.W. Bush ’42.