November 2008

Dear Class of 2001,

I hope that this letter finds you all doing well. Based on the news you’ve all sent, it sounds like you’ve been having an exciting few months.

I hope by now you’ve had an opportunity to visit Kenyon’s redesigned Web site. If you haven’t had the chance, you should check it out. The new site seeks to capture the College’s energy while enhancing user-friendliness through improved search and navigation functions. The new site is the result of a year-long process involving the campus community along with alumni, parents, and prospective students. A prominent feature of the new site is a “photomosaic wall” of twenty-seven clickable images that is intended to suggest the vitality of Kenyon and will change regularly.

Kenyon’s website wasn’t alone in receiving a sprucing up. Peirce Hall—certainly one of the College’s most beloved landmarks—reopened in August after a $28-million renovation project. This restoration preserved the building’s grand traditional spaces while adding new amenities and emphasizing sustainability and local foods. The dining hall, which includes an expanded pub space, a new patio overlooking the countryside, and all-new cooking and serving stations, will give Kenyon one of the top dining programs in the country. The 70,000-square-foot facility is now entirely air-conditioned and boasts three large dining rooms—the Great Hall; a sleek, modern counterpart in Dempsey, called Richard L. and Helen Thomas Hall; and Alumni Hall in Lower Dempsey.

If you haven’t made your annual pledge to the Kenyon Fund yet this year, please make sure to do that. I know that the economy is making everything tight right now, but even a small pledge helps. It’s easy to do by going to the Kenyon website at http://gift.kenyon.edu. Or, if you’d prefer to have someone call you to get your pledge over the phone, just drop me an email and I’ll make sure it gets taken care of (shanahane@hotmail.com).

Below is the news you’ve sent me for this letter. Remember, you don’t have to wait until the email reminder comes to send me news. If you send me news as it comes up, I do save it until it’s time to write the new letter. This way, you won’t forget what’s going on. There are a lot of you that we’ve never heard from, and we’d really like to. So, if you have anything to announce—graduate degrees, marriages, kids, moves, new jobs, new hobbies, whatever—make sure to send it along to me.
Here is the news from the Class of 2001:

**Chaz Beck** is currently working as a contract specialist at the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis. He is looking forward to Minnesota’s frigid winter months.

**Molly Birkhead** shares that on October 18, she got married to John Parks (’03) in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. A large number of Kenyonites were in attendance, including Aaron Hagaman (’02), [Heather Holbrook-Kuratek](mailto:heather.holbrook-kuratek@kent.edu), [Cassandra Bujarski](mailto:cassandra.bujarski@kent.edu), Jack Fisher (’00), John Hepp (’02), Jamie Carrington (’02), Craig Knowlton (’02), and Joanna Guild (’02 and the sister of the bride). Molly and John will continue to live in Boston with their dog Mona. Molly will be finishing her doctorate in clinical psychology this June, which she will celebrate by attending [Holly Holbrook-Kuratek](mailto:holly.holbrook-kuratek@kent.edu)’s wedding in San Francisco two weeks later.

**Jeff Boyle** lives in Westchester, New York, working as a freelance editor for an educational publishing company in New York City. He is engaged to Sarah Gibson (John Hopkins University ’03). Their wedding is planned for July 2009.

**Spencer Cooke** is working in Los Angeles as a restaurant manager. Over the next few months, he will be applying to MBA programs in the hopes of starting a program in Fall 2009.

**Kristina (Mullins) Depew** and her husband Ryan (’00) welcomed their twin boys, Braydon Reid and Colton Jackson, into the world on March 21. After the boys were born, the Depew’s moved to Colorado from Kentucky to be closer to their family. They welcome visitors if you’re in the area.

**Andrew Dinsmore** reports that he and [Andreana Prichard](mailto:andreana.prichard@kent.edu) lunched on the coast of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in July. They had a great time catching up telling funny stories about their travels in Africa. Andreanna was wrapping up a year’s worth of history research in rural Tanzania, Zanzibar, a large coastal city, for a project on the intersection of religion, education, and nationalism in Tanzania.

**Meredith Stevenson Fath** married Austin Fath (Duke ’02) on April 12, in her hometown of Lancaster, Ohio. Meredith’s sister, Margaret Vines ’92, was her matron of honor, and [Jill Salmon](mailto:jill.salmon@kent.edu) was a member of the wedding party. Meredith and Austin currently reside in Falls Church, Virginia, where Meredith is the editor-in-chief of Federal Publications for Tax Analysts, a nonprofit publisher of tax information. They are eagerly awaiting the birth of their first child in February.

**Julie Foxworthy** is currently living in Santa Cruz, California, with her partner, Brian. She is working as a 6th-grade teacher in San Jose and is really enjoying life.
Luette Frost is living in Southern Colorado (Alamosa), and is now working for the University of Colorado running a nutrition education program in the local public schools.

Aaron Hamilton wrote in to announce that on July 19, he and Betty Ky got married in a beautiful outdoor ceremony at Appleford Estate outside Philadelphia. They met in medical school in Chicago. There was a strong showing from close Kenyon friends, including groomsmen Lonnie Manns ('00) and Spencer Morgan, reader Zarrin Atkins and usher Bart Bidlingmeyer ('03). Following the wedding, the happy couple quickly returned to work as Internal Medicine residents at The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. However, they were able to get away from Pennsylvania for a few weeks to spend six weeks in Gaborone, Botswana, where they worked in a local hospital and spent free time exploring the region.

Beth Harrod just finished up the end of her fifth year as a clinical researcher at The Psychiatric Institute of Washington. She has recently returned to the pool after a seven-year retirement and is enjoying it immensely. She also reports that her nephew is about the turn one and is going to be a big brother soon!

Lee Heekin is trying to keep up with the New York City pace of life. Lee had a solo show last month at Fredrick P. Victoria Gallery in New York featuring eight of her paintings and a collaborative installation. Peter Brani, Marela Zacharias ('00), and Mara Shneider ('99) represented Kenyon at the show. She reports that she is loving her new job teaching art at The Browning School in Manhattan. She lives with her husband Jim Heekin in Brooklyn.

Ian Malone and Megan Anderegg Malone welcomed their daughter, Penelope Victoria Malone, on May 20.

Adam Marks has completed his intern year of an Internal Medicine/Pediatric Residency at Ann Arbor, and is now enjoying the relatively light schedule of a senior resident. Alexix (Braun) Marks continues to enjoy her work as Chief Archivist at the Charles C. Wright Museum of African American History. Between their work and their new puppy Cormac, they’re very busy, but they invite anyone passing through Ann Arbor to stop by for a visit.

Elizabeth (Costello) Peters and Mike Peters celebrated the birth of their son, Joshua Michael, in August.

Linzey Powers has started a new job as the grants manager for New Orleans City Park (www.neworleanscitypark.com).

Erica Rall is teaching first grade at a public school in Nashville, Tennessee, for her fourth year. Despite the challenges of two autistic students and several with severe behavioral problems, she continues to love teaching and her school. She’s also been taking full advantage of having summers off—two summers ago she went to
Central Europe for a month. This past summer, she purchased a home. She invites anyone who is in Nashville to stop by and visit.

Alanna (Dewiel) Schaefer has been keeping busy as a nurse. She recently switched from cardiac nursing to dialysis. She has also been spending a lot of time chasing around her 23-month old nephew, and spending time with her husband and friends. She’s on Facebook if anyone wants to stop by and say hi.

Alys Spensley reports that she and Drew Lebkuecher ('99) are enjoying life in Shanghai and welcome Kenyon friends to visit. She had a fun break from Asia this September when she was back in the States in New Mexico and had a chance to catch up with other 2001 grads including Laura Maestas, Bridget and Llew Jones, Jenny Lawton, Devon DeMayo, and Lauren Newhouse. On the same trip, she also had a chance to see Mike Weber in San Francisco.

Clare Tessman successfully completed this year’s Chicago Marathon with Sara Shea in town cheering her on.

Atul Varma reports that the company he started, Humanized, was recently hired out to Mozilla, the nonprofit behind the Firefox browser. He recently moved from Chicago to San Francisco to work in Mozilla’s lab division, figuring out ways to innovate the Web in the interest of end-users. (He recently wrote a blog posting at www.toolness.com/wp/?p=207 if you’d like more information.) While he’s enjoying San Francisco, he is not quite as enamored of it as he is of Chicago.

Jeana Visel is still plugging away at the nun life, teaching high school near Louisville, and heading back to the monastery every couple weeks. She had a good summer studying theology at Notre Dame. Then, in August, she took a workshop with a Russian master iconographer and is learning the intricacies of egg tempura painting.

Bill Ward and Amanda Reyes proudly announce the birth of their first child on October 16, Nora Elena Ward. If you’d like to see any pictures, drop them an email at wardw@ohsu.edu.

Mike White reports that he will be heading back to the States after spending two years in Chile working with the Armada. He’ll be heading to various Navy schools—including six months in Newport, Rhode Island—starting in March until October 2009, when he’ll be reporting to the USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) as Chief Engineer.

Meredith Weaver Yuckman and Colin Yuckman celebrated the birth of a daughter, Darcy Anastasia, in April. Colin is serving as the pastor of the United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington, Pennsylvania. In December, Meredith will complete a dual degree—a Masters of Divinity and a Masters of Public Policy Management—from Pittsburgh Seminary and Carnegie Mellon.
For my own news, I got married on October 12 to Joel Nierman (Northwestern ’04). A handful of Kenyonites were in attendance, including Sara (Rudolph) Dupuis (’03), Josh Louria (’03), and Dominique Raccah and Ray Bennett (parents ’04). I am still working as an editor at Sourcebooks, but I’m now the Digital Initiatives Manager. This month, we are launching a whole new type of digital book that has never been seen before. If you’d like more information, visit: http://www.sourcebooks.com/spotlight/country-music-digital-book.html.

Again, please make sure to get your annual pledge to the Kenyon Fund in now. Don’t wait or you might forget!

And, remember to keep sending in your news.

Thanks!

Sincerely,

Erin Shanahan
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