



# OUR VOICE '59

WINTER 2009



“My muscles gave out after the first load—thank goodness my pride’s still working!”

—Anonymous Carleton faculty member

“I’ve gotta (puff, puff) keep up with the profs!”

—Anonymous Carleton student

## Class of 1959 50th Reunion

### JUNE 18–21, 2009



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### Skinner Memorial Chapel

If Willis Hall was a comforting, chatty place to convene for the Class of '59, Skinner Memorial Chapel was a little uncomfortable, dignified, and intimidating, above the fray of ordinary life. Willis's doors opened on our own small world of Carleton. Skinner's doors opened toward Northfield and the larger world. We went to Willis voluntarily several times a day. We were required to enter the doors of Skinner a minimum of three times a week. We could run into Willis and stay for just a few minutes. We filed slowly into Skinner and stayed for a full hour or more. In Willis friends of both sexes mingled freely and noisily, but in Skinner the men sat silently on the left, the women on the right. Faculty members in Willis were off-duty, relaxed, and casual, conversing with individual friends or students. The same faculty members in Skinner's transept, robed in black and blue and red, presided with liturgical solemnity over the assembled intellectual might of the whole College.

Uncomfortable and intimidating as it was, however, Skinner Memorial Chapel also was the venue for high-voltage concerts, talented performances, awe-inspiring sermons, and convocation addresses that opened up lines of thought and understanding that we are still processing today. We came to watch and listen to John Gielgud, Dave Brubeck, Andres Segovia, Melvin Laird, and Larry Gould. We were dazed and impressed by their talent and their knowledge. We heard Enid Woodward encourage the choir toward excellence. We looked forward to David Maitland's sermons that forced us to rethink our religious assumptions.

The spires of Skinner Memorial Chapel were just a vision in the mind of Dr. Cowling when he took office in 1909, exactly a hundred years before our 50th Reunion. His vision was for an "ideally designed" complex of buildings and grounds. Built of Bedford stone, the chapel was dedicated on October 8, 1916, as part of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the College. It was Mrs. Myron W. Skinner's wish that the chapel face south as a symbol of the cordial relation between the College and Northfield. She had offered \$75,000 in securities toward the erection of a chapel, a memorial to her late husband, a Carleton trustee, and had funded the pipe organ, which was named in her honor.

While Skinner Memorial Chapel still stands, church, chapel, and convocation are no longer required. Still, the class returning for Reunion in June 2009 will find that Skinner Chapel has changed less than any other building on campus. Both interior and exterior look much as they did 50 years ago. It is primarily in landscaping, not in the structure itself, that classmates will note outside alterations. The great elm on the west lawn whose branches touched the ground has been replaced by young trees, and decorative plants line the walk to the main door of the Chapel. A ramp for handicapped access connects inconspicuously at the northwest corner of the building. (continued on next page)

**Our Voice '59**

**50th Reunion: June 18–21, 2009**

More than 80 percent of classmates who returned survey questionnaires last February expressed interest in participating in smaller discussion groups that could meet together longer and focus on more personal subjects. These groups will provide opportunities to reflect on your own 50 years since Carleton, as well as learn about the life experiences and philosophies of a few others. Thus, the program committee is planning "Engage-and-Reflect" discussion groups as a pre-Reunion event. Come for lunch at noon on Thursday, June 18, 2009, and spend the afternoon with a small group of classmates and spouses. The official 50th Reunion begins with a picnic Thursday evening, to be followed on Friday and Saturday by a variety of activities, talks, panels, arts/crafts exhibits, performances, and dinner programs which offer something for everyone. More details will follow in future mailings and on the class Web site. Start planning!

## Skinner Memorial Chapel (cont.)

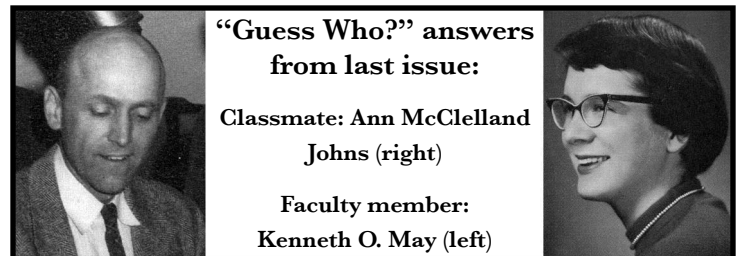
Inside, the most obvious change is the removal of the first six to eight rows of pews and their replacement with moveable chairs, providing flexibility in the seating of smaller groups. Colorful banners designed by a Carleton graduate hang overhead.

The Chapel is still used for public concerts, notably the annual visit of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. A number of world class musicians have also appeared with that orchestra on the Chapel stage. Currently many but not all Carleton convocations take place in the Chapel. The term's schedule is announced to the Northfield community, and many community members join students and faculty for these Friday events. The sanctuary also is the site for rallies and meetings of campus-wide interest, including gatherings about 9/11 and post-Katrina recovery. Perhaps more importantly for many of us, Skinner Chapel holds personal memories of weddings—our own or the weddings of friends. These happy ceremonies link our families and memories of our youthful Carleton selves with the rich and fulfilling experiences of the next 50 years that have made us who we are today.

## Guess Who?

### Mystery Classmate

Our mystery student #2 started a new life with a second spouse in 1986. He or she lives in Spain now but uses a daughter's address for much of his/her U.S. mail. He/she was a single parent for seven years for a first set of daughters and raised a second set of daughters in the U.S. and Spain. He/she consults for two different consortia of petroleum companies and will get back to the U.S. in early 2009 due to his/her spouse's sabbatical at Stanford after the IODP drilling expedition to Antarctica. He/she is still working, defining the 10,000-year history of the Cascadia Subduction Zone and northern San Andreas Fault earthquakes and is being urged to write a book, *A Geologist's Journey: Lessons for America*.



**"Guess Who?" answers  
from last issue:**

**Classmate: Ann McClelland  
Johns (right)**

**Faculty member:  
Kenneth O. May (left)**

### Mystery Faculty Member

Our mystery faculty member was born in 1908 in an Ohio town with a strange name: Washington Court House. Prior to a career in teaching, he/she had three years of banking experience. In an apparently reluctant response to a questionnaire, he/she indicated that a most unusual life event for him/her was to be involved in a bank robbery in 1929. He/she joined the Carleton faculty in 1945. He/she was self-described as "a planner, which I know is a source of annoyance with some of my friends." During our years at Carleton, signatures on his/her letters to Larry Gould ranged from the prosaic "Sincerely yours" to "Nosey, but fiercely Carleton proud" to "Snip, snap, snout, and now my tale is out." He/she made a pilgrimage to Paris to study with Nadia Boulanger.

*(Look for the answers in our next issue!)*

# '59

## Class of '59 Memories

### Theater Arts



Susie Rom Zuriff writes, "I was bitten by the theater bug in high school and really enjoyed my years in Nourse Little Theater where I was in the first show freshman year and the last show my senior year. I was really happy to see that a photo of Dick Davis and me dancing the tango in *Ring Round the Moon* had survived. Our Carleton generation was blessed to have Bob Corrigan and Jack Woodruff as directors. We did great work in a limited physical setting. I have enduring memories of very good acting."



George Nicholson remembers: "It was only after Sir John Gielgud came to Carleton that I learned what a singular actor and how extraordinarily intelligent and knowledgeable about the theater he was. My most vivid immediate memory is of his altogether unique voice. I don't remember anyone who spoke so beautifully. While he seemed most unprepossessing physically and not at all grand, in later years I realized he could be commanding or emotionally available depending on the role. I should have known how great he was by how awestruck Janet Saltus was to meet him."



Thinking back on Carleton theatrical productions, Janet Saltus says, "I am amazed and grateful at the quality and range of the plays we got to do. Robert Corrigan and Jack Woodruff guided us expertly through our performances, and our fellow students Fred Lessing and Peter Connelly proved to be first-class directors as well. Our senior year, Sir John Gielgud came and performed *The Ages of Man*—an unforgettable event. The following year I was in London on a Fulbright, studying theater, and was invited to have tea with him. He was the most courteous and cordial of hosts. These are the memories I treasure."



According to Dick Davis, "My senior year was made by Pete Connelly, Jack Woodruff, the Carleton Players, and Nourse Little Theater. Pete got me into acting—both Pete and Jack were wonderful play directors—and I literally (and 'illegally') slept overnight at the rear of the theater tunnel a few times. If Carleton was my 'home away from home,' Nourse was my 'home within my home.' Class and castmates I've always remembered warmly include Pete, Jan Saltus, Jan Trussell, Penny Gillette, Tony Lincoln, Bart Campbell, and Susie Rom."

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