



CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2019

Oxford University Press has published a book by **Don Akenson** on *Exporting the Rapture: John Nelson Darby and the Victorian Conquest of North-American Evangelicalism*. In the book, Don argues that the ideological core of North American Evangelicalism was imported from Ireland and Great Britain during the 19th century, and that a key figure in this process was John Nelson Darby, a crusty but ultimately very successful Evangelical missionary to the United States and Canada.

Stallworth Larson, who lives in south Florida and spends time in southern Vermont as well as on his family farm in south Alabama, recently enjoyed a big family trip to southern Africa to celebrate his wife Juliette's 75th birthday and their 50th wedding anniversary.

Yale University Press has published a book co-edited and co-authored by **Tom Lovejoy** and Lee Hannah on *Biodiversity and Climate Change: Transforming the Biosphere*. A sequel to the 2005 volume *Climate Change and Biodiversity*, the book captures the sweep of climate change transformation of the biosphere, from extinction risk to ocean acidification, from the future of the Amazon to changes in ecosystem services, and from geoengineering to the power of ecosystem restoration. In a related editorial on "Avoiding the climate failsafe point" in the August 22, 2018 issue of *Science Advances*, Lovejoy and Hannah write that "many researchers are concluding that ecological systems around the planet will not be able to tolerate temperature rise much beyond 1.5°C. Although current trajectories in energy use and ecosystem destruction seem to be leading us relentlessly forward, a few paths to capping temperature increase at 1.5°C still exist, with the most important likely being ecosystem restoration."

Bill Nordhaus has been honored with the Nobel Prize in Economics, along with Paul Romer of NYU. The Royal Swedish Academy announced that "William Nordhaus and Paul Romer have

significantly broadened the scope of economic analysis by constructing models that explain how the market economy interacts with nature and knowledge.” The Academy summarized the work for which Bill was honored as follows: “Nordhaus’ findings deal with interactions between society and nature. Nordhaus decided to work on this topic in the 1970s, as scientists had become increasingly worried about the combustion of fossil fuel resulting in a warmer climate. In the mid-1990s, he became the first person to create an *integrated assessment model*, i.e., a quantitative model that describes the global interplay between the economy and the climate. His model integrates theories and empirical results from physics, chemistry and economics. Nordhaus’ model is now widely spread and is used to simulate how the economy and the climate co-evolve. It is used to examine the consequences of climate policy interventions, for example carbon taxes.”

Those who were fortunate enough to be at our 55th Reunion last spring will recall that Bill Nordhaus and Tom Lovejoy shared their insights on climate change with us at a well-attended Class discussion group in the auditorium of the Yale Art Gallery.

Ken Porter’s beloved wife of 55 years, Sally, passed away peacefully from abdominal cancer, surrounded by family, on September 15, 2018. Many of us got to know Sally as part of the Yale ’63 family through the many alumni functions she attended with Ken over the decades, including our 55th Class Reunion this past spring. Born and raised in Indianapolis, she was a magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Miami University of Ohio and president of its Alpha Chi Omega sorority chapter. Later she earned an M.S.W. from U.C. Berkeley and spent many years as a school counselor. She was a devoted mother of her three children, Ted, Daniel, and Amy, and loving grandmother to Claudia, Kenzie, and Madeline. Her formidable intelligence, curious nature, hearty sense of humor, and quick, infectious laugh made her a joy to be around. She loved nature, flowers, Hawaii, museums, history, cards and board games, traveling often and everywhere, making art with her friends and sister, exploring new places, and learning new things. To the last, she was grateful for her full life and happy family.

Steve Sohmer writes: “This year I’ve moved house from LA to Las Vegas (tax exile), published my fourth book on Shakespeare, and begun renovating my country house in England. I’ve given myself a year-long sabbatical to write my fifth novel. But I intend to spend most of my free time as roommate to my son David, who is finishing his degree at the American University of Paris. Anyone wishing to share a brioche in the 7er or 15er: steve.sohmer@gmail.com.”

William Bradford Bidwell passed away peacefully on August 23, 2018 at Connecticut Hospice, with his daughter Laurel Bidwell and his son Birch Bidwell by his side. **Dave Hilyard** remembers Bill as follows: “Bill was the Recording Secretary and Director of Stewardship at Yale, a position requiring infinite care and sensitivity. I had the pleasure of working with him for more than 20 years. When Bill retired, an officer of the University complimented him on his ‘kindness and gentleness and the empathetic way he went about his duties.’ After graduating from Yale, Bill went to the University of Rochester, where he earned a Ph.D. in History. He then taught for several years before returning to his alma mater. Bill and his partner Nan Bartow worked for many years as volunteers with the Urban Resources Initiative (URI). During their retirement, they spearheaded the restoration of Beaver Ponds Park in New Haven. Bill had a large extended family, including four grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Those of us who knew Bill well knew we were blessed.”

Frederic Hull Roth, Jr. passed away peacefully on July 2, 2018 at Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula, CA, surrounded by his three children and Kathy, the love of his life and wife of 55 years. Born on July 27, 1941 in Cleveland, OH, he left the Midwest to attend Yale University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in English. He then traveled across country with Kathy to begin a teaching career at Robert Louis Stevenson School in Pebble Beach, CA. Although Fred stayed only two years in California, he fell in love with the Monterey Peninsula and knew he would someday return. Fred completed his education at Columbia University and then the University of Virginia, where he earned a Ph.D. in English Literature. Teaching was a calling for Fred, who was a passionate, tireless, and consummate educator, devoted to his students inside and outside of the classroom. At Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, he taught the literary canon and at the same time helped to oversee the community’s “A

Better Chance” program, providing educational opportunities to hundreds of underserved high school students. At Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills, MI, Fred chaired the English Department and served as faculty advisor of the school’s yearbook and literary magazine. In 1991 Fred and Kathy returned to the Monterey Peninsula and to Stevenson School, where he served as head of the English Department until retiring in 2007. In retirement, Fred pursued all the joys of his life – reading more books and seeing more films; walking the forest trails and beaches he loved; traveling the world with Kathy; and, especially, spending time with his friends and family.

Walter Collins writes: “Fred was a great guy. Other than a few short visits in California and New York in the 1960s, we hadn’t gotten together in 50 years. We tried around the 55th Reunion, but his health wouldn’t allow it to happen. I have great memories of Fred, who was the undisputed master of “Club” 918, our room in the corner turret of Saybrook College. It was a great space, and tough to leave. The fact that Fred, an English major, roomed with two Engineering majors, **Larry Parker** and myself, was a testament to his sense of humor.

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