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Dear Sachs Scholars:

The annual newsletter is reaching you rather later than usual. Your correspondent has had several earlier deadlines that cropped up unexpectedly. But the delay is all to the good. Excellent news kept pouring in. First of all, however, you will have learned long since that Alex Barnard '09 is joining your ranks, and no doubt many of you will have taken the opportunity to congratulate and welcome him. The Selection Committee this year consisted of Harry Lord, Bill Sachs, Howard West, Justin Pope (chair), Natalie Deffenbaugh, Rafil Kroll-Zaidi, and Dan-el Padilla. It was fine to see them all. Alex and I had lunch together after the Christmas break. Our conversation left me in no doubt that the Committee had chosen well and wisely.

Now for the news from others. A personal item is coming first. Here is the text of an email from Vince in Oxford headed BIG NEWS !!!: "I'm engaged to be married!!! I proposed to my girlfriend -- now fiancée -- Joanna up on stage during our weekly

student gathering at church, with her whole family there to surprise her, and best of all, she said 'YES!!' Joanna is also at Worcester College (a final year undergrad who hopes to stay on for a master's next year), and we'll be married here in Oxford on August 29."

The other Big News you already know since it concerns our pair of erstwhile Deans, who will henceforth be serving in the public sphere. Elena has taken leave from Harvard Law School to accept President Obama's nomination as Solicitor General of the United States. That is the second ranking post in the Justice Department, immediately under the Attorney General. Anne-Marie for her part has taken leave from the Woodrow Wilson School to accept Hillary Clinton's appointment to be Director of the Policy Planning Division of the State Department, the post created by George Kennan '25 and first occupied by him. The country can count on comparable wisdom from both Elena and Anne-Marie.

Now, in more or less chronological order, Michael and Debra Decker, who have become a pair of francophiles, write from the most recent of their frequent visits to France, where they are thinking of retiring some day. Prior to that, they both were commuting between Dallas, Cambridge, and Washington. As of last fall, Mike was still in the investment business, involved among other things in an alternative energy outfit in Santa Fe. Debra was again connected with Harvard in research and writing on political topics as well as part-time government consulting with Booz Allen.

As for Rush, Professor of Classics and Drama at Stanford, among his other talents is making plum preserves from trees in his garden. He sent us a generous sampling for my birthday. More important, the Stanford Summer Theater he founded has completed its tenth season with a celebration of the work of Brian Friel, in Rush's opinion the greatest living Irish dramatist. Rush has made several trips to Palestine, and taught at the university there for a time. Outraged by the "hellish circumstances" he has seen at close range, he continues to be active in agitating for the rights of Palestinians.

We look forward to seeing Madelyn during her 30th Reunion. (I can't believe that time passes so fast.) She is in charge of the Dual Degree Program between George Mason University and various Chinese universities. She, Skip and the children expect to be spending the year 2009-2010 in Beijing. It seems that 2009 is the year of the Ox.

Steve Ratner has also returned to the locale of his Sachs Scholarship. Nancy and he and the two children, Ben (11) and Isabel (9) are currently in Geneva. Steve is working in the legal division of the International Red Cross on law of war issues. His office is in the same institute where he was a student twenty-six years ago.

Natalie Bocock Turnage's news is not happy. Her father died the day before Thanksgiving after a long struggle with a rare cancer. I remember him running up and down the sidelines cheering Natalie on during a lacrosse match during the spring term of her senior year. Natalie and her three youngest children had moved to the family's home in Richmond last summer, and will be continuing there through the school year. Mark and their oldest son Jack continued in Denver until the Christmas holidays when all joined forces in a more cheerful mode for a trip to Switzerland where Jack will be spending the winter term at a school in Lenk.

Matthew writes that he has finished his book on The Management Myth and that it should be out in the near future. He says that he's pretty hard on management types, particularly consultants, and that it should make him popular in business schools. I read the article in The Atlantic from which he developed the opus, and he must mean that ironically. For what he there argued is that a PhD in philosophy is more to the point than the MBA. He doesn't say what he's writing next, though I know he had intended to extend the theme of his book on Leibniz and Spinoza and demonstrate the latter's influence on the framing of the American Constitution. Meanwhile Katherine has become an experienced reporter on spas, an expertise with the side effect that they take trips to a fancy spa every month or two. Nice work if you can get it.

Still at the Federal Communications Commission Doug Galbi assures us that he is regulating that sector to within an inch of its life. In the private sector he has worked on a couple of TV crews covering high school basketball games, but prefers one-man video production with his little video camera.

Andrea Richter Hume sends a Christmas card featuring a portrait of her two boys and a note saying that they will have a new brother in March. The financial crisis has put a heavy load of work onto international economists and litigators. Much though Andrea would like to return to government, particularly under the new administration, with three young boys to bring up, she thinks that will have to await a second Obama administration.

David Tobin writes from Seattle, where he has been on a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Washington. His research is on the resistance to tuberculosis infection. He works on animal models with the object of comprehending why some people develop the disease while others are able to clear the infection. David finds it rewarding, naturally enough, to be engaged in basic research with immediate applicability to a large and growing worldwide health problem. He and his wife, Ana Xet-Mull, whom he met while working in Guatemala, enjoy life in Seattle. Their seven-year old, Gabriel, is planning to be a professional baseball player.

A note last August from Stephanie in New Orleans brings word

that she was just finishing an internship in energy private equity. She is currently in New York in her second year at Columbia Business School.

Justin has completed ten years with Associated Press reporting on topics of higher education. That carries with it the right to a sabbatical. I wonder whether this is true of all fields, or just of higher education. At all events Maria and he are in Durham where she is in the midst of a third year of residency in psychiatry at Duke while simultaneously working on a master's degree in public health at Chapel Hill. Justin's sabbatical will coincide with Maria's tenure of a prestigious global health fellowship from Duke. That project was to involve research in Tanzania during the academic year 2009-2010. I think I recall Justin's telling me during the interview weekend that the project is to be postponed until the following year, but that may be wrong. In either case, a year's residence in Africa will give Justin plenty to think about and write about. His job at AP is guaranteed, but Justin is meditating whether to set out on a new tack.

As of last November, Christine and Peter were planning to move from Iowa City back to the East Coast after his clerkship ended, though whether in Philadelphia, New York, or Boston was still undecided. During their years in Iowa City Christine has been teaching in the Sociology Department at the University of Iowa. It doesn't surprise me to learn that she has found developing three new courses from scratch to be a huge amount of work. She enjoys teaching, however, and will be looking for possibilities when they settle on where to live. At last reports a paperback version of her book, *Why Smart Men Marry Smart Women*, was in the works, and she was considering developing her Oxford thesis on self-help books into something publishable. Born and bred New Yorker that Christine is, life in the heartland enlarged her perspective on the country, the more so that it coincided with the beginning of the Obama boom in the primaries. No doubt she will know their plans when she returns for her 10th Reunion in May, and we eagerly look forward to welcoming her back.

David Tannenbaum, another New Yorker or nearly, is also planning to come back East. (Why is it always Out West and Back East?) Political activist that he is, David is particularly excited about Alex's selection as the current scholar. Writing in late December, he had finished his appellate clerkship and was three months into a year-long clerkship with a federal district judge in Los Angeles. He is looking for an eventual job on the East Coast, and would love to work in the Obama administration though he fears that his chances are small at so late a date. His two primary interests are technology policy and labor/employment policy. A fellowship at a law school focused on those areas is the likeliest possibility. It will be good to have David back within reach.

After two and a half years in the Congo, Natalie Deffenbaugh enjoyed a relatively relaxed summer learning Arabic at Middlebury College and a relatively quiet fall culminating in a two-day interview in Geneva with officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (for whom Steve Ratner is working even now). Evidently they were properly impressed with Natalie's credentials, for she will be appointed a Delegate in one of their field sites. A four-week period of "integration" training for new staff next August will determine what that site is to be. Fortunately for us she was back in this country for the interviews on 5-6 December. The timing was close. Pending the ICRC position, Natalie had accepted a six-month post with her old employer, the International Rescue Committee (not to be confused with the Red Cross) in Iraq. Leaving Princeton the Sunday of the interview weekend, Natalie missed the dinky in Princeton and barely made her flight at JFK for Amman, where she changed planes for her new assignment. Her headquarters are in Erbil, a relatively peaceful city, so she assures us, in Iraqi Kurdistan. Her job is to start and administer a small Protection Program in a refugee camp in Makhmur, a 70 kilometer commute from Erbil. The refugees in question are Turkish Kurds, about 12,000 of them, who fled persecution in Turkey in the early '90s. When she wrote, in late December, Natalie was just beginning to take the measure of the job, hire assistants, and explore the region.

Herewith is a reminder, as David has notified us all, that a selection of Rafil's photographs in Bollywood will be on exhibition from February 19 through March 21 at the Thomas Erben Gallery in Chelsea, 526 W. 26th Street, floor 4.

There is also word from Kyle that after several years of working with Eurasia in New York, he has departed Brooklyn Heights and enrolled at Harvard, though whether in the Law School or Graduate Program in Political Science I am not sure. Besides his China-related work at Eurasia, he also became their lead watcher of Mongolian politics, and made several visits to that far-off country for research meetings.

Josh's Sachs in Barcelona has evolved into a doctoral program in the Department of Didactica de la Llengua i la Literatura at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. There he has been presenting scholarly papers based on his research and teaching on problems of language acquisition that I didn't know even exist. An example is the question whether learning a third language is facilitated or impeded by reference to features included in one or two of the previously known languages. The title of one of his papers is "The Input-Overlap Principle: a Comprehensive Theory of Multiple Congruence in Third Language Acquisition. To oversimplify, Josh's argument, if I understand his summary, is that we are not tabula rasa in learning a third language, and that rather than starting from scratch in imparting a third language, a teacher should take

advantage of features that overlap with either or both of the known languages. Somehow I happen to know four languages. Even so there are technical details in his experience and reasoning that persuade me of what I had never realized, which is that language is as much an object of scientific study as any other feature of nature.

In a newsy letter last fall Emily wrote that she has indeed been doing what we hope Sachs Scholars will do, traveling and seeing the world a bit as well as studying. A couple of weeks in Paris, a trip to Cornwall, another through southern England and Wales with her parents, two weeks in Scotland and plenty of theater at the Edinburgh Festival, all that is properly a part of a couple of years at Oxford. Back at the College, she is Secretary of the Middle Common Room, as many of you were before her, and is getting to work on her thesis. Her subject is Radical Feminist Citizenship Theory.

Except that Pauline fell ill before Christmas and had to return home to Hong Kong temporarily for treatment, she has been enjoying the year at Worcester and will complete the M.Sc. in Global Governance, but has not managed to find another Oxford program that fits her evolving interests. Accordingly, instead of continuing a second year on the Sachs, she has been accepted for a law degree at Cambridge. We wish her all the best.

As for Emily and me, we're holding our own. I still keep an office on the campus and stay in touch with our History of Science Program. Many of you were more than kind to write me so enthusiastically when David revealed the ill kept secret of my 90th birthday. Thank you with all my heart, one and all. Lastly, you will all wish to join Emily and me in our gratitude to David and Cathy, to him for his inspired stewardship of the Scholarship, and to Cathy for her lavish, cordial, and unfailing hospitality.

As one who remembers the Depression from his youthful years, I am sure that no matter how you voted, you will agree in trusting that the new Administration will find the way to steer us through these parlous times to better days ahead.

Happy Valentine's Day and Yours Ever,

Charles