


# Our thoughts turn to distant lands

I'm taking a Spanish course this semester at Wheaton. I first started to learn Spanish in seventh grade and continued through two years in high school before turning my attention to other things. As it's said of many things, "use it or lose it." I lost it.

But now I'm back at it. Seriously. My professor is Bernadette Houldsworth—*una profesora muy encantadora*—and the process of relearning another language increasingly pulls my thoughts toward distant lands. Well, it might also be the foot of snow outside Park Hall and the many, many Torino, Italy, profiles on the television. But there's no denying just how powerful an experience it is to immerse yourself in another culture, whether it's at home (in the classroom) or afar. You don't have to take my word for it.

Stanley Ellicott '07, a recently named Fulbright-Hays scholar, spent the fall semester in Denmark before moving on to Russia. "I composed a letter to my [host] Russian family explaining the idiosyncra-

sies of Danish culture and my experiences here thus far," Ellicott said of his scholarship application. "My Russian instructor, who has lived in Denmark for some years now, laughed quite a bit after reading about Danish cultural practices from an American's perspective. The Danes don't have a direct expression for 'excuse me,' and therefore, if you happen to be blocking the exit of the Metro, you'll be plowed out of the way and only hear 'undskyld' afterward. You learn rather quickly not to block the exit."

There's just no substitute for learning to understand someone else's way of life, or reaching out to teach others about one's own life. Karen Malme '88 and Celeste Del Russo '02 do just that in the following pages (pages 24 and 18, respectively), as do our newest scholarship winners (page 4). As for me, I'll be practicing my improving Spanish skills with my bilingual 4-year-old niece who, on our last visit, volunteered to be my *profesora*. 



While Susan Giovanoni '07 and Alex Levy '07 were studying in London, they received a surprise visit from Skye Monson '07 (who was studying in Cordoba, Spain) and Alex Young '06.

## ▶ LETTERS

### Recipe for success

I always enjoy the *Wheaton Quarterly*, but the winter 2006 issue was fantastic. The cover was, perhaps, the first clue that this issue was different and special. The inside cover cites "The Food Issue," and "Between the Lines" was all about food. As a graduate of the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts and a former student manager in Chase, I was certainly curious. As I read farther into the issue, I could not believe the pages dedicated to the diverse careers in food that Wheaton alums have pursued.

As assistant principal of the Seacoast School of Technology, a career and technical center in

Exeter, N.H., serving students from six area high schools, I found that this issue truly hit home. I immediately shared it with the Culinary Arts teacher and the Animal and Plant Science teacher. Our job is not only to prepare students for post-secondary opportunities, but also to educate our students about the opportunities available after high school. The 13 Wheaton graduates featured in the *Quarterly* represent just a smattering of the careers available to students with an interest in the world of food.

Editor Jayne Iafrate was generous enough to send a *Quarterly* to all students enrolled in our Culinary Arts and Animal and Plant Science programs. The teachers are incorporating the

*Quarterly* into their lessons dealing with career planning and choosing the right college. Seventy-five percent of graduates of the Seacoast School of Technology go on to postsecondary education. "The Food Issue" further reminds our high school students how important education is in being able to pursue meaningful, purposeful work.

This *Quarterly* illustrates the kind of real-world learning that our students find enhances and illuminates their academic work. It also brings to life the fact that there are many alternative routes to careers. I am very proud to share the *Wheaton Quarterly* with the teachers and students at the Seacoast School of Technology.

—Margaret Callahan '86

"The Food Issue" is a wonderful idea, and each profile so inspiring and beautifully conveyed. Congratulations, and thank you! I think this would make a great booklet for Admission, too, to showcase these ways of life (doing well by doing good) lived by Wheaton alums.

—Alexandra Marshall '65

**Letters to the editor:** The *Quarterly* welcomes letters to the editor on topics you've read in these pages or on other topics concerning the Wheaton community. Please address your letters to: Jayne Iafrate, editor  
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