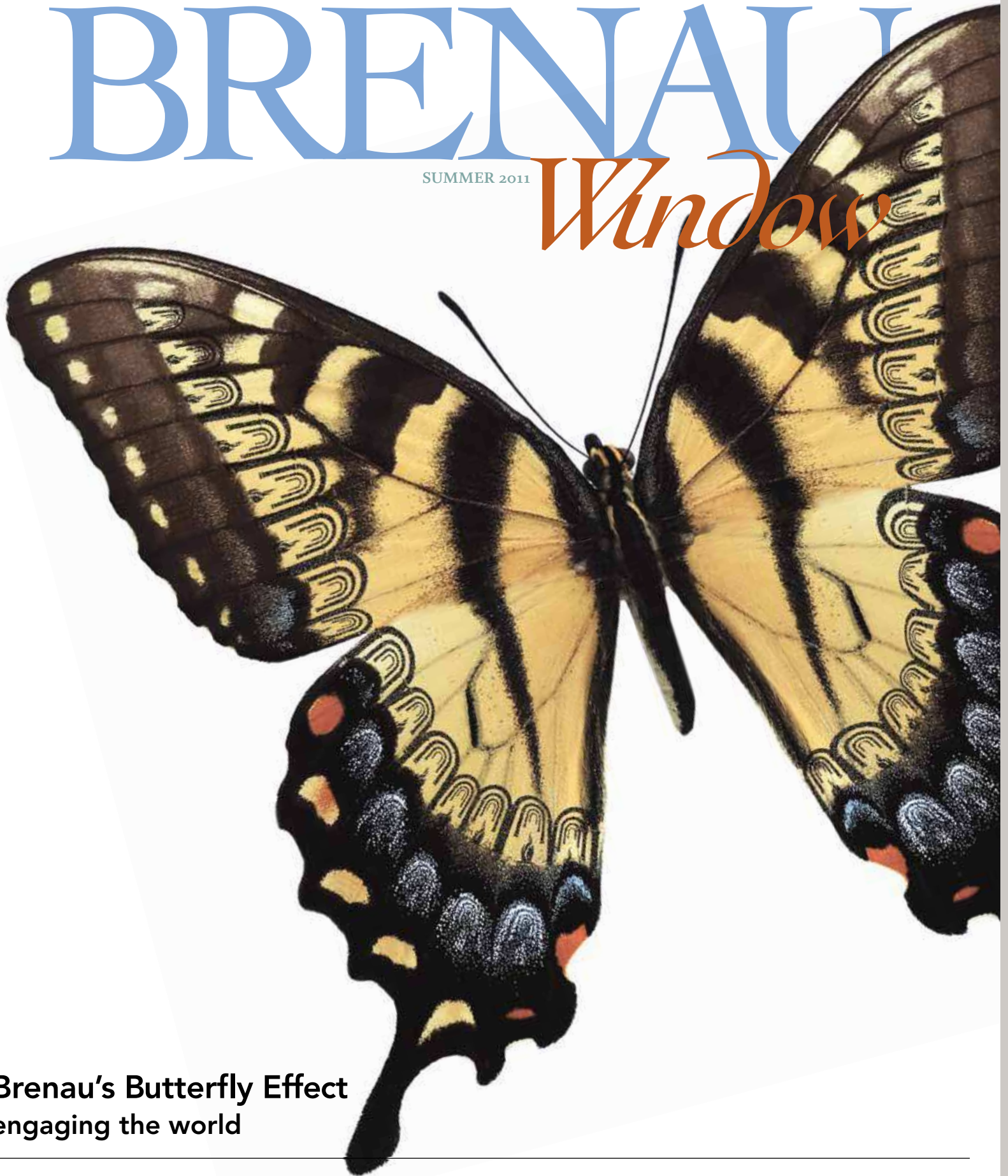


# BRENAU

SUMMER 2011

## *Window*



**Brenau's Butterfly Effect**  
engaging the world

**Admiral on Deck!**

**Endangered Species**

**CNN's Rising Star**

**Tokyo Time**



## Arab Spring

WE OFTEN MAKE the point that one Brenau graduate can change the world, our own version of the “butterfly effect.” This issue of the magazine focuses on Brenau alumni and students who have as individuals and groups engaged the world. All cite their Brenau educations as an important foundation in their engagement.

If you regard the one-person-changing-the-world language as something akin to parental hyperbole, consider T.E. Lawrence. Almost a century ago, Lawrence wrote eloquently about the starkly contrasting simplicity and complexity of the mindset and culture of Middle Eastern peoples that are beyond capacity for any outsider to understand, let alone control or even influence to any degree of long-term stability.

Indeed, “Lawrence of Arabia” had grand ideas for the region. In World War I the British officer united and led disjointed, hostile factions in battle. He was able to do that, not because he wore Arab mufti and had his photo taken while riding a camel. It was because, as that great Mississippi philosopher Jerry Clower might have observed, he “got out there amongst ’em.” He became immersed in the culture.

In his remarkable book, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Lawrence conceded that his biggest mistake, however, was not that he got close to those he sought to influence, but that he forgot his own history. Because he could not “become an Arab,” Lawrence reasoned that his next best course was to mask who he was.

As Winston Churchill famously remarked, “Those who do not study history are doomed to repeat it.” Lawrence, if nothing else, was an excellent student of history. Yet, although he was privy to many of the foolish, probably immoral, nation-building schemes of Britain, France and others that were in place and unfolding to prevent the Arab unity that Lawrence and his allies were fighting for, he pressed on. His justification for enlisting people to spill their blood for a promise that was “dead paper,” he wrote, was a naïve belief that the nations he represented would ultimately see that the Arab unity could work and would allow it to take its course. Failing that, Lawrence held a conviction that his nation was on the “right side” of a conflict with evil, and “better we win and break our word than lose.”

One could argue that Lawrence’s “success” helped create the monumental failures that can be directly linked to a bulk of the troubles that the world experiences today. Still, Law-



Billy Howard

rence had it right: The people of that region have the right to govern themselves.

Since December, “Arab Spring” movement has started re-opening doors of self-determination to people throughout the region – Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria and other countries. Yet, I worry that those of us outside the Middle East still are not learning from history. We delude ourselves into believing media-hyped oversimplifications like Facebook and Twitter and Internet access to information about western democracies fomented Arab Spring. That, however, is not what happened. *New York Times* columnist Tom Friedman told Tulane University graduates in May that Arab Spring occurred solely because of “a million people in the streets ready to die for what they believed in.” It is their idea, not ours.

Lawrence found the Middle Eastern mindset to be “black and white not merely in clarity but in opposition. Their thoughts reclined most easily in extremes.” What many people today have difficulty getting their heads around is that democracy in Damascus may be quite different from American democracy. If democracy is supposed to be all-inclusive, then that black and white view means everybody participates. New governments may well comprise Hezbollah, Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Taliban and other factions distasteful to us.

Academia in general and Brenau specifically now reside at the fulcrum of balancing the world. We have the responsibility to learn from history and to teach students to understand different cultures, to use all the tools at our disposal to communicate, to be patient and tolerant, and to lead by example rather than fiat.

Brenau alumni are already “out there,” making a difference. Others will follow. The university must arm graduates with the self-confidence Lawrence lacked. It must prepare them to act boldly and valorously finding and fighting for new and lasting solutions to the world’s problems. It must show them that relying on Twitter and Facebook for social activism won’t change a thing. We have to get out there amongst ’em.

*Ed L. Schrader*

Ed Schrader, Ph.D.  
eschrader@brenau.edu

# BRENAU Window

### Board of Trustees

Peter D. Miller, Chair  
Philip A. Wilheit Sr., Vice Chair  
James Anthony Walters, Secretary  
Carole Ann Carter Daniel, WC '68, Treasurer  
Gale Johnson Allen, EWC '91  
Melissa A. Blanchard, A '88  
Raymond H. Burch  
Roger Dailey  
Robin Smith Dudley, WC '78  
Kathryn (Kit) Dunlap, WC '64  
Elizabeth (Beth) Fisher, WC '67  
John B. Floyd  
M. Douglas Ivester  
John W. Jacobs Jr.  
Angela B. Johnston, EWC '95, '06  
Emily Dunlap Lawson  
Richard H. Leet, Ph.D.  
Ben E. Lilly  
James E. Mathis Jr.  
Katherine (Kay) McMaster, WC '87  
James H. Moore  
Betty Verson Norton, WC '52  
Gary L. Riley  
Lawrence B. Schrage  
Erin McCabe Seng, EWC '93  
Gail A. Smith, WC '83  
Sidney O. Smith Jr.  
Charles A. Smithgall III  
Shay English Stafford, WC '69  
Jane Patterson Suggs, WC '74  
Bob Swoszowski  
Stuart R. Virgin

### Trustees Emeriti

Alfred S. Austin  
Jane Wood Banks  
Martha C. Edens, WC '49  
June Cooke Hook, WC '43  
Mary Helen Roop Hosch, WC '35  
Henry S. Jennings Jr., M.D.  
Gwen Brown Mundy, Ph.D., WC '49  
C.V. Nalley III  
Thomas H. Paris Jr.  
Barbara Stockton Perry, WC '47  
Sarah Crosby Reeves, WC '39  
Lessie Bailey Smithgall  
Nell Wiegand

### President

Edward L. Schrader, Ph.D.

### Editor

David Morrison

### Creative Director

Christie Gregory

### Contributing Writers

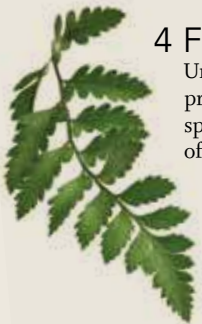
Candice Dyer, Bill Haney, Rudi Kiefer, Karen Rosen,  
Mary Simmons

### Photographers

Tom Askew, Cathy Dixon, Sara Guevara, Billy Howard,  
Rudi Kiefer, Barry Williams

Summer 2011, Volume 5, Issue 2  
*Brenau Window* (USPS 024-396) is published four times a year in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter by the Brenau University Office of Communications & Publications, 500 Washington St. SE, Gainesville, GA 30501. Periodicals postage paid at Gainesville, Georgia, and additional mailing offices.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Brenau Window*, 500 Washington St. SE, Gainesville, GA 30501.

# C O N T E N T S



## 4 Fern Commitment

Undergraduate research at Brenau helps protect some of the world's endangered plant species and opens new thinking about the role of research in education.



## 8 Speaking for Herself

Maria Ebrahimji, a rising news exec covering the world at CNN, shares her experiences about growing up Muslim in Toccoa, Ga., in a new book.



## 12 Emerging Economy

Graduate business students travel to Guatemala to show that individuals can make a difference in how people live and work in one of the world's struggling economies.



## 14 Tokyo Time

Mary Simmons thought the little temblor she felt at her desk in March was nothing out of the ordinary in earthquake-prone Japan. Boy, was she wrong. It changed her world and the world around her.




## 16 Attention on Deck

Two-star Admiral Patricia Wolfe heads one of the Navy's logistics arms and, with wars, earthquakes and other events all over the world to keep her busy, the term “reserve” is relative.

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIE GREGORY

For change of address, feedback or other communication with the staff, call 800 252-5119 or 770 534-6167. Fax 770 538-4300, or e-mail dmorrison@brenau.edu. Brenau University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges and the Commission of Secondary Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award secondary, bachelor's, master's and education specialist degrees. Brenau believes in equal opportunity for all.

 Please keep, share or recycle.







It started with a seed – a spore, actually. Now the little *Asplenium heteroresiliens* gets a new lease on life from Brenau students like junior Rebecca Jones, right, and lab director Jessi Shrout.

# A Fern Commitment

How two instructors and a group of science students are helping save the planet and redefine liberal arts education. **by Rudi Kiefer**

**M**OST PEOPLE think of “endangered” ferns as those hanging on front porches during weeks of rain-free 90-degree weather in the summertime. A group of Brenau students in the College of Health & Science, however, may have helped set a course to alter that perception – and do something about it.

During the past academic year, **Samantha Carson, WC '11**, junior Rebecca Jones and seniors Jessica Mitchell and Darnisha Coverson scurried off the beaten path for an unusual undergraduate research subject and found what they were looking for: *Asplenium heteroresiliens*, also known as marl spleenwort.

This evergreen hybrid fern’s natural habitat encompasses limestone ledges, tabby walls, caves and outcrops of marl – sandy clay derived from limestone or shell – in near-coastal environments of Georgia, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina and North Carolina. However, over time, degradation of habitat by exotic invasive species, cave explorers and developers ruthlessly assaulted the habitat, relegating *Asplenium heteroresiliens* to small outcroppings in two or three south

Georgia counties and a prominent position on the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ threatened species list.

The 30 plant species on the list played well into the “curiosity” segment of Brenau’s Four Portals of Learning liberal arts curriculum, explains Jessi Shrout, assistant professor of biology and lab director. And, it more than met the “off the beaten path” criteria because you don’t find this baby in the rows of hanging baskets on shelves outside of local supermarkets.

So, the Brenau group laid out a plan for the project: find the endangered plants, collect some samples and, rather than press the dried specimens into a scrapbook handed in with a nice little essay, actually figure out how to get the ferns to grow and procreate in a controlled laboratory environment so they can be replanted in the wild. There’s even the likelihood of getting a publishable paper out of the project, too.

This is cutting-edge stuff. Few undergraduates – let alone those in traditionally focused liberal arts colleges – have an opportunity to participate in such scientific research experiences. “At the same time, our interest was philanthropic and we had a strong interest in plant research,” says Shrout. “What

better opportunity to merge the two interests and use state-of-the-art tools such as those found in biotechnology to augment traditional methods of propagating endangered plant species, all in efforts of restoring and increasing the population of each species.”

## Hello, *Asplenium heteroresiliens*

Soon after the initial planning phase, Brenau students traipsed through the woods of Decatur County, Ga., near Thomasville, about an hour’s drive west of Valdosta, close to the Florida state line. Leaving no leaf unturned, the Brenau women found what they were looking for.

“After the fieldwork, which was part hot, part rainy and part mosquito-ridden, the really difficult part of the project began,” says Heather Gladfelter, lab director in the Brenau Mathematics & Science Department. “The plants were out of their ever-shrinking natural habitat, and we had no idea whether they would even live in a Brenau laboratory, let alone reproduce.”

Although marl spleenwort originated as a natural hybrid of black stem spleenwort (*Asplenium resiliens* for you purists) and varicolor spleenwort (*Asplenium heterochroum*) and carries characteristics of each unique parent, marl spleenwort does produce its own fertile spores and is not dependent on crosses between its parents to reproduce. Still, it took considerable experimentation and frustration until the first results sprouted in a Petri dish.

“We were just ecstatic,” Coverson remembers. “After these six-hour drives and forest hikes, which provided bonding opportunities but got pretty exhausting, it was great to see new growth in our lab environment, mimicking the growing conditions in the native habitat.”

One of the biotechnology tools students use, Mitchell explains, is plant tissue culture. In that process, she says, “small pieces of the parent plant are carefully disinfected and sterilely placed on gelled nutrient media containing plant growth regulators that are designed to produce multiple copies of the plant. These tissue culture-derived plants are placed in a greenhouse, acclimated to the environment, and ultimately introduced back into the plant species’ native environment.” It is amazing to see tiny baby ferns growing under glass, representing species that are in danger of going away forever and currently only found in a few left-over protected areas. Georgia DNR says it knows of no more than five native populations in three counties scattered in the southern portion of the state. Even to non-botanists, however, it should be reassuring to know a species which has been threatened by urban development, infilling of wetlands, dam construction or conversion of land to agricultural uses is being given a second chance.

## Proof in the Portals

And, it is definitely a comfort to Brenau that the “theoretical” drive to enhance social and scientific curiosity through meaningful research as a part of every-day undergraduate liberal arts curriculum proved to be successful. In short, you do not have to attend a large land-grant institution with extensive agriculture or forestry colleges and boatloads of federal funding to get involved in significant research.

Indeed, the small Brenau fern research project has been so successful

that, in addition to getting spores from one species to grow and thrive, it planted seeds for what is now the Brenau University Endangered Plant Program. Also, the program has attracted attention of prospective donors, two of whom already guaranteed funding for a permanent home for the project – a greenhouse to be constructed on the Gainesville campus near an earlier Brenau botanical adventure, the bamboo forest. The area next to Smithgall Lane at the edge of the bamboo forest conservation area will undergo some housekeeping along with the construction of the fully functional year-round greenhouse, complete with heating and air conditioning that the plants require. In July the project netted a Jeane Reeves Research Grant from the Georgia Native Plant Society. “This plant was hanging on by its fingernails until you came along,” said grants administrator Elaine Nash. “Bless you. The plant spoke and you listened.”

Besides ferns, the project is now working with four other endangered plants, some of which seem to be making faster progress. The 30 plant species on Georgia’s critically endangered list provide a huge array of research possibilities.

## Butterfly Effect

We’ve all encountered plot lines like those in movies and the classic Ray Bradbury story, “A Sound of Thunder,” in which the rich guy goes back in time to hunt dinosaurs, shooting them just before they were to die anyhow, accidentally crushes to death a butterfly, then returns to his own epoch to find a now-transformed society. Sure, that’s science fiction, but it is based on a fundamental truth: Protecting as



Junior Jessica Mitchell keeps an eye on the new babies.



many species as possible from extinction caused by human action is of paramount importance to ensuring the future for our planet.

“This isn’t so the students can memorize more scientific names,” says Coverson. “Speciation provides for a natural balance. Anytime the system gets reduced to a smaller number of species, we run a greater risk of disease, insects or other trouble invading. That’s true for plants as well as animals, and it’s the reason we need to counteract any extinctions that we, as people, are responsible for.”

### A Bigger Picture

To alleviate some of the threats to natural plant habitat, the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance in 1995 organized around an innovative network of public gardens, government agencies, environmental organizations, the University of Georgia and other academic institutions that are committed to preserving Georgia’s endangered flora through biodiversity management and public education. With the small project to grow plants that are at risk of extinction and re-introduce them to their native environments, Shrout, Gladfelter and the students have added Brenau to the exclusive membership list of GPCA institutions.

“The benefits of this research effort are on multiple levels,” says Gale Starich, dean of the College of Health & Science. “First, there’s the obvious benefit to Georgia’s environment. We’re continuing to work toward the concept of sustainability. A grand goal for the future is to be able to cross one or more species off the endangered list. Second, there’s the further enhancement of Brenau’s reputation as a major collaborator in the GPCA. Third, our teaching curriculum includes a research component in which students are exposed to methods of scientific analysis and critical thinking, which



is a key component of Brenau’s Quality Enhancement Plan. And last, but certainly not least, is the benefit to the students themselves. Not only are they learning about the dynamics, successes and sometimes frustrations of experiments involving live organisms, but they are also building credentials for their own futures. The experience and publication record of a scholarly research project helps pave the way for transition into graduate school, industry or government work.”

On the final point, Brenau professor S. Randolph May, the Richard & Phyllis Leet Distinguished Chair of Biological Sciences, heads a team of academics from north Georgia colleges and universities that has been focusing collaborative study on the value of undergraduate research. The team soon will publish an article, related to the logistical model it developed for linking undergraduate research to graduate studies, in an upcoming scholarly journal article for the Washington-based consortium, the Council on Undergraduate Research.

### Rising Trend

Although most of the financial support from government, foundations and private business and industry seems to be directed primarily to larger institutions with graduate-level and post-doctoral research, the CUR’s underlying philosophy dovetails with the research emphasis of Brenau’s Four Portals curriculum. The organization believes that college and university faculty members, even those who are not part of a so-called “research” institution, enhance their teaching and contributions to society by remaining active in research and by involving undergraduates in research in arts, humanities, biology, chemistry, geosciences, health sciences, mathematics, computer science, physics and astronomy, psychology, social sciences and other disciplines. A central mission of the organization is advocating the importance of undergraduate research to state legislatures, private foundations, government agencies and the

U.S. Congress. That means lobbying – or at least providing tools for lobbying – for increased funding and contributions directed to undergraduate research projects like the one at Brenau.

When you observe the enthusiasm and dedication with which the students are working on their “baby plants” in the Science Building, it seems more like a fun game than a career move. The plants also appear to be enjoying themselves. Tables and benches are filling up quickly with pots full of luscious growth, making parts of the department look more like a commercial greenhouse than a teaching environment.

“This is part of the excitement,” says Latricia Scriven, chair of the Mathematics & Science Department. “We want the students to get hands-on research experience, earn academic credit and build credentials – all while helping to preserve Georgia’s natural habitat one species at a time.”

Starich characteristically sees grander things in the future. “This could possibly be the seed project for a biology field research station,” she says “We’re already looking into options and opportunities for expansion, but



the greenhouse will definitely be an important step in our efforts to bring research and sustainability concepts to the student population.”

*Science professor Rudi Kiefer is director of multimedia publishing at Brenau.*

*The team’s work now has expanded to four endangered plants. From left, Shrout, Tiffany Walton, Coverson, Jones, Samantha Carson, WC ’11, and Gladfelter.*

 Bonus content: Video of the Brenau researchers in action at [www.brenau.edu/ferns](http://www.brenau.edu/ferns)



*Mitchell, Carson, and senior Darnisha Coverson review research findings with lab manager Heather Gladfelter.*

## Mettle-testing time



*New head basketball coach, Kris Stewart*

**Kris Stewart** has never been a head coach at the college level, but his coach-of-the-year honors for building a top-ranked North Carolina high school program convinced

Brenau officials that it’s time for the Duluth, Ga., native to step up. On June 6 Stewart became the second head coach in the history of the 6-year-old Golden Tigers basketball program.

Stewart won accolades from officials at NCAA Division II Lees-McRae College where he was assistant basketball coach and director of instructional technology on the college’s education faculty. Previously, however, he guided the Forbush High School Falcons in basketball-crazy central North Carolina to five straight playoff appearances and a 74-42 record. He was the Mountain Valley Athletic Conference coach of the year in 2002 in his first year at the East Bend, N.C., school.

“Kris has personality, passion, enthu-

siasm and a wide array of skills,” says Tigers Athletics Director Mike Lochstampfor. “He’s already made a great connection with the team and our staff. I am confident he will elevate the stature of our program in many ways.”

The NAIA Southern States Athletic Conference Tigers had three winning seasons and a 73-79 won/loss record during the tenure of the teams first head coach, Gary Bays, who resigned after the fifth season.

Stewart earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Lees-McRae, located in Banner Elk, N.C., and a Masters in Education from the University of Missouri in Columbia. He and his wife, Holly, have two daughters.





# She speaks for herself.

by Candice Dyer

MARIA EBRAHIMJI had gone to bed early the first Sunday night in May to rest up for a special occasion. She was taking some time off from her hectic job as an executive editorial producer for CNN in Atlanta to launch her first book, *I Speak for Myself: American Women on Being Muslim*. The release party for this anthology, scheduled the following day in Washington, D.C., was sure to attract an engaged and vocal crowd at the Buxton Initiative, an interfaith think tank that promotes dialogue among Muslims, Christians and Jews.

“I woke up excited about getting the book out, and then I was stunned to see something like 450 messages on my BlackBerry,” she recalls. “I knew something newsworthy had happened overnight.”

Terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden had just been shot dead, and, if **Ebrahimji, WC '98**, had clocked in as usual at CNN, she would have been urgently reaching out to heads of state, military leaders, reporters, and other newsmakers and commentators to coordinate interviews and intense, live coverage.

“The timing was strange and ironic,” says Ebrahimji, who majored in mass communication and political science at Brenau. “On the one hand, it was the biggest story in 10 years, and, for once, I was not at work. I felt remorseful because it’s your natural instinct as a journalist to be right there in the mix when those history-making stories break. At the same time, I knew my news team could handle it, and this book was the culmination of years of hard work; it was

important to me, a moment I needed to seize. As it turned out, the death of Osama bin Laden ended up giving an unexpected news peg to the book and prompting a lot of questions and lively discussion at our promotional events around the capital that week.”

In fact, *I Speak for Myself*, published by White Cloud Press, is expected to serve as an eye-opening resource during these changing times as we progress – *inshallah*, or “God willing” – toward a more just, peaceful and understanding community. After a decade of fallout from 9/11, including the “War on Terror,” protests of mosques, school bans on head-coverings, hate crimes, and other controversies, misunderstandings and hurt feelings surrounding the practice of Islam, here is a collection of affecting and affirming perspectives from vibrant, homegrown Muslim women – just in time for the geopolitical shifts of Arab Spring.

Ebrahimji and her co-editor, Zahra Suratwala, a Chicago-based writer, compiled these essays from 40 women under the age of 40. Varying widely in their approaches to faith, family, work and lifestyle, they share only this singular feature in common: a Muslim upbringing in the United States.

“What we want to convey is that we are your neighbors and always have been, and we proudly claim this country as ours, too,” Ebrahimji says. “These pieces are not lengthy life stories, just glimpses that reveal us as women you probably would enjoy having over for coffee and conversation.”

The eclecticism and self-discovery of their experiences, the writers hope, will help demystify their religion and coun-

ter the persistent stereotypes of women-as-chattel, stifled miserably and mutely beneath a cloak of monolithic orthodoxy. Contributors include the first Muslim woman elected to the Michigan legislature; a Georgia Tech student who researched terrorist recruitment and training in Dubai; a feminist engineer who home-schools her children and wears the *hijab* and *niqab*; a fashion designer who finds beauty and flair within traditional Islamic ideals of modesty (“My life revolves around a hemline,” she writes); a zumba instructor who competed in the Miss Arab USA Pageant 2011; and firebrand poets, bloggers, hipsters, attorneys, teachers, social

**“My women’s college-educated mind urged me to stare him down and set him straight.”**

activists, homemakers, and other lettered and devout professionals, including the volume’s editors.

“Although the purpose of this book was to showcase the incredible diversity among Muslim American women, I didn’t realize how much I had to learn about this community until I started receiving and editing essays,” says Suratwala. “This project has deepened my already great respect for not only Muslim American women but women of *all* faiths, as I begin to understand not only how diverse we are, but also how unified we are in our humanity and our womanhood.”

American-born Queen Noor of Jordan pronounced these writers “a new generation of peace-builders.”

“Through their honesty and courage they are making a lasting contribution to the search for cross-cultural understanding. Maria Ebrahimji and Zahra Suratwala’s book joins the mission for global tolerance; it is truly a step in the right direction.”

In the fall, these editors plan to organize a web-based, intra- and interfaith “40-to-40” outreach project in which their contributors initiate a one-on-one relationship with Muslim women in other countries, eventually encouraging women from other backgrounds to ask questions and weigh in. “We want to create a dialogue worldwide because even within the Muslim world there is stereotyping of Americans and



At a family wedding in Washington D.C. Ebrahimji, stands in front of her uncle, Burhan Ebrahimji, flanked by her mother, Zehrabai, father, Mushtagali, and her nephew, Azim. At left, Azim’s parents – Maria’s sister, Alefia, and her husband Muzzammil Mithaiwala.



other groups,” Ebrahimji says.

In her essay, titled “In Search of Fatima and Taqwa,” the CNN producer relates an unsettling exchange in Yemen with a sheikh who counseled her to decelerate her fast-track career to land “a good Muslim husband.”

“My women’s college-educated mind urged me to stare him down and set him straight,” Ebrahimji writes, explaining that his comments “made me feel small, less respected, and in some ways, less worthy of being the fearless and self-supporting woman I thought I had become. Personal sacrifices of time, emotion or money I have always lived with, but never once had I been told to pare back *myself* to get what I wanted in life. All at once, this aroused in me both a resoluteness and curiosity. ... Was I Muslim enough?”

## Minority of One

Ebrahimji is fit, driven, warmly gregarious and fond of the word “empowerment.” Her Indian parents met in Africa, where her mother attended art school, and then decamped



photo courtesy of Maria Ebrahimji

Atop the Great Wall of China while producing an ‘Eye on China’ segment for CNN, Ebrahimji interrupts sightseeing to take a call from one of the program’s interviewees.



Billy Howard

Ebrahimji with her CNN team Allison Blakely (seated), Anna Shcherbakova and Sarah Edwards.

for the United States with a nest egg of only \$120 as refugees from dictator Idi Amin’s atrocities in the 1970s. Her early childhood was spent in Maryland before her family moved to the small town of Toccoa, Ga., where she was the only Muslim girl in her high school.

“It was a little scary when we first moved there because there were KKK posters on the telephone poles, but I honestly never experienced any discrimination in north Georgia,” Ebrahimji says. “I was a country girl in the mountains, hiking and water-skiing on the lake and going to Passion Plays and prom with a non-Muslim boy. But I was also fasting for Ramadan and striving to adhere to the tenets of Islam. I didn’t wear my Muslim-ness on my sleeve, but I didn’t hide it, either. My *taqwa*, or ‘God consciousness,’ made me Muslim at the core.”

To help their daughter fit in, her parents usually introduced her with the more familiar Latin version of her name, even though it is properly pronounced “MAH-ria.” “People assumed I was Mexican,” she says, “and my teacher described me as ‘white with a really nice tan.’ I still speak with this little

“Brenau, like the rest of the South, keeps evolving and developing a more international culture and spirit.”

Southern twang, so even now people often don’t know quite what to make of me.”

A conscientious student, Ebrahimji was awarded several scholarships at Brenau, where she became the first woman of color to pledge a mainstream sorority, Alpha Chi Omega. “Brenau is fairly representative of the South and was not really that diverse when I was a student,” she says. “But five years

after I graduated, I was sitting at an Internet cafe in Bombay, and someone emailed me a photo of that year’s pledge class. I was so astonished at the progress in diversity – at all of those very different faces smiling back at me – that I burst into tears. Brenau, like the rest of the South, keeps evolving and developing a more international culture and spirit.”

## Running CNN

Journalism professor Clara Martin helped her secure a coveted internship at CNN, and the network hired her shortly after graduation for an entry-level position, rolling teleprompter for anchor (and fellow Muslim), Riz Khan. While working full time, Ebrahimji earned a master’s degree in international relations at Georgia State University, studied Arabic, read 20 or more newspapers each morning, and began ascending the ranks of the 24-hour news outlet. She recently was tapped as one of the network’s 20 emerging leaders and groomed in a management training program, and she also was awarded one of a dozen CNN Fellowships, which enable cross-training with Turner Broadcasting, where she is focusing on sports before returning in September to her CNN post.

“I’ve always worked on the editorial side – idea generation, news gathering and storytelling,” she says. “Lately I’ve been trying to learn more about the business side – brand strategy and other financial aspects. Ultimately, I would like to run CNN.”

In South Africa, Ebrahimji conducted the first broadcast from the historic church where demonstrators had sought refuge during the Apartheid-era Soweto uprising, and about six years ago in Davos, Switzerland, she produced a panel discussion of “young, rising leaders of the Middle East, including Gaddafi’s son and the crown prince of Bahrain – mostly people who no longer seem that relevant in light of recent events,” she observes. “Strange to think that not long ago we took it for granted that they would be in charge now. It’s great for me to see the images coming out of current protests in the Arab Spring – this organic movement with women standing side by side for the first time with men and claiming their identity, demanding the right to choose their government.”

After the planes struck the Twin Towers and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, Ebrahimji did not sleep for 36 hours,

she recalls, and since then has vigilantly monitored the network’s depictions of her faith. She is the vice chair of the diversity council at CNN. “I look at both our content and our workforce to make sure they’re inclusive and accurate in what they reflect,” she says. “One thing I like to do is get more Muslims in front of the cameras who have other topics of interest outside the context of just religion or terrorism – Muslims who are talking about a health issue, a passion for jogging or environmental cleanup, education costs, or other concerns that everyone out there faces and can relate to. It’s important



photo courtesy of Maria Ebrahimji

Doing what she loves best, traveling the world, Ebrahimji spends an evening with musicians in Rajasthan, India.

for the public to see ‘regular Americans’ who just happen to be Muslim.”

She is one of them, after all.

In the soul-searching that followed the sheikh’s advice, Ebrahimji looked to the example of Fatima, daughter of the Prophet Mohammed.

“While my outward appearance may suggest my faithfulness to the world, my real faith, my inner *taqwa*, is only known to God and me – as it should be,” Ebrahimji writes. “I think Fatima would say to both the sheikh and me that all is possible. She maintained her inner *taqwa*, and she bore the qualities I see important in all women. I can be who I want to be and still be like Fatima. ... And while I can choose to pare myself down by choice or grow myself stronger through circumstance, I am no more or less Muslim than I was in the beginning. What tormented me in the Yemen desert has only reaffirmed the writing of God on my solidly Muslim American Indian – independent – soul.”





# Brenau Means Business in Guatemala

by Bill Haney

For Brenau business students, this spring break trip bore little resemblance to others. Previously, getting off a plane in another country meant new high-speed rail service, fully stocked tour buses, modern, clean buildings and familiar landmarks like Victoria Station, *Gare du Nord* and *Città del Vaticano*. This year, however, after the Brenau group landed at Guatemala City's La Aurora International Airport, the air filled with smells and sounds only found in Central America – a wonderful feast for the senses.

The trip, which commenced Feb. 26, marked the Brenau Business Department's 10<sup>th</sup> group sojourn abroad since 2001. The purpose, as always, was to provide students with international experiences, part of the mandate of the university's Four Portals of Learning liberal arts curriculum designed to expand world views and prepare Brenau graduates to engage as productive citizens in the global society. Specifically students in my international business experience class sought to learn more about how developing countries in the Central American nation practice regional and global business.

## Difficult Transition

If you have followed international news and Latin American history at all in the past half century, your perceptions about Guatemala probably are not good. For the better part of that time, the nation of 13 million people has endured oppressive governments, coups, civil war and genocide as it transformed from dictatorship to democracy. More than half of the population lives in poverty, 15 percent in extreme poverty – a number that doubles among the indigenous. About 43 percent of children under 5 are chronically malnourished. The key to

overcoming this problem will be improving the Guatemalan economy by growing businesses and creating jobs.

So, this was no sightseeing tour. The 21 Brenau students accepted the challenge to develop workable ideas for improving business practices in several organizations. Consultants helped identify organizations that might benefit from Brenau students' expertise: an orphanage, a macadamia farm, or *finca*, and a nongovernmental charity. Several students took on two "challenge projects:" identifying recycling needs in the old colonial capital Antigua and developing a tourist map for the famous *Antigua Mercado*. Demetri Patitsas, managing director of the tour planning firm ExelaVentures, says he recommended the ventures because "Brenau students can impact these organizations not only to improve their business function, but also make an impact to the social well being of the people of Guatemala."

By the time we arrived in Guatemala, students already had researched Central American business culture and practices as well as the organizations and their problems. Beatriz Illescas Putzeys, Guatemala's consul general in Atlanta, hosted the group at the consulate prior to our trip and provided vital insight on her nation's business practices, which was essential to our understanding the change process that needed to occur in Guatemala.

For the trip we created five project teams, each with three to five members. Their target enterprises: Valhalla Macadamia Finca, Casa Shalom Orphanage, Antigua Recycling Project, *Antigua Mercado* and Loving Arms NGO. But the students had to do more than function as arms-length business consultants. They had to get their hands on some

solutions for immediate problems.

Take Matt Welch, for example. The M.B.A. student from Newnan, Ga., worked with Loving Arms, a charity relief organization helping indigenous Mayan people become self sufficient. He and other members of the team focused on how to raise and account for money effectively to provide direct aid to the people. "I learned that this organization needs to incorporate in Guatemala, which in itself is a big hurdle," says Welch. "Another big problem was becoming more effective and efficient in delivering services to remote villages." Meanwhile, team members also pitched in to help build and paint houses, install outdoor cooking stoves and even erect pig pens.

## Immediate Business

M.B.A. candidate Iben Nielsen from Denmark led a group promoting recycling efforts in Antigua. What surprised her was that "there is recycling going on, even more than in the United States. But it happens on the 'back end' as people stationed at the garbage dump collect all possible recycling products in order to get some profit from picking through the trash. They collect it all and sell it as a profit."

Carla McCown from Braselton, Ga., chose Casa Shalom Orphanage, which houses 50 children from infants through teenagers. In addition to taking care of them now, the organization instructs them in skills for sustainable careers like baking, horticulture or raising chickens, pigs and rabbits.

"The biggest constraint with orphanages in Guatemala is that nobody adopts kids here," says McCown. "The government no longer allows international adoptions because of problems

that occurred. And, Guatemalan families don't usually adopt kids because they can't financially add more." However, before finding a long-term solution, the Brenau students had to take care of some immediate business: vaccinating an entire coop of chickens to be used to feed the youngsters.

The trip part was just the beginning. Student teams have identified some business goals for each of the organizations and shared them with the enterprises. Now they have to follow up from a distance to wrap up the promises they've made. What we hope will happen is that relationships formed on this trip will grow and that future Brenau students will continue helping the Guatemalan people.

I do have to report that the spring break trip was not all work. There was the active volcano Pacaya to climb and marshmallows to be roasted over hot lava rocks. Antigua offered wonderful cuisine. Markets and trading posts along the way begged to be explored. Lake Atitlan, where we spent two days at the end of trip, proved to be one of the most beautiful lakes in the Americas. Some students went SCUBA diving while others took weaving classes from the Maya who have perfected that art form. There were rides on *took-tooks*, which are sort of motorcycle-like rickshaws. Some took salsa dancing lessons.

The "learning outcome" here, as the Four Portals curriculum envisions it, is the connection with another culture through up close and personal experience with the kind and welcoming people of Guatemala. No matter where we went, hospitality overflowed. There is still Paris, but I will always be drawn to the smiles and laughter of the children of Guatemala.

*Haney is professor of business administration at Brenau*



# Tokyo Time

For a few frozen moments Brenau Women's College alumna Mary Simmons takes an unforgettable ride of a lifetime – but it is one she would just as soon forget.

by Mary Simmons

I HAVE THIS SINKING FEELING all day: I've left my curling iron on, sitting atop my makeshift silk scarf table top. At my desk in the Tokyo law office where I work as a translator, I try to focus enough to recall the nominal form of "submit." My mind, however, pulls me back to anxiety about the catastrophe that awaits me when I finally get to go home about 9 p.m. – six hours from now.

I peer through the blinds on my office window on this day in early March observing people in black business suits as they jump in and out of taxis. Across the street at the iconic 170-year-old Yasakuni Shrine I see cherry trees soon to blossom. Girls in school graduation kimonos parade around with shy boyfriends in tow. Curry delivery bicyclers weave through the crowd. Everyone moves with determination and purpose in this organized human frenzy. Tokyo has everything. I'm happy to be here, and I have yet to explore it all.

Three months after I graduated from Brenau in 2004 I came to Japan – no experience with the language, little knowledge of the culture. But I had curiosity. Critical thinking skills and problem-solving tactics I learned on campus in courses and other activities prepared me for unexpected challenges. I was ready for adventure, the ride of a lifetime. Or so I thought.

I turn to my computer screen and shake with a shud-

dering yawn. As I close my mouth, I realize my desk lamp is shaking, too. No big deal. Japan has lots of tiny temblors. I stay put and keep typing.

This one doesn't stop though. Now the room shakes, undulating like one of those vibrate-your-fat-off machines. Lawyers jump up trying to keep heavy file drawers from tumbling out of seemingly possessed cabinets. I follow suit. Two secretaries scream and dive under desks. Another, standing her ground, coolly says into the telephone, "Yes, sir, it is shaking here as well."

When the jolts stop, I notice Yamada-san is not at her desk. I know she must be in our boss's top-floor suite, but my area is in shambles. I feel compulsion to restore some kind of order, clear piles off books strewn in my path and place them neatly back on their shelves. But I shake off the momentary paralysis and go find her. The elevator isn't working, so I bolt up those four flights of stairs. I throw open the door. There she sits at his desk, dazed. After nervous hugs she tells me she'd been washing dishes at the time. I walk into the tiny kitchen and, seemingly oblivious to the utter chaos around us, I wash. She dries.

We check the rest of the office. Amazingly, all the valuable paintings and figurines remained intact. But as we walk downstairs to our own workspace, things are coming unglued.

We hear sobs of one of the secretaries. News broadcasts reported the devastation close to her home near Sendai, about 180 miles from Tokyo and about 80 miles from the epicenter of the tsunami-causing quake. Thousands feared dead. Cities and towns destroyed. I try to comfort her, but another secretary grabs me. "We have to go now," she says. "Attorney Yamaguchi is stuck in his apartment. The elevator won't work, and there is no one who can lift him out of his wheel chair if it gets any worse. He called and is scared." I change from my indoor shoes to my three-inch heels.

Outside the streets melt into a frenetic calm. We hail a taxi. The ground shakes again, and we grab each other. The trees shake, and I look behind me. The skyscrapers are swaying. I know that's what they are meant to do, but the skyscrapers are swaying. A man holds onto a tree. A dog refuses to walk any further and his owner pulls desperately at the leash. I push my feet into the floor board, force my eyes shut, and grab my friend's hand.

At Attorney Yamaguchi's home, we climb 12 flights of stairs. In his apartment, this supposedly frightened man asks whether my co-worker had sent documents to another law firm. We pick up broken glass and shuffle through strewn papers. After a while, his wife arrives home. Surreally, she makes us tea.

TV news show a wave's eating thousands of cars. A

nuclear power plant smokes. A man has climbed a tree. An office is shaking. Their files fly across the room. My phone, in and out of service, occasionally warns of coming aftershocks.

**"The skyscrapers are swaying. I know that's what they are meant to do, but the skyscrapers are swaying."**

Finally, we feel safe enough to try the 10-minute walk back to the office. We take the shortcut through Yasukuni Shrine. It has cracks.

At our office my boss, who has now arrived, asks me how to say *jishin* in English.

"It's earthquake, sir," I tell him.

I try to translate some more of my document. I think that I did 30 words in three hours. No trains. No taxis. In a city where everyone commutes. Another secretary and I decide to walk home. It is only five miles. I am wearing heels, and it is about 40 degrees. We walk in lockstep. We do not speak, but sense camaraderie with the others in the crowd. We make it to Shinjuku station, about three miles, exhausted, legs numb from cold. After a few hours relaxing in a Thai restaurant we learn from TV that some trains are running – ours among them. I go home.

My curling iron is off.



Turner Images, The Dispatch, Columbus, Wis.

Simmons, above right, who recently returned home to a new job in a bit-tersweet parting with the country she's enjoyed since 2004, tells about the day that changed the world – a stark departure from the easy lifestyle her snapshots depict.





# This is not a drill.

A small unit of the U.S. Navy must be ready to move all kinds of critically needed goods and supplies anywhere in the world to support combat forces and help people in need. At the helm is Brenau alum Patricia E. Wolfe – a two-star admiral and one of only 37 female flag officers in the U.S. Navy.

by David Morrison

Cathy Dixon

At 7 a.m., the temperature already inches steadily through the mid-70 levels outside the building that could be a school, an office for a small business or a medical center. On the staff in front of the building flies a brilliant white flag with two stacked deep blue stars. It means that Admiral Patricia E. Wolfe is onboard.

Wolfe commands U.S. Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group headquartered at Cheatham Annex, which is officially part of U.S. Navy Weapons Station at Yorktown, Va. The Navy created this special unit following some hard-learned lessons of the first war American forces fought in the Persian Gulf region to provide always-ready-to-go logistics, supply and materials-handling capabilities to U.S. military operations anywhere in the world. Another emblem for her command sums up its mission quite well: an octopus, wearing a camouflage cap, busily juggles airplanes, cranes, cargo, tools and other supplies in its eight tentacles. This is the major Navy supply and logistics unit that primarily supports the Navy and U.S. Marines as they do all the things they do – peacekeeping activities, disaster relief and humanitarian aid to earthquake- and Tsunami-ravaged nations, not to mention fighting a couple of wars.

Wolfe has already been at work for a while on this May morning a day before the beginning of a long Memorial Day weekend. Officers and enlisted personnel reporting to her are in the field at Fort A.P. Hill, a U.S. Army post about 100 miles away, where many of her sailors are in a special training exercise simulating deployment in a land combat zone., a setting one stereotypically might ascribe to “grunts” in the infantry instead of sailors.

## The New Navy

What are sailors doing training out in the woods, digging foxholes and setting up make-shift “cover and concealment” firing positions and observation posts from fallen timbers, firing automatic assault rifles and machine guns, going on ground patrols, conducting land navigation problems, eating MREs, sleeping in one-person tents? Perhaps you’ve noticed: wars are not fought the way our fathers and grandfathers fought them. The old ditty, “*I joined the Navy/to see the world/ and what’d I see?/I saw the sea,*” no longer universally applies. It was, after all, sailors from a highly-trained, celebrated SEAL team who took out Bin Laden in an air and ground assault on Abbottabad in northeast Pakistan – about a thousand miles from the nearest ocean.

Wolfe, like other military personnel around the base, wears a combat camouflage uniform. She *technically* is a member of the Navy Reserve, having left full-time active service in 1987 after the birth of her first son, Christopher. She *technically* resides in Jacksonville, Fla., where her “day job” is a consultant for small businesses that need to learn a thing or two about global logistics before taking on major U.S. government and defense contracts. Still, the admiral is no “weekend warrior.” For Wolfe, like thousands of other reservists in various branches of America’s military services for the last

decade, the civilian career is on hold. She has been on active duty more than off, including two tours in the war zones. Her current posting in Virginia, 600 miles from her home, is due to end in September, and after a month’s leave, she says, she is not sure where she will go next.

In the past, service in a reserve component of the military or in the National Guard meant a part-time job for those who enlisted – train for one weekend per month and maybe spend another couple of weeks in the summer in training. You might be activated occasionally to help in the aftermath of a tornado, flood, hurricane or some other natural disaster – like the 50,000 or so guardsman and reservists pressed into duty following Hurricane Katrina. But to actually fight a war? From 1965 through 1973, throughout the Vietnam War, only 37,463 reservists were activated for wartime service. Since Sept. 11, 2011, however, 15 times that number have been called for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; by 2008 more than 550,000 reservists and guardsmen had been deployed for at least one tour of duty in the combat zone. Some estimates hold that at various times reservists made up almost half the fighting forces on the ground in the Middle East.

Although Wolfe’s group, with 3,600 sailors based in 11 battalions around the United States, is part of the Navy Reserve, it includes both active duty and reserve components – all of which must be prepared for “anytime anywhere” deploy-

Why are sailors on combat patrol like a bunch of ‘grunts’ from the infantry? Admiral Wolfe’s logistics group prepares to fight different kinds of wars around the globe.



Cathy Dixon





Preparing for any contingency the logistics group might encounter, Wolfe, left, qualifies with weapons like her subordinates. One of her biggest challenges, however, was getting humanitarian supplies and aid personnel into earthquake-ravaged Haiti, which she surveys from helicopter during her 2010 assignment there.



ment with any branch of the U.S. armed forces. Her second in command, for example, is Capt. Matthew C. Hellman from Tacoma, Wash., a 25-year veteran and one of three siblings to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. (“I’m the only one who stayed in for the long haul,” he says.) The top enlisted man in the unit is Command Master Chief Richard Ward, a 6-foot 2-inch Texan who joined the Navy right out of high school in 1988 and wears rows of ribbons for his service to the Navy’s land, sea and air operations.

Wolfe, who is 52, stands 5 feet 6 inches tall and displays an expansive, gregarious personality with expressive blue eyes punctuating parts of sentences she wants to emphasize. The admiral’s “Hi-I’m-Patty-Wolfe” informality with her civilian visitors in the front office, however, draws no unwarranted attention or wry smiles from her staff. Although it is easy to surmise that her personal management style is more open and laid back than what one might expect from flag-rank officers, she is simultaneously businesslike, attentive to detail and decisive. There is no question as to who is in charge here.

“She is all about the Navy,” says one of her subordinates. Indeed, the Navy always seems to have been a part of her life, starting with a grandfather who was in the Navy in World War I and her father who served two years in the peacetime Navy before she was born, but still goes to his ship’s reunions. Her youngest son, Scott, just completed basic training at Naval Station Great Lakes Recruit Training Command in Illinois, and currently is stationed in Pensacola, Fla., where he is in training to be a cryptologic technician. Her husband, Rob, retired as a Navy commander in 1999 after 27 years.

## Right Places, Right Times

Patty Wolfe says matter-of-factly that she “joined the Navy for the schooling, but I stayed because I loved it.” She grew up

in Budd Lake in north-central New Jersey. The daughter of a New Jersey state trooper and the oldest of five children, she knew she needed some financial help to go to college. She enrolled at Villanova University where she received a Navy ROTC scholarship.

“Villanova was the right place for me to be academically and the Navy was the right place for me to be in life,” she says. She was commissioned as a Navy ensign two days before her 1981 graduation with a bachelor’s degree in general science and a minor in business.

Although the ranks of women in the Navy have grown to about 15 percent today with a target of 20 percent, the notion of women outside of “traditional female roles,” like nursing, in all branches of service was still relatively new then. Navy ROTC programs saw the first female officers commissioned in the 1970s, but the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis did not graduate its first female until 1980. Wolfe is one of two members of her 34-member ROTC class at Villanova who remain in active service. Ironically, both are two-star admirals and both report to the same “boss.” The other is Rear Admiral Mark A. Handley, who is a “Seabee,” commander of the Naval Construction Forces Command.

As a 22-year-old ensign Wolfe was also one of the first female officers to serve aboard a Navy ship. She was supply officer aboard *USS Piedmont*, a destroyer tender. It would be some time before women would be assigned to duty on combat ships, and starting only this year will the first women be allowed to serve in officer billets aboard submarines.

In spite of Wolfe’s early interest in science, the Navy put to use her “minor” field, business. In her third year “on the job,” the Navy assigned her to attend the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Ga. Although it was in close proximity to the University of Georgia, Brenau University offered evening and weekend classes on the NSCS campus, and Wolfe

enrolled in the M.B.A. program in 1984.

One of the attractive features, she recalls, was the Brenau program was not “all Navy.” About half the students in her class had civilian careers including a couple of nurses, some lawyers, and a chief of police. “That made for a great learning environment,” she says. “If we’d been all military, we would all think alike. The mix of backgrounds brought different perspectives to the table.”

She says she also appreciated the flexibility of the Brenau program, which she took three years to complete because, in part, she took off a couple of semesters in the middle to have her first son, Christopher.

“Brenau was a win-win deal,” she says. “It provided an opportunity that I would not otherwise have to work, to go to school and to juggle family responsibilities.”

Although she left full-time active duty in 1987, she stayed in the reserve, getting increased command responsibilities with each assignment and gradually advancing up the ranks. She earned her first star for promotion to Rear Admiral (lower half) in 2007 and received her second star in 2010. And, she says, the business background served her well as that part of her career evolved. The Navy, she explains, is “a technical organization” with nuclear-power submarines and aircraft carriers, among other things.

“Many of my compatriots are pilots and ship-drivers. Admiral Handley (her Villanova classmate) is an engineer. I can’t tell you about how to run an aircraft carrier much beyond how you need to turn it into the wind for air operations, but I can tell you what it takes to do a contract to build one, what it takes to supply it and what it takes to fuel it. I understand inventory control. I know how to move people around. I am on the business side of the house. It is the job of the technical people to make that ship a fighting instrument. My job is to give them the tools they need to make it work.”

To underscore the importance of her job – moving people and material – the Navy recalled Wolfe to active duty several times during her “reserve” career. In the early 1990s, she deployed for Operation Desert Storm, the first Iraq war. A few years later she participated in Operation Sea Signal to provide humanitarian aid for thousands of Haitians attempting to escape to freedom in rickety boats and rafts and in the follow-on Operation Restore Democracy in support of President Clinton’s sending troops to Haiti. The Navy activated her twice for Operation Enduring Freedom, the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In her 2007 deployment, she remained

in Kuwait for eight months.

Perhaps her most extraordinary accomplishment as a logistician – certainly one that highlights the singular preparedness level for her unit – occurred in 2010 in the aftermath of the earthquake that ravaged Haiti. All the world, especially the United States, was ready to help by sending in thousands of relief workers, medical supplies and field hospitals, generators, water purification systems and potable water, food and other aid. They couldn’t do it, however, because the nation’s infrastructure was in ruins. Air and seaport facilities were badly damaged. Local workers, including senior government officials, were dead, missing or otherwise unable to do their jobs. The sheer volume of air and ship traffic was overwhelming for Haiti. The Navy created Task Force 48, a joint logistics hub at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to facilitate and coordinate the massive, complex shipment of supplies and personnel for Haitian relief by air and from offshore ships to landing zones in Haiti. The commander of that operation was Admiral Wolfe.

“I got the call on Friday and we were in Guantanamo ready to go to work by Tuesday,” she says. “It was a remarkable experience.”



## Training Day

Cheatham Annex, the small wooded base, a wildlife preserve that the Admiral describes as one of the U.S. Navy’s best-kept secrets, touches the shores of the York River, which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. The base flattens from the edges of the rolling high ground of the peninsula about a 10-minute drive from the heart of colonial Williamsburg and a few miles upriver from Yorktown, the site of the decisive 1781 battle in America’s war for independence. It is near Jamestown, the first English colony on America’s shores established more than four centuries ago.

As we set out for Fort. A.P. Hill we drive through Cheatham Annex and the admiral turns tour guide. She points out that some of the 18 warehouses on base provide approximately 2.3 million square feet of unheated space and another 300,000 square feet of controlled humidity space. The buildings store all kinds of things from sophisticated periscopes for submarines to ace bandages – billions of dollars worth of goods and supplies, much of which, Wolfe explains, take a long time to procure but often are needed in a hurry. We pass rows of containers that are actually field



hospital units that can be shipped on short notice and ready to use in remote reaches of the world.

At the “crane site,” a premier training facility, are two giant pedestal cranes, similar to what you find on a cargo ship; a C-130 cargo plane; helicopter; large cargo containers and trucks; and a parking lot full of forklifts and other cargo-handling equipment. Wolfe’s sailors train here, too, and hone the skills they apply from the Middle East to Antarctica to Asia and the Caribbean. We pass a tent camp where units reporting to her are in training – an exercise that will focus primarily on cargo loading and unloading, setting up and maintaining the tent camp, and command and control of all activities being conducted at multiple locations. This training differs significantly from combat skills training at Fort A.P. Hill and other locations.

“My folks are movement folks,” she says of her unit and the training facilities at Cheatham Annex. “My job is to train them to deploy, to keep them ready to make missions happen.” Most Navy logistics are maritime-related: supplying ships at sea, for example. Expeditionary logistics sailors venture farther inland as the bridge from sea to shore moving supplies and materials – often dealing with sometimes hostile indigenous populations and governments in a region and branches of the U.S. military other than the Navy.

In a world in which sailors may be operating a supply mission near a tsunami-flooded nuclear power plant or in the middle of a desert trying to help stabilize a government, being prepared is essential. It’s Wolfe’s job to get them ready for any contingencies that may arise.

“We look at a problem scenario: Here’s where the bases are. This is what needs to be moved here to there. Now how do we get cargo and people from one place to another while protecting their people at the same time? In addition to knowing about inventory control and people movement, you also have to know about establishing perimeters and firing positions – things that are very unusual for sailors.”

That is where the operation at Fort. A.P. Hill comes in. Wolfe’s sailors train there in a ground combat setting to learn and re-enforce basic combat skills they might need. All, including the admiral, are required to qualify with various weapons. The sailors here carry M4 carbines with telescoping stocks. They also train with other gear they might have to wear if shooting starts, like helmets, the 38-pound bulletproof vests and 45-pound field packs. In the uniqueness of expeditionary logistics, these sailors learn to move all the equipment needed to ensure their personal safety in addition to the cargo transported via ships, planes and trucks.

Like the sailors training at the loading and unloading scenario back at Cheatham Annex, these camped at the lush, green wilderness-like forest of the Army post have to work out



*Cmdr. Mike Stiglitz gives Wolfe a 'lay of the land' in civil war-torn 'Anvil' on a Seabee-constructed 'sand table' map. It's her team's job to help restore stability to the region, which takes quickly moving supplies and people.*

Cathy Dixon

a problem scenario as well.

Although the Navy and other branches of the service maintain various operations plans for every geographic region of the world “in case something should break out there,” Capt. Hellman explains this training scenario works with local terrain and geography. For the exercise, a video screen against the dark walls of the large tent that is the tactical operations center – the command and control point for the exercise – displays a map that looks very much like several states in the mid-Atlantic region of the good ol’ USA. But, it is identified as the country “Anvil,” which has been divided north and south by civil war. The American sailors are supporting a peacekeeping operation there.

“We try to make it as real as possible,” Hellman says. “This is a 9-1-1 group that has to go in real fast. They manage the battle space – where the forces are, where everything should be.”

Wolfe’s job is to engage with the exercise as much as the “designated visiting dignitary” can – but she has an easy, relaxed relationship with both officers and enlisted personnel. Questions are asked and answered conversationally, sometimes laced with jokes and satire. She encounters one sailor with a few sprigs of grass poked into the cloth cover of his helmet – about enough to be a fashion statement. When she asks him about it, he wryly replies, “Just tryin’ to blend in, ma’am.” Wolfe in this exercise is just coming aboard for a brief

visit, but the sailors know her and she knows them.

“She’s a good commander,” says Yeoman First Class John Hurt, who works in administration and supports public affairs, but in the exercise carries a carbine at ready as he stands on watch with other sailors in the busy nerve center for the operation. “She takes care of us and makes sure we’re set up to succeed.”

Wolfe moves quickly from spot to spot in the encampment. Outside a trailer loaded with electronics equipment, Aviation Boatswains Mate 1st Class Jason Bruce has a ruggedized case containing a laptop computer on which he demonstrates the expeditionary logistics Navy’s way of tracking and moving inventory in the field. Cmdr. Mike Stiglitz, a Clearwater, Fla., native who has spent 21 years in the Navy since his commission through the ROTC program at Georgia Tech, explains that everything has RFID tags – the same radio-frequency identification technology that many retail outlets use to track inventory.

A few steps away she visits a field kitchen – which can be folded into a small trailer – capable of feeding 250 people (but tonight it’s MREs, the “Meals Ready to Eat” packets that are now normal fare for military personnel in the field). At a medical tent, staffed by two corpsmen, the admiral queries the corpsman on duty about health of the



*Wolfe receives her second star from her husband, Rob, at a promotion ceremony at Cheatham Annex.*

dividshub.net

sailors in the fields (usual insect and dehydration issues you expect in the woods in Virginia on a 95-degree day), and gets her blood pressure checked.

In another tent, the sailors stand by with radios waiting for communication from the field checkpoints and perimeter patrols. There has been a report of a minor encounter at the main perimeter entry control point with “hostile civilians.” A short half-mile drive and Wolfe and her party move on foot down a dirt road leading to the ECP where sailors are dug in and at the ready. In the distance three or four men in “local” civilian clothing are shouting angrily – we can’t tell in what

language – and waving their arms. A sailor on point at the check post, with his M4 at his waist, signals them to move away. They do so, slowly, still shouting, but the crisis appears to be averted.

The admiral asks what is going on. “Not too active, ma’am,” Chief Petty Officer Yarrum Bland says coolly. “Just a farmer looking for his cow.”

Wolfe looks at the men in the distance as they melt into the brush alongside the road. “Are these actors or are they real people?” she asks.

“Oh, they’re real,” Bland says with a wink, “from a place called NCHB-1.” This, we can only surmise, must be a yet-unspecified region in “Anvil,” known formally as Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 1 (another of Wolfe’s battalions and part of the exercise scenario).

In spite of the lighter moments, Wolfe reflects on the seriousness of the training. People do deploy into harm’s way. So far, she has not had a sailor killed in action under her command, but she says it’s always something that is on her mind. Although you might find some safety in being in a rear echelon support role rather than on the front lines, you have to keep in mind that in today’s world and the way wars are fought today, there are no truly safe rear echelons.

“We train for war, but it is really uplifting when we can take those skills and use them for humanitarian purposes,” she says. Even that has its dangers. Just as Navy ships were the first to arrive offshore in 2010 following the Haiti earthquake, an aircraft carrier was “first responder” to the earthquake and tsunami earlier this year in Japan. Wolfe wasn’t deployed for that one, but got regular reports from the supply officer aboard the carrier, and it was all a bit dicey. “We’re not used to operating in an environment with nuclear contamination and radioactive clouds floating around,” she says, hinting of possible training scenarios to come.

In addition, there is the emotional toll. She unabashedly declares that she “broke down and cried” when she stepped off the helicopter in Haiti in 2010 and confronted all the death, despair and devastation. Even with as many as 27 Navy vessels, including a hospital ship, in the harbor at Port-au-Prince and thousands of people shuttling in to help it all just seemed so overwhelming. She says each day she returned she saw progress, “and that was very uplifting. We were making a difference there, and you could see it happening. The sailors who worked for me off-loading ships work really, really hard around the clock, and they were thrilled to be doing it.”

The best part of the job, she says, is getting out among the sailors as she did on this spring day.

“There are times,” the Admiral adds, “when I can’t believe that they pay me to do this.”





Tom Askew

## Old school ties

What do Brenau students, from left, Chloe Golden, Christina Jundt, Associate Prof. Debra Dobkins, Deidre Cochran, Alison Sellers, and seated, Laura Bolling and Jenny Hurlburt have in common with Sir Isaac Newton, the gravity dude, and Hugh Laurie, the British actor who only plays a New Jersey doctor on American TV?

All list on their college transcripts or résumés that they once studied at the infinitely prestigious University of Cambridge, England.

Under Dobkins direction, the Brenau undergraduates spent a four-week semester abroad this summer earning course credits at Selwyn College, one of the 31 constituent colleges at Cambridge. The program is a bellwether for a provision of the Brenau strategic plan to provide all Brenau undergraduates with international experience.

The students, whose majors include English, theater, history and political science, had a far-ranging course catalog to select from: ancient to modern history and literature, international

affairs, philosophy and science. Plus, in the university town that like Brenau's home, Gainesville, is about 50 miles northeast of the capital, there's plenty of culture to soak up on the side.

The list of luminaries formerly in Cambridge student ranks include Cromwell, Coleridge, Darwin, Marlowe, Bacon, Jane Goodall, Prince Charles, Queen Margrethe of Denmark, Salman Rushdie, Stephen Hawking and, for Jundt, who says her dream job would be working on the "Saturday Night Live" comedy show, Monty Python's John Cleese. "I don't want to say that this is better than Brenau's Owens Student Center or Thurmond-McRae Lecture Hall, but it is certainly a different atmosphere," Sellers says in her trip blog. "It is like I am walking around in a 17th century theme park."

*Bonus content: Check out Alison Sellers' blog for details of her Cambridge experiences and photos at [www.brenau.edu/home/?page\\_id=1872](http://www.brenau.edu/home/?page_id=1872).*



Alison Sellers

## Pursue your passion: 2011 marks first 'themed' commencement

The first time Andrea Graybill from Etters, Pa., ever set foot on a Brenau campus was on May 7 when she received her diploma. Shown at right at the post-commencement picnic on the front lawn of the Gainesville campus with President Ed Schrader, Graybill, director of early education at Christian School of York in Pennsylvania, completed a Master of Education degree online. She had not planned to attend the event because of the travel expense, but one day arrived at work to find her name on an envelope stuffed with cash. "If money is the only thing keeping you from attending your graduation," an anonymous note said, "problem solved." All her co-workers had chipped in.

Graybill was among 161 online students to graduate this year. All told Brenau conferred 771 degrees – 341 graduate diplomas and 430 undergraduate diplomas. The 198 Women's College graduates all received diplomas on Friday, May 6, at the Georgia Mountains Center a few blocks away from the Gainesville campus. On Saturday Brenau broke with tradition a bit: following a commencement program at the larger auditorium, graduate degree recipients all returned to the main campus for separate hooding ceremonies for their respective colleges.

For the first time, too, the university also conducted a "themed" commencement, which focused on one of the four components of the Brenau curriculum: appreciation for the arts. Brenau Galleries created a special arts show for graduates and their guests and speakers for both the Friday and Saturday exercises at the Mountains Center



Barry Williams



Rudi Kleier



Barry Williams



Sara Guevara



Barry Williams

represented the arts world: New York-based gallerist Barbara Bertozzi Castelli, wife of the late Brenau trustee Leo Castelli, spoke to Women's College graduates and Michael E. Shapiro, chief executive of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Brenau's education partner, addressed graduates at Saturday morning ceremonies. Both offered graduates similar charges: build your futures around something for which you have a passion.

For scores of great commencement photos, go to [www.brenau.edu/2011graduation](http://www.brenau.edu/2011graduation).

*Clockwise from bottom left, graduate degree recipients followed the gonfalon from each of their colleges to separate hooding ceremonies on the Gainesville campus to inaugurate a new commencement proceeding; Barbara Castelli at the Women's College ceremony and Michael Shapiro as the Saturday morning ceremonies' keynoter set the tone for the arts-themed commencement programs; President Schrader with first-time Brenau visitor Andrea Graybill, an online master's degree candidate who traveled from Pennsylvania to receive her diploma; and Dean Gale Starich congratulates Masters of Applied Gerontology recipient Mary MacLean Cason of Griffin, Ga., at the College of Health & Science hooding.*



# May Day and Reunion Weekend 2011

- 1. Emily Kisor, WC '09 and Joni Lynne Scott, WC '09
- 2. Phi Mu Madge Harper, WC '57 at the Phi Mu Centennial Celebration
- 3. Senior theater major Tiffany Small, right, from Lawrenceville, Ga., takes the traditional congratulatory dunk in the fountain to celebrate her engagement along with senior Rebecca Weber from Medinah, Ill.
- 4. Farrah Rahimpour, WC '10, Lee Ann Romberg White, WC '82 and Tawny Kern, WC '10 whoop it up at Class Day festivities in Pearce
- 5. May Day court (from left) Megan Haulbrook, Shiloh Vander Hyden, Ashley Lamphier, Ty Parker, Kristen Reed, Anastasia Rose. Back row from left to right: Samantha Pruitt, Jasmyrn Farmer, Miriam Reyes, queen Tenezee Johnson
- 6. A rainy morning turned into a beautiful day for a reunion celebration
- 7. Golden Girls, first row from left, Cookie Poetz Coppedge, Betsy Theus Smith, Daisy Goodnight Waldrep, Terry Terhune Glover, and Sara Thurber Wilkerson, second row, Beville Geyer Vertuno, Sarah Smith Creveling and Frances Reeves Drayton; third row, Kay Kuster Thomas, Alyce K. Godshall Parker, Pat Johnston Treadwell, Ferdie Nimmeau Johnston and Mary "Lynda" Melinda Saussy; back row, Martha Manly Hamel and Lib Gray Dula. Not pictured: Polly Pickren Reins and Nancy Adams Thompson
- 8. Katie Morris, WC '91. See more about Morris' recent adventures on page 29.
- 9. Sylvia Williams, WC '10, Monique Green, WC '10, and Sonyetta Cofer, WC '09



- 10. Silver Divas, front row, from left, Dorene Chavis Beasley, Renee Brock England, Lynn Harper, Becky Greer Nix, Wendi Jensen Griffith, Anna Alexander Jacobs; second row; Lisa Martin Smith, Connie Roberts Burney, Katie Tillman, Leslie Cooke Vaughn, Sara Seilor Story, Jeanne Howell McMillan, Cindy Fuller Jackson, Anne Stuart Ovson
- 11. Champagne Brunch
- 12. OT grad student Brittany Fox and musical theater major Monique Purnell, WC '11
- 13. Phi Mu alumnae, from left, Sarah Curl, Dely McClure Tracy, Mary H. Landry, Melinda Wyatt Cooper and Erin Byers at 100th Anniversary Celebration
- 14. Mallory Wagner, WC '09, Brook Barger Bridges, WC '00, Alicia Pendleton Harris, WC '04, EWC '05
- 15. Belinda Landers Jackson, WC '05, with son Davis at Alpha Delta Pi Open House
- 16. At Zeta Tau Alpha reunion, 1991 Women's College classmates Beth Mowery Russell, Rhonda Smith Hansen, Susan Bodahl Rickson and Jennifer Floyd Dennis



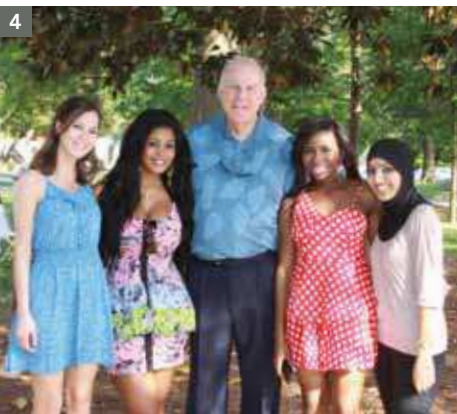
# Graduation 2011

1. EWC '11 Graduate **Brooks Clay** with son, **Noah Clay** CDC '11
2. Dr. Schrader speaks during commencement
3. **Qing Cao**, WC '11
4. **Janiece Irby**, WC '11, **Chickela Owens**, WC '11
5. **Robby Owenby**, EWC '11
6. Dean Bill Lightfoot, bottom left, presides over the College of Business & Mass Communication hooding ceremony in Pearce Auditorium
7. Interim Dean David Barnett, right, congratulates Master of Arts in Teaching recipient **Neal Patrick Daniels** of Cumming, Ga., in the College of Education hooding ceremony at the Burd Center
8. **Michelle Simmons** an online graduate from Benton, Ill., shows off her Master's in Education diploma to son Jay
9. Masters in Interior Design graduates and faculty, front row, from left, **Kelley Warnock**, **Kristen McKey** Second row: **Natalie Graves**, **Adela Betsill**, **Amanda Kiefer**; back row, from left, Professors Lynn Jones, Carol Platt, Noreen Connelly, Program Coordinator Sandra McGowen, College of Fine Arts & Humanities Dean Andrea Birch and **Kukala Taylor**

photos by  
Sara Guevara, Rudi Kiefer,  
David Morrison and Barry Williams



# Brenau Academy Graduation 2011



1. Brenau Academy Learning Center Director Joy Fuller with Kim Huynh
2. From top left, **Marissa Barrett**, **Courtney McIlroy**, **Jenny Kong**, **Shinwoo Lee**, **Lindsey Dyches**, **Ashton Patterson**, **Katarina Kauftheil** and **Kim Huynh**
3. Front row, from left, **Mary Tuggle**, **Austin McCord**, **Elizabeth Barrett**, **Madeline Wilhelm**, **Ashley Grubbs**; second row, **Natalie Chapman**, **Dean Taylor DeNeefe**, **Betsy Sprunt**, **Sarah Ahmed**, **Hannah Allen**, **Ann Dee Edseth** and **Eryn Eddy Erickson**; third row, **Karen Turner Booth**, **Olivia Williford Pratt**, **Christine Baldwin Perkins**, **Gray Beaty Stevens**, **Abigail Smith**, **Debbie Hayes Okenica**, **Lauren Okenica**, **Melanie Ham-Ye**, **Emily Golz Polanski**, **Jan Ewing**, **Amanda Hinds Wilkson**; fourth row, **Charles Burel**, **Gary Kerley**, **Bruce Fitch**, **Ellen Claire Mills**, **Edith Barnes**, **Alli Kerr**, **Nikki Guerriere Favata**, **Wendy Bourque Williams**, **Zoe Trifilio Pfaffman**, **Julia Grischenko Gula**, **Alexa Wardlaw Odom**, **Susan Thompson Hebert**, and former Academy headmaster **Frank Booth**
4. **Hannah Allen**, **Yessica Eneme-Lima**, **Frank Booth**, **Nikkie Adeyemi** and **Nadia Khan**
5. **Ashton Patterson**, **Courtney McIlroy** and **Shinwoo Lee**
6. **Karen Walsh**, math instructor
7. **Shinwoo Lee** with parents, **Myung Gon** and **Kyung Eun Moon**

photos by Don Griner





**Dotty Eleazer Alexander, WC '60, and Ferdie Nimmeau Johnston, WC '61,** reconnect at the 2011 Alumnae Reunion and May Day Weekend.

1960s

**Lenna Harris, A '69,** recently retired from a successful 37-year career teaching music, celebrates the publication of her book, *Rhythm Pies*, by Macie Publishing Company. The book demonstrates an innovative method for teaching young children to read and use musical rhythms.

1970s

**Debbie Huston Miller, WC '72** lives in Clarksdale, Miss., with her husband, George. They are enjoying retirement and their three wonderful grandchildren, Carter, 9, Mallory, 3, and Preston, born Oct. 1. Debbie would love to hear from classmates and Phi Mu sisters at debhumill@hotmail.com or on Facebook at Debbie Huston Miller.

1980s

Four years after **Claude Porter, EWC '84,** got a degree in criminal justice from Brenau the now-retired Atlanta police detective was drawn into a case that has been in the headlines on and off for the past 23 years. It ended technically on Jan. 25 with the execution of Emmanuel Hammond, one of the



**Kallarin Richards, WC '06,** provides the welcoming remarks at the Brenau-sponsored luncheon for Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal at an Atlanta Press Club luncheon at the Capitol City Club. Richards at the time was on staff of the Georgia Senate information office but subsequently became legislative liaison for the state Department of Community Health. "In my four years at Brenau, I was challenged to find my own voice, which has served me well throughout my career," Richards told the group of about 250 people. "Brenau has built its reputation on a student-centered approach to learning, and it has given thousands of students like me an edge in professional development."



Women's College 1994 classmates **Katherine Cadena, Katie Marcoux Gray, Stephanie Weaver Clay, Kathy Beck Dudley and Reveca Mladenoff, WC '95,** gathered for a surprise 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Dudley. The women came from Atlanta and New Orleans for the surprise with family and friends.

two men convicted in the rape and murder case of Julie Love, a popular 27-year-old child fitness teacher who disappeared in July 1988. Porter was a lead detective on the missing persons case looking for Love, whose body wasn't found until an informant led police to it 13 months after her disappearance from a street in the fashionable Buckhead section of Atlanta. Porter was quoted extensively, recapping the case, in news coverage about Hammond's execution.

1990s

**Masayo Ogawa, WC '94, EWC '97** lives in Gainesville, Ga., and works on an imaginative fundraiser to support victims of the recent earthquakes in Japan. Masayo sews small fabric flowers to raise money to send to the Japanese Red Cross. So far, she's collected more than \$1,500.

2000s

**Jenny R. Westberry, WC '00,** married Bradley E. Grant on March 5 in Gatlinburg, Tenn.



**Nicki Griffith Rionda, WC '95,** and husband José announce the birth of their son, Jack Andrew, on Aug. 20, 2010. Jack joins big sister Annie, born Nov. 20, 2008.

**Therese Farmer, A '01,** begins the M.D. program at Mercer University School of Medicine in August. She received a B.A. in English, history and early modern European studies from the George Washington University in 2005 and an M.A. in text and performance studies at King's College London and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in 2007.



**Eryn Manwaring Houck, WC '01,** fellow Alpha Chi Omega alumna **Mary Kathryn Wells WC '01,** of Las Vegas, Nev., along with family and friends attended a shower and champagne brunch that **Emmie Henderson Howard, WC '01,** and **Lindsay Redd Fruchtl, WC '02,** hosted for Houck at the Capital City Club in Atlanta.

**J. Myron Faircloth, EWC '02** received a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Georgia Southern University on May 13. He is a member of the faculty in the adult nurse practitioner program at Valdosta State University. He works in family medicine in both Nashville, Ga., and Valdosta, Ga.

**Dr. L. Marinn Pierce, WC '02,** recently accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Counseling, Special Education and Rehabilitation at California State University, Fresno.

Sunrise in Sinai

**Katie Morris, WC '91,** returned from an adventurous and educational tour of the Middle East, spending most of her time in Israel and Egypt. "The trip emphasized the so called '5th Gospel' the land, region, culture, and way of life," she says. "I went through the checkpoints at the Palestine Territory, saw the West Bank and heard the calls to prayer for Muslims, and I climbed the path of Arbel Cliff, walked the steps up Bet Shean and rode a one-hump camel led by a Bedouin up Mt. Sinai at night to see the breathtaking sunrise."

Morris, who was a history major, lives in Atlanta and works as product manager for National Ultrasound. In 2010, she sold 32 bladder scanners to Saudi Arabia – the largest single sale in National Ultrasound's history. "This trip has also helped give me a better understanding of the life and culture of my clients in the Middle East," she says. "We did not encounter any political unrest, but two days after I arrived home, there was a bombing in Jerusalem that killed one and injured 29." Still, the risks were worth the rewards, she says. "What meant the most to me was that I was able to match the Bible with a visual place," Morris says. "This approach to travel changed my perception of myself and my faith."







**Jennafer Eddy-Loving, A '97, WC '02**, and her husband, Thomas, announce the birth of their fourth child, Juniper Hadassah Hokulani Loving. She was born April 8, 2011 in Alpharetta, Ga. and welcomed by her very excited sisters and brother!



**Alicia Jones, WC '05**, and Terrence Hicks of Atlanta announce the birth of their daughter Charley Olivia Hicks on March 29. Witnessing the birth was best friend **Antonia Hertwig-Benson, WC '04**.

**Ashley Edwards, WC '04**, and husband, Patrick Davis, married on May 14 with 160 of their family and friends in attendance. The couple has built a beautiful house on 15 acres and care for 12 dogs and three horses they have rescued.

After spending almost five years as the marketing coordinator for North Fulton Hospital, **Joanna Stotter, WC '06**, has accepted a position as physician liaison for Gwinnett Medical Center in Lawrenceville, Ga.



**Ashley Anderson Aligood, WC '05**, and husband Brian announced the birth of their son, Luke Joseph, on March 18. Luke has already made a trip to Brenau for May Day.



**Evening and Weekend College alumna Michelle Kelly, EWC '01 and '06**, was named "volunteer of the year" for Wells Fargo's Atlanta business banking division. She has worked for the company for a year as a credit analyst. She recently was promoted to assistant vice president.

Gainesville High School promoted **Randi Orr, WC '08**, to head volleyball coach. Orr played volleyball for Brenau and is a teacher at Centennial Elementary.

**Logan Treadway, WC '09**, was promoted to account manager with Rewards Network, a dining benefits marketing company, after



**Michelle Wiley, WC '06**, of Clermont, Ga., has been promoted to vice president of membership development for the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce. **Kathryn Long (Kit) Dunlap, WC '64**, who is the president and CEO of the civic organization, announced the promotion. Wiley, who joined the staff as membership coordinator in 2007, guided one of the most successful membership campaigns in Chamber history in 2010 netting more than 100 new members, Dunlap said. She also implemented professional networking groups for members and oversees some other popular programs in the organization. Wiley and her husband, Chris, a firefighter/EMT in the city of Gainesville, have one daughter.



**Brooks Biles, WC '08**, married Brandon Thompson on May 21.



**Michelle McDougle, WC '09**, was accepted into the genetic counseling program at the University of Texas Graduate School for Biomedical Sciences at Houston.

being with the company for only seven months. She recently moved to Denver and started her new position June 1. This position will take Logan all over Colorado and Utah and help grow her professional career. While she will miss life in the South, Logan is excited to begin this new chapter of her life in the Mile-High City.

**Carlton A. DeVooght, EWC '09**, recently became a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Carlton currently serves as vice president and general counsel/government relations for the Southeast Georgia Health System.

IN MEMORY

- Carolyn Lord Ash, WC '45, Smyrna, Ga., died Jan. 1  
Doris McHaney Eister, WC '44, Silver Spring, Md., died Nov. 17, 2010  
Mary Brooks Earle, WC '63, Greenville, S.C., died Dec. 2, 2010  
Joyce Checkner Fassberg, WC '50, Bethesda, Md., died Feb. 9  
Margaret Hill Gaus, WC '40, of Chevy Chase, Md., died April 6  
Lucy Carlton Guthrie, WC '38, Epworth, Ga., died July 2, 2010  
Dorothy Gurkin Hellman, WC '32, Newark, N.J., died April 1  
Florence Lilly Lawson, WC '34, Columbia, S.C., died March 15, 2010  
Eleanor Peterson Lewis, WC '53, Gainesville, Ga., died July 21, 2010  
Barbara Squires Nellis, WC '52, Middleburg, Pa., died Sept. 18, 2010  
Etta Claire Brackin Novak, WC '41, Ozark, Ala., died Aug. 17, 2004  
Lenore Reichmuth Palmer, WC '42, Glenrock, Wyo., died Oct. 5, 2010  
Elizabeth Boswell Rudolph, WC '43, Atlanta, Ga., died Feb. 19  
Martha Finger Stratton, WC '45, of Gainesville., Ga., died Dec. 14  
Danielle Marie Thrower, EWC graduate student from Pittsburgh, Pa., died July 11  
Melanie Wilson Walker, WC '78, Tallahassee, Fla., died March 4  
Margaret Meroney Warner, WC '47, Murphy, N.C., died June 21, 2010  
Harriett Fay Simmons Woodcock, WC '78, of Gainesville, Ga., died June 2





## Upcoming Events

Thursday, Aug. 11, 4 p.m.

**BULLI Fall Registration for Sept. 26 to Nov. 11 term**

Thurmond McRae auditorium. Brenau University Learning and Leisure Institute. Extended registration weekdays through Aug. 17, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 406 Academy St., Gainesville. Call 770-538-4705 for more info.

Thursday, Sept. 22, 8 a.m. – 12 Noon

**Masters in the Art of Nursing**

Whalen Auditorium at Brenau East. Enjoy the opportunity to honor practicing nurses in the area. Free and open to the public, health care providers and students. For more info call 770-534-6206.

Friday, Sept. 23, and Saturday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m.

**10th Annual John Jarrard and Friends Benefit Concert.**

Night 1, Brenau Amphitheater. Night 2, Brenau front lawn. For details on performers, ticket prices and special conditions see [www.johnjarrardfoundation.com/concerts/](http://www.johnjarrardfoundation.com/concerts/).

Monday, Sept. 19 to Sunday, Oct. 30

**Exhibit: *Sometimes I Disappear*, Melissa Cooke**

Leo Castelli Art Gallery. Provocative self-portraits examine the mystery of self. Cooke is a young, up-and-coming player on the international art scene. Her powdered graphite on paper works explore themes of beauty, fantasy, violence and identity with the artist's casting herself as subject in myriad thematic scenarios.

**Artist Talk**, Thursday, Sept. 22, 6 p.m.

Leo Castelli Art Gallery. Reception follows.

Call 770.534.6263. Free and open to the public.

Saturday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m.

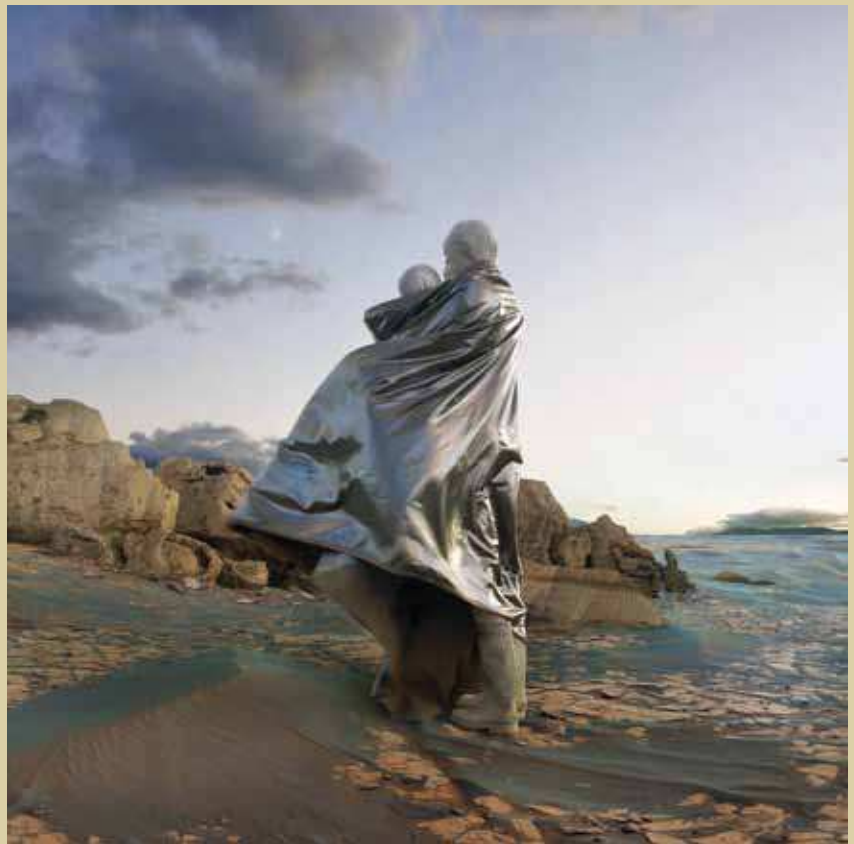
**What is Opera...REALLY?**

John S. Burd Center for the Performing Arts. Enjoy an interactive evening of opera's best-loved music. Admission is \$2 for all. For information call 770.538.4764 or visit [www.brenau.edu/music](http://www.brenau.edu/music).

Wednesday, Oct. 5, 11:30 a.m.

**Taste of History Luncheon**

Chattahoochee Country Club. A Tribute to Higher Education in Northeast Georgia. Call 770.297.5900 or visit [www.negahc.org](http://www.negahc.org).



*Earthrise (Mare Acidalium)* from the series *Mars: Adrift on the Hourglass Sea*, a digital photograph from the Sept. 14 – Dec. 4 Selesnick/Kahn exhibit.

Wednesday, Sept. 14 to Sunday, Dec. 4

**Prophecies Adrift: the Lunar and Martian Missions**

Brenau University's Sellars and Presidents galleries. Richard Selesnick and Nicholas Kahn have collaborated since 1988 on a series of complex narrative photo-novellas and sculptural installations. (Closed Nov. 23-27)

**Artist Talk**, Thursday, Sept. 29, 6 p.m., Thurmond McRae Lecture Hall. Reception follows in Sellars and Presidents galleries. For gallery hours and information call 770.534.6263. Free and open to the public.

To obtain a printed copy of the Brenau Calendar of Arts & Events, send your name, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number and class year (if applicable) to: Natalie Walker, Alumni Director, Brenau University, 500 Washington St. SE, Gainesville, GA 30501 or [nwalker4@brenau.edu](mailto:nwalker4@brenau.edu)