

Energized

Tom DePony '99 has a passion for power... the electric kind. He's energized about alternate forms of energy production, and his enthusiasm for the body politic and energy policy development has carried him to our nation's capital as the public "face" for a new biomass energy company.

"I think I have a passion for energy policy. If not, then I better get a different job," Tom laughs.

As the public affairs director for ADAGE (pronounced "Ah-Dahj"), Tom informs and educates members of the U.S. Congress, federal regulators, state legislators, community leaders and the general public how the "clean-technology" power generating plants ADAGE wants to build in Florida, Washington, and Idaho will increase access to renewable electricity, enhance forest health, and raise the economic fortunes of rural communities near the plants.

Tom's excited about the potential of these "carbon-neutral" woody biomass generating plants, each of which can turn hundreds of thousands of tons of debris from forest floors into enough electricity to power 40,000 homes, 24/7. One of ADAGE's parent companies, the French energy behemoth AREVA, has built and operates more than 100 biomass plants around the globe.

In his discussions with officials and communities, Tom aims to build consensus and help develop the power plant project into a cooperative effort for all the constituencies involved. He uses interpersonal communication skills honed while working on transportation projects



Tom DePony shared this view near the U.S. Capitol building during President Obama's Inauguration

for an environmental issues firm in Seattle.

"You're never going to please all the people all the time, but you try to develop the project so that at least part of it appeals to everyone," he says.

For Tom, energy policy and energy politics are two sides of the same coin. His interest in politics came first. "I've always enjoyed being involved in engaging and spirited discussions and, for me, those go hand-in-hand with politics," he says.

He credits Deena Barber, Saint George's long-time politics and history teacher, with helping solidify his interest in the political arena. "She was great, an amazing teacher... very engaging. She made the subject matter interesting; she saw people's strengths and helped motivate them."

After graduating from the University of Puget Sound with a B.A. in politics and government and a minor in U.S. history, Tom packed his bags and headed for Washington, D.C.

He didn't have a job waiting for him in Washington, "but I knew I wanted to work in the political world, and I wanted to focus on energy policy." AREVA gave him that opportunity — first as a researcher

on energy bills being crafted in Congress, then as a company representative for federal government relations.

When AREVA partnered with Duke Energy to establish ADAGE (AREVA Duke Advanced Green Energy), Tom was tapped as the new company's public affairs director. All the while, he continued to learn everything he could about our nation's energy policy.

"Because as a nation we've benefited from relatively inexpensive energy, we haven't been forced to consider our energy policy as a long-term process of examining where we want to be in 30 years as opposed to where we want to be in two years," Tom says. He believes that the challenges of climate change and energy resource constraints have created "the critical mass for a discussion that looks down the road at the direction our energy policy and energy industry could and should take during the next 30 or 50 years."

It's bound to be a lively, spirited discussion, so there's little doubt that Tom will bring his own energy to the debate!

— Steve Elias

Helping New Orleans Recover

For Jean Brookbank '81, "one of the lasting lessons of my Saint George's education has been the importance of community, and living in South Louisiana these last years has reinforced and extended that lesson."

In 1974 her family left Louisiana's Barksdale Air Force Base, coming to Spokane where Saint George's welcomed her with an Alumni Scholarship. She finally returned on August 31, 2005 "when the Red Cross re-assigned me to run a Hurricane Katrina shelter in a tiny Cajun village. This opportunity to return has been another extraordinary gift in my life. Louisiana is truly 'home' for me, and New Orleans' paradoxical joy after devastation has restored to my life the intimate African American community and resilient spirituality I loved as a southern child."

Jean shared some suggestions for supporting the people of Greater New Orleans (GNO) as they continue to recover:

Zeus' Place (zeusplace.com and animalrescueneworleans.org): "The animal rescue groups in GNO are phenomenal and, for me, my rescue dog Mackie is an incarnation of New Orleans' resilience and its ongoing transition from trauma to joy. Zeus' Place had fostered him for an entire year by the time I met him and he still could not tolerate eye contact or touch for weeks. But he tried, again and again, and I fell in love and took him home."

Zeus' commitment is profound. They found me an apartment where I could have Mackie, visited to ad-

minister heartworm medication, and invited him back for free kennel visits... for life. More than any people I know, New Orleanians love their pets, and they continue to grieve those lost to Katrina. The stories are heartbreaking, but their communal will to heal through the active love of these projects is intrinsic to their painful and ultimately joyful recovery."

Sankofa Market (sankofamarketplace.org) is a project of the Historic Lower Ninth Ward Council for Arts and Sustainability. "While they were still physically rebuilding their own devastated homes and businesses, the African American congregation of St. David's (my Catholic Church) in the Lower Ninth Ward made summer service trips at their own expense to help rebuild a poor inner-city Philadelphia neighborhood.

'Neighboring' is the very essence of culture here, and this spirit of mutual aid between neighbors (even those far-flung) is integral to the desire of New Orleanians to come home, to risk return after 'the Katrina Diaspora.' Sankofa Market celebrates and facilitates that spirit and its renewal in the Lower Ninth."

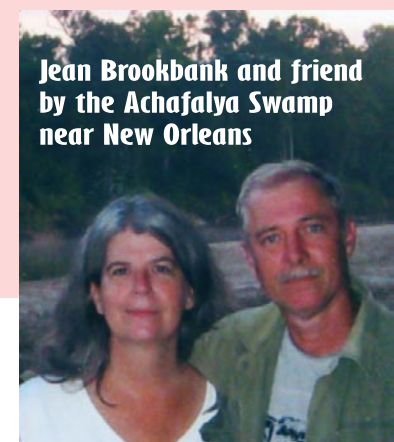
Unity for the Homeless (unity.org): "Read any story about the work being done in New Orleans with the homeless community, and you will find this organization on the ground, driving services, policy and funding throughout GNO. I will never forget Christmas 2007, when the homeless shelter (at which I served as the

social worker) shared office space with Unity. A few days before the holiday, a Unity worker — still not back in her own home more than two years after Katrina — used her own money to move a family off the street and into a motel because funding had run out and shelters were full."

Hike for KaTREEena (hikeforkatreena.org): "New Orleans lost over 100,000 trees when the levees broke in the aftermath of Katrina. If you have been to New Orleans, try to imagine the city without its trees, without its live oaks, its magnolias and crepe myrtle, its clementines in full fruit. Imagine Mardi Gras without the frivolous, haphazard beauty of bead-draped trees along the parade routes."

St. Bernard Project, Rebuilding the Lives of Katrina Survivors, Family by Family (stbernardproject.org): "I spent a week volunteering with them in August and was knocked out of my socks. They've rebuilt 245 houses at a cost of \$15,000 per house. Enough said."

If you contact or support any of these organizations, be sure to let Jean know! Contact her through the SGS website's Alumni Directory.



Class Notes

1961

Sarah Serafim says, "I enjoyed meeting up with Carolyn Cool Hickerson and Chris Canwell at this year's reunion. It was such fun to see six of the 1959 graduates get together, among them my sister Hannah. A family reunion of sorts was also in progress, with brother Frank (1963), sisters Margie (1965) and Mary also in attendance. Carolyn, Chris, and I agreed to meet again in 2011 for our fiftieth, and we hope our whole class will turn out."

1974

Martha Rosenberry started a non-profit leadership organization (Perfect Image Leadership Foundation) this year to help students make "better life choices." "Please don't faint, but I've been teaching photography part time at New Horizon's High School, Pasco's alternative high school. Starting my fourth year."

1975

Merrilee Lindaman was profiled in the Spokesman-Review's Nov. 11 Food section for the 25th anniversary of her gourmet takeout restaurant Lindamann's on Spokane's South Hill. "Those first few years we grew so fast that honestly I didn't go home at night," she says in the article. "People were coming in and buying us out every three hours and we were just cooking to try to keep up with it."

1979

"Even though I left SGS in '78," says Russell Hansen, "I miss my class of 1979 and would like to hear from any one of you... It has been 30 years." Contact him at gardenman707@comcast.net.

2000

For a year and a half now, Alyssa Smith has been working with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, "working with the children in their productions and giving backstage tours three- to four-times a week. Next season I'll be an Assistant Stage Manager. The Festival is one of the best regional theaters in the country; I couldn't be more proud and excited to be a part of it."

50-Year Career



Paul Holman

Paul Holman '59 wrote, "I regret not being able to get to Spokane for our 50th Reunion, but I hope you will all have a wonderful time."

"You asked me to summarize what I have been doing for the past half-century. After Harvard, I served with Army Intelligence, followed by two years in Morocco. Then I went to grad school, getting an M.A. and Ph.D. (as in, "Pile It Higher and Deeper") in Russian History at Georgetown.

"Most of my life involved working for Uncle Sam, briefly as an intelligence analyst, and for decades I taught Political Science. The highlights were 12 years in Newport, Rhode Island, at the Naval War College, and seven years in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, where my students hailed from all of the ex-communist countries of Europe and Asia.

"I have retired three times so far. The Civil Service and the U.S. Air Force Reserve both sent sentimental paperwork (suitable for framing), and the Social Security Administration sent me a nice ID card.

"Retirement notwithstanding, I now teach on-line for the Naval War College with students in Iraq, Afghanistan, South Korea, Kuwait, and all over the United States. Most are Naval officers, but some are Army, Air Force, Marine, Border Patrol, Homeland Security, and even Public Health Service. In addition, I teach several courses 'in the flesh' at the University of Maine, Orono. Undergraduates are fun! This is

my first encounter with a public university, so I'm learning a lot about REAL teaching.

"My wife is Sally Corbett Holman. She has created an on-line store, selling Christmas decorations and wooden toys imported from Germany, France, and Italy. We have taken one business trip to Europe in 2004, in which I served as Driver, Guard, and all-around Sherpa for her initiatives. Assuming steady growth of her sales, we hope to do that again.

"Our son Garth is a graduate student in Botany at the University of Maine. Our daughter Beth is a Civil Servant, working for the Environmental Protection Agency in Alexandria, Virginia. And our other daughter Caitlin is a graphics designer, now beginning a graduate program at the University of Michigan.

"Just last year, I restored contact with my oldest friend, Harry Boyd, whom you may remember from 1955. However, I have not been able to track down Anthony Pattison, who was also at Saint George's in 1955-57. Please send me his address, if you know it!

"I have very warm memories of all of you and of Saint George's. Thanks to Miss Starkweather ("Starkie??") and Mr. Jenkins, I majored in French Literature. Thanks to Mr. Peckover, Mr. Caudill, and Mr. Metters, I have returned to the Episcopal Church (after a lapse of many years).

"I wish you many happy returns to Saint George's!"