SCENE & HERD

SCHAPIRO TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

President Morton Owen Schapiro announced in December that he will become president of Northwestern University on Sept. 1.

At Williams, Schapiro has helped significantly expand access and affordability and has overseen the most ambitious fundraising effort in College history, The Williams Campaign.

EPHS ADDRESS FINANCIAL CRISIS

With news of the world financial markets becoming more dire each day, Williams brought together a panel of faculty, staff and alumni in October to share their expertise and prognoses.

Before a packed Chapin Hall, the panelists agreed that the downturn was cyclical and expressed concern with government’s response. “What we’ve had is 18 months of ‘Whack-a-Mole’ regulatory practices,” Cadogan Management principal Paul Isaac ’72 said...

They Said:

“A collection of opinions and ideas expressed at Williams and on its websites.

“The general feeling is that we’re in this together, we believe in the guiding principles of the institution and, as a community, we’ll work together to rethink the way we do business.” — Martha Tetrauld, human resources director, on campus-wide response to the College’s efforts to reduce operating expenses. Record, 11.19.08

“We recognize that the language may not be as upsetting and as fraught as the racist slur used in Willy E last spring, but we don’t think it has a place here.” — Karen Merrill, dean of the College, on offensive writing and graffiti discovered on and near the door of an Asian-American first-year student’s room. Record, 10.29.08

“We want to talk about challenges that may not be immediately apparent. We want to provide a forum for everyone and [deal with] the disparity between what is and what we want Williams to be.” — Danielle Selcer ’10, Claiming Williams Steering Committee member, on the goals for the Feb. 5 all-day event designed to generate dialogue about inclusiveness and community at the College. Record, 11.12.08

“To date 300,000 kilowatts of energy have been saved in Morley Science Center, and we’re expecting to do more.” — Stephanie Boyd, director of the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives, in a report on how the College has lowered its greenhouse gas emissions by 23 percent since 2006. Record, 10.8.08

“Twenty of my 30 years in academe have been spent at Williams, and I’ve loved virtually every minute,” Schapiro stated in a letter to the College community. “The past nine as president have been the greatest honor and privilege of my professional life. But with the completion of our comprehensive campaign this month and my strong feeling that institutions need new leadership every decade or so, I think the timing is right.”

Greg Avis ’80, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, who will lead the Presidential Search Committee, said Williams is in an “excellent position to make a smooth transition over the coming year.” He added, “We deeply appreciate the outstanding leadership Morty has provided. … Williams is better positioned today because of initiatives he has expertly led.”

BLACK CAUCUS VISITS PURPLE VALLEY

“The election was like the Emancipation Proclamation, like your birthday and like the mountaintop speech by Martin Luther King. A burden was lifted off our shoulders. The world was ours,” said U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas (third from left) during a Nov. 17 discussion in Chapin Hall moderated by 60 Minutes correspondent Lesley Stahl. The talk, which included Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick and Williams students, was part of an evening with members of the Congressional Black Caucus and initiated by Bernard Moore, visiting lecturer in political science. For video of the event, visit williamsawc.org/ORKMG.

For more information on any of these stories, visit www.williams.edu and enter the topic into the search field.
THE WILLIAMS CAMPAIGN WRAPS UP

The Williams Campaign, the most ambitious fundraising effort in the College’s history, came to an end in December, far exceeding its $400 million goal. Though the numbers had yet to be finalized by the deadline for this Review, it is already clear that tens of thousands of campaign gifts—including all gifts to the Alumni Fund and Parents Fund—have transformed the Williams experience. A larger faculty (and smaller classes), triple the number of tutorials, new team-taught and interdisciplinary classes, rigorous writing and quantitative reasoning course requirements, vastly expanded need-based financial aid, residential life initiatives and four new buildings—the Paresky Center, the ’62 Center for Theatre and Dance, and the North and South Academic Buildings—are but a few of the campaign-related successes. Check back for more details in the March 2009 Review.

IN MEMORIAM

The College marked the passings of William H. Pierson Jr., the Massachusetts Professor of Art, emeritus, in December, and Edson M. Chick, professor of German, emeritus, in November.

Pierson was the last of the legendary “trinity” of Williams professors who helped awaken in generations of students a lifelong passion for art. He joined the faculty in 1940 and introduced studio courses and the study of photography and American art to the curriculum. He taught art and architecture until his retirement in 1973. He wrote the first three volumes of American Buildings and Their Architects and edited The Buildings of the United States, a 60-volume inventory and analysis of every significant building in the country. The College honored him by creating the Faison-Pierson-Stoddard Professorship in Art History and with an honorary degree in 2001. Among his survivors are two daughters and two granddaughters.

Chick came to Williams in 1972 to chair the German and Russian department, focusing on 19th- and 20th-century German literature, especially drama. He also was a volunteer official at virtually all home swim meets before retiring in 1992. Among his survivors are his wife Barbara, four children and seven grandchildren.

WOMEN’S SOCCER’S STELLAR SEASON

After an undefeated regular season, top-ranked women’s soccer lost to Wheaton (Ill.) in the NCAA Tournament national semifinal in December.

Williams finished its season 19-1-1 and was the first in conference history to claim back-to-back NESCAC crowns. Michelyne Pinard was named NESCAC Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.

MORRISSEY SETS RUSHING RECORD

Football tailback Brian Morrissey ’09 broke the Ephs’ career rushing record by gaining 86 yards in a 24-23 victory over Amherst on Nov. 8. The co-captain entered the season finale 48 yards short of the 2,644-yard set by Fred Storz ’01. Facing the top rushing defense in NESCAC, Morrissey carried the ball 27 times, including a four-yard touchdown run with 12:54 remaining. The run put the Ephs ahead to stay and helped deliver their 46th outright “Little Three” title since 1910.
ELECTION DAZE

Like the rest of the country, the Williams campus became more politically engaged than usual in the weeks leading up to Election Day. Among the nearly two-dozen election-related activities and events on the calendar in the fall:

“The Road to 2008: Presidential Politics Today”: Arianna Huffington, co-founder and editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post, discussed what she considers to be the diminishing integrity and increasing availability of the media.

“Lipstick Republicans and Why They Make the Left Crazy”: Former Massachusetts Gov. Jane Swift addressed the injustices faced by women seeking political office.

“The Failure of the U.S. Electoral System”: Michel Balinski ’54, professor of the Ecole Polytechnique and CNRS, Paris, talked about whether the U.S. can still claim to be the leading democracy of the world.

“Every Vote Counts?” Mathematics and Statistics Colloquium Talk: Ali Barrett ’09 proved the Gibbard-Satterthwaite Theorem, which states that in a case of three or more candidates and a finite set of voters, no “reasonable” and manipulation-proof voting method exists.

“The United States of Mathematics Presidential Debate”: A fight to the finish between math professors Colin Adams, representing the beacon of geometrical progress as a figure-eight knot of modern topology, and Tom Garrity, defending old-school mathematics as a Euclidean algorithm.

“The NESCAC championship win over Amherst was one of the best wins in the history of the program, and it’s a tribute to the amount of heart and pride our players have in the way they compete as a team.”

—Women’s volleyball coach Frances Vandermeer, after the Ephs defeated the Lord Jeffs 3-1 to secure their 25th victory of the season and the conference crown heading into the NCAA tournament.

“It represents the quality of our wrestlers, and it speaks about our capability. Respect is something you earn, and our guys have carried themselves with integrity.”

—Men’s wrestling co-coach Rafael Vega, on his team being ranked first in New England and 15th in the nation in preseason polls conducted in late October by the New England Wrestling Association and the Brute/Adidas NWCA Div. III Rankings, respectively.

“You always get surprises in sports, and it’s hard to predict what’s going to happen at Nationals. But hopefully we’ve got it figured out so we can do it again next year.” —Cross-country coach Pete Farwell ’73, on the men’s and women’s squads each placing third at the Nov. 22 National Championships in Hanover, Ind.—the first time both cracked the Top 4 since 1994.

DON’T FORGET TO VOTE!

Just when you thought the elections were over—it’s time to cast your ballot for this year’s alumni trustee and Tyng Bequest administrator. Questions? Contact alumni.relations@williams.edu or 413.597.4151.