

Haverford

N E W S L E T T E R

Y2K: Is Haverford Ready?



The Y2K Committee: G. Richard Wynn, vice president for finance and administration and treasurer of the college (foreground), Stephen Tessino, controller and assistant treasurer; Mary Ellen Luongo, director of administrative computing; Norman Ricker, director of physical plant; and Jan Richards, director of academic computing.

IT IS ONE OF THE BUZZWORDS of the year – Y2K. The fast-approaching new millennium has businesses and institutions worldwide scrambling to make sure that computer systems and software continue to operate as expected at the turn of the century.

According to those who oversee Haverford's computers, the college has been proactive in addressing the issues raised by the Year 2000 and is in good shape to ride out the change.

The issue is this: most computers are configured to identify calendar dates using only the last two digits of the year, a remnant of the earliest days of computing when systems had very limited memory storage capacities. The two-digit years work only under the assumption that the first two digits are 1 and 9, which obviously will no longer be the case in the year 2000. In addition, vast amounts of data using two-digit years have been accumulated and are still in use. To make matters worse, the year 2000 is a leap year, so an extra day must be configured into the picture. And the potential problems are not confined simply to information systems; any system or software anywhere that uses dates may be threatened.

"It's very difficult to predict where this is going," says G. Richard Wynn, Haverford's vice president for finance

and administration, treasurer of the college, and chair of the committee overseeing the transition. "We are in the process of inventorying everything we have that could conceivably be affected by Y2K, and, given that we still have a year to go, we're in a good position."

Wynn adds that the college has contacted those external suppliers that provide services and has received assurances that their systems are Y2K compliant as well. "Many of these questions are out of our control," Wynn explains. "We have to take Philadelphia Electric Company's word that we will have electricity."

Wynn points out that the college does have its own generators that could provide electricity indefinitely, albeit at some reduced power levels, as long as fuel is available. He remains optimistic that the electric company and other outside providers will remain true to their word and be up and running on January 1, 2000.

Internally, the college is in a good position to handle any problems that arise. Jan Richard, director of academic computing, is in charge of Haverford's servers and networks, as well as providing faculty and student computing support, and does not anticipate any major problems. "For the most part people should be okay if they are using the most current versions of software sup-

ported by the college," Richard says. The biggest area of concern is the possibility that some academic departments are still running older programs that may not be Y2K compliant, particularly in the science laboratories.

"We would hate to see faculty members lose a database important to their research," Richard stresses. Her office is going department by department to make sure everyone is aware of and addressing potential glitches.

One advantage Haverford has is the high prevalence of Apple products still in use throughout the campus. Although the college is becoming a two-platform campus, many Apple products, which do not have any Y2K problems, are still in use. Haverford's director of administrative computing, Mary Ellen Luongo, says the college is fine in terms of its hardware and application, which is not internally coded for a two-digit year. "Our system is internally coded with a sequential number, so as far as it's concerned, the year 2000 is just another in a series of digits," Luongo explains.

Steve Tessino, controller and assistant treasurer of the college, agrees that the college does not anticipate any major problems with its general ledger or student account systems. Externally, Tessino must rely on the assurances of contractors. "We use an outside firm to do our payroll system and depend on vendors for other services, but we have been assured all systems are in fine shape," Tessino says.

Haverford's physical plant is also prepared for the change. Norm Ricker, director of physical plant, says there is still time to address any problems. "We have some equipment that may have embedded chips and be date-sensitive," Ricker says. "We have already been in contact with manufacturers to find out how to make those systems Y2K compliant."

Haverford has an additional advantage over many other businesses in that classes will not begin until the third week of January 2000. "We have some lead time because we won't have 1100 students on campus," Wynn points out. "If things go wrong in the first week of January, and surely some will, we can get them resolved before the students return."

College Begins Search for

This fall, Haverford President Thomas Tritton announced the promotion of G. Holger Hansen to secretary of the college, effective July 1999. Hansen, who has been vice president for institutional advancement for 18 years, will assist the president and board of managers with the college's next major capital campaign.

G. Richard Wynn, the vice president for finance and administration and treasurer of the college, is heading the search and asks that all nominations and applications be directed to him at Haverford College, 370 Lancaster Ave., Haverford, PA 19041.

Perspectives on World Hotspots



Haverford College's yearbook, *The Record*, can now be ordered through the Internet. The publication's new site features online ordering for students and online reservations for parents, plus information about senior portraits and pages, advertising, staff, and a survey about Haverford life and academics.

According to Julie Patton'00, the *Record*'s webmaster and Seniors Editor, the yearbook plans to add a preview section with photos and other material next year.

For now, you can reach the yearbook staff at <http://www.students.haverford.edu/yearbook>.

THE DAWN OF A NEW century affords the opportunity for reflecting about the past and prognosticating about the future. Especially in the end of this decade, with so much upheaval and uncertainty in world politics and economics, many are facing the new millennium with a sense of trepidation. Two Haverford professors spent recent sabbaticals examining the tumultuous recent history of several world powers, and looking forward to what might lay ahead for these nations.

Vladimir Kontorovich, associate professor of economics, has spent much of the last decade examining the reasons for the demise of the Soviet Union. Kontorovich recently published a book entitled *The Destruction of the Soviet Economic System: An Insiders View*, in which he and co-editor Michael Ellman provide an overview of the collapse of the Soviet system. The idea for Kontorovich's book was to contact people who were actually involved and collect evidence, some of it only recently available from inside the Soviet system, about what actually happened during the period.

Kontorovich traveled to Moscow and was able to work with people at various levels of the old hierarchy who had been present during the upheaval. Among those who participated in the project were economic officials and advisors, a member of the Politburo, officials of the central committee of the Communist party, and several individuals from the State Planning committee and the General Staff. The key was to find people who had been directly involved with decision-making during the time of the collapse.

The result is a book that debunks some previous theories and strongly supports others. As an example of his findings, Kontorovich points to the military industrial complex, long assumed to be one of the most powerful lobbies under the Soviet system. "We know that Gorbachev had started downgrading them very sharply, and they were decimated later. One would have expected the military industry to resist these

changes," Kontorovich explains. "In fact, when they were directed to convert from military to civilian production – essentially told to make pots and pans instead of tanks – they made the conversion without turmoil."

In addition, Kontorovich says his analysis indicates that Russian reformers did not encounter any resistance from regional party committees when told to concede economic control in their regions, contrary to what was believed at the time.

Kontorovich's current research is directed at Russia's isolated Far East territory – an enormous area that borders China, the Pacific Ocean, and the Arctic Ocean. Kontorovich believes this area could become a flash point for future conflict in the region. Although the Far East represents nearly 40% of Russia's territory, it is very sparsely populated due to its harsh conditions and limited economic opportunities. Parts



Vladimir Kontorovich

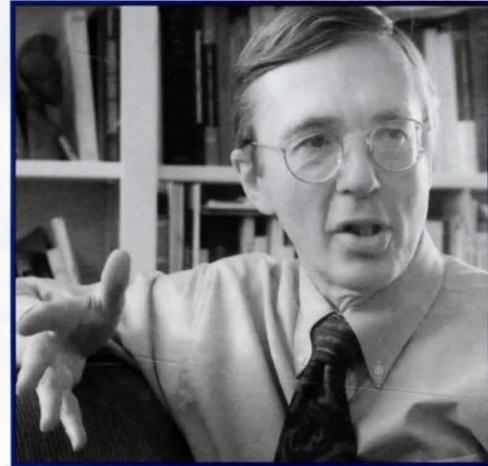
of the area originally belonging to the Chinese were colonized by the Russians a century ago, but its inhospitable conditions prevented much growth. With its role as a military outpost of the superpower on the Pacific gone, the population is leaving the Far East. Russians fear this part of their country is ripe for geopolitical conflict.

While on sabbatical in the fall, Kontorovich began looking into the economy of the region and how eco-

conomic options might affect its future. "This is an interesting area because it's anomalous," Kontorovich explains. "It's part of the country yet extremely far from most Russians. It's been integrated into the country's economy, but cannot be maintained, and it's very sparsely populated vis-a-vis China, its very densely populated neighbor. I'm trying to figure out what scenarios are likely to happen."

One of Kontorovich's colleagues at Haverford used a recent sabbatical to examine conditions in another of the world's hotspots. An expert on African politics and diplomacy, political science professor Robert Mortimer traveled to Senegal and focused on the dynamics of political unrest in West Africa.

Mortimer is particularly watchful of Nigeria's status in terms of civil conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone, which he says contains both the possibility for increased regional cooper-



Robert Mortimer

ation and integration as well as the potential for further division and conflict. The most populous and powerful country in Africa, Nigeria is an important power in the region, and some smaller states fear its creeping influence. In addition, Mortimer says important changes are taking place in Nigeria itself, following the recent death of dictator Sani Abacha, whose regime was widely viewed to be a pariah in the region. The current military leader, Abdulsalam Abubakar, claims to be committed to restoring electoral politics in Nigeria, and elections have been scheduled for the spring.

"The question of whether or not Nigeria can finally complete a transition back to a civilian government is a very important issue for the West African region and the continent as a whole," Mortimer says.

A presidential election also looms in another country of interest to Mortimer – Algeria, where an estimated 75,000 people have been killed in a seven-year-old Islamic insurgency. A change in leadership was brought about by this summer's surprise resignation of Algeria's current leader, retired general Liamine Zeroual. Mortimer was recent part of a gathering of Algerian experts

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Computer "House Calls"

RESPONDING TO A CALL for help, residential computer consultant (RCC) Rohit Apte discovered that a student's PC had contracted "one of the worst viruses ever created." Apte and his fellow computer consultants scrambled to find out how the virus worked. Turns out, it was set to activate on the twenty-sixth of November. The call was made on the twenty-second. Four days later, the virus might have wiped out the student's hard drive.

"There was panic," recalls Apte. "We sent out a bulletin telling other people how to detect and get rid of it. The same virus lay waiting in a few other PCs on campus."

That was his biggest "scare" in the debut year of the residential computer consultant program. Thus far, 12 RCCs have been trained to assist students in the dorms and Haverford College apartments (HCA) with computer problems. Given that 80% of Haverford's students have computers, Barbara Mindell felt there was a definite need for this type of service. As one of the college's academic computing consultants, Mindell saw the limitations of the existing "Helpdesk" as well as the increasing demands for on site assistance. Many students couldn't



"One of the goals of this arrangement is to educate students on how to care for and take more

responsibility for their computers."

— Barbara Mindell

make it to the help desk during its regularly scheduled hours, she said, and because of the time and space limitations at the help desk, students didn't have the opportunity to learn how to take care of their computers.

In addition to improving service to student computer owners, while freeing up help desk staff to provide better service in other areas, the RCCs offer training sessions for new students on networking their computers and on the use of standard networking software. "One of the goals of this arrangement is to



Andrew Eldredge-Martin'01 (left) on a "house call" for first-year student, Dan Heinz.

educate students on how to care for and take more responsibility for their computers," says Mindell.

This type of service has caught on at many of Haverford's peer institutions as well. Swarthmore College, for example, has dorm support technicians; the University of Pennsylvania has information technology advisors; and Williams College hires student technology consultants.

Haverford sophomore Andrew Eldredge-Martin had worked in the computer center all summer before becoming a resident computer consultant. He and the other RCCs have monthly meetings with Mindell and participate in e-mail discussions so they can bounce problems off each other. So far the vast majority of problems are related to e-mail or people trying to connect to the network — "textbook examples," says Eldredge-Martin.

Here's the way it works: If a computer crashes when a student runs Netscape, the RCC performs a number of standard tests and "quick fixes" to correct the problem. If those don't work, he or she can remove and reinstall the program. "If I do that and the system is still crashing frequently, I would do a clean installation of the system software, and, as a last resort, I would reformat the hard drive," said Eldredge-Martin. If the RCC's efforts are unsuccessful, he adds, most of the time it's a hardware problem and the computer is taken to the technicians in the academic computing department or to a dealer. Though all Haverford students know something about computers, "there are people who think they know more than they do," he says. "It's risky. They play with things. It's the best way to learn but sometimes they can really mess things up." The political science major

has been lucky so far: "I haven't had any late night calls."

Apte, on the other hand, handles 125 students in HCA, most of whom are freshmen with new computers. He's received some "drastic e-mails" at "odd hours." One midnight e-mailer pleaded, "I have a paper due tomorrow and I lost it. I don't know what's going on. Can you come over?" Apte came to the student's rescue.

Senior Carrie Levow also takes care of 110 students living in the Haverford College apartments. Compared to being an RCC for one of the dorms, "people don't stop me in the halls," says Levow. "They e-mail or call, but I tell them not to call past 11 p.m." She has additional responsibilities which include testing all the RCCs in the spring and attending bi-weekly meetings with the academic computing staff. Levow also takes calls from students living off campus. A sociology major, Levow has worked for the academic computing center since her freshman year. "I like solving problems, and I like to make people happy," she says.

Despite the increasing popularity of computers in dorm rooms, Levow believes that "Haverford does as good a job as humanly possible" to make it easy for people who don't have computers. The computer centers are open most of the time, but if a student needs to work on a paper on a weekend evening, he or she can be trained and keep the center open as a volunteer monitor, Levow pointed out.

Still, "it's a great convenience to have a computer. It's nice to be able to check your e-mail at 2 a.m. in your pajamas." And even better, to call your RCC if your e-mail doesn't work.

A Postdoc for Scientists Who Also Want to Teach

WITH THE SUPPORT of the National Science Foundation, Haverford College astronomer, Bruce Partridge, created a postdoc position which has provided a young scientist not just with opportunities for research, but with training and experience in teaching as well.

For a number of years, Partridge has been involved in efforts to reform U.S. education in the physical sciences, and he was a contributor to the report on "Physics Through the 1990s" for the National Academy of Sciences. Partridge sees a critical need for scientists to learn how to teach. He cites a growing concern in the scientific community that graduate education and, by extension, the postdoctoral experience, is too narrowly focused on a single research experience. Partridge claims that too few young scientists have had much experience in or individual responsibility for classroom teaching.

Deborah Haarsma, a recent Ph.D. degree recipient from MIT, was selected

for the position and began her postdoc at Haverford in the summer of 1997. In addition to her research, she is teaching one course this year (as she did last year), and she is being mentored by Partridge and another mem-

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ber of the department. Partridge has observed her classes (as she has his), commented on her teaching and has shared information and discussions with her about various pedagogical issues, lesson plans, syllabi, etc.

Haarsma submitted a letter to the American Astronomical Society Newsletter to encourage other institutions to offer similar types of postdoctoral positions, which she says, many of her colleagues would have preferred. "Positions such as these," she wrote, "will produce a better set of applicants for permanent positions that combine research and teaching."

Partridge couldn't agree more. As a former chair of the department and provost of the college, he has been part of numerous faculty searches. Liberal arts colleges like Haverford, he says, are looking for this kind of teaching and research experience in their faculty. A few other institutions have made similar arrangements, and Partridge hopes that research universities which are paying greater attention to undergraduate education, will begin to do so as well.

Haverford Physicist Named to NRC Commission

JERRY GOLLUB, the John and Barbara Bush Professor in the Natural Sciences, has recently been appointed by the President of the National Academy of Sciences to a position at the National Research Council, the Academy's research organization that advises the federal government on hundreds of issues related to science and technology. Gollub will serve as a

member of the Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Applications, a board that oversees all of the work of the NRC in the areas of physical and applied sciences. Gollub has also recently been elected to represent the Division of Fluid Dynamics of the American Physical Society (APS) on the Governing Council of the APS. He continues to serve on the Advisory

Board of the National Science Resources Center, developers of primary school science curricula affiliated with the National Academy. A member of Haverford's faculty since 1970, Gollub has done pioneering research in the fields of chaos and nonlinear dynamics, fluid dynamics and condensed matter physics.

Perspectives on World Hotspots, continued

in Washington, D.C. analyzing why Zeroual decided to leave office and who the candidates are likely to be in the upcoming electoral process. Mortimer suspects Zeroual's resignation was brought on by internal divisions within the military over how to handle the country's ongoing violent rebellion, which has been marked by numerous massacres.

The insurgency was triggered by a 1992 military decision to cancel legislative elec-

tions that the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win. "For now, the situation remains very confused," Mortimer explains. "There are a number of political parties in Algeria which will presumably run candidates, but I don't think things will be clarified until just before the election."

Both professors believe their global perspective enhances their effectiveness in the classroom at Haverford.

Mortimer regularly incorporates issues from his research into his political science classes, and Kontorovich plans to use his new book as a text the next time he teaches his course on the Soviet system. "More broadly," Kontorovich concludes, "my research leads me to think harder about how societies operate, and this, I hope, makes me a better teacher."

Computer Connections in Language Instruction

ONE DOESN'T THINK of modern language departments as being on the cutting edge of the computer revolution, but language teaching has always availed itself of technology, and the fact that language teaching at Haverford College pioneered the use of technology is no accident. A four-year-old state-of-the-art Language Learning Center has proved to be extremely useful to faculty, both as a classroom tool and in constructing intriguing homework assignments.

One of those spearheading Haverford's computer advances is Roberto Castillo-Sandoval, associate professor of Spanish. Castillo-Sandoval is now using computer connections to open what he calls "windows on the world" for his students. A simple click of the mouse, and students are choosing news items to research from the pages of Madrid's daily newspaper. Another click and they are listening to radio broadcasts from Chile. The days of going to the library for clippings from expensive foreign newspaper subscriptions are over.

"Use of the Internet saves so much time and money and makes the course much more relevant to students," says Castillo-Sandoval. "If you want to look at something lighter, you can assign sports or cultural events, and the students benefit from the variety."

Along with increased resources, computers have altered the classroom approach to language instruction. Castillo-Sandoval now relies heavily on an interactive feature of the Daedalus software program, which allows students to communicate in real time. Instead of a classroom discussion, an assignment to read a short story can now be followed by an interactive on-line discussion during class time, with each student writing their viewpoints and reacting to those of their classmates. "This allows some people who by temperament are not ones to raise their hands or command attention the freedom to express themselves," Castillo-Sandoval points out. "It also changes the classroom dynamic because students write more freely, especially once they realize that the professor is just one more name on the screen."

The Daedalus program also allows faculty to come back later and sort discussions in different ways, either in sequence or by participant, providing an accurate picture of the level of participation.

One program used in the Spanish department also allows professors a window into the homework process. The Atajo writing program offers references such as on-line dictionaries that make translation easy, as well as helping students conjugate verbs and capture the subtleties of expressions. In addition, the program gives the teacher a run-down of which of these features students used, and how often. "If I see that a student is using the dictionary every step of the way, then I know I have set the level too high," Castillo-Sandoval states. "It really lets you individualize for each student."

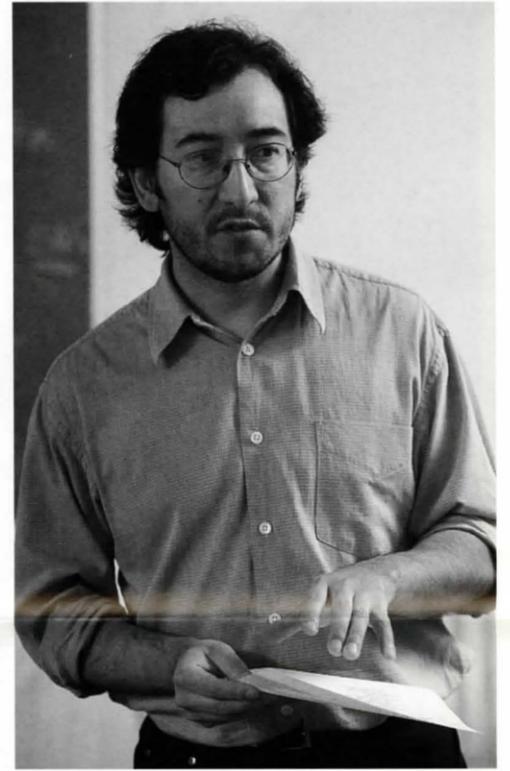
Another time- and money-saving feature of computers is how they have changed traditional course materials. Castillo-Sandoval says many Haverford courses now have their own web pages, where professors can post readings not included in class books and revise syllabuses. Castillo-Sandoval points to a course he co-taught where he expected to get 25 students and ended up with fifty-eight. "Obviously we had to change some of our plans, so we could go week by week and post the revised syllabus on-line. The computer gives you the flexibility to evolve the course rather than being married to something you planned in the middle of August," he explains. Castillo-Sandoval even expands his web sites beyond course material, providing news of upcoming events and links to appropriate sites worldwide that deal with specific topics of interest to the class.

In addition, students are frequently asked to post their own papers on a course's web site, which allows for questions and comments on each other's work. "The level of participation definitely increases," Castillo-Sandoval explains, "because students put more into their work if they know it will be read by their peers." He also provides space for students to react to what is taking place in the class. "After reflecting on a class discussion, students can put forth their reaction, which prompts replies and comments from other students," Castillo-Sandoval says. "This often leads to further, more directed conversation in class."

Third-year student, Megan Lancaster has attended Castillo-Sandoval's courses on Latin American and Iberian Culture and Civilizations and Latin America and the American Empire. She was particularly impressed with his development of a Web site for student discussion and feedback and as a source of several links to related materials. "Castillo's use and knowledge of the Web is amazing," she says. "It's really impressive how well he incorporates multimedia into the classroom."

"It was nice to get other people's feedback", she adds, "and to be able to read other students' papers and see what they thought about the topics being discussed in class."

Computer hook-ups have also added a new level to the tri-college cooperation between Haverford, Bryn Mawr, and Swarthmore. A recent \$1 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation targeted the creation of a cooperative language instruction program. As well as providing for new equipment, the grant enables the three campuses to share a catalogue of language-teaching audio and video programs. "The feedback of what others are doing is very helpful, because there is enor-



Roberto Castillo-Sandoval

mous potential with the technology. Nevertheless, it takes a lot of time to explore and create materials," Castillo-Sandoval says, noting that everyone benefits from a wide variety of new material, an essential element in reinvigorating language instruction.

To view other examples of how faculty are incorporating the Internet into their coursework, check out the following Web sites:

www.uslink.net/~ddavis/d2vita.html

www.haverford.edu/relg/mcguire/home.html

www.haverford.edu/biology/welcome.html

www.haverford.edu/chem/depaula/depaula.html

An Ambassador for Haverford Basketball



Top Frosh Scholar-Athlete

Robin Herlands '01 is the latest winner of the Archibald MacIntosh '22 Award, presented by the Beta Rho Sigma alumni society to the top scholar-athletes in the first-year class since 1964.

Herlands was the second-highest scorer on the field hockey team as a frosh, totaling 12 points. In lacrosse, she accumulated 30 ground balls and caused 17 turnovers.

The MacIntosh Award is named for the Fords late football and track great who became "Mr. Haverford" to four decades of students at the college. Former "Mac" winners still making headlines for Haverford's teams are Nicole Zito '99, Rich Billings '00, Lindsey Carey '00, and Ryan Taggart '00 — the first two in soccer and the latter two in lacrosse.

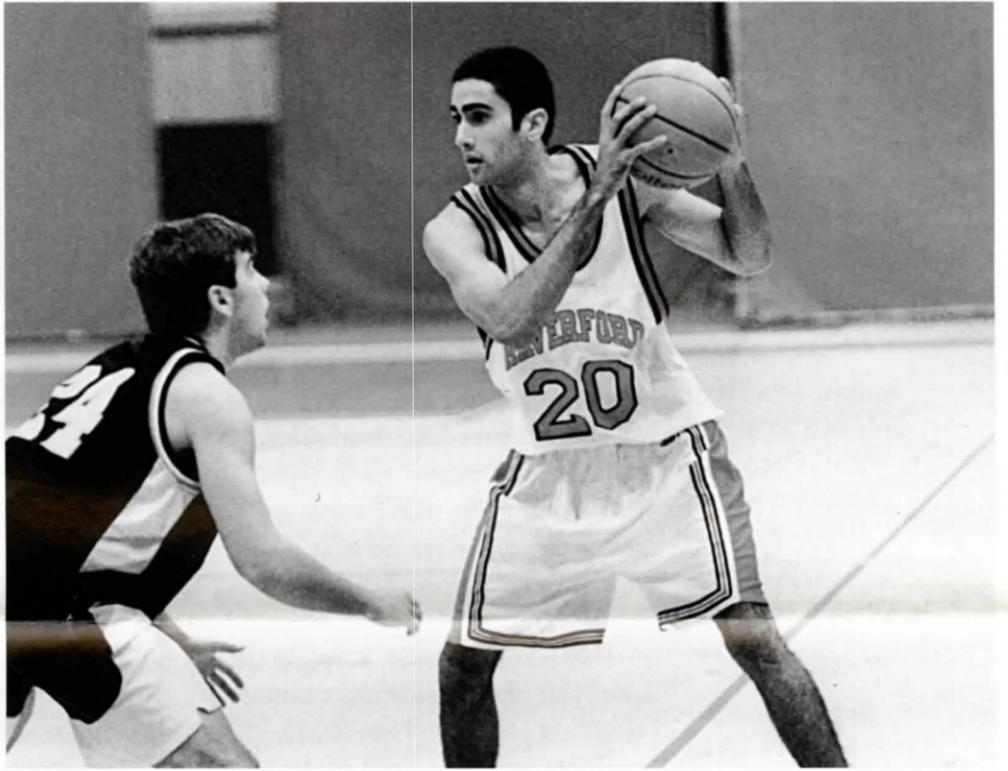
NO COLLEGE BASKETBALL STAR shines like Haverford co-captain Mukul Kanabar '00 does.

Whether he's hitting his first dozen shots in a game, making an acrobatic reverse lay-up or just glaring at an opposing player, he's unmistakable in the gametime galaxy of Alumni Field House.

As a sophomore, Kanabar led his team in virtually every statistical category including rebounding at 6-foot-3 and 165 pounds! This season, new Fords with their own bright futures have joined the lanky shooter from Strake Prep in Houston (which won four state championships in his four years there). He is no longer a lone star in the Fords' starting five.

Off the court last summer, Kanabar was selected for an internship with the United States embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. Timing in diplomacy, as in basketball, is everything. Kanabar arrived in Pakistan just one week after that nation's late May nuclear tests, which had followed those by neighboring India. "When I look back on my three months there, it puts a real-world perspective on what I learn here at school," Kanabar says. "As an economics major, you read textbook after textbook and learn a lot of theory, but you see very little application of that theory first-hand. I witnessed a third-world country withstand economic sanctions and try to stay on its feet."

Diplomat-turned-detective Kanabar also spent a great deal of his time investigating visa applications. As part of an anti-fraud unit, he visited the homes of Pakistanis hoping to relocate to the



Mukul Kanabar '00

U.S. with a driver and translator. While fluent in English and the Indian dialect Gujrati, Kanabar did not speak the local languages. "There were a lot of forged documents and unbelievable stories," he notes. "If someone said he had eight children on his application for immigration, we went and checked it out."

All work and no play would have dulled Kanabar's luster. He honed his hoop skills in pickup games with the embassy's Marine guards and made side trips to the Chinese border and then Bombay to visit relatives. When he returned from India, Kanabar was back on the frontline of American foreign policy.

Following bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, he remained in Islamabad until the day before his compound was evacuated. Ironically, several of the East Africa bombing conspirators were later captured trying to enter Pakistan with forged papers.

Safe at Haverford once again with the basketball Fords, stellar performer Kanabar is looking ahead to next summer's internship. He may combine two loves — athletics and international diplomacy — with the U.S. Olympic Committee in Colorado Springs. Hey, for a shooting star, the sky's the limit.

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