

today's students

Hammond Carries Tradition through Her Music

Full-time musician, teacher and performer Lorraine Hammond remembers sitting on the grass on the Goddard campus in 1962, playing her banjo.

"I would sit out under a tree and people would join me," she says. "The same thing happens now. I was delighted to find other players in my G1 cycle ... we play music together at the residencies."

Lorraine, currently in the Individualized Master of Arts Program, has a long history with Goddard. In addition to a year on campus from 1962 to 1963, she returned to complete a bachelor's degree in 1974 in the Adult Degree Program, Goddard's former non-residency program.

For a master's in "folklore and oral tradition," Lorraine chose Goddard's low-residency program over Harvard because, as she says, "I realized that I had shaped

a unique life, and I didn't want to stop everything for a year to get my degree."

Her active schedule keeps her busy teaching, touring and performing locally.

"I am a tradition bearer," says Lorraine, who was raised in northwestern Connecticut, where she learned traditional ballads. "All my music is about music and community."

Part of her degree work involves archiving traditional folk materials and interviewing folk players. "I care very deeply that public material should have public access," she says.

A multi-instrument artist, Lorraine also plays the mountain dulcimer, mandolin and Celtic harp. She and her husband, Bennett Hammond, will perform in Ferrisburgh, Vt., the weekend of Aug. 2, 2008, at the Champlain Valley Folk Festival. Visit www.greatacoustics.org for more information on her itineraries, CDs and workshops. ■



Cathy Nolan Vincevic gained firsthand knowledge of the experiences of refugees through her husband, Seval, a refugee from Bosnia.

Studying Refugees with a New Perspective

Cathy Nolan Vincevic was planning to join the Peace Corps with her husband, Seval Vincevic, when the Peace Corps cited a minor medical condition as grounds to deny her admittance. The sudden collapse of her plans made her reconsider what she wanted to do, a diversion that ultimately led to Goddard.

"I knew I needed more time to write a memoir," Cathy says. "I had always loved the idea of Goddard. It was like a beacon on the hill."

During her undergraduate studies at Vermont College, Cathy examined why perpetrators do what they do, but it wasn't until she was at Goddard that she was able to connect her personal narrative of childhood trauma with the broader scope of refugee

studies. Her relationship with her husband, a refugee from Bosnia, was central to this exploration.

Cathy met Seval when they worked with Americorps in New Hampshire, teaching art and reading to at-risk children. Both were dealing with trauma and learned to communicate about it in ways that honored each of their experiences: a complex task, only in part because Seval's English was initially limited.

She remembers how their understanding of each other's histories evolved with the nuanced insight that comes from deep consideration. She says that she explored their similarities and differences while she was writing her memoir.

"I had to stay true to the voice that needed to finish the memoir," Cathy says. "The IMA program allowed me to do that." She graduated last August with a master's in refugee studies. ■

— ARTICLES BY
CHRISTINE TOTH (MFAIA '07)

Lorraine Hammond, a professional musician who performs with her husband, Bennett, is studying folklore and oral tradition.

