

## SPOTLIGHT ON NEWNHAM US ALUMNAE

### • ART AND GENDER

Madeline Harrison Caviness (N'56, Arch. & Anth. and English Literature), Mary Richardson Professor and Professor of Art History at Tufts University in Boston, is retiring after 35 years of teaching. She has had an exhilarating triple career: in medieval art history, in gender studies, and in international relations. After marriage and a move to Boston, she earned a Harvard doctorate (1970), and by 1975 she was the first woman department chair at Tufts, with an extraordinary opportunity to develop a growing program in art history, and later to chair the Women's Studies committee. Author of many books and articles, her most recent work, *Visualizing Women in the Middle Ages: Sight, Spectacle and Scopio Economy*, is being translated into Japanese. She has received Tufts awards for research and for teaching, and is among three faculty members to be included in a mural painting in the foyer of the Women's Center. She is also dedicated to international collaborative projects, having served as president of the teams who contribute to the cataloguing of medieval stained glass, then as president of a federation of fifty-five national academies of the humanities and social sciences (Union Académique Internationale), and most recently as president of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, a non-governmental organization and UNESCO affiliate. Her husband, Verne S. Caviness, neurologist and neuroscientist, is a professor at Harvard. They have two daughters: Gwen, a risk-assessment consultant for environmental clean-up (married to a clean-water engineer), and Chantal, a pediatrician and public health researcher (married to an astronaut). Three grand children, research and writing on illustrated German law manuscripts, and further international peace efforts, will comfortably occupy her retirement.



### • SQUEEZING BANDWIDTH

Jane Perera (Critchley, N'83) writes: I completed my PhD in 1986, specializing in the field of digital signal processing and am currently working for Terayon Communication Systems in Santa Clara, California. I specialize in the processing of video signals, and help to develop products that squeeze more television signals into the available bandwidth. I also develop new features such as "squeeze-back" to rescale the picture to a smaller size, making screen area available for such things as the scrolling stock ticker or advertisements. We are currently developing some new products focusing on high definition television. These signals contains about 6 times more data than standard television, so bandwidth can be a real problem.



I am married to Wiren Perera (TH, '82) and we have 3 children, William (17), Adele (14) and Rachel (10). I live in Saratoga, a small city close to San Jose and the heart of the silicon valley. I enjoy reading very much, and belong to 2 mother-daughter book groups. Each one meets monthly, and each family chooses a book and hosts the book group approximately once per year. After the book discussions, mothers and daughters enjoys social time with their friends. I love watching my children's athletic events including soccer, basketball, track, cross country and swimming and, in my precious free time, I enjoy gardening, interior decorating, and spending time at home.



### • AFRICAN FOCUS

Enid Schildkrout ('63, Architecture and Anthropology) writes: "After three decades as Curator of Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, I retired in 2005 in order to join the Museum for African Art as Chief Curator and Director of Exhibitions. We've just formally announced our exciting building plan and will be opening a new permanent 90,000 sq. ft. museum facility in Manhattan in 2009. I'm having a great time working on exhibitions, books, and planning for the future. It's challenging and very rewarding to move from a big institution to a small one focused on exactly the things I love – African art and culture. I'm also teaching, occasionally, at Columbia and am still Curator Emeriti at the American Museum of Natural History. My husband, John A. Van Couvering, is a geologist who also worked in Africa. He has a Ph D. from St. John's. Although we never actually met at Cambridge, we both worked in the Sidgwick building at the same time. Our twins, Ben and Alicia, now 24, are both in finance and film, just about as far from academia as they could get."

The Museum for African Art ([www.africanart.org](http://www.africanart.org)) is waiting to move into its permanent home at 110<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, NYC. In the meantime, you can see one of Enid's exhibitions on the art of African architecture at the Chicago Cultural Center until April 15<sup>th</sup>. She would love to hear from people interested in the new museum at [eschildrout@africanart.org](mailto:eschildrout@africanart.org).