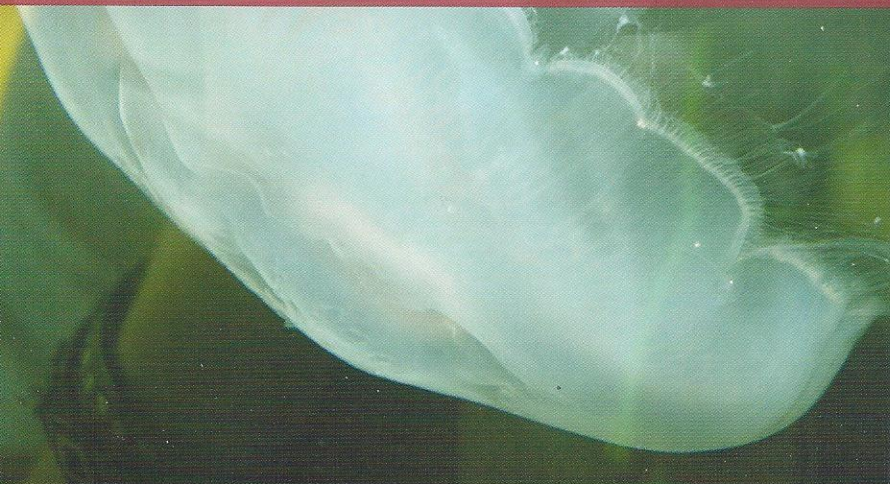




HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT SERVICE, AND **in what ways do you give back** TODAY?



ROBERT A O'BRIEN '57:

I am a Trustee of the Caribbean Program of The Nature Conservancy. Much of our effort is directed towards protecting the marine environment of that vast and still beautiful region of our overburdened planet. It is tremendously important that Tabor instill in young people concern for others and for the environment. Our privileged lifestyles have a negative impact if we do not actively work to counteract it, as our future on this planet is uncertain.

ROBIE PIERCE '58:

Some twenty-seven years after Tabor, I was diagnosed with chronic progressive Multiple Sclerosis, a neuro-muscular disease which has no cure or known cause. After four years of chaos and uncertainty, I prepared to move beyond my ensuing disability, creating an opportunity to give back to my peers in the disabled community.

From a sailing family heritage that dates back to the New England whaling days, I started my quest to bring the thrill and challenge of sailing to those who suffered from physical and developmental disabilities. Since founding the Shake-A-Leg adaptive sailing program in Newport, RI (now called Sail to Prevail), thousands have found the new thrill of sailing, while building valuable self-esteem in a variety of regional, national and world competitions.

Perhaps from selfishness or eyes not opened, I wish I had appreciated life's giving phase earlier ...perhaps better understanding and giving to those who were less fortunate. The last twenty years have been most rewarding. I hope that the students may realize the joys of giving back to society, and that the alumni and faculty in some manner deliver the giving knowledge base to the student body. <http://www.sailtoprevail.org/>



* DO YOU THINK IT IS
 IMPORTANT FOR TABOR
 TO TEACH THIS VALUE TO
 CURRENT STUDENTS?
 WAS IT A VALUE YOU
 LEARNED HERE,
 AND IF SO, HOW?
 TO READ THE FULL
 UNEDITED VERSIONS
 OF THESE STORIES,
 PLEASE VISIT OUR
 WEBSITE UNDER ALUMNI,
 PUBLICATIONS ONLINE.

DECADE OF THE **50's**

DICK NOLAN '55:

During my time, the sole Tabor emphasis was on living our lives as traditional students. The four following years at Trinity College were the same—as my relationship with my partner began.

I realize that today in many contemporary schools and colleges, an emphasis on service to others has become a noble goal and “selling point.” I am skeptical. I certainly needed that time to grow personally and experience studies and varied young-adult relationships in their complexities and with their stresses. I needed that time to “be” a teenager rather than to “do” tasks beyond the narrower goals of academic achievement and social maturation. I was learning at that crucial time how to navigate around, and survive in, a world that was then hostile to my deeper internal matters related to my sexual orientation. My “curriculum” was so full that an added dimension might have broken me. Who knows what young adolescents are already dealing with privately, and what might we be doing to them by adding another item?