

#8

# Beyond Androscoggin

*Tyler J. Noyes, ELHS '08*

The ebb and flow shower over  
grayish rocks of old Great Falls;  
Cool and quick, white water rapids  
shimmer clear and clean under the mist.  
The memories of an indelible pollution,  
smoky mills and a river's bitter ruins  
are submerged beneath her surging waves.

We take upon these rising rushing waters  
in canoes with courage in our hearts –  
then off we go into the river's fluxing flow,  
where we drift away from home and high school,  
toward college and our noble futures.

Some of us paddle along to CMCC,  
or swirl and cheer, riding an eddy to Andover.  
Along and down the mighty Androscoggin,  
we traverse her graceful course worn by the years,  
over the ancient bedrock of mystic Maine.  
Sailing on her timeless form, we wave and shout  
to friends at USM, or sip and talk all about  
the Arts and premieres at lovely Bates –  
All now common places brimming with  
brave students on uncommon, unique journeys.

As we go may we all recall our youths in Lewiston and Auburn,  
the thriving towns that nurtured our opportunities.  
We all grew up here, among rivers, bricks and evergreens;  
And while we slowly row down the river towards the sea,  
to where effort, love and wanderlust will lead us,  
we can see many a destination, and begin to realize that the  
intuition from our local college educations is the panacea  
that can cleanse the dark mill dust from our skin and clothes  
and deliver us into a place that the passage of time only knows.