

# Class Action

► PROFILE David Rothstein '97

## Winter Wonder Man

**David Rothstein saves** all his vacation for winter. That way, the self-described “snow evangelist” can spend his downtime doing what he loves: creating snow sculptures. And Rothstein, an attorney with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Massachusetts, is pretty darn good. Since 2000, he’s taken home awards from competitions across the US as well as Canada, Argentina and New Zealand.

The School of Law plays prominently in his snow artist creation story. “I did my third co-op in Juneau and then accepted a clerkship with Dana Fabe [retired chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court and class of ’76].” Wanting to make the most of his time in Alaska, Rothstein and a group of friends discovered the Fur Rendezvous, a Mardi Gras-like celebration, and decided to enter the snow sculpture competition.

“We were picturing something table-top sized. When we saw the huge block of snow, they bailed,” he recalls. Undaunted, Rothstein decided to carve, while his friends ferried fresh mittens and warm beverages. He was hooked.

“I get into a rhythm when I carve and everything else just melts away,” he says. “It’s very Zen. I love the sound the chisel makes against crusty snow in the middle of the night.” It’s not without its challenges, however. “Mother Nature never gives you the same day twice. You can plan a sculpture one way and then the sun comes out and changes it — literally.”

Still, Rothstein goes on creating, “spreading the gospel of snow: getting people outside to love and appreciate winter. In fact, if I could have winter all year ‘round, I would.”

— Maura King Scully



Among Rothstein's creations (from left): a piece in memory of an elderly neighbor who fed birds by hand; the 18" "Snow Jenga;" and "Rhonda and her Recycling Robo-Octopus," a team piece that took the gold medal at the Breckenridge International Snow Sculpture Championships.

