representing both with enthusiasm and welcoming all to come and visit and enjoy our beautiful city, which is truly a culinary mecca. David and I rotate our rounds of restaurants and are amazed at the breadth and depth of gourmet possibilities.”

Bentley Pollick says that they are starting to feel right at home in Birmingham.

“We are impressed with the numerous welcomes we have received and are delighted to be cultivating relationships with diverse groups around town,” she says. “The weather here is appealing, especially since we can play golf nearly year-round.”

She’s excited about the college and her husband’s vision for its future.

Bentley Pollick’s impressions of Birmingham-Southern also are positive.

“I was impressed with the seriousness of the students from the very first time I set foot on campus,” she says. “Each time I meet someone for the first time, I never cease to be amazed at the eloquence and presentation of self that accompanies the meeting. The campus is gorgeous and keeps us physically fit walking up and down the hills and stairs. I am inspired by the dedication of the faculty in regard to coursework across the curriculum and the enthusiasm they bring into the classroom and their individual areas of research. And coming home to the Hilltop is a pleasure for there is always a warm welcome at the entrance gate by the campus police who wear their uniforms proudly.

“My wish for all BSC students is to continue being curious, ask questions, make the effort to hear numerous points of view, expose themselves to many different experiences, and most of all follow their own muse with courage and conviction.”

When asked about David Pollick’s vision for the college, especially about his hopes surrounding issues of human dignity, Bentley Pollick also shows the kind of enthusiasm that she shows about everything in her life.

“It is all a continuation of the role of hosting and fostering,” she says. “We all need to be talking right now, across political, economic, and racial lines. We need to be more connected, and, if David and I can be the catalyst for bringing people together, that is wonderful. I have a very strong, gut feeling about how this will all unfold—as it continues to unfold in our living room. I look around Birmingham and see where history has been made, and I believe we are poised right here on the Hilltop to offer a vision to the world.”

**Editor’s Note:** Karen Bentley Pollick’s CD recordings Ariel View, Konzerito and Succubus, and Dancing Suite to Suite are available through the Birmingham-Southern College Bookstore and in Birmingham at Laser’s Edge. For more information about her, her life, her upcoming concerts, and her poetry, go to www.kbentley.com.

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**Portable Paradise**

By Karen Bentley Pollick

(written after snorkeling at Caneel Bay on St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands.)

Traversing the planet duty free, no baggage to check unencumbered, ethereally hopping from capacious caverns to coral reefs spelunking to snorkeling marveling at the pristine perfection of a full moon over Caneel Bay auras enveloped by waves of azure underwater environment teeming with schools piccolo grey, medium yellow, iridescent blue tanks, swaying anemones inviting glimpse of netherworlds etching limestone into speleothems humbled by nature the master sculptor utopia abounds within perceptions and feelings controlling illusions transforming potential into kinetic manifestations